

# THE MUSTARD SEED



Welcome 2026

## January 4

**Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**Holy Communion/Installation of new Board Members**

**Guest Pastor:** Rev. Bruce Nelson

**Scripture:** John 1:1-18

## January 11

**The Baptism of the Lord**  
**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Dave McDonald  
**Scripture:** Psalm 29  
 Isaiah 41:1-9; Saint Matthew 3:13-17

## January 18

**Second Sunday of Epiphany**  
**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Dave McDonald  
**Scripture:** Isaiah 49:1-7  
 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:1-9; Saint John 1:29-42

## January 25

**Third Sunday of Epiphany**  
**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Dave McDonald  
**Scripture:** Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
 Isaiah 9:1-4; Saint Matthew 4:12-23

## From the Pastor

This month marks the quiet time of the church between the Epiphany of Jesus, when we recall the arrival of the Magi, the "Three Wise Men," who came from the east, and the upcoming season of Lent, which will commence in mid-February. In these weeks, we focus on the earthly ministry of Jesus and the ways in which He called and invited folks to come along on the task of sharing Good News.

That seems a challenging task, amidst the cold and dark months of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, and especially in the northern tier of states. We've already endured plenty of snow and had two services cancelled due to the weather. Let's hope January proves a little less brutal and the weather a bit more forgiving in this next season in the church.

Seasons last for three months, a quarter of the year. We're setting out on a season together, with me serving as preacher and pastor through Easter. I am hopeful these few months will give us a chance to look faithfully and thoughtfully at what it is we can be and do as servants and followers of Christ in this place and time. So many changes came about in the past year, and so many remained constant. We continue to be grateful for Pastor Bruce Nelson's work over much of 2025 and for his presence in the pulpit and at Table this month as well. His willingness to extend his time with this congregation was undoubtedly a blessing, for which we say thank you and Godspeed. We'll look forward to seeing you again.

One of our faithful tasks is to continue to shepherd the congregation in this time between settled pastors. That includes remaining connected to each other, both in worship and in fellowship. Let me encourage you who might like to host coffee and treats after worship... but who feel it may be too much to undertake alone, to reach out to friends within the church and collaborate on setting things up and getting treats laid. I am sure many hands make for light work, and we can doubtless find that collaboration is a strength in the life of the church.

*(continued on pg. 2)*

## Contact Information

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### Elders Vice Chair

TBD  
at January meeting

### Trustees Chair

TBD  
at January meeting

## Pastor's Thoughts Continued from pg. 1

Bear with me in these few weeks as I try to put names and faces together. I promise I'll recognize your faces... but admittedly, as I get older, making sure I get the names right is a bigger challenge! With 35 years in the pulpit behind me, I've already seen who among you reminds me of so-and-so from my first church, and which one of you looks like this old friend from my third church. Don't hesitate to repeat your name or correct me if I get it wrong!

One of the most important things about the life of a community such as this is the ability to enjoy each other and have fun together. May these next weeks give us reason to find joy and to be hopeful as the search process for the one whom God is calling to be in our midst is identified and welcomed. Until then, we'll continue to celebrate the good that God is doing through our efforts.

Yours in faith,

*Pastor Dave McDonald*

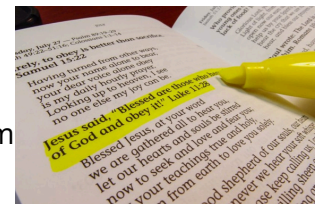
## Poinsettias

If you ordered a Christmas poinsettia, you can take it home with protective sleeves provided. Sleeves with knots are for 5" pots to prevent them from falling through. A color and size listing is available, and please check your name off the list when you pick up your poinsettia.

## Watchwords

On the first Sunday of the New Year, each member has an opportunity to draw a new Watchword to guide them for the coming year. We will do so this year Sunday, January 4.

The watchword is either a promise, an encouragement, an admonition or word of comfort from scriptures. The watchwords are pulled from the Moravian Daily Text. There is a scripture as well as a MBW hymn stanza. The stanza is our human response to God's word in the Bible. We will also be drawing watchwords for the church and ministry groups.



## Installation of New Board Members

In addition to Holy Communion and Rev. Bruce Nelson will install our newly elected board members from the Church Council meeting held in November. Our two Elders are: Amy Andersen and Shirley Block. Our three Trustees are Doug Block, Mike Larkins, and Paul Vanderbloemen.



## Chili Supper

We have an exciting event approaching on Thursday, January 22, 2026. Peg Landgraf has agreed to be the committee chairperson and the following people have agreed to help coordinate the event: Amy Andersen, Shirley Block, and Kari Caulum. This is one of our largest fundraising events. Soon, there will be opportunities to sign up for donations and to volunteer.

## Volunteers Needed for Snow Removal

We have a dedicated individual who clears the church parking lot following each snowfall. However, we are seeking volunteers to snow blow the sidewalks and pathways along the front of the church and extending to the mailbox. The church is equipped with its own snowblower, but assistance is especially needed on weekdays during snow events to ensure that pedestrians can safely navigate the sidewalks.



## Church Council Meeting

Our Church Council Meeting is set for Sunday, January 25. Please ensure that all reports from boards and ministry leaders are submitted to Shirley Block by Friday, January 15, to allow sufficient time for preparing the report packets.



We usually have leftover Chili from our Chili Supper so we plan to use that for our fellowship hour during our Council Meeting.

# January

## Birthday Celebrations

3rd – Christy Mayr  
 4th – Gary Mayr, Jerry Mayr  
 20th – Shirley Block  
 21st – Cassidy Keene  
 24th – Vicki Gilbertson  
 27th – Mackenzie Mayr  
 31st – Beth Sobek



## COMING FEBRUARY 15th OUR ANNUAL PIE AUCTION

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! 🍰💰

## Stay in the Loop!

Below are a few ways you can stay up to date with what's happening at CFMC.

- On Monday mornings we send out a weekly e-news with event information.
- Visit our website - [www.cfmoravianchurch.org](http://www.cfmoravianchurch.org)
- Every month, we publish our newsletter featuring details about upcoming events, worship services, and Christian education. Visit our website to subscribe!

# thank you

- A heartfelt thank you to everyone who baked or purchased delicious treats for our Holiday Bake Sale in December. We also appreciate those who contributed holiday rummage items that were sold.
- Our gratitude extends to Kari Caulum for coordinating our youth program on December 21. The message was beautifully delivered with assistance from Evelyn Larkins, Tessa, Elly, and Crosby True, Shirley Block, and Michelle Larkins. Our Angels, Hazel and Vivian Caulum, along with Elliana and Everleigh Michels, recited a Christmas poem and sang about the birth of Jesus. Thank you all for your enthusiastic participation. Special thanks to Ken Glienke & Marie True for playing Joseph and Mary.
- We are thankful to everyone who purchased poinsettias and to Shirley Block for picking up the order and creating a stunning display for Christmas Eve.
- Our appreciation goes to Jerry Mayr and his team for assembling the milk jug luminaries for Christmas Eve and lighting them up and for clean up the next day.
- Thank you to Jerry Mayr, Terry Miller, Mike Larkins and Shirley Block for clearing the sidewalks and pathways and for clearing the village sidewalk and parsonage driveway in December.
- We express our heartfelt gratitude to Kristi Thering, Toni Reigstad, Peg Landgraf, and Ken Glienke and Shirley Block for cleaning the church in December.
- Many thanks to Peg Landgraf, Marty Karow, The Joint Board, and the Larkins family for hosting fellowship.
- A special shoutout to our Morning Star vocalists, Elly and Tessa True, for their enchanting singing on Christmas Eve.
- Thank you to our Christmas Eve candle distributors: Shirley Block, Evelyn & Michelle Larkins, Becky Bisbee, and Katherine Kinderman.
- We are grateful to our worship choir for enriching our December services with their beautiful music, especially during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
- A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated gifts to the Mitten Tree, coordinated by Marlene Sobek, helping to spread the joy of a Merry Christmas to those in need.
- A sincere thank you to Jill Stephens for sharing her musical talent, which provided us with moments of reflection during all our December services, particularly on Christmas Eve.
- Thank you to Jerry Mayr and Bob Hudecek for replacing the florescent bulbs in the kitchen and elsewhere.
- We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the surprise luncheon and to the gifts of thanks and appreciation that were presented to Pastor Bruce on December 21st.
- Thank you to Megan and Laurie Vanderbloemen for collecting donations for the food pantry with their special advent calendar and to all those who contributed.

## Unable to Join Us for Worship?

### 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](http://www.cfmoravianchurch.org) and click on DONATE in the main menu or scan our QR code with your smartphone.



## JANUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Church Cleaner Coordinator:</b> Peggy Landgraf	<b>Worship Hosts Coordinators:</b> Jerry Mayr & Bob Hudecek	<b>Call to Worship</b>	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<b>Fellowship Host</b>	<b>Sunday School Teacher</b>
<b>Jan. 4</b>	Kristi Thering	Ken Glienke and Paul Vanderbloemen	John Scepanski Psalm 147: 12-20	Cheryl Mayr John 1:1-18	Jerry & Cheryl Mayr	Paige Michels
<b>Jan. 11</b>	Kristi Thering	Dakota Mayr and Jerry Mayr	Bob Hudecek Psalm 29	Paul Vanderbloemen Isaiah 41:1-9 Saint Matthew 3:13-17	Toni Reigstad	Peg Landgraf
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Shirley Block	Doug & Shirley Block	Peg Landgraf Isaiah 49:1-7	Marty Karow 1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:1-9 Saint John 1:29-42	Shirley Block	Michele Larkins
<b>Jan. 25</b>	Shirley Block	Bob Hudecek and Jerry Mayr	Megan Vanderbloemen Psalm 27:1, 4-9	Shirley Block Isaiah 9:1-4 Saint Matthew 4:12-23	Church Council (Chili Leftovers)	Paige Michels

### Financial Report as of December 1, 2025

#### GENERAL FUND

	<b>Month of November</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Plate Collections &amp; Fundraisers</b>	\$8,310.58	\$73,808.88
<b>General Fund Expenses Owed</b>	\$6,191.40	\$66,009.74
<b>Difference (+ or -)</b>	\$2,119.18	\$7,799.14 (Through November 30)

*Thank You*

With heart felt gratitude, we would like to thank everyone for all of the prayers, cards, and expressions of concern for Tim's health. We are especially grateful to Pastor Bruce Nelson for all of his visits, providing support, and prayers. It is with prayers of thanks and praise that we report our prayers have been answered. The worst is behind us and Tim should eventually make a full recovery. We are truly blessed with a wonderful church family!

Thanks be to God!  
Tim & Bev Bisbee

#### BUILDING FUND

	<b>Month of November</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Monthly Debt Service</b>	\$949.58	\$14,302.78
<b>Plate Collection/Fundraisers</b>	\$1,085.00	\$19,681.54

#### New Church Directory Alert!

The 2026 directory will be available for you to make edits at the church council meeting on January 25.



Socialize with Us!

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*The beauty shown bright on Christmas Eve at  
Christian Faith Moravian Church*

