



“WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER”

May, 2020

STURGEON BAY MORAVIAN CHURCH
323 SOUTH 5TH AVENUE, STURGEON BAY, WI 54235
920-743-6218 SBMC@SBMORAVIAN.ORG
WWW.SBMORAVIAN.ORG

2020 CONGREGATIONAL WATCHWORD: *Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. James 1:17*



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Worship with us online at:
WWW.SBMORAVIAN.ORG

A new service is available every Friday.

Updates

When will we come back to Church?

As we continue with social distancing I know you are wondering about different aspects of your life as we begin to create the new normal. I want to address the reality of how this will work at church. I share this so that we can begin to prepare our hearts and minds for how we will need to work to come together.

Churches are going to need to be more resilient than anyone else. Based on the Governor’s Badger Bounce Back recommendations worship gatherings are way down on the list of things that will be allowed. In the beginning there will be only 50 allowed to gather and this could still be weeks away since there will need to be ample evidence of the decline in cases and an increase in testing.

I cannot give you a date when we will be back to church. As things progress we will be able to hold some gatherings for up to 10 people for things like Bible Study. When we are able to worship I can tell you that we will probably be offering multiple worship services. Masks and 6 feet distancing, apart by family groups, will be the new normal for a while.

One painful reality is that our senior members and those with compromising health issues may need to stay away from worship for an extended period of time. We will continue to record and broadcast worship service and we will continue to contact and support those who will need to stay safe at home.

We will keep you informed as soon as we have a clear plan of how we can be back together safely!

Community Garden

As we move forward in mission and ministry to our community we are seeking to identify and ramp up the ways that we can serve those in greatest need. One of the greatest resources that we have as a church is the Popour Community Garden located on 4th Ave behind the church. We had already decided at Church Council in January to invest more in the garden this year. Upon reflection this now looks like the Holy Spirit was leading and preparing us for current circumstance.

Last year the harvest from the garden went to our neighborhood around the church and people who use the Blessing Box, which is located at the garden. In order to increase our efforts we need YOUR help. We are in the process of putting in two raised planting beds and getting seeds and plants. But we will need volunteers:

Weeders and Waterers

We will need folks who will commit to dropping by and spending time pulling weeds and helping water. This is a great activity for your children and a great way to teach them community service. The more people who are willing to wander by the garden and help the easier this will be.

Canners and Freezers

As the season progresses we will need folks who can help freeze or can our harvest. We are in the process of getting the canning hardware to provide to those who are willing to help. If you ever wanted to learn how to do (Cont’d.)

Community Garden: (Cont’d.)

canning this is your summer to learn. Hopefully we will be far enough in the Badger Bounce Back by the end of the summer that we can have some small groups working together on this. If not you can do it at home. We will be doing all of this in partnership with our neighbors. I have spent some time in the garden this past week and I have been blown away by the number of folks coming over to visit and wanting to help.

Moravians do food! Contact me if you want to help.

Matt

A recent report from our PEC President

The following report came this week from Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, President of our Northern Province. I include this seeking your prayers as we see this impact people that we know and our extended Moravian families:

As the days of COVID-19 continue, the death toll also rises. Such deaths are impacting our congregations, and our pastors.

Rev. Katie Van Der Linden’s grandfather, Gerald Miller, died April 18 of COVID related complications; he lived in Macungie, PA. (Katie serves the Ebenezer Moravian Church in Watertown WI.)

Rev. Matt Gillard’s grandmother died April 21 of COVID-19, at the age of 92. She lived on Long Island in New York.

Rev. Dawn Volpe’s sister-in-law Lois Gibson died today in New York City. Dawn reports that two members of her brother’s family have died of COVID-19; five others are ill. (Dawn serves the Ephraim Moravian Church)

Rev. Earl Goulbourne, pastor of Grace Moravian Church in Queens, NY, reports that six members of his congregation have died of COVID-19.

I am aware that parishioners in other Moravian congregations have also died of COVID-19; I do not have specific numbers or congregations.

Such deaths – and the griefs that surround the loss of these loved ones – are compounded by the inability to gather with family, to weep and remember together, to worship and thank God for the witness of these souls. In many cases these individuals, along with so many who have died of other causes, die alone, without the companionship of those who walked with them in life. We remain grateful to health care professionals and chaplains who are surrogates in our stead as they hold vigil, offer prayers, and connect families through phone, FaceTime, Zoom, and other media.

Finally two announcements that break our hearts to have to make...

Shiloh 2020

Due to the stay at home restrictions and following guidelines from the Wisconsin Council of Churches based on the Governor’s **Badger Bounce Back** program we **will not** be having services at Shiloh beginning in June.

VBS 2020

Due to the stay at home restrictions and following guidelines from the Wisconsin Council of Churches we **will not** be having Vacation Bible School at our usual time in June. We are looking into virtual alternatives or if possible holding an abbreviated event late summer. We will let you know as soon as we have a better idea of what we can offer.



Moravian Mission Update as of April 22, 2020

From Justin Rabbach, Executive Director Moravian Board of World Missions

The staff of the Board of World Mission (BWM) has been encouraged by the number of requests we have received for updates on our global partners across the Moravian Unity, and the concern shared for their well-being during this global health situation.

A disclaimer as I share the information below is that even as we are in contact with all global partners, some locations are in a position to provide more timely and regular updates than others. What I provide below is the most up to date information available to the BWM at the time this letter is sent. However, please know that situations are changing daily and differently by location around the globe, so as we receive further updates, we will continue to share them through various channels (BWM website, social media, YouTube, etc.).

Before getting to the updates below, I would be remiss to not mention that just as often as we receive updates and prayer requests from partners, BWM staff has been receiving requests to be informed about the situation in North America, as well as within the Moravian Church here. These requests have come as Moravians around the world wish to offer their words of support and encouragement, along with their prayers for us. Bishop Ezekiel Yona, of the Moravian Province in Western Tanzania, has been particularly diligent in requesting updates to hold us in prayer at a special weekly prayer gathering. This even as he reports a growing number of cases of the coronavirus in his region. I find myself very grateful for these messages, and demonstrations of true partnership and connection, despite our physical distance.

BWM Global Partner Update

The updates below are bullets containing the current information about direct BWM partner areas, listed by stage of development within the Unity.

Unity Provinces:

- Honduras has registered 442 cases and 41 deaths. We are especially concerned about the consequences of the virus reaching the Moskitia region. BWM sent funds to help with food purchase and also sent a letter to the government advocating for permission for Miskitu people to travel to their home villages.
- The Ahuas Clinic in Honduras has also received additional emergency funding from BWM to assist with additional expenses for supply purchases due to travel restrictions and business closures.
- Nicaragua is only registering 9 cases and 1 death but there is concern as to the accuracy of these numbers.
- Costa Rica has 642 cases and 4 deaths. We are in communication with Provincial Chairman, Brother Leo Pixley.
- Guyana has 57 cases and 6 deaths.
- The islands of the Eastern West Indies (EWI) have registered about 300 cases, with 30 deaths. Many pastors and congregations are offering online worship services and daily devotions.
- Tanzania has 250 reported cases with 8 deaths. The chair of the Western Tanzania Province, Brother Ezekiel Yona, has contacted BWM to notify us that people in Tanzania are praying for their brothers and sisters in North America.

Mission Provinces:

- Cuba has reported 862 cases with 27 deaths. Moravian pastor Obed Martinez was hospitalized briefly and tested for COVID-19 but has returned home and is doing well. We are maintaining communication through WhatsApp and Facebook. ARMF is continuing to stay in contact and will be looking at ways to continue supporting the work of the church in Cuba.

Mission Areas:

- Peru has been hit especially hard with 12,491 cases reported and 274 deaths. BWM sent funding to help with food delivery to the churches in the Amazon District and is looking at additional ways to help. Justin and Sam have been live streaming sermons and Bible Studies by Facebook for Peruvian Moravians.
- ♦ Sierra Leone has only reported 26 cases and no deaths, but testing is not readily available in many areas. The Moravian Secondary School is closed until further notice and churches have been told not to gather for worship. We are in communication with Sister Safie Braima by Whats App.

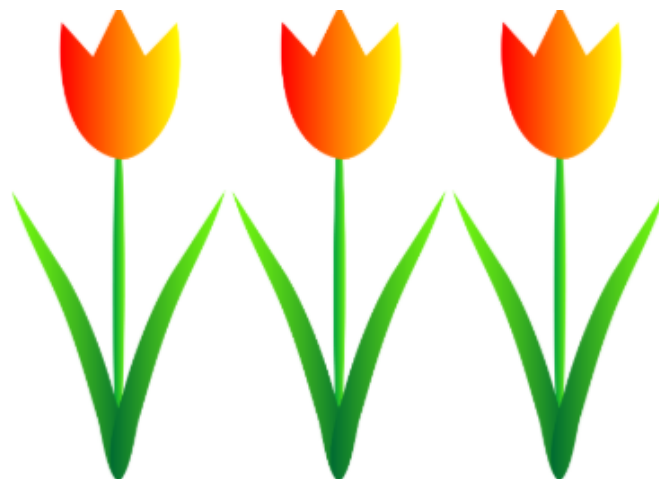
In addition to BWM partners, we have also received requests for prayers from the Unity Province of Malawi in regards to their weak health care system, and from the Mission Area of Uganda asking for prayers for the noticeable increase in domestic violence cases as folks are asked to stay home together. (It should be noted domestic violence cases have also risen considerably in many U.S. states, including Wisconsin, where I live, and so this issue would benefit from prayers and attention the world over.)

Mission Engagement

The BWM also continues its work with congregations, and we provide a few updates about our ongoing work below.

- With congregations in the Northern and Southern Provinces not being able to gather in their congregations since early March, the Board of World Mission has been offering \$200 grants to assist them in reaching out to their members. To date, we have distributed grants to 43 congregations and agencies of the Moravian Church, totaling just over \$10,000. Some have used this money to purchase Zoom subscriptions, others are using it to increase mailings, and others are setting up phone messaging systems. If your congregation has not yet applied and needs this assistance, please contact Chris Giesler at chris@moravianmission.org
- We continue to assist congregations in setting up mission trip opportunities. Some are needing helping in changing arrangements that were already in place, and others are just beginning the discernment process on how best they can help to meet needs. Please contact Chris Giesler if your congregation would like to start this process. We work well over Zoom.
- We are working on organizing our mission discernment and team training materials into a more standardized curriculum that can be used by congregations to assist as they seek to be faithful to God's calling to serve others. We hope these materials will be available on our website and in print form by the end of this year.

If you would like to know more about a specific area of our work, or one of our global partners, please feel free to reach out to myself, or any of the BWM staff for more information. The best ways to reach me directly are via phone (920-941-0697) or email (justin@moravianmission.org).





Door County Health and Human Services

County Government Center
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Joseph Krebsbach, Director First
Floor Fax 920-746-2355 Second
Floor Fax 920-746-2349
dhs@co.door.wi.us

March 24, 2020

Effectively immediately: In an attempt to support our community residents during this difficult time, Door County Health and Human Services will be available for supportive phone contacts for those that may need a higher level of support than can be provided by friend, family or volunteers. If a community member would benefit from such a contact please encourage them to call our main desk 920-746-7155. We will take their number and a trained mental health therapist will reach out to them and provide appropriate support.

In the case of a **mental health emergency**, we ask that individuals are directed, as usual, to call our crisis line at **920-746-2588**. Thank you!

REMINDERS:

Shop with Amazon Smile to benefit the Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church. Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price, but the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the church.

Save your Econo Foods receipts! Save them and return them to the church when you are able to. We receive 1% of the total dollar value. Our last check for \$161.17 went to benefit youth activities.

Hanging Flower Baskets: The flower baskets will be dropped off at your homes on May 8th. If this doesn't work for you, please call us at 920-743-6218 and we can make other arrangements. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraising event!

Thank You!

A very heartfelt thank you to all who prayed for Rick Nelson's safe return from Honduras!

- The Nelson Family



We will not hate, despise, slander or otherwise injure anyone. We will ever strive to manifest love towards all people, to treat them in a kind and friendly manner, and in our dealings with them to approve ourselves upright, honest, and conscientious, as becomes children of God. (*Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, para. 29*)