



MARCH 2021

The Mustard Seed

The Official Newsletter of Christian Faith Moravian Church



From the Pastors Desk

At our February meeting, the Joint Board voted to resume in-person worship at church starting on Sunday, March 14. The service will remain at 9:00 am for the time being, with Christian Education classes for all ages remaining online. In this month's newsletter is a policy document guiding the resumption of our in-person worship activities. This document has gone through several revisions and represents the good work of both last year's and this year's Joint Board.

A few words about both the policy document and our in-person worship together:

1. Masks must be worn at all times while you are at church. Regardless of how any of us may feel about mask-wearing, this is one way that we can display sacrificial love for one another as the body of Christ.
2. You will note that for now, we will not have congregational singing. Although I would dearly love to be able to sing together in-person, I completely

agree with the Board's decision to refrain from doing so for now. Studies have shown that singing aerosolizes droplets from your mouth and makes any potential virus we might be carrying more airborne.

3. This is going to be a gradual process that will likely undergo several revisions and changes before we are worshipping in-person as we used to do – with no masks, singing, hugging, and sharing food together. I would invite you to continue to hold your Joint Board in prayer as they meet on a month-to-month basis to examine the most recent health data and reevaluate our procedures.

4. Because it will be a gradual process, it is predictable that it is going to feel too slow for some of us and too fast for others. That's okay. Disagreement on this or any issue is inevitable when two or more are gathered together. However, let us remember Christ's admonition that he is also present "where two or more are gathered" (Matthew 18:20). With this in mind, let us continue to be patient, kind, loving, and respectful with others and with ourselves as we speak to one another and listen to one another – as if we are interacting with Christ himself.

I continue to be most grateful for the leadership of your Joint Board, both last year's and this year's edition. Their wisdom, thoughtfulness, and caring are a faithful example of leadership. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or a member of the Joint Board if you have any questions or concerns.

In Christian love and service,

Pastor Jason

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Elders Vice Chair

TBD at March Meeting

Trustees Chair

Peggy Landgraf

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 7th

3rd Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

Call to Worship: Psalm 19
(Kathryn Scepaniski)

Sermon Text: John 2:13-22
Sermon: “Our Father’s House”

Sunday, March 21st

5th Sunday in Lent

Call to Worship: Psalm 51:1-12
(Megan Vanderbloemen)

Sermon Text: John 12:20-33
Sermon “The Hour Has Come”

Sunday, March 14th

4th Sunday in Lent

RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON WORSHIP
(Live-stream will also continue)

Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
(Peggy Landgraf)

Sermon Text: Nehemiah 8:1-8
Sermon: “This Day is Holy”

Sunday, March 28th

Palm Sunday

Call to Worship: Psalm 31:9-16
(Bob Hudecek)

Sermon Text: Mark 11:1-11
Sermon: “Something Good This Way Comes”

Lenten Zoom
Gatherings
EACH WEDNESDAY
7:00 PM



Join Pastor Jason via Zoom throughout the Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 pm. The theme will be “Chance Encounters with God.” It will focus on lesser-known Biblical characters who had a chance meeting with Jesus, and it changed their life. Those in attendance will be invited to think about the chance encounters we have with God throughout our lives.

March 3rd

Jairus and the Bleeding Woman
(Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43;
Luke 8:40-56)

March 17th

Zacchaeus
(Luke 19:1-10)

March 10th

The Leper Who Returned
(Luke 17:11-19)

March 24th

Simon of Cyrene
(Matthew 27:31-32; Mark 15:20-21;
Luke 23:26)

Digital Communication

Monday Morning Email

Pastor Jason sends out an email highlighting some upcoming dates and events, as well as some other fun things. If you would like to receive this weekly email, as well as our monthly newsletter in digital format, please contact the church office(cfmcoffice@gmail.com) to be added to the list.

OTHER WEEKLY ZOOM OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday Evening Psalms Book Study

The Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120-134) were psalms that the Jewish pilgrims would've sung as they travelled up (or ascended) Mount Zion on their way to Jerusalem for the holy festival days. Join us via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm from March through June as we examine each of these Psalms and how they each embody a virtue of life-long Christian discipleship. To look deeper at these psalms, we will be using Eugene Peterson's book, "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction." You are welcome to read along in Peterson's book if you'd like but that is not necessary to participate in the study. Each week, Pastor Jason will teach on a chapter from the book and will engage us in conversation about the correlating Psalm and Christian virtue. As Peterson writes, "The ascent was not only literal, it was also a metaphor: the trip to Jerusalem acted out a life lived upward toward God, an existence that advanced from one level to another in developing maturity."

At-Home Sunday School

While worship will be transitioning to in-person starting on March 14, for the time being we will continue to have Sunday School virtually. All youth (as well as the young at heart) are invited to join us for a weekly Zoom Sunday School gathering (www.zoom.us/j/86572573900) at 11:00 am. This will be a brief 15-minute check-in time where Pastor Jason will introduce the Bible Story for the week, we can see each other and say hi, and have a prayer together. The at-home Sunday School materials will be emailed to youth families to go over at home; they will include crafts, coloring pages, songs, stories, mission projects, and other fun ideas. The curriculum we are using is "Shine At Home" and you can learn more at www.shinecurriculum.com.

Snow Removal Volunteer

We are still looking for a volunteer for weekday snow removal. Pastor Jason is willing to help out, but if you are can volunteer please contact the church office. You can use the church's snow blower which is located in the parsonage garage (Pastor Jason will give you the code to the garage). The snow blower is only a few years old, works very well, and has an electric start.



Financial Update



As we transition to in-person worship on March 14, it's more important than ever to offer your support to the ongoing ministries of CFMC!

If you will be worshipping in person, you can place your offering in the offering plate located near the entrance to the sanctuary. Even after March 14, we will be live-streaming our services. If you plan on worshipping with us online, please mail your offering into the church office or go to www.cfmoravianchurch.org and clicking on "Giving." You can set up your donation to be one-time or recurring at an amount and frequency you select.

Thank You!

- ◆ To the Women's Fellowship (and their helper Bill Landgraf) for providing cookies and hot chocolate to the youth at the Youth Sledding event on February 21. We had a great turnout with 15 youth and 8 adults in attendance.
- ◆ Thank you to Russ Karow, Pastor Jason, and Jerry Mayr for their ongoing work to keep the church parking lots and sidewalks clear of snow during the winter months.

Christian Faith Moravian Church 2021 Watchword

"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)



HOLY WEEK

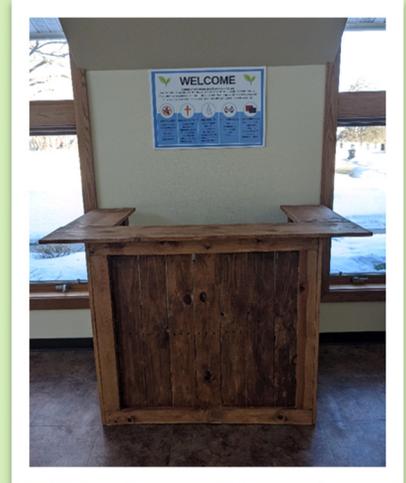
Holy Week and Easter Plans

As of the publication of this newsletter, no official plans for Holy Week Services (March 29 – April 2) and Easter (April 4) have been set. It is likely that we may utilize the Provincial Zoom Readings again this year for Holy Week. As of now, the plan, of course, is to be in-person for Easter Sunday. It is a safe assumption that we will not have an Easter breakfast this year. We likely will be able to have our Sunrise Service in the cemetery. It is also likely that we may have multiple Easter services to minimize the number of worshippers present at any one service. Final plans will be made at our March Elders meeting. Stay tuned to our website, Facebook page, and April newsletter for the latest information.

New Welcome Center

The Joint Board has created a new Welcome Center in the narthex. Although we will not be using it right away due to ongoing COVID protocols, the plan is that it will be utilized to offer a warm and informative welcome to guests and members alike. Ultimately, we will have an usher stationed at the welcome center and it will be stocked with welcome bags for visitors, hot coffee, water, pamphlets and other information about our church and its ministries.

Thank you to Joel Caulum for building the welcome center and staining it to match the other woodwork in the narthex.



News From Mt. Morris

Several exciting developments are coming from Mt. Morris:

- ◆ After the tremendous success of their Christmas Cookie Sale, they are having an Easter Cookie Sale as well! The cookies are \$10 per box and contain 18 meltaway cookies (6 chocolate, 6 traditional, and 6 snickerdoodles). Order forms can be found in the church office or by emailing info@mt-morris.org. Cookies will be delivered on April 1. Order deadline is March 18.
- ◆ As of now (provided COVID numbers continue to move in the right direction), the plan is to have in-person summer camps this year. In addition to all of our regular church camp offerings, Mt. Morris will be hosting a Family Fun Weekend Camp on June 4– 6. Registration forms can be found in the church office.
- ◆ After several years of planning, Mt. Morris will be expanding! Members of our board of directors have been busy working on a design and specifics and we hope to start construction later this spring. It will be a Multi Purpose facility that will be a great answer for our indoor recreation needs, as well as perfect for conferences and other events. Mt. Morris will be sending out more specifics about the building and our fundraising goals in the very near future.





What Does Christian Faith Moravian Church Mean To You?

On our website (www.cfmoravianchurch.org), if you scroll down you will see a section entitled "Christian Faith Moravian Church Is..." Some of our Joint Board members have answered this question, and we invite you to do the same! In one or two sentences, please tell us what CFMC means to you. You can email your answers to our webmaster, Kari Caulum,

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday

1st – Aliah Schultz
 4th – Evelyn Stack
 7th – Hope Herbers
 9th – Tom Ruble
 11th – Sandi Newell
 13th – Jill Stephens
 16th – Elaine Knudtson
 18th – Kylie Sobek
 22nd – Shirley Fagan
 23rd – Shaun Byrd
 24th – Kristi Rogers; Dorothy Dunning
 25th – Steven Landgraf
 26th – Mike Byrd
 28th – Megan Biese; Lisa Quam; Cody Dorn
 30th – Melissa Mayr; Autumn Gilbertson
 31st – Jim Karow



Happy Anniversary

15th – Daryl and Jill Stephens (52 years)

Board of Elders Meeting Highlights

The Board of Elders met on February 8 via Zoom.

- ◆ We read the Behavioral Covenant and approved the January ministry diary, pastor's report, and music ministry report.
- ◆ Since we were absent two members, we chose to wait to elect vice-chair and secretary until our March meeting.
- ◆ We reviewed our ongoing core focuses of worship, connection, spiritual care, and missions.
- ◆ We reviewed our Lenten and Easter plans
- ◆ We reviewed our list of congregational volunteers and assigned Elders to check-in with these volunteers to see if they are willing to serve in this capacity for another year.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 8.

Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees met on February 9 via Zoom.

- ◆ We read the Behavioral Covenant and approved the January Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, and the Pastor's Report.
- ◆ New officers were elected (Peggy Landgraf chair, Mat Stack vice-chair, and Joel Caulum secretary).
- ◆ We chose to table a decision on investing a \$20k bond that has come due to see how the markets play out.
- ◆ We reviewed the Sunday offering counting schedule.
- ◆ Cemetery sign and fencing is in process.
- ◆ Heat tape on church roof may need to be reset; will monitor.
- ◆ Approved replacing light switches in the back of the sanctuary and parsonage entryway.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 9.

Christian Faith Moravian Church Who We Are and What We Value

Five core values bring clarity to the things that matter most at Christian Faith Moravian Church. They guide how we achieve our mission, influencing major leadership decisions as well as everyday ministry plans. They keep us focused on the unique call God has given us as a local church.

• Community

Connecting with one another and sharing in fellowship together as a church family.

• Quality Worship

Incorporating blended and informal styles of Christ-centered worship and relevant, Biblically based preaching.

• Hospitality

Welcoming all through our accessible facilities and through our loving actions to members and visitors alike.

• Mission Presence

Providing resources and fellowship to those in need in our neighborhood.

• Communication

Ensuring through multiple media formats that everyone is aware of our current church ministries.

Christian Faith Moravian Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Join us on Sunday, March 14
at 9:00 am when we resume
in-person worship!**

Daylight Savings Time begins March 14,
so don't forget to set your clocks forward one
hour before you go to bed on
Saturday, March 13.