



April 2021

# The Mustard Seed

*The Official Newsletter of Christian Faith Moravian Church*

## Covid Considerations for Worship in April

The Joint Board met on March 15 and reviewed the most recent Covid statistics as well as our return to worship the day before. The Board voted to keep our in-person worship policy as-is for right now until we have a few more Sundays under our belt to see how things are going. However, the Board did approve having special music during worship – masked and social distanced solos, duets, trios, or quartets. Pastor Jason and Jill have reached out to our choir members to see if any are interested in providing special music. Looking further down the road, if any of you are interested in providing special music, please feel free to contact Pastor Jason or Jill. The Joint Board will meet again on April 19 at 6:30 pm to reevaluate our situation and make determinations for May and beyond.

## 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](mailto:cfmcoffice@gmail.com)) to be added to the list.

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

On the front lawn between the church and the parsonage is a beautiful locust tree. It was planted by Bob Sobek shortly after we moved here. I could say that I helped Bob plant it but that would be a stretch; I mostly stood and around and pretended to know what I was doing while Bob did all the work. Still, I look forward to watching it grow up over the years. Not long after it was planted, a strong windstorm bent it over and nearly uprooted it. Bob put in a stake next to it and tied it off so that it could grow back up straight and tall.



Fast forward a few years and the tree is doing great. But as it had grown over the past few years, the tree enveloped part of the rope. The stake and rope have been removed, but not before the tree claimed part of the rope for itself.

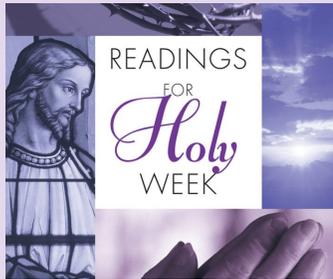
I would imagine that over time, eventually the entirety of the rope will be subsumed by the tree and it will disappear underneath layer upon layer of bark and wood. I hope not. That little piece of rope is a reminder of the storm it weathered, nearly knocking it over but not defeating it.

It makes me think of the storms you and I go through, and the resulting scars we earn from those storms. Some are visible wounds, but more often our scars can't be seen by the human eye. They are received through lengthy trials and arduous seasons of difficulty; they come from both strangers and those closest to us.

But these aren't blemishes or ugly embarrassments, they are part of who we are. Just as much as those things we lift up and celebrate, our scars make us beautiful in the sight of God.

*Continued on pg. 3*

# Holy Week Schedule



## HOLY WEEK READINGS

**Monday March 29 & Tuesday, March 30—7:00 pm**

Join us ***in person*** as we cover Christ's activities, humiliation and suffering during this week of the Crucifixion. The readings will also be live streamed on our Facebook page each night.



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**APRIL 1—7:00 pm**

Our Maundy Thursday Service, which includes celebration of Holy Communion, will be **live-streamed only** on our Facebook page. Please have some juice and a cracker on hand to partake in Holy Communion. The service will be posted on our website for those wishing to view at later time.



## GOOD FRIDAY

**APRIL 2—7:00 pm**

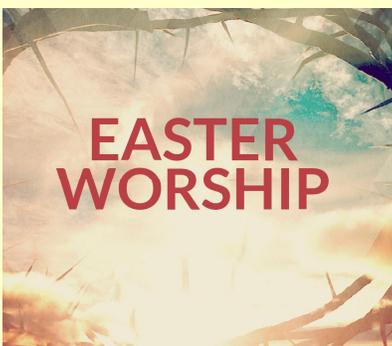
On Good Friday our Tenebrae Service will be **live-streamed only** on our Facebook page. The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." During worship we will experience a small portion of Christ's pain and suffering the day of His crucifixion.



## Easter Sunrise Service

**APRIL 4—6:15 am**

The Easter Sunrise Service will be ***in person*** and held entirely at our Cemetery on Portage Road. There will be no Easter Breakfast this year and registration is not required to attend this service.



## Easter Sunday Worship

**April 4— 8:00 am & 10:00 am**

**In person & registration required**

Two services are being offered to ensure that we follow our safety and social distancing guidelines. We are limiting capacity to 40 persons for each service and are asking you to register ahead of time for the service you would like to attend by visiting our website: [www.cfmoravianchurch.org](http://www.cfmoravianchurch.org). If you are unable to register online please contact the church office at 846-5876 or email Kari Caulum at [karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com](mailto:karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com)

# Sunday Morning Worship

**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Sunday**

6:15 am Sunrise Service

8:00 am and 10:00 am Easter Services

Register at [www.cfmoravianchurch.org](http://www.cfmoravianchurch.org)

**Worship Hosts:**

Bob Hudecek and Kristi Thering (8am)

Jerry and Dakota Mayr (10am)

**Call to Worship:**

Doug Block (Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24)

**Sermon Text:** Mark 16:1-8

**Sermon:** "What Are You Afraid For?"

**Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Worship Hosts:** Doug and Shirley Block

**Call to Worship:**

Amy Andersen (Psalm 133)

**Sermon Text:** 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:1-2:2

**Sermon:** "See, Hear, Speak"

**Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Worship Hosts:**

Willy Schwefel and Terry Miller

**Call to Worship:** Terry Miller (Psalm 4)

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 24:36b-48

**Message:** "Hands and Feet"

**Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Worship Hosts:** Tim & Bev Bisbee

**Call to Worship:** Marie True (Psalm 23)

**Sermon Text:** 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:16-24

**Sermon:** "This Is How We Know"

*Pastor's Thoughts Continued from pg. 1*

The path to wholeness involves not rejecting or suppressing these wounds, but instead accepting them and understanding that the battering and blustery winds of life are often what allow us to send our roots down deep, grounding us in something firm and eternal.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:7-9 says, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

Each time you come to church, I invite you to notice the little piece of rope in the tree. May it be for you a reminder of the beauty of your own woundedness and the ways in which God's strength and grace is made known through our trials.

*In Christian love and service,  
Pastor Jason*

## Prayer Mat Donation and Ministry Possibility

We received a gift from a local community member of \$100 to make prayer mats. There are two samples of these mats as well as instructions in the church office. If you would be interested in learning more about how to make these mats, please know that there is \$100 available to get you started. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Jason.

## Youth Outing to Country Bloomers

On Sunday, May 2 at 1:00 pm, all youth are invited to a youth gathering at Country Bloomers. We will tour the greenhouse and see the plants, Pastor Jason will lead a brief devotion about God's creation in springtime, we'll play some outdoor games, and we will have a special gardening activity where all youth present will be able to take something home.



## 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)*



## New Members

We were pleased to welcome three new members during worship on March 21. Cody and Paige Michels were received through Reaffirmation of Faith and their daughter Elliana was received through Infant Baptism. Next time you see them in worship, make sure to offer your (socially distanced) congratulations and welcome to them.

## Thank You!

- ◆ To the Mayr family for taking down two dying trees in our cemetery.
- ◆ To our Joint Board for their leadership, Michael Harke for setting up the new audio/visual equipment, our ushers, worship leaders, and cleaning crew, the flexibility of you our congregation members, and everyone else who helped transition us back to in-person worship.

## 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

Although we have transitioned to in-person worship, we are continuing to hold 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](http://www.zoom.us/j/86572573900)) on Sundays 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](http://www.shinecurriculum.com).

## News From Mt. Morris

Several exciting developments are coming from Mt. Morris:

- ◆ 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<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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, at [karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com](mailto:karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com).

## APRIL CELEBRATIONS



### Happy Birthday

2<sup>nd</sup> – Joel Caulum  
 5<sup>th</sup> – Barb Ross; Curt George;  
 Steven Holum; Holten Overly  
 8<sup>th</sup> – Emily Quam  
 16<sup>th</sup> – Chuck Karow; Ellisy True  
 30<sup>th</sup> – Anna Mayr

### Happy Anniversary

4<sup>th</sup> – Chuck & Maria Karow (29 years)  
 7<sup>th</sup> – John & Kathryn Scepanski (19 years)

## Board of Elders Meeting Highlights

The Board of Elders met on March 8 via Zoom.

- ◆ We read the Behavioral Covenant, approved the January and February minutes, and approved the February ministry diary, pastor's report, and music ministry report.
- ◆ We elected Shirley Block as Elder Vice-Chair and Kari Caulum as Elder Secretary.
- ◆ We finalized plans for our first in-person worship service on March 14.
- ◆ We followed up on our Ministry Coordinator check-in to see who is willing to serve for another year.
- ◆ We reviewed how Ash Wednesday went, how the Lenten series has been going, and made plans for Holy Week.
- ◆ We approved putting together a new church directory; Kari agreed to head this up. We will utilize an online form for members to review and edit their information.
- ◆ We discussed a donation from a community member.
- ◆ We approved receiving Cody and Paige Michels as new members and having their daughter Elliana baptized.
- ◆ Pastor Jason will be leading worship at Mt. Morris on June 6 as part of the Family Weekend that they are doing; voted to still have worship here as well with a guest preacher.

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 12 via Zoom.

## Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees met on March 9 via Zoom.

- ◆ We read the Behavioral Covenant and approved the February Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, and the Pastor's Report.
- ◆ The hard drive on the old church computer will be wiped and then recycled at the town electronics recycling event on March 27.
- ◆ We reviewed any necessary considerations for the church reopening on March 14.
- ◆ We reviewed ongoing repair items in both the sanctuary and the parsonage, and assigned specific Trustees to follow up on each item.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13 via Zoom.

## Western District Synod

The Western District Synod that had been scheduled to meet last spring will be held via virtual video conference on April 22 and 23. Thank you to Amy Andersen who will serve as our congregation's delegate and to Pastor Jason who will also be attending. At the Synod, we will consider the District Budget for the coming year, hear reports from representatives of District agencies and ministries, and elect officers to various District boards, including the Western District Executive Board, the Mt. Morris Board, the Marquardt Board, and the Moravian Western Christian Education Commission.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Treasurer**

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**Elders Vice Chair**

Shirley Block

**Trustees Chair**

Peggy Landgraf

**Easter Sunday Worship Schedule**

**6:15 am Sunrise Service**

*(taking place entirely at our cemetery on Portage Rd. No registration required)*

**8:00 am and 10:00 am Easter Services**

*Register required at [www.cfmoravianchurch.org](http://www.cfmoravianchurch.org)*