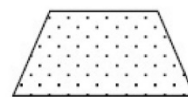


Castleton Hill Moravian Church
1657 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, NY 10314-3507
Phone: (718) 442-5215
Fax: (718) 442-5211
Return Service Requested



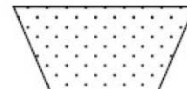
NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
STATEN ISLAND, NY
10314-3507
Permit No. 28



The Thread

July 2020
Castleton Hill
Moravian Church

*In Essentials, Unity
In Non-Essentials, Liberty
In all things, Love*



July 2020 at Castleton Hill Moravian!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	01 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study 8:00 Evening Bible Study	02	03 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study	04
05 11:00 Worship Broadcast (FB and church web site) 12:00 Zoom Sschool	06 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study	07 7:00 Trustees meeting	08 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study 8:00 Evening Bible Study	09 8:00 Elders meeting	10 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study	11
12 11:00 Worship Broadcast (FB and church web site) 12:00 Zoom Sschool	13 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study	14	15 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study 8:00 Evening Bible Study	16	17 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study	18
19 11:00 Worship Broadcast (FB and church web site) 12:00 Zoom Sschool	20 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study	21	22 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study 8:00 Evening Bible Study	23	24 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study	25
26 10:00 In-Church Worship (?) 11:00 Worship Broadcast (FB and church web site) 12:00 Zoom Sschool	27 2:00 Afternoon Bible Study	28	29	30	31	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION	Afternoon Bible Study: Meets MWF @ 2:00 Zoom Meeting Room: 832 4065 4454 Zoom password 362887	Evening Bible Study: Meets Wednesday @ 8:00pm Zoom Meeting Room: 896 7017 7715 Zoom password 362887	Elders meeting: Meets 1st Thur @ 8:00pm Zoom Meeting Room: 842 6560 9994 Zoom password 928973	Zoom Sunday Worship Meets Sunday @ 9:45am Zoom Meeting Room: 871 8876 6438 Zoom password 362887	Zoom Sunday School Meets Sunday @ noon Zoom Meeting Room: 920 2628 8610 Zoom password 392938	Zoom meetings can be accessed by computer, smart phone or telephone (audio only). See info sheet for more details!

Graduations and Celebrations!

July Birthdays:

Kyle Anderson	July 1	Nick Anderson	July 14
Tamadja Roberts	July 7	John Pfuhler Jr.	July 14
Jason Bullen	July 8	Leslie Hession	July 19
Linda Johnson	July 12	David Reginald	July 28
Karen Anderson	July 14	Kristin Strandberg	July 28

July Anniversaries

Esther & Stanley Rose	July 9
Stan & Muriel Timari	July 13
Norman & Irene Schaefer	July 22



Ariana Beepath graduates from Moore Catholic High School and is planning to attend CSI.



Sienna Hughes graduates from IS 51 and will be attending Gaynor McCowan in the Fall.



Shiloh King graduates from Success Academy Coble Hill Elementary School and will be starting Success Academy Hudson Yard Middle School.



Tariq Martin graduates from Wheaton College, in Norton, Massachusetts. He is exploring the job market and considering grad school, in the future.



Gregory Rose graduates from the MBA program at Stanford University. He will be joining the company, SONDER, as a Product Manager.



Jyoti Ramrup graduates from CSI High School. She will be attending CSI, this Fall.



Zachary Sierp graduates from JCC Nursery School and will be attending Kindergarten at PS 35, in September.

Love and Blessings to all of our graduates! May you go forth into the next phase of your life with joy and the promise of God's love! Always remember that you have a church home, at Castleton Hill Moravian!

Congratulations Preschool Students, Parents, and Staff!



This is what social distancing and graduation looks like! This is Preschool Graduation 2020!

Congratulations to the graduating preschoolers, who will be moving to another year of preschool--or on to Kindergarten! We pray for your success, and hope that your time at Castleton Hill Moravian Preschool has prepared you for new things!

But we also want to congratulate the parents and staff, who saw things through, this year. These were difficult times, to say the least--but our parents, and especially our Preschool staff, stepped up, and made the impossible, possible. Your dedication to our students is an inspiration, and you are a blessing to our school! Thank you!

-CHMC Congregation



Return to Worship!

The Joint Board has been busy planning our return to worship, in July. Here's what you can expect:

In-person Sunday Worship will begin on Sunday, July 12 at our summer hours, 10:00am.

1. Our service will be restricted to 35 people present in the Sanctuary. People wishing to attend worship in person will need to reserve a seat for worship, via SignupGenius.com or by texting your request to Pastor Lance. Worshipers who have *not* signed up will be admitted *only as availability allows*.
2. Our service will also be remotely accessible via Zoom. Zoom participants will not be able to interact with the service, but they will be able to see and hear what is happening in the Sanctuary.
3. The following COVID protocols will be observed:
 - All worshipers will have their temperatures taken and will complete a health questionnaire
 - All worshipers will wear masks during the service
 - Social distancing will be observed while entering and leaving the Sanctuary
 - Hugging, hand-shaking, and other forms of physical contact will, regrettably, be discontinued for the time being
 - Offerings will be collected as worshippers enter the church, in a non-contact way
 - All worshipers will sit in designated pew areas, according to social distancing practices
 - Worship bulletins will be pre-distributed to seating areas
 - Hymnals and pew cushions will be removed from pews; hand sanitizer will be available in pews
4. Worship will include responsive reading; this will occur toward the end of worship, to minimize exposure
5. Worship will include some singing. At the end of worship, congregation members will gather in the parking lot and sing together from the privacy of their cars.
6. Every reasonable effort will be made to limit our exposure to the virus, while maintaining an environment conducive to meaningful worship.

Why Can't We Sing in Church?

The question I am asked most, from our church family is "why can't we sing in church?" Rather than tackle that question, myself, I give you the words of Dr. James Hamblin, Health Editor of *The Atlantic*. In this month's issue, Dr. Hamblin writes:

As the United States reopens, continued spread of the virus among some people—such as family members, roommates, or possibly co-workers—will be inevitable. What we can most hope to prevent are the "super-spreading" scenarios in which one person infects dozens of others. Choirs have repeatedly proved to be grounds for such events in the coronavirus pandemic. The most infamous case was in Washington State, where one person attended a choir practice in early March while experiencing flu-like symptoms. Three weeks later, two fellow singers were dead. A subsequent study found that the "act of singing" contributed to 53 of the 61 choir members eventually testing positive. Around the same time, 102 of 130 members of an Amsterdam choir developed COVID-19 after a performance, and four people associated with the choir died. In Austria, 43 of 44 participants in a choir seminar tested positive. Similar super-spread choir outbreaks have been reported in South Korea and Germany. These events took place just before shutdowns went into effect. They will happen again, when shutdowns end.

With so much evidence now compiled, the simple answer to your question—don't sing in groups—could seem obvious. In some places, leaders see it that way. Some parts of Germany, for example, have outlawed singing in churches. No law like that is forthcoming in the U.S., where churches are effectively exempt from much of the legal system. So, decisions will largely be left up to local officials, individual congregations, and congregants.

Dr. James Hamblin; "Paging Dr. Hamblin" *The Atlantic* (June 10, 2020)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/06/choir-practice-during-pandemic/612868/>

For me, the reason is much, much simpler. As a follower of Christ, I believe that we should all be wearing masks in public and practicing social distancing. Why? Out of love, respect, and care for the most vulnerable people in our world. So, why should we refrain from singing, at this time? For the very same reason.

THREE WAYS for you to join us on ZOOM!



Zoom is a video conferencing program that allows multiple people to see and talk to one another face-to-face, over different electronic devices. To use Zoom, you need two things

A) Access to the Zoom platform (see below)

B) A meeting invitation, which we will provide

NOTE: The meeting room number and password may change with EACH meeting..

Over the next few weeks, we will be scheduling a number of Zoom meetings that YOU might want to attend: Bible Study classes, virtual Fellowship Hour, and more! It is SO easy to join a Zoom meeting--and this guide will help you! Before each meeting, we will send you an invitation. It will arrive by text and/or email, and will look something like this:



Join by landline

You can join Zoom meetings with any landline phone. Just remember that you will be joining on audio only--no video!

To join a Zoom meeting by landline, dial the number provided for New York, and enter the Meeting ID and Password, when prompted.

Lance Fox is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lance Fox's Zoom Meeting
Time: Apr 29, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/873147300952?pwd=a2FPYldJTWFJL2k2MnB3aUY0bDZFdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 1473 0095
Password: 928372

One tap mobile
[+16465588656](tel:+16465588656), 87314730095#, 1#, 928372# US (New York)
[+13126266799](tel:+13126266799), 87314730095#, 1#, 928372# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
[+1 646 558 8656](tel:+16465588656) US (New York)
[+1 312 626 6799](tel:+13126266799) US (Chicago)
[+1 301 715 8592](tel:+13017158592) US (Germantown)
[+1 346 248 7799](tel:+13462487799) US (Houston)
[+1 669 900 9128](tel:+16699009128) US (San Jose)
[+1 253 215 8782](tel:+12532158782) US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 873 1473 0095
Password: 928372
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/873147300952>



Join by computer

To join a Zoom meeting by using your computer, simply open the emailed invitation. Then click on the link that is provided!



Join by Smart phone

There are two ways to join Zoom by smart phone:

(1) Download and install the Zoom app at your phone's app store. To join, simply open the text or email invitation and click on the link, provided.

OR

(2) Open the text invitation and click on the "One Tap Mobile" link for New York

If Pastor Lance doesn't have your current email address or cell phone number, we won't be able to send you a Zoom invitation. If you have NOT been receiving texts and emails from the church, please contact Pastor Lance, to update your information!

Giving to the Church, when you aren't in Church: Three easy ways!

It's no secret that our congregation and our ministries rely heavily on *YOUR* financial support. Thank you! But with our busy daily schedules, it's sometimes difficult to remember to give regularly, especially when we aren't physically in the church, itself! So, here are three easy ways to give--right from your very home!



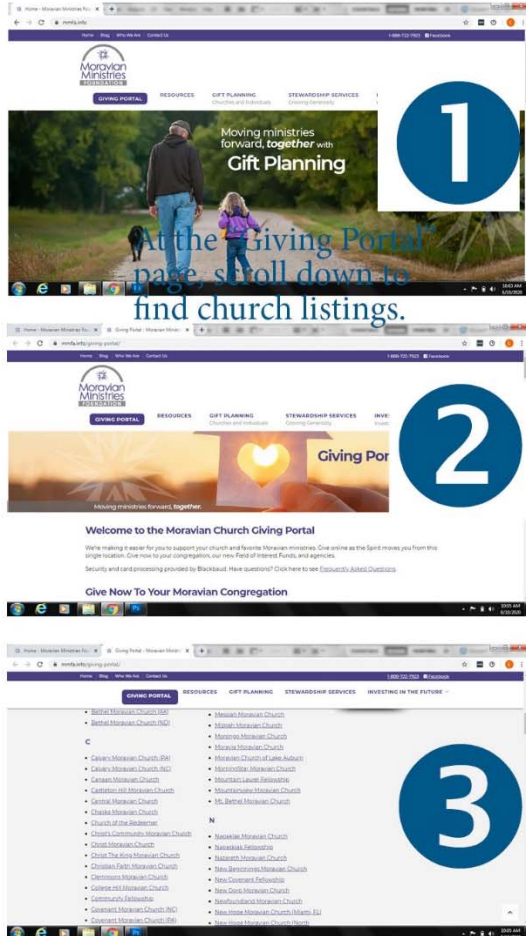
Snail mail: In our hyper-technological age, we sometimes forget the easiest ways to communicate. Your tithes and offerings can always be sent by mail directly to the church office. Just pop your check in an envelope addressed to: **Castleton Hill Moravian Church**
1657 Victory Blvd.
Staten Island, NY 10314



Bill Pay: If you have a checking account, chances are you have access to online banking and Bill Pay. Bill Pay allows you to set up regular, automatic payments to any business or person. You set up the payment amount and dates; your bank prints and sends a check to your recipient. Contact your bank for specific details on how to use this service.



Moravian Ministries Foundation: There are several online services specifically created to help people give their tithes and offerings to their churches. The Trustees have chosen to use the "Giving Portal" at the Moravian Ministries Foundation. Here's how it works:



1 Google "Moravian Ministries Foundation" or go to MMFA.info

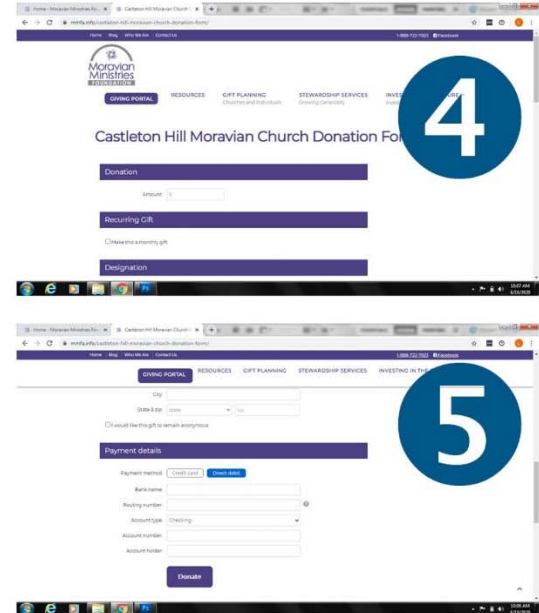
On the tool bar, click on "Giving Portal"

2 At the "Giving Portal" page, scroll down to find church listings.

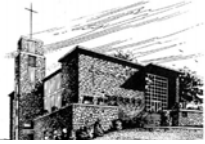
3 Find and select "Castleton Hill Moravian Church"

4 At the "Castleton Hill Moravian Church Donation Form," begin filling out the details for your gift to the church. Remember to check the "monthly gift" box, to schedule monthly offerings."

5 At the bottom of the "Castleton Hill Moravian Church Donation Form," choose your method of payment. You may use a credit card or direct debit from an existing bank account. If you choose direct debit, be sure to have your bank and account information handy!



No gift is too small!
All gifts are appreciated!
Contact Pastor Lance, for assistance or more information!



The Thread

Castleton Hill Moravian Church
July 2020

During my second year of college, I attended a small school in Sarasota, Florida. There were only 400 students there, and by the end of the first semester, everyone on campus knew each other by sight, and many of us had formed very close friendships. So, there was a little bit of sadness when we all went home for Winter Break, because we knew it would be almost two months before we all got back together, again.

And so, we went our separate ways.

In February, when we all returned to school, the celebration was epic. Every new returnee was greeted with hails and welcomes and hugs. Food accumulated in the central courtyard. And music. And libations. There was dancing and singing and laughing. And there was talking—lots and lots of talking. We talked about our traveling adventures. We talked about our families and our family winter traditions. We talked about friends at home and friends at school; of old loves reunited and new loves missed. We talked about the time we spent apart—and in doing so, we filled in the missing pieces of our friendships and welded the gaps in pieces of our common experience.

We told our individual stories, so that our collective story—the story of 400 college friends—might be complete.

Our Moravian Church has long had a tradition of the *lebenslauf*, or “life path.” It’s the telling of each of our stories, with the particular emphasis on the path of our faith development, from childhood to adulthood and beyond. If you’ve never heard someone’s *lebenslauf*, they can be very compelling stories—because the path of our faith is cast in the decisions we make, particularly in times of stress and change.

For many of us, these uncertain times have led to unexpected blessings. Oh, don’t get me wrong—these COVID days are full of stress and worry and anxiety. But *how we face* stress, worry, and anxiety has a profound impact on our life path—our *lebenslauf*. The saying goes like this:

FEAR = “Forsake Everything And *Run*.”
(OR) **FEAR** = “Face Everything And *Rise*.”

And if our faith has been in the right place, these past few months, we’ve probably come to some amazing realizations. Maybe we’ve come to see our children in new and different ways. Maybe we’ve developed a better appreciation for the people with whom we’ve been sequestered—or an appreciation for the ones we’ve missed. Maybe we’ve learned to rely on God more fully, because God has been the greater constant in our lives. Maybe we’ve gained a better perspective on material items and the things we used to think of as “necessities,” because those things haven’t been wholly available. And maybe—if we’re lucky, just maybe we’ve gotten some insight into how limited our own efforts are, how feeble our own strength is, and what little our control amounts to, in this world and in our lives.

Because that is the beginning of wisdom. And that is the beginning of a deeper relationship with Christ.

I promise you this. The day is coming—not as soon as we’d like, but it is coming—when we will gather again in joy and love and community. And, yes, we will greet every returnee with hails and welcomes and hugs! And, yes, there will be celebration! And food. And libation (non-alcoholic, of course!)—and we will share the stories of our time apart. We will fill in the missing pieces of our friendships and weld together the gaps in our common experiences. We will tell our *lebenslauf* to one another—and our common *lebenslauf*, the story of Castleton Hill Moravian, will once more be complete.

Because your life path is part of my life path. As you grow, we all grow. And we all grow close to God.

Until that day, be well! Be blessed! Rise, don’t run! And let God guide you through these uncertain times, to our great coming together with each other—and with our LORD!

Love and Blessings! Pastor Lance