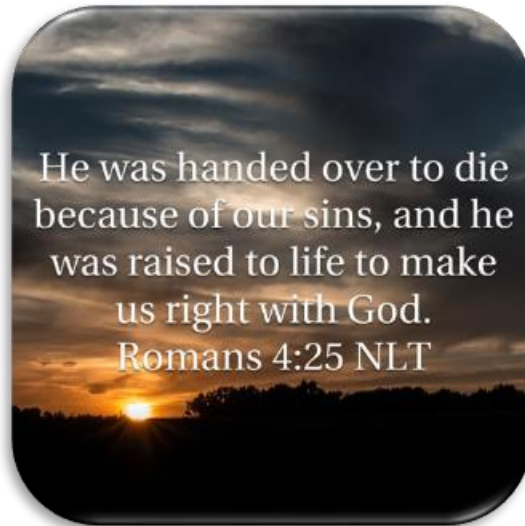


SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136



Sunday, February 25, 2024

The Second Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: A warm welcome is extended to all as we worship, whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home and abroad. We rejoice in worship over the salvation and power Jesus Christ brings to our lives. To all our visitors and friends, welcome!

Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris

(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor: Rev. David Ince

Church Office/Pastor's Study: 246-425-4011

Email: sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164

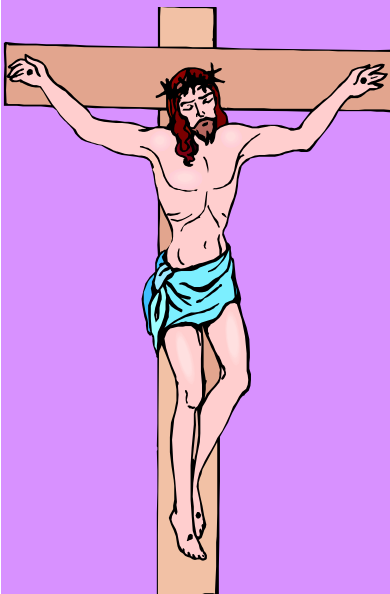
WATCHWORD: God said, "I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations."
(Genesis 17:7)

Provincial Theme 2024:

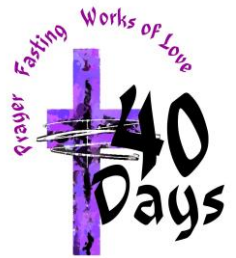
"SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting Our Passion"



LENT



ORDER OF SERVICE



Organ Prelude

Introit – Choir

Call to Worship (Psalm 22:23 – 25):

Leader: You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!

Congregation: *For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard. My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.*

Hymn 28 – “Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven”

Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:23 – 31

Prayer of Adoration, Confession & Thanksgiving

Worship In Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)*

Offertory Hymn: 235 – “Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Doxology: *Thanks, Thanks, I Give You Thanks*

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: Romans 4:13 – 25

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31 – 38

Choir Anthem – “Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross”

Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn of Preparation: 543 – “This Child We Dedicate to Thee”

Baptism p. 1 – CMP Liturgy Book or Projected

Hymn 272 – “My Faith Has Found A Resting Place”

The Benediction & Organ Postlude



Visit our Website at <http://sharonmoravian.info>; Visit our Facebook Page and subscribe to our YouTube Channel. These are means by which we can connect to our brothers and sisters, and get the word out on what's happening in the church. Like us; Follow us; Re-post us.



Organ Prelude

Introit – Choir

Call to Worship (Psalm 22:23 – 25):

Leader: You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!

Congregation: *For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard. My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.*



Opening Hymn: 28 –

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him,
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him, still the same for ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him, praise him,
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him, praise him,
Widely as his mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
Blows the wind and it is gone;
But, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:

Praise him, praise him,
Praise the high eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise him, praise him,
Praise with us the God of grace.



Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:23 – 31

23. Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.
24. For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.
25. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.
26. The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.
27. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.
28. For the kingdom is the LORD's: and he is the governor among the nations.
29. All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.
30. A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.
31. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.



Worship In Tithes & Offerings:

Offertory Sentence: *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)*

Offertory Hymn: 235 –

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be,
Ever, only, all for Thee.



Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Thanks, thanks, I Give You thanks

*Thanks, thanks, I give You thanks
For all You've done
I am so blessed
My soul is at rest
O Lord, I give You thanks.*



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices



Adoration in Songs & Choruses



Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: Romans 4:13 – 25

13. For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.
14. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:
15. Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.
16. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,
17. (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.
18. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.
19. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:
20. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
21. And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.
22. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.
23. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;
24. But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25. Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.



Second Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31 – 38

31. And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
32. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.
33. But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.
34. And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
35. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.
36. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
37. Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
38. Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.



Choir Anthem – “Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross”



Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Hymn of Preparation: 543 –

This child we dedicate to thee,
O God of grace and purity;
Shield *him* from sin and threatening wrong,
And let Thy love *his* life prolong.

O may Thy Spirit gently draw
His willing soul to keep Thy law;
May virtue, piety, and truth,
Dawn even with his dawning youth.

We, too, O God, thy children are;
And if our feet have wandered far;
Recall us to our Father's home,
And keep us that no more we roam.



THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS

*The Liturgy should be introduced at a suitable point in a service of public worship.
The congregation being seated and the child/children to be baptized and the parents or sponsors and
god-parents being in place, the minister says:*

Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, and blessed them.

As we share in this sacrament of baptism, we affirm our belief that baptism points to the grace of God freely given to all who avail themselves of it. We believe that all who are born into the world are children of God, made in his image. We acknowledge the fatherly and motherly love of God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, and we pray that in due time *this child* may display in *his/her* life the gracious marks of a child of God.

Let us profess together the faith of the Church.

We believe in God the Father, creator of the universe.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, redeemer of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of life.

The parents/ or sponsor/s and god-parents stand.

The minister addresses them:

Earnestly believe that our Saviour Christ loves *this child*, that he is ready to receive and embrace *him/her*, to give *him/her* the blessing of eternal life, and to make *him/her* a partaker of his everlasting kingdom.

Our Lord has promised to grant the things which we ask in his name, which promise he for his part will most surely keep and perform.

Do you, for your part, make confession of the faith wherein *this child* is to be baptized, in God as your heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your Sanctifier?

Answer: We do.

Do you promise, in reliance on divine grace, to teach *him/her* the truths and duties of the Christian faith, and by prayer, precept and example, to bring *him/her* up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and in the fellowship of the Church?

Answer: We do.

May God give you grace and wisdom to provide a caring and loving Christian home for this *new life* committed to your charge.

The minister addresses the congregation:

All standing.

Will you as a congregation accept *this child* as a *new member* of the Christian Church? Will you, by your witness, set a good and joyful example of fellowship, service and love?

Answer: We will.

This hymn verse is sung:

TUNE: ST MATTHIAS

New life, O Lord to you we bring,
Giver of all, our Friend, our King;
Receive him/her in your strong embrace,
Within your Church give him/her a place;
A lifelong friendship here begin,
And grace, a crown of life to win.

Moravian Alternative Order 1987, anon.

OR

An infant, Lord, we bring to thee
As thy redeemed property,

**And thee most fervently entreat
Thyself this child to consecrate;
Baptize him, and his soul embrace
In all the fulness of thy grace.**

Moravian Order 1960, anon.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose son Jesus Christ was carried as a child into the Temple, and who himself took little children into his arms and blessed them, look mercifully upon us now, and bless what in your name we do. May *this child*, now to be baptized into the Church, the body of Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit grow into the likeness of *his/her* Saviour. May *he/she* in time be led to take a full part as *a member* of the Church. And by your grace may *he/she* remain your faithful witness all *his/her* days.

Each child is presented to the minister who baptizes him/her with water saying:
....., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

The Lord bless you, and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
And give you peace.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

After all have been baptized, the congregation says:

We receive this child into the Church, in the trust that hereafter he/she shall not be ashamed to confess his/her faith in Christ.

All seated.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Saviour,
Have mercy upon us.

By your human birth,
By your obedience, diligence, and faithfulness,
By your life, suffering and death,
By your resurrection, and ascension,
By your continuing presence,
By your Church's teaching and worship,
Bless us now and always.

O God, we praise you for the mercies of birth, and for all the joy and blessing that children bring into the home and into the world. We give you thanks today for the safe arrival of *this child* and ask your blessing on *him/her* and all those who have responsibility for *his/her* care. May they, and all who share in the nurture of children, find great happiness and fulfilment in their ministry of love.

Heavenly Father, hear us.

O Christ, the friend of children everywhere, the faithful protector of all who are weak and small: keep, guard and bless your children. Through the work of your Spirit help them to grow in strength and beauty of character, and closer to you.

Jesus, Saviour, hear us.

Holy Spirit, bless us all and renew us this day. Help us to surrender ourselves to you, so that we, and the children committed to our care, may lead lives worthy of you, and of the family of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit, hear us. Amen.

The congregation shall pray together:

O Lord, help us to think more deeply on the true significance of this holy sacrament. Forgive us for the times when we have come short of the grace of our own baptism, by wandering from your ways: and bring us back with a perfect repentance. Renew us in this moment.....By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to be loving, teach us to be humble and strengthen us to live godly lives, as those who have been baptized by the same Spirit into one body; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Closing Hymn: 272 –

My faith has found a resting place,
Not in device or creed:
I trust the ever-living One –
His wounds for me shall plead.

*I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died,
And that He died for me.*

Enough for me that Jesus saves,
This ends my fear and doubt;

A sinful soul I come to Him,
He'll never cast me out.

My heart is leaning on the Word,
The written Word of God,
Salvation by my Savior's Name,
Salvation through His blood.

My great Physician heals the sick,
The lost He came to save;
For me His precious blood He shed,
For me His life He gave.



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Blessings abound wherever He reigns . . . The weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blessed. To all our visitors and friends, whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home and abroad, welcome. We celebrate today, as always, the goodness of God. May hearts be blessed, may lives be changed as we worship.



Advanced: Norma Meek (26th), Frances Barker, Clarence Cummings & Claudette Jones (28th), Cynthia Odle (March 2nd),



MORAVIAN BIRTHDAY SONG

With Thy presence, Lord, our Head and Saviour,
Bless them all we humbly pray;
Our dear heavenly Father's love and favour
Be their comfort every day.
May the Holy Ghost in each proceeding,
Favour them with his most gracious leading;
Thus shall they be truly blessed,
Both in labour and in rest.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

- ✠ Today: Divine Worship & Infant Baptism at 9:30 a.m.
 - ✠ Adventures in worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre
 - ✠ Harvest Festival at Clifton Hill at 3:30 p.m. The Bus leaves at 3:00 p.m.
- ✠ This Week:
 - ✠ Office Hours – Tuesday & Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (D. C. Moore Centre).
 - ✠ Tuesday: Women's Fellowship – First & Third Tuesdays: In Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. All other Tuesdays: Online via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.
 - ✠ Wednesday: Bible Study (The Minor Prophets) – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093.
 - ✠ Thursday: Meeting of the Board of Elders in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm.
 - ✠ Friday: PROVINCIAL DAY OF PRAYER
 - ✠ Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.
 - ✠ Saturday: Church Leaders Workshop at 10:00 a.m. at the D.C. Moore Centre
 - ✠ Next Sunday: Divine Worship & Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.
 - ✠ Adventures in worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre
 - ✠ March of Witness and Open-Air Service at 3:00 p.m.



Activities in the Month of March 2024:

- ✠ Provincial Day of Prayer – Friday, 1st, Online.
- ✠ World Day of Prayer – Friday, 1st
- ✠ Church Leaders Retreat – Saturday, 2nd, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Neilson Waithe.
- ✠ Moravian Unity Sunday – 3rd, 9:30. At this time of year, we remember the birth of the Unitas Fratrum, the Moravian Church, on March 1, 1457. We are requested to pray for the work and witness of our Church Unity as we seek to be faithful to the mission of God. A special Unity offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Unity Sunday
- ✠ Harvest Festival at Gracehill – Sunday, 10th
- ✠ Meeting of Island Conference – Saturday, 16th, 10:00 a.m., D.C. Centre.
- ✠ Mount Tabor Harvest Fair – Saturday, 16th, 11:30 a.m.
- ✠ Harvest Festival at Mount Tabor – Sunday, 17th
- ✠ Theological Education Sunday – 24th



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. We are celebrating 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone here at Sharon. We held our Anniversary Service on February 10th; Other events being planned, include:

✝ Fun Day – April 1, 2024

✝ “The George Ramsay Memorial” Lecture – Thursday, May 16, 2024

✝ Anniversary Dinner & Gala – Date to be confirmed.

2. From the Superintendent:

✝ The Moravian Church worldwide will observe Unity Sunday on Sunday, March 3, 2024. It was on March 1, 1457, that the Moravian Church was founded. We ask for your continued prayers for the work and witness of our church.

✝ A special Unity Offering is received in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Unity Sunday. This year, the Unity Offering has been earmarked for churches in Germany and the Czech Republic helping to resettle Ukrainian refugees and provide missional help in Ukraine.

✝ Here in the Barbados Conference, our “Unity Sunday activities” will include:

a. A Church Leaders Workshop on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at the Duncan C. Moore Centre, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The workshop will be led by Rev. Neilson Waithe, and we will be looking at the type of leadership that will result in a culture that leads to growth in the Moravian Church Barbados Conference.

b. The workshop is open to all interested persons, especially the members of the Board of Elders, Board of Stewards, leaders of groups and organizations of our congregation, who are expected to attend. Registration will be via an online form. Pastors will publish the link in their congregations. We look forward to seeing you.

c. A March of Witness and Outdoor Worship Service. The March will commence at 3:00 p.m. from Bunkers Hill, where Moravians first began work in Barbados, and will end at Sharon for the outdoor service. As the Sharon congregation is marking 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone at Sharon, the Conference is invited to join in this march and service to give witness to Christ and to remind the community of the presence of the church. Congregations should dress in their colours as usual.

✝ The Annual General Meeting of Island Conference will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Duncan C. Moore Educational Centre, Sharon, St. Thomas.

- ✝ On Sunday, March 24, 2024, the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province will observe Theological Education Sunday. On this day annually, we remember in prayer our Warden/Tutor and all of our Moravian ministers in training at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica. A special offering towards ministerial training is also received. Currently, there is one (1) minister in training from this Province: Sis. Chioma Henry. Let us remember them especially in our prayers.
3. If you plan to claim on contributions to our church when filing your 2023 Income Tax Return, please make a request and submit your TAMIS Number, so that a statement can be forwarded to the Barbados Revenue Authority on your behalf. Please send an email to sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com or by writing your TAMIS Number just once on your offering envelope.
4. We are thankful for your financial support.
- ✝ We do need your ongoing support so that we can maintain our ministry, our facilities and paying property insurance. So we ask for your continued faithfulness in giving as you are able.
- ✝ You are reminded that labelled envelopes can be dropped into the slot in the front door of the Manse.
- ✝ Generally, those who would give electronically can do so by direct deposit to our account at Scotiabank, Warrens – 40274. You can also give via SurePay at a walk-in kiosk or using your online account. At SurePay you can make payments anonymously to the Moravian Church (*Account No: 1765-1768-0000, Name: Sharon Moravian Church*), or if you need your donations recorded for tax purposes and you have a box of envelopes; make payments to the Moravian Church (*Account No: 1765-1768-0-[your 3-digit envelope number], Name: Your Name*). Visit www.sharonmoravian.info/giving-monetary for these details.
5. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Life 97.5 FM.
- ✝ Our radio broadcast ministry Moravian Voice has been on the air for some 32 years, since Wednesday, July 18, 1990. We rejoice that we have been able to offer this ministry and we are thankful to all our listenership and all who hosted and provided content over the years. We are thankful to our congregations which faithfully sponsored the programme.
- ✝ We invite you to tune in for inspiration and information to enable you in your Christian walk and service.

† Moravian Voice will also be available on Instagram (www.instagram.com/moravianvoice/) and the YouTube Channel of the Moravian Church Barbados Conference (<https://youtube.com/c/TheMoravianChurch-BarbadosConference>).

† You can email your comments and requests to: moravianvoice@gmail.com



The Past 225 Years



2. As we come to the end of Black Heritage Month 2024, let us be reminded that buried in the hallowed walls of this church are the blood, sweat and tears of men who laboured under the oppression of slavery to erect this place of worship: SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH – BUILT BY SLAVES.



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Sis. Thora Moore, Sis. Patterson Williams*
2. The Sick/Recovering:
 - † Of our congregation: *Sis. Ansonia Cox-Burgess, Sis. Shanna King (USA)*
3. World Peace



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

† Moravian Daily Text 2024:

- American Paperback Edition – \$25
- American Large Print Edition – \$32

† Offering Envelopes for 2024 – We invite each member of the congregation to receive a box of envelopes and thereby seek to faithfully support the work of the church. Please request that a box be provided for you if none has been provided as yet.

† Missionary Collection Boxes for 2024 – If you had a box last year, please collect it from the Vestry. If you desire a box for the first time, please inquire at the vestry after worship or at the Church Office.

† Sharon Burgundy Shirts: Polos – \$30 / T-Shirts – \$15

† Copies of Sunday sermons on CD – \$2.00.

† Books:

- 📖 Rev. Neilson Waithe: Understanding the Caribbean Worker – \$25; Provocation – \$20.
- 📖 Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts: Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914 – \$50.
- 📖 Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas: Baptism Is a Gift of God: As Such It Is More Than Water – \$35.
- † Greeting Cards (\$2.00) and Prints (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church.



Provincial Theme 2024:

“SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting Our Passion”

“Broadly speaking, renewing identity speaks of who we are as Christ-followers; renewing our purpose speaks of why the church exists; re-igniting our passion speaks to our willingness to share our faith with others. — Chairman of PEC



UNITY PRAYER DAY OFFERING 2024.

Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Germany and the Czech Republic

GERMANY

The Russian war of aggression triggered a large movement of refugees within Ukraine, but also to safe neighbouring countries. More than 1.3 million refugees – mostly women with their children – arrived in Germany alone as of February 2022.

Partly through personal contacts, partly because of the proximity of various congregations to the border, the Moravian Church in Germany had already recognized the responsibility to provide active help at an early stage. The first women and children arrived at the Moravian guest house KOMENSKÝ at the beginning of March 2022 during the days of the Synod meeting. Spontaneously, an information and discussion session was arranged at Synod. In the following weeks, several rooms in the KOMENSKÝ were made available for refugees. Some moved on later, for others, flats were sought in and around Herrnhut. There was a great readiness to help, within the congregation and also among

many people in the surrounding area who donated necessary clothing or furniture.

Like Herrnhut, several other congregations helped immediately with the most necessary items. It soon became clear that housing, clothing, and food could only be the basics of support. From the beginning, personal relationships were also important. Parishioners who spoke Russian often volunteered to help with visits to offices and doctors or started German language courses. In Herrnhut, the “Café Odessa” was founded – a meeting place for newcomers and residents, which continues to open its doors once a week. In Cottbus, the “Haltestelle”, a missionary project of the Moravian Church, invited refugee children to the “Ukrainian School”. Here they could learn German in a playful way, but above all enjoy hours of levity after the often-traumatic experiences of the war. The Haltestelle is still an important anchor point for Ukrainian children and their parents.

Supporting children and young people also became a task for the Moravian schools. Ukrainian classes were established at both the Zinzendorf schools in Königsfeld and Herrnhut. The goal of integrating the children into the regular classes after intensive German language courses has been achieved in the meantime. The Königsfeld Zinzendorf School also provided cost-intensive accommodation for an unaccompanied Ukrainian girl in the boarding facilities.

In addition to helping refugees in the congregations and institutions, the Moravian Church also helped directly in Ukraine. Aid transports to the war-torn regions were supported. In cooperation with other Christian organizations, almost 10,000 copies of the Moravian Daily Watchwords in Ukrainian language have been distributed since the beginning of the war. The books were distributed by pastors and staff of local church congregations, mostly together with aid packages. The soldiers at the front received the Watchwords together with the food packages.

We will continue to distribute the Moravian Watchwords to sow hope with the word of God in a country where war has devastated so many places and landscapes, in a society where joy of life and confidence are hard to find at the moment.

CZECH REPUBLIC

In February 2022, the war in Ukraine began. Due to the war situation, many residents were forced to flee Ukraine and look for a new home in various

European countries. Over 500,000 Ukrainian refugees also received temporary protection in the Czech Republic. These are mainly women and children, possibly the elderly, as the men stayed in Ukraine to defend their country.

The Moravian Church Unity Province also got involved in helping Ukrainians without hesitation: by providing accommodation, donating clothes and household items, offering opportunities for work and spending free time, practical help and support. Thanks to the cooperation with the Moravian Church Choir, the community united around the New Generation Christian elementary school in Kyiv, approx. 120 people, moved to Nová Paka - the Nová Paka choir, in cooperation with the region and other organizations, and with the support of donors from UF, managed to secure for them accommodation and spaces for teaching. During this year, some returned or moved to other countries, in the following school year the students from this school will be educated directly in our primary school.

We are still continuing this assistance: in some of our congregations, Ukrainian families continue to stay, or women with children, several women are even employed in our congregations. In our Christian schools and kindergartens, we not only provide education for registered Ukrainian pupils and students (Nová Paka, Hejnice, Liberec), but we also help them and their families, if possible, with solving their needs and the traumas that war brings, our congregations offer the possibility of leisure activities - participation of children in clubs, summer camps, involvement in various activities within the community (mothers' clubs, senior clubs), etc. If possible, Ukrainians participate in our services, which are adapted for them, a Ukrainian Christian group meets weekly in the premises of the Nová Paka church.





1799 **225** 2024

Celebrating the Past
Pursuing the Vision of God's Kingdom

225TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

**225TH
ANNIVERSARY
SERVICE**



FEB 11 | 4:00PM

MAR 3 | 3:30PM



**MARCH OF
WITNESS**
(UNITY SUNDAY)

FUN DAY



APR 1 | 11:00AM

MAY 16 | 7:00PM



**'THE GEORGE
RAMSAY
MEMORIAL'
LECTURE**

**ANNIVERSARY
DINNER &
GALA**



TBA



Join us for

Harvest Fair

Sat
16 March
2024

from 11.30am

Mount Tabor
Moravian Church
St. John

Delicious Food & Refreshments

