FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: LoriAnn Wukitsch, Vice President and Managing Director
Email: lwukitsch@historicbethlehem.org
Office: 610.882.0450 ext. 16
Date: October 22, 2020

Christmas is Coming Early to Historic Bethlehem
Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites Announces Historic Holidays Celebration

BETHLEHEM, PA, October 2020 – While the holidays may look different in the “Christmas City, USA” this year, it is allowing Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites to deliver a safe, engaging experience. Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites (HBMS) is excited to announce Historic Holidays, a Christmas celebration running November 6 through December 30, 2020. Historic Holidays includes some old favorite activities, Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides, Christmas City Stroll Walking Tour, and the Live Advent Calendar along with new additions Christmas in the Quarter and the Burnside Greens Sale & Market. The goal is to promote family fun with well-being and health as a focus while still enjoying the most wonderful time of the year.

New Additions:

Our new family fun addition Christmas in the Quarter promises to be buzzing with cheer November 6 through December 27. Each weekend will be your one-stop shop to find your perfect gifts, see winter art exhibits, get your family Christmas card photo at the family photo opportunities, enjoy live music, and crafts and activities for the kids. Specialty workshops with Marche Maison and Domaci will be available with limited registration. The historic buildings will be illuminated in Christmas lights for some extra cheer. See website for more details. Christmas in the Quarter will be held in the Colonial Industrial Quarter at 459 Old York Road, Bethlehem, PA 18018 with parking available onsite and in the Spring Street Lot. Activities run Thursday through Sunday, 2 pm - 8 pm. Special combination offers and discounts available in the HBMS online store.

Back by popular demand, the Burnside Greens Sale & Market promises rustic winter fun. Visit the historic Burnside Plantation on Saturdays & Sundays November 28 through December 13 to find your perfect Christmas tree, wreaths, swags and other hand-crafted decorations, enjoy historic cooking demonstrations, a number of family photo opportunities, barrel roll races, crafts, and games for the kids, and more. A holiday would not be complete without a Burnside Greens soy candle to commemorate a Christmas celebration on the Burnside Plantation, available for purchase in the online store and at Burnside Plantation. The Burnside Greens Sale & Market is open from 10 am to 4 pm with a $5 suggested family donation. Burnside Plantation is located at 1461 Schoenersville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18018 with parking available onsite. Full schedule of events can be found on the HBMS website.

Sweet treats available for purchase at the Visitor Center and Museum Store and online will include: the always popular Groman’s Moravian Sugar Cookies, Kiffles, Nut Tossies, and Nut Strudels and brand-new HBMS signature chocolates from Highland Chocolates, Wellsboro, PA.
Old Favorites:

Cozy, serene horse-drawn carriage rides take you through Bethlehem’s beautiful downtown are the perfect way to enjoy the lights, sights, and sounds of Christmas city with your family and friends. Each carriage is $75 to reserve for your group of up to 4 adults and 2 children on laps. Meet your carriage on Main Street in Bethlehem in front of the Central Moravian Church to be whisked away on your private carriage ride. Carriage rides run Thursdays through Sundays November 27 to December 27 every 20 minutes between 3 pm and 9 pm. The week of December 28 through December 31 they run every day, every 20 minutes between 3 pm and 9 pm.

Take a walk through beautiful downtown Historic Bethlehem with our certified guide in period dress on the Christmas City Stroll Walking Tour. Discover the story of Bethlehem’s unique beginning in 1741, the tales of a candle-in-every-window, and the renowned Bethlehem Star. Historic highlights include Bethlehem’s exquisite Victorian and colonial architecture, including two National Historic Landmarks. This outdoor walking tour includes a walk-through of the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem. Tours run daily between November 2 and December 30 at 1 pm and 3 pm, including a 7 pm tour on Saturdays and Sundays. Tours leave from the Historic Bethlehem Visitor Center at 505 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Each tour is limited to just 10 people and masks must be worn. $15 adults, $6 children, $10 members, special combination offers and discounts available in the HBMS online store.

The only one of its kind in the country, visitors can gather outside the door of the 1810 Goundie House each evening December 1 through 23 at 5:30 pm for the Live Advent Calendar. Each day, a designated audience member will knock on the door and a different local business will be behind the door to provide a treat to all. In partnership with the Downtown Bethlehem Association. The 1810 Goundie House is located at 501 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Visit the Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites website for more information about Historic Holidays and to purchase tickets.

Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites is a not-for-profit institution that brings to life three centuries of American history. Historic Bethlehem tells the story of a small town of great influence, home to some of our nation’s early settlers, to the first pumped municipal water system in the American colonies, and to one of the world’s greatest industrial companies. Historic Bethlehem is located in eastern Pennsylvania, only an hour’s drive north from Philadelphia and 2 hours west of New York City. Historic Bethlehem is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, part of a National Historic Landmark District, and a designated site on the US Tentative List.

###