

THE MUSTARD SEED



Pastor's Corner

Let me express my thanks to all those whose labors have gone into the making of a successful chili supper for CFMC and for our guests. Peggy Landgraf, who chaired the event, and the rest of her team of volunteers are to be commended for pulling off the event in the onset of such cold weather! Thanks, as well, go to all those who donated for the menu and the baked goods that were so well received.

Coming into the season of Lent, amidst the brutal cold, I am mindful of Jesus's forty days of wandering in the desert. Lent is traditionally seen as a cycle of self-denial, of course. Our friends in other places, for example, give up meat on Fridays for this season. Still others use it as a time to impose self-discipline, giving up chocolate or a favorite beverage for the duration. Those can be terrific reminders of the power of self-denial, no doubt.

As I watch the news and listen to what is happening in the broadest sense, I wonder if we might approach this period as ones empowered and tasked with the difficult work of healing and restoration in our community and world. Self-denial, it seems to me, is—beyond the lack of Diet Coke—a willingness to listen to others, perhaps even at the expense of holding back a bit on what we think when it contradicts another's point of view. No one, I suppose, could miss that disagreeableness and argumentativeness seem to plague our public discourse.

What can be done to restore, or at least foster, a willingness to hear “the other” with whom we walk and work? Scoring points amidst a rhetorical dialogue might be a good thing for a high school debater, but is it the best way to keep or gain an open channel with a neighbor? This is not to say we must simply swallow our words and remain silent. Quite the contrary! It is rather to suggest that paths of communication impel us to listen as much as we speak in times of challenge and fear.

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For those who suggest that this idea has nothing to do with following Jesus, I would submit that Jesus's earthly ministry of self-denial and His prophetic voice on behalf of those whom society had marginalized, is precisely the model we are called to open in pursuit of dialogue, especially for those with whom we find ourselves in profound disagreement.

Open your hearts. Let the Spirit of God come and fill you with the capacity to listen and learn, share and grow, and know that even when we disagree, it is God's purposes and aims, not those of earthly powers, that we are to proclaim.

With great hope,
Pastor Dave

It's Pie Auction Time

This year's pie auction will be Sunday, February 15 following worship! Get ready to unleash your creativity and whip up some delicious masterpieces. And don't forget to stash away some cash so you can grab those delectable pies before anyone else! All proceeds will be going to the building fund and we are extremely grateful to Cheryl & Jerry Mayr for leading this event! 🎂💰



Ash Wednesday



Please join us for a special worship service on Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 pm as we observe Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. All are welcome!



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We want you to be in the loop about all the exciting happenings at CFMC!

New Church Directory

If you missed the chance to update your information during the church council meeting, please reach out to Kari Caulum with any changes you would like to make.

Moravian Day of Giving

Who:

Everyone who feels called to make a difference. Congregations, agencies, and individual Moravians across the continent take part, each adding their own spark of generosity to this shared effort.

What:

The Moravian Day of Giving is an annual celebration of generosity and our wider Moravian community. It brings us together to support congregations, ministries, and the Field of Interest Funds that provide grants for work in hunger relief, housing, health, creation care, racial equity, prison ministry, and clothing support.

In 2026, the day features two special initiatives designed to expand the impact of every gift:

- A participation challenge in which six churches or organizations with the highest number of individual donors will receive \$2,026 dollars.
- Matching support for each Field of Interest Fund, doubling gifts up to \$2,026 per fund.

These initiatives encourage broad participation and help ensure that ministries across the Moravian Church continue to thrive.

Where:

All you have to do is give at least a \$10.00 donation through the CFMC online portal on February 17. You can get there through our website (www.cfmoravian.org) and click on the green donate box in the upper right hand corner of the home page. Share this with your family & friends so they can consider donating to our church. This is more than a fundraiser, it's a movement. Together, we can make a profound difference in communities in need, strengthen vital ministries, and celebrate our shared faith, love, and hope.



Birthdays

2nd –Joe Brashi Sr, Daniel Sobek
 5th – Lisa O'Neill
 7th – Elizabeth Hockett
 13th –Kay Kinderman
 17th – Marlene Sobek
 19th –Devan Mayr
 21st – Debbie Holum, Russ Karow
 26th –Diane Mayr

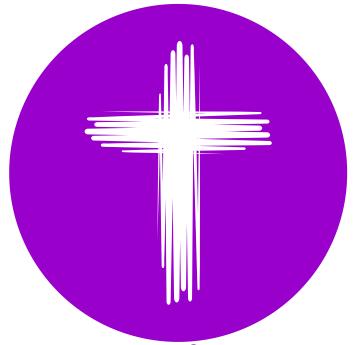


thank you

- A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered at the Chili Supper on January 22. Special thanks to Peg Landgraf for spearheading this event.
- We appreciate Toni Reigstad, Jerry and Cheryl Mayr, Shirley Block and all who contributed to the Church Council Potluck for facilitating our fellowship hour times in January.
- A big thank you to Toni Reigstad, Peggy Landgraf, Shirley Block and Kristi Thering for their efforts in cleaning the church throughout January.
- We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who assisted in 'undecorating' the church by taking down the trees and storing the putz along with other Christmas decorations.
- A special thank you Shirley Block and Marty Karow for taking the time to print, organize, and staple the completed Annual Report, as well as to everyone who contributed reports for the Church Council meeting.
- Thank you to Joel Caulum for preparing all the financial reports for the Church Council meeting.

Lent

Exploring past issues of The Moravian Magazine reveals valuable reflections. This month, they focused on Lent-themed editions from 1969 and 1976, below are a couple of insights.



Lent is the clearing away of the cobwebs which our faith somehow manages to accumulate. It is a re-examination of our relationship with Jesus Christ and a renewing of our commitment to him. It is our hearts being touched again by the great love of God as he gave his Son to die for our sins. Our penitent hearts can be made strong with this love and we are then better able to do the will of God in this world.

The Christian should make this reexamination and renewal all year. From this comes compassion and love for Jesus Christ and our fellow man.

This compassion, this love, can manifest itself in concern for those around us. Then perhaps the alleviation of poverty, racism and unrest will begin to show more rapid progress....”

—Joyce Pharo, March 1969

...The observance of Lent in the church seems always to have been preceded with the question: “What shall I give up for Lent?” This concept has come down from antiquity and made Lent known as a forty-day fasting season.

In some churches (and the Moravian Church may be one) the observance of this season has not been overemphasized, if indeed it was emphasized at all. Perhaps our observance of Lent was withdrawn in an effort to break away from tradition for tradition’s sake.

Now we realize that there are traditions that offer much in meaning and in the building of unity. So we look at Lent and observe it as a memorial time: a time to remember Jesus setting his face and his meditations toward Jerusalem.

We realize that this means not only the crucifixion of that Friday, but it means also the open tomb of resurrection morning. Of the victory over death. And of the grace expressed in ‘Where I am, there ye may be also.’

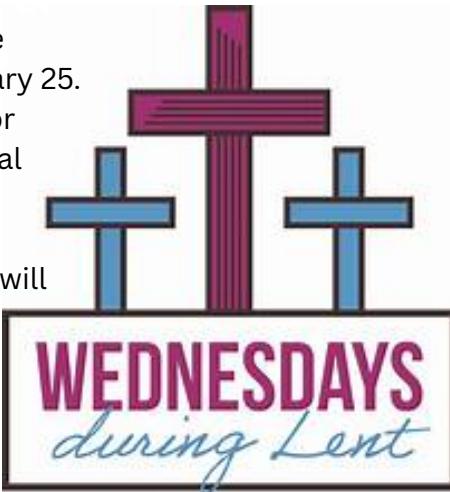
Lent then is not only a time of sacrifice, but a time when we observe the holiness of the resurrection. Then we will look at Lent as a season when we begin to do what we were created to do...”

—C. Albert Ulrich, March 1969

Wednesdays in Lent

Our initial gathering will take place on Wednesday, February 25. We plan to come together for fellowship over a shared meal starting at 6:00 PM.

After our meal, Pastor Dave will guide us in a discussion about "Where we've been, Where we are at, and Where we are going."



Meals will be organized on a weekly basis, and a complete schedule will be provided soon. In the meantime, please mark these Wednesday gatherings on your calendar so we can engage in informative discussions.

Christian Faith Moravian Church Core Values

- We utilize a diverse range of tools to ensure our worship remains relevant in today's context while staying true to the gospel message.
- Our worship may include hymns, praise songs, litanies, prayers, drama, vocal, as well as children's messages, all designed to enrich the experience.
- The messages we share are grounded in the Bible and are meaningful for your faith journey in the modern world.

Unable to Join Us?**Virtual Worship Service**

- Join Sunday worship on Facebook Live as an alternative to in-person attendance.
- Log on to our Facebook page each Sunday morning.
- Participate by viewing the service and sharing prayer concerns in the comment section.

Your Giving Still Matters

Even if you join us virtually you can give online to support the ministries at Christian Faith Moravian Church. Visit our website:

www.cfmoravianchurch.org and click on DONATE in the main menu or scan our QR code with your smartphone.

**FEBRUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

Date	Church Cleaner Coordinator: Peggy Landgraf	Worship Hosts Coordinators: Jerry Mayr & Bob Hudecek	Call to Worship	Scripture Reader	Fellowship Host	Sunday School
Feb. 1	Ken Glienke & Volunteer	Rich & Laurie Vanderbloemen	Nick Blecha Psalm 15	Paige Michels Micah 6:1-8	Marlene Sobek	Michelle Larkins
Feb. 8	Ken Glienke & Volunteer	Bob Hudecek & Kristi Thering	Shirley Block Psalm 122:1-10	Laurie Vanderbloemen Isaiah 58:1-9	Volunteer Needed	Peggy Landgraf
Feb. 15	Toni Reigstad	Michelle & Mike Larkins	Kari Caulum Psalm 99	Megan Vanderbloemen 1 st Corinthians 2:1-12	Ken Glienke, Joyce Simon and Kay Kinderman	Paige Caulum
Feb. 22	Toni Reigstad	Ken Glienke and Paul Vanderbloemen	John Scepanski TBD	Nick Blecha TBD	Volunteer Needed	Michelle Larkins



Socialize with Us!

EASTER LILY ORDERS

If you wish to order an Easter Lily to beautify the church on Easter Morning, kindly complete the form below. If you would like the Lily to be in memory or in honor of a special person, please add that information to the bottom portion of this sheet and return it, with your check, to the church office: **NO LATER THEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND.**

Checks may be made payable to "Christian Faith Moravian Church." The plant is yours, and we invite you to take it home following the 10:30 AM worship service on Easter.

Purchaser's Name: _____

Phone: _____

6 ½" pot (\$24 each) _____ (# of plants)

Plants will be acknowledged in our Easter bulletin in the following fashion:

In memory of In honor of Lily #1 _____

In memory of In honor of Lily #2 _____

In memory of In honor of Lily #3 _____

By: _____

Total Due: \$ _____



Easter is Sunday, April 5, 2026