



Ephraim Moravian Messenger

News from the Open Door

“In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love”

Congregational Watchword for 2020: “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Ephesians 3:20-21”

December 2020

I asked the congregation to send me a sentence or two about things for which they were grateful. There's always 'one in the crowd' who doesn't follow directions. So, Rob Moore, who sent me something somewhat longer... thank you. It's quite inspirational. Check out our 'Gratitude List' on the next page for more wisdom from our church family. – Pastor Dawn

Sometimes it takes a Pandemic

As I begin my day during a pandemic, sheltered in my home, I ponder if I should wear my evening pajamas or dress up in my daytime sweat pants. When the pandemic first began, I worried about my job, the decline in my 401 K retirement benefits, my wife and my extended family. But when I look at the bigger picture, I find that Covid-19 has brought a renewed perspective to my life. Many blessings come to mind: When I go into the grocery store and see empty shelves, I think about the many countries of the world in which bare shelves are routine, regardless of the situation. And then, I thank God that I live in the USA.

I think about the first responders, like Bob Volpe, who put their lives on the line every time their beeper sounds off. I think about my nephew who is in law enforcement, and my niece who is a nurse and how they have to overcome their own worry when they approach their next encounter with a patient or a routine traffic stop. I thank God for those that serve us in law enforcement, the military and medicine. I think about those that serve the public with hospitality, food services, or non-essential services that struggle financially or are unemployed. May God find a way to help and provide for them.

I am forever grateful and thankful for Pastor Dawn, Pastor Ken, Colin, Diane, Bob, and all those who produce our weekly online service. And Ryan, who years before installed the Mevo and connected the online services. I am just thankful that we are all able to enjoy Sunday worship from the comfort, health, and security of our homes.

I am ever so thankful for the love of my wife and the wonderful companionship we share every day as we stay isolated in our home together. I am thankful for the community in which we live. I rejoice that it reaches out to all our church family, with phone contact and loving outreach. I am thankful for those that I have gotten to know better through phone calls.

I think about the President, Congress, Senate and all public officials who struggle with difficult decisions to promote the welfare of the people. *(well, I would like to think that is the way it works!)* I am also thankful that I do not have to make those difficult decisions. I pray to God to provide them with the wisdom and guidance to make good decisions.

As I put it all into perspective and realize the little inconvenience that I endure with social distancing, wearing a mask, and remaining at home, I remember growing up in Pennsylvania. During road construction and long traffic delays, I would often see signs posted by the Department of Transportation that read, **“Short term inconvenience for long term improvement.”** I think we need to keep this perspective in mind. I think we all need to take time to slow down, reflect and count the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Let us take time to enjoy one another despite our differences. We need to strip off the non-essentials and focus on what is truly important: family, friends, health, helping and caring for one another. When we do this, God's grace and peace returns to our lives. Do not get me wrong, I *am not* thankful for COVID-19. My prayers are for those who have been infected, and those who have lost love ones. I *am* thankful for God's grace in providing me with a renewed perspective on life. I am chagrined that I lost focus on what is profoundly important. With God's help we will travel through to the other side of this pandemic. With God's blessing, we will gain wisdom and realign our perspective in order to serve God with love, respect and to help and comfort those around us.

—Rob Moore



We received So Many responses that we have to condense them. We are grateful for them all! Many sent in notes of gratitude for family, grandchildren, grandparents and health. Here are some more 'Thanksgiving Shout-outs!'

-I am grateful to have found that there is goodness in the world and that it is stronger than hate. It gives me courage to face our uncertain tomorrows with hope.

-I am grateful for the opportunity for our current generation to have an event that we collectively are experiencing. I am hoping for a reset to the importance of family and relationships and not of stuff, of civility and not of divisions, and of hope not pessimism.

-I am grateful that when I drove through Ephraim at twilight. The lights were on in the church and it glowed with warmth.

-I am grateful for those who trudge ahead despite the obstacles in front of them. Lately I am reminded of Mr. Rogers' mother who told him to "look for the helpers." I have seen so many helpers and it continues to be my foundation for staying positive; knowing that their selfless acts deserve my selfless acts.

-I am forever grateful for the loving care and support my parents gave me for 90+ years and for being great role models for how to be effective and loved members of the community.

-I am grateful for God's unending love which gives me strength and hope each day, and the opportunity to live and serve in this wonderful church and community.

-We are grateful that God gave us a sense of humor!

-I'm grateful for friends, old and new. I'm grateful for our church. All are anchors in these times of difficulty, but difficulty with peace and joy.

-I am thankful for the scientists and researchers that have discovered vaccines for COVID-19. Also thankful for our front line workers that have worked so hard over the past few months!



-The scent of Christmas pines and greens...Chocolate chip cookies...Wonderful Door County family...Beautiful renewing walks

-I'm grateful for: My grandparents...My new husband...My health and my family's health, our community of friends and support

thankful

-I'm grateful for the Internet! Keeps our distant family close with Zoom, texts, and photos

-I'm grateful for family members; even when I can't be with them, they're THERE for me.

-
I'm grateful for friends who keep in touch, by notes or calls, or outdoor visits.

-I am grateful for the wonderful friends I have made over the years, and even people whom I didn't know long enough to become friends with, but they provided interesting thoughts, different outlooks on life, great conversation, and general pleasant hours.



-I am grateful for my family, lifelong friendships, being an American, living in Door County, and being a member of Ephraim Moravian for 35 years. I am a fortunate woman.

-I am thankful for those who love unconditionally, unceasingly, and with fervor.

-I am so very grateful for my children and grandchildren. I am especially grateful for my health this year.

-We're happy to attend "Online Church Service" here in our "computer room," every Sunday. This is great, considering we can't all be sitting close together in the pews! We miss being with the people in the congregation, but we really enjoy these beautiful services.

-I am grateful for Music that speaks to an Individual's inner being and encourages time for meditation and contemplation.

-I am thankful for the abundant sunshine and family and friends who keep in touch with us while we are on lockdown .

-I am grateful to have renewed a friendship with my next-door neighbors' son. He has been away to boarding school and then to college. The present circumstances have brought him home to live with his parents. He has been so helpful to me changing batteries in smoke alarms., taking heavy items out to the curb for trash day, helping clean out the garage, and so forth. I regularly look for things which are daily blessings and I find them in abundance!

-Grateful Thanks-giving for all those who have loved and cared for me from the day of my birth and to those who will love and care for me in my years to come till eternity. Love as Christ loves us.

-I am grateful for now being a full-time resident of beautiful Door County.

-I'm so very grateful for family that watches over me, and all my wants and needs are met. God is good.

-The 28 additional days I was able to have with Jim, My incredible daughter. The fact that I'm healthy, mobile, and alert (sort of), My heritage, My dear departed brother who pushed me into education. The other brother who has supported me and offered guidance. My fabulous parents who were simple, honest, Christian people.

THANKFUL
grateful
BLESSED



Continued...



-Ray and I are grateful to have family - not a large family, but indeed dear to us - not perfect but precious and all concerned for one another. Also for friends, old and new, for praying friends in particular, for the prisoners I have written to who pray for our family and are among the finest human beings I have ever met, for books which hold treasures unknown, for libraries and the good people who hang in there to keep them open, for the ten years of living in Door County and for the day I went years ago to a Bible

study in Ephraim and Dawn invited us to services and I said I don't know if my husband would like to hear a woman preach and she laughed and said to bring him along and then it turned out he admired her tremendously and there you are. We have loved going to Ephraim Moravian and miss all the people - some we know better than others, but everyone for the most part is familiar and it's tough not to see this group on a regular basis. The virus: it is what it is and we all pray it will come under control before too long. As we are told - **NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.** Many blessings to you all!

-I am grateful for my family. for my congregation, for my community and for my country when my country heeds its official motto - **IN GOD WE TRUST.**

-I am grateful for fun family banter in texts. I am grateful for the flood of wonderful memories when I go into the kids bedrooms (They're now grown)

-We are grateful for good health, grandson doing well on gmat test, and able to play tennis and meet outside with my art painting group.



-I'm so grateful for Ephraim Moravian Church

-We're thankful for....the wonderful ministry you lead. That as a couple we have not had ailments at the same time and have been able to care for each other. Thankful the many ways our kids have stepped up and cared for us in many different ways. The Joy of our sweet grandchildren!

-We are grateful for the extra time we have been able to have with our children and grandchildren during these uncertain times.

-I am especially grateful for the view of Ephraim with its two Church Steeples, four seasons of the year.



-I am so very grateful for my children and grandchildren. I am especially grateful for my health this year.

-I am thankful for: My wonderful husband and our good health, Our beautiful grandchildren. Living in a village that offers such serenity and beauty, especially during this very challenging year (summer traffic excluded). Happy Thanksgiving to all!

-SO GRATEFUL TO BE OVER COVID!

I am so thankful my fabulous sister is healing so beautifully with such grace and patience ... and I pray she'll be on the golf course in just a few months!



Ephraim Moravian Church Office Hours

PASTOR: TUES - FRI 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 MONDAY Pastor's Day Off
 SECRETARY: WED. - THURS. 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
 CELL NUMBER: 920-421-4042 The Church Phone does NOT ring in the parsonage. Please keep the Pastor's Cell Phone handy for after hours.



Our dear friend **Nancy Davis** passed away on November 11. Condolences to Rob Davis and the rest of the Davis family, and all her friends. We will miss her talents, her generosity, her spirit.



If you don't have a computer, can't watch the Facebook service or find our web page with the audio of the service, we will be more than happy to send you a CD of the services at no charge. Just call 920-854-2804 and leave word that you'd like a CD of each week's service!



YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

TRUSTEES

B.D. Thorp	854-7212
Carol Sandstrom	854-9580
Dave Chomeau	854-2203
Brent Bristol	421-3626
Gunilla Wilson	854-5105

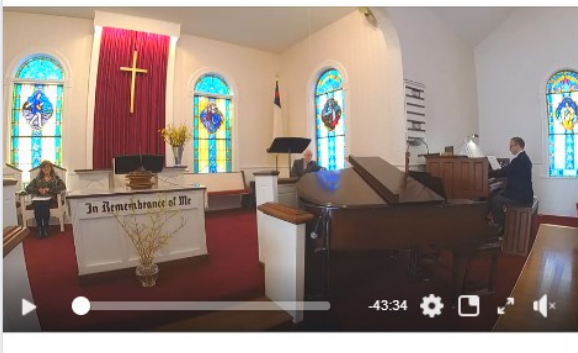
ELDER

Pastor Dawn Volpe, Chair
 Lonnie Vitse, Vice-Chair
 608-628-7545
 Kathleen Harris, Secty 421-2941
 Liz Opitz 854-5949
 Sherry Moore 854-3046
 Tiggy Shields 520-404-7512
(summer Elder)

Services in December on Facebook LIVE STREAMING

If you are on Facebook, search for "Ephraim Moravian Church."

Live from Mevo at Ephraim Moravian Church in Door County, Wisconsin!



If you are not on Facebook, let Pastor Dawn know and she can add you to the list of those who receive a link to the service and don't need to belong to Facebook.

Concerts with Colin



Our first two mini-concerts with Colin Welford were a great success! We maintained small groups, masks and distancing, and got lots of items for Feed My People, as well as cash donations.



Because the Advent and Christmas season will soon be upon us... and because COVID numbers are rising so fast in Door County and a stay-in-place advisory has been issued by the State and our County, we are suspending concerts until at least January.

Stay tuned for an announcement of the Colin's next mini-concert!



The Village had another loss in November—John Protolipac, our Postmaster who retired recently, has passed away from his third bout with cancer in the last ten years. He was also a computer repair guy and a masters basketball champion. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Jennifer, at 3225 Highland Spur Road, Fish Creek, WI 54212.



**Our ADVENTure
on December 5 !
1 - 4 p.m.**



The Ephraim Business Council is planning events for Christmas in the Village, but they won't be quite the same as usual. Neither will ours! We are planning a drive-through event on that Saturday, from 1-4 p.m. Come down Willow from the cemetery and drive by** in the back parking lot to pick up wreath-making materials, your Christmas Eve candle, Watchword for Next Year and Moravian Sugar Cake! Our elders and volunteers will come to your car with your order and with a basket for donations to Secret Santa, the organization that helps with heating and repair in the winter.

Normally you'd be buying bakery and donating toward the wreath supplies, etc., but we still need donations that can help our community through Secret Santa, so we hope you'll be generous!

*****Please contact the church office with...the number of wreath kits, candles, sugar cake and watchwords you will be picking up by Monday, November 30th (920-854-2804 or email: worship@ephraimmoravian.org)***

December Church Services



December 6 — 10 a.m.—Second Sunday in Advent Worship and Communion—Pastor Dawn, Music Director Colin Welford, Guest Soloist Amanda Mittermann

December 13 - 10 a.m. Third Sunday in Advent, Worship with Pastor Dawn, Music Director Colin Welford

December 20 — 10 a.m. Fourth Sunday in Advent, Worship— Worship with Pastor Dawn, Music Director Colin Welford

December 24 —10 a.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Worship with the kids singing "Morning Star" and *special* musical guests

5 p.m. Parking Lot Carol Sing with Candles/Flashlights

11:40 p.m. "Welcome Baby Jesus" *LIVE* Facebook service with mezzo-soprano

Cynthia Stiehl

December 27—10 a.m. Lessons & Carols with Pastor Dawn Volpe, Music Director Colin Welford

November Reports from the Board of Elders & Trustees

Elders: Health and safety related to the pandemic informed the Elders' November agenda. Elders determined that the church is at capacity regarding use of facilities by outside groups. Presently, four small non-church groups use facilities once a week. The church provides Covid-19 safety guidelines to all groups. In other discussion, congregants will be pleased to know the pandemic has not dampened enthusiasm for upcoming Advent and Christmas activities. Advent-ure (December 5), Christmas Eve services (including "parking lot" caroling at 5 PM, December 24), and a live-stream midnight liturgy (December 24) are a few opportunities to jump-start spiritual batteries. Look for December Facebook posts, too, that feature Moravian traditions from far and wide. As in the past, the church will be decorated. Elders are available to help you or to put you in touch with local resources should needs arise. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a phone call or cheery note this season, please reach out to us.

Trustees: A financial audit of our year 2019 will be done by Church Council for review. The 2021 budget is proposed to stay the same as this year, as things remain uncertain with income and expenses. The parsonage A/C and heat exchange units will be installed by year's end. There is a leak into the Fellowship closet by the chimney that necessitates repair. B.D. Thorp consulted with Chris Spaugh of the Moravian Ministries Foundation about investing of our funds for 2021, and we will take his advice as far as our investment choices. Our PPP loan forgiveness paperwork has been turned into Nicolet Bank, and we are fully expecting to see our \$27,000 loan (to help pay salaries during this COVID pandemic) turned into a grant. Church Council at 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 25 will be a parking lot event—Pastor Dawn has a mic that transmits to a frequency on your car radio (like the drive-in movies) so everyone can stay warm and socially distanced.

December Birthdays

Carly Mulliken...1
Timothy Nelson...2
Enzo Sherman... 3
Paul Burton...7
Jack Opitz...7
Barbara Classen...9
Charlie Weborg... 9
Robert Anderson...10
Amanda Mittermann...12
Colin Welford...13
Henry Bristol...13
Don Nelson.....15

Andrew Phillips...18
Walt Shields...18
Mary Wilson...23
Joan Fitzpatrick... 27
Linda Carey...27

December Anniversaries

Joyce and Glenn Gerdman – Dec 23, 1951
Arts & Pat Horvath – Dec 30, 1972

**If we have missed you or someone you
know in the lists above, please let us know
in the church office!**

....to those who continue to help with our on-line services on
Sunday mornings.

...to those who have continued their offerings through the mail
or their bank! You can donate (PO Box 73, Ephraim) and
through the Moravian Ministries Foundation for donations to
EMC:

<https://mmfa.info/ephraim-moravian-church-donation-form/>



And if you'd like to begin electronic giving through your bank, give them information for our
bank account, which you can get through the church office.

Dearly Departed Cemetery Walk



Everett Valentine, portrayed
By Bob Ziegler



William "Bill" Wedepohl,
portrayed by Tom Birmingham



Augusta Olson, portrayed
By Linda Carey



Marion Olson, portrayed
by Kathleen Harris

Watch the
"Dearly Departed"
video via link on our
church website
(ephraimmoravian.org)
Or the Ephraim Historical
Foundation's website
(Ephraim.org). All of our
Ephraim characters are
wonderfully portrayed this
year!

...MEMBERS OF THE MONTH...



Judy Flottman (born Judy Staver) grew up on a dairy farm located on county Q just east of Ephraim. She is the fourth generation of her family on that land and attending Ephraim Moravian Church.

Fast forward, Judy attends college at The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. While there she meets **Paul Flottman**. He was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and moved to Sheboygan, Wisconsin at the age of 12. As all Sheboyganites, became expert in grilling bratwurst. Attending UW-O assured acquiring skill in beer consumption, the perfect match for a bratwurst griller. These desirable attributes surely were paramount in attracting the attention of the beautiful Judy Staver.

Judy and Paul after leaving college begin working in Plymouth Wisconsin as counselors in a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children. While there Judy suggests a move to Door County...Paul agrees.

Door County allows Judy to return to her love of and skill at retail sales giftware. Paul splits his labor between dairy farming with his father in law Marvin and carpentry working for Ranny Nelson.

Judy and Paul manage to have two wonderful daughters, Amanda and Erin. They both marry, Mike Mittermann, Brent Bristol respectively and the couples have three children each: Logan, Cana, Glory (Mittermann) and Henry, Mathilda, Winfield (Bristol) giving Judy and Paul more love and pride than they thought possible. Oh yeah, all of this happened while attending Ephraim Moravian Church.



Here are the aforementioned **Mittermanns** (pictured here are Glory Lou, Cana and Logan). Amanda Mittermann is the daughter of Judy & Paul Flottman (sister to Erin Bristol); Mike is the son of Mike & Lauren, Mike a retired contractor and Village maintenance guy, Lauren a retired teacher at Gibraltar. Logan is an avid runner with awards to his credit and has been a great helper in our church. Glory is in kindergarten and Cana is in second grade. They both have beautiful singing voices (taking after their mother!). The Mittermann and Bristol kids are the fifth generation to be baptized in our church.

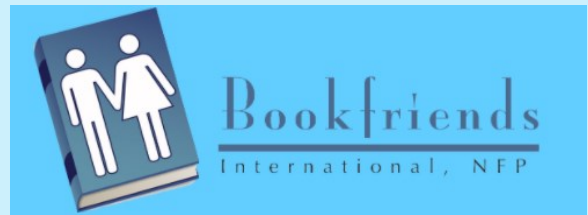
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MEMBERS OF THE MONTH, CONTINUED

The Bristol family consists of Erin Flottman Bristol, Brent, and kids Henry, Mathilda and Winfield. Brent was born on the Iron Range of Minnesota and was raised in Northwestern Wisconsin, having lived in two towns whose combined population didn't total 1,000. He vacationed here as a child and was elated when good fortune and fate brought him to Door County for a job with the Village of Ephraim in 2006. It was there that Erin and Brent would meet, when Erin—who was born and raised in Door County—was hired by the Village in 2009. Two years later they were married, and welcomed Henry in 2012 Mathilda in 2014 and Winfield in 2017.

Bookfriends continues, however a bit more slowly these days, with its mission to send school supplies to African schools.

We do appreciate people who have been bringing buttons, fabric and National Geographic Magazines to church. A special thanks to Kay Wilson for helping with sewing!



PRAYERS FOR...

- Valerie Billington
- Jayden Michael
- Nancy Bontempo
- Kaye Maher
- Rhea Vytlačil
- the family of John Protolipac
- the family of Michael Welford
- Jay Bowen
- Marge Hassler
- Betty Chomeau
- Carter Crowe
- the family of Nancy Davis

Our nurses, doctors, grocery workers, pharmacists, postal and delivery people, and all essential workers during this COVID-19 pandemic.



Treasurer's Report

Member giving

through Oct 2020: \$76,727

2019: \$90,870

2018: \$102,912

Visitor giving

through Oct 2020: \$39,690

2019: \$69,317

2018: \$41,982

Income

Budget for 2020 is: \$ 171,700

Actual thru Oct: \$122,527

(not including memorials)

Expenses

Budget for 2020 is \$ 224,949

Actual thru Oct: \$171,146

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS EVE

The Christmas Bulletin/Poinsettia list—for years, we bought poinsettias in honor of or memory of a loved one, and the names were printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. This year, we'd still like to honor your loved ones. Please contact the church office by phone or email and let us know who you would like honored. Then, instead of purchasing a poinsettia, send a check to us, which we will donate to Door CANcer. We would like to help a local charity during this difficult time. All donations to the memorial page will benefit Door CANcer.

THREE VERY SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE



*A pre-recorded 10 a.m. Christmas Eve Service will be posted to Facebook and can be accessed any time. It will feature "Morning Star" and our traditional Christmas Eve Service. Musical guests Cynthia Stiehl, Allie Babich and Katie Dahl.

*A live, Parking Lot Carol Sing at 5:00 p.m. Come with your candles, flashlights or other illuminations. We'll be physically distanced in the parking lot. Colin Welford will accompany us on the keyboard. We plan for a brief 15-minute event to get us into the Christmas Spirit!



*A livestream (Facebook) service at 11:40 p.m., which will end a few minutes after midnight...a candlelit service welcoming Jesus into our world. Pastor Dawn will be speaking and Cyndy Stiehl singing. If you can stay up and join us live, we'd be delighted. If it's way past your bedtime...you can access the service on Facebook on Christmas morning!



Ephraim Moravian Church
P.O. Box 73
Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

POSTAL WORKER: Thank you for delivering this to:

December 2020 Newsletter



Ephraim Moravian Church -
PO Box 73, 9970 Moravia Street - Ephraim, WI 54211
920-854-2804
Website: www.ephraimmoravian.org

General Correspondence: worship@ephraimmoravian.org