



Rejoice in the Lord always; again,  
I will say rejoice.  
Philippians 4:4

## Fairview Moravian Church

March 2022

### The Pastor's Corner

Around 1997, eight years before I went to seminary, God began some serious spiritual work in my life. That work was encouraged and guided by several spiritual “saints” in the Good Shepherd congregation; Gemeinschaft I and II were also essential. Gemeinschaft is a **Moravian** 40-week intentional spiritual formation program for groups of people. Many many Southern Province Moravians participated. The program required daily work to prepare for the 2 ½ weekly meeting. All told, the program requires 100 hours of meeting and some 100 to 200 hours of personal spiritual formation practice. Looking back I realize that my worship and participation blossomed during that time. Reflecting on that period in my life, I can't claim to have done most of the work. I gave the time and showed up, The real work was done through my relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In other words, I was prone to what God was wanting to do. In the intervening twenty-two years, I have seen so many lives changed when faith is put into practice. As Jesus walked toward Good Friday, over and over he set aside time to pray. I believe and understand that the human Jesus endured what we call Lent, because of his spiritual practice, primarily prayer. Now I can't imagine being ready for Easter without Lent. (See Luke 22: 39-46, which includes “*Jesus withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed.*”

Due to the importance of making ourselves available to God (our response to God's action) for the Spirit's work in our lives(God's action), I am going to probe

deeply into the work of the Holy Spirit and Christian Spiritual formation.

What is Lent really and why should I participate in it? Just now following the First Sunday of Lent, this is an important question. Moreover, I would say this question is **essential for salvation**. I came up with the “essential for our salvation” following years of **theological reflection**. Theological reflection is an essential for daily Christian living. As Christians we have been recreated in the likeness of Christ Jesus. (For “new creation” see, 2 Corinthians 5:17 “*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*” See also Galatians 6:15 “*...a new creation is everything!*” **Theological reflection** is a complex name for the most basic of Christian acts: It is the way we find the meaning of **Christian faith** everyday in every-moment. As a reflection, this action most often takes place at the end of the day when, in our prayer time, we ask God to reveal our day as only God can see it. “Jesus withdrew to pray” gives us this pattern of quiet personal prayer.

We become new creations as an action of the Holy Spirit which Jesus has given to us while he is away. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus is never away. We may wonder: “**What is my part in becoming a new creation if becoming new is an action of Jesus in my life through the Holy Spirit?**”

If the Holy Spirit is God's agent of new creation, first we need to consider what **exactly is** the work of the Holy Spirit? We know God gives us freedom to **accept or reject** God's gift of grace. In our

## The Pastor's Corner Continued...

**acceptance of grace** we offer ourselves freely. Acts 7:51 addresses hesitation of the Spirit's work in our personal lives and in a congregation life: "*You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!*" This seems a strong statement of disapproval. We would not be surprised that Acts 7:51 is based on Old Testament theology. An OT basis is found to be Isaiah 63:10, "*Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.*" John D.W. Watts offers commentary on 63:10 as being "evidence of God's presence and his agent of providential leading, salvation, and redemption" (WBC Isaiah, 332). In Lent we hope to become most open to God's leading, to understand salvation, and to recall that by Jesus we find our redemption.

One final reference helps us understand that our **allowing and accepting** the saving work of Christ through the Holy Spirit. We learn in Galatians 4:30, "*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.*"

Andrew T. Lincoln explains "grieved" and makes a connection to the building up of the church: "The one who is grieved is the holy Spirit of God—that Spirit who is characterized by holiness and who is God himself at work in believers. It is not a question of some offense aimed directly at the Spirit but rather that believers by committing the sort of sins that have been mentioned in the earlier sentences, sins which disrupt communal life, are thereby disrupting and opposing the work of the Spirit in building up the Church" (Andrew T. Lincoln (WBC Ephesians, 307)

These scripture citations and commentary quotes will, I hope, help us to understand that **intentional** Christian spiritual practice is not optional, it is our means of deepening our relationship with Jesus by following him all the way to the cross and to Easter.

Sunday worship at Fairview allows us to stay right with Jesus during the five weeks of Lent. I learned in my own life, and many have told me how their understanding of Jesus saving work doesn't happen by chance—it happens by Christian spiritual formation **with others**. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century,

Moravians went through a **shifting time** during which they purposefully eradicated unhelpful and dangerous practices that were obstacles to authentic spiritual growth. The pandemic has been a blessing in that we have had to make a special effort to be in worship whether in the sanctuary or via streaming.

For some streaming is the only option to worship with Fairview. I sense that the Church has entered a **sifting time** which will continue until some stability and normalcy returns. If we are in a sifting time, one aspect of sifting for us is to decide how to return to full participation in the Fairview community. Is this the time as we journey with Jesus through Lent, to become reconnected to God by attending worship in person? On this decision, the Holy Spirit will be your guide for thoughtful and prayerful reflections and decisions. These are of course personal decisions.

I invite us all to consider the **right now** promise of the presence of God and the saving work of the Holy Spirit. Please set aside sufficient time for the Holy Spirit to inspire, inform, and instruct you on your journey to Easter. Jesus *is* headed that way. May God bless us to answer Jesus' invitation—however appropriate for our personal situation—to stay awake in our prayers as He journeys to Calvary to give His life for you. I'll look to meeting you along the way!

*Yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Tony*





## Remembering in Prayer...

### Our Church Family:

Doris Brame, Roger Carmichael, Ann Carroll, Bob Dalton, Anna Faircloth and her Mission Team, Danny Flowers, Riff Footland, John Harrold, Marjorie Humbert, Betty Johnson, Harvey Lunsford, Nancy Manuel, Tom Nicholson, Doris "DG" Noell, Tina Phillips, Harry Sapp, Larry Sprinkle, Nancy and Ken Tomberlin, Diane Wright

### Shut In:

Sam Hardister; Jolleen Johnson, Nancy Manual; Lucy Millikan; Opal Miller; Doris "DG" Noell.

### Nursing Home:

Barbara Giesler, Eleanor Swaim, Lillie Mae Joyce, George Brannock.

1. Amy Yarbrough
6. Terri Barringer
8. Lillie Mae Joyce
9. Gwen Shields, Bill Yokley
11. Opal Miller, Rod Back
12. Phyllis Footland
13. Ken Hauser
14. Larry Sprinkle
15. Lillian Brendle
16. Anne Hauser
20. Sunna Kimel
21. Dick Joyce, Kaleb Krause
22. Marshall Mathers
23. Debra Coleman
25. Meredith Tuttle
26. Bonnie Sparrow
27. Eleanor Swaim, Meghan Hubbard
28. Richard Minor



The Women's Fellowship Community Project for March is Salem Pregnancy Care Center, which provides help to meet the physical, practical, emotional, and spiritual needs (when requested) of women facing an unplanned pregnancy.

You can choose to support them in 2 different ways. First, you can help fill baby bottles with change, bills, and checks. (Make checks to "Salem Pregnancy Care Center.") Secondly, they need new baby clothing, sizes NEWBORN - 2 Toddler, so you can provide clothing if you prefer. Baby bottles will be in the vestibule; clothing can be put in the Lovefeast Kitchen container. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Mathers.

Our March drive-through Food Drive will be on Saturday, March 12, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Any non-perishable food and monetary donations will be appreciated. You can also bring your donations early and leave them on a cart in the Fellowship Hall. Your donations will be supporting the Food Bank at Bethabara Moravian Church.

Our next Shredding Event will be on Saturday, May 7, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors about it! It's an easy, SAFE way to dispose of unwanted documents. We request a donation of \$5.00 per bag or file box. This money will go to support projects of the Women's Fellowship. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for supporting our community and the Women's Fellowship!

### *April*

1. Vikki Doub, Henry Hilker

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The newsletter deadline is Sunday,  
April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### *Provincial Women's Board*

**Save the Date:** The Spiritual Life Retreat at Laurel Ridge will be held Friday, September 16 - Sunday, September 18. The Rev. Victoria Lasley will be our facilitator.

All women of the Province are invited to come and share a weekend of fellowship with your Moravian sisters. More information to come in the following weeks.

*Submitted by Cindy Lamb*

### **Salem Walk: Spring 2022**

The Moravian Team for Racial, Cultural, and Ethnic Reconciliation (MTR) invites you to sign up for a "Salem Walk" experience this spring, an in-person opportunity to learn about the lives of three people enslaved by the Moravian church/individuals between 1771 and 1860. The experience (walk, conversation, and worship) will take around two hours.

After gathering in Salem, we will split into three groups, each group focusing on the life of one individual: Sambo/Abraham, Cathy, or Phoebe. Their stories will be shared by walking to visit places where they lived, worked, and are buried. We will then gather together again for discussion and worship.

#### **Pre-registration is required.**

- Register by emailing Heather Stevenson at the Moravian Center for Congregational Development: [hstevenson@mccsp.org](mailto:hstevenson@mccsp.org).
- Provide your name, email and contact information.
- Let Heather know which event you plan to attend.
- You'll receive more specific information near the date of the walk.

If you have further questions, contact Betsy Bombick at (336) 723-2281 or [bbombick@gmail.com](mailto:bbombick@gmail.com)

**Please be prepared for a lot of walking, some of it on uneven ground. We will cancel if it is raining.**

#### **Dates:**

Saturday morning March 5, 10 – 12  
Tuesday morning March 15, 10-12 AM  
Tuesday evening April 5, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

*Submitted by Betsy Bombick*

#### **Laurel Ridge "Ridgefest"**

May 28<sup>th</sup> 12-4p.m. Music, Food and Fun for the **whole family**. Come see what a week at camp is really like!!



**Save the Date**  
**Sunday, August 21st 2022**  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**New Philadelphia Moravian Church**  
**Winston-Salem, NC**

For the latest info, visit [moravian.org/ccd](http://moravian.org/ccd)