

Christ Moravian Church

Congregational Newsletter for Sunday January 16th, 2022



Christ Church Watchword for the Year 2022 John 20:21

Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Moravian Daily Text Watchword for the Week:

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord. 1 Corinthians 12:4-5*

Sunday Worship Theme: "Christ's Miracle at the Cana Wedding"

Dear Friends in Christ:

We have fully launched into this new year and so many things have occurred to denote that we walk in a very historical time. The support we are offering to one another during the spike of the new Omicron Variant is so important. This kind of love of support, kindness and understanding is found displayed in the miracle of Jesus as he transformed water into fine wine at a wedding feast long ago. Like you and me, Jesus loved a celebration, a party. His instinct to respond with assistance, having the wedding hosts save face with the possibility of the wine running out early in the events, displayed an unusual kind of love. This the miracle continuing to occur all around us as the events of this very difficult time unfold. We are urged to instinctively respond with support, understanding, and love to those that are struggling during these weeks. A lovely song speaks to this type of faithful presence God shares throughout these days.

"As Water to the Thirsty"

As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes,
as strength that follows weakness, as truth instead of lies,
as song-time and spring- time and summer-time to be,
so is my Lord, my living Lord; so is my Lord to me.

Like calm in place of clamor, like peace that follows pain,
like meeting after parting, like sunshine after rain,
like moonlight and starlight and sunlight on the sea
so is my Lord, my living Lord; so is my Lord to me.

As sleep that follows fever, as gold instead of grey,
as freedom after bondage, as sunrise to the day,
as home to the trav'ler and all we long to see,
so is my Lord, my living Lord; so is my Lord to me.

May the miracle of God's presence and love fill your cup and quench your thirst. Let's keep prayerfully in touch with one another.

Blessings, Pastor Gohdes

Upcoming Events

**Sunday
January 16th:**
"Bible Buddies"
meet at 8:30 am
via Zoom

Zoom details for this
Bible Study Group
are on page 2

Saturday February 5th:
**Men's Breakfast
Group meets**
at 8:30 am
via Zoom

Sunday February 6th:
**CMC Church Council
meeting at 1:00 pm**
via Zoom

Zoom information
will be e-mailed out
to participants

For more information, visit our website @
www.christmoravian.com



2022 Moravian Daily Texts have arrived at the church

Please call or e-mail the office if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

Paperback	17.00
Large Print	22.00
Directory & Stats	10.00

Bible Study Link ~ January 16th, 2022

Hi Bible Buddies,

We resumed our virtual Sunday AM Bible Study January 2nd 2022 at 8:30 AM.

The lessons for January and February have been e-mailed to you.

The link to join is below (this link will remain the same till June - please save it):

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87164232583?pwd=NmY3SWJDOGJPOVJ0b3JjenpOMeolZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 6423 2583

Passcode: 302817

Dial by your location +1 587 328 1099 Canada

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcTaNSoK5C>

Looking forward to seeing you.

You are a special gift from God,

Barb: -)



CMC COFFEE HOUR, 11:30 am Sundays

Are you missing the fellowship time after worship services? You can once again join CMC friends on a Sunday morning after watching the service. Pour yourself a cup of coffee and grab a cookie before joining us on Zoom at 11:30 am Sunday mornings. Each session will be hosted by a CMC Elder or Board Member and will include time to catch up with others and explore a specific topic. To join, set up a Zoom account and click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84948717808?pwd=Um9uVjF5RnAxcmxNSIFYemp6N25qUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 4871 7808

Passcode: 414082

The weekly attachments for January 16th include Bible Study Materials, an update from the Refugee Support Group, Children's Activities and e-Transfer information.

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that you may contact the church office for any needs that may arise. Feel free to **phone (403-271-2700)** to speak with us or leave a message or contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com
- **If you require assistance in getting to an Influenza or COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please call the office.**
- Cash and food donations for the Acadia Food Pantry are most appreciated. Food items may be dropped off at the church and placed in the blue bin by the side door. Contact Donna Gordon if you would like to volunteer.
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka. She wishes to express sincere thanks to all who contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Children's Worship Bulletin

Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

John 2:1-11

Word Search Puzzle

V K L E W A T E R K X I N W S
 U C N J G D A A J Y H X R L I
 Y I S G I R S Q K D S V I W G
 W Z A W W K H L W O K H D T N
 U L V H W N K H J V H E P E S
 O X E M A S T E R L T G I S S
 A D D E Y G R B F S Z J C Z E
 D J C D E W S H A I C F R P R
 C T T T M E N T T W L X W G V
 H A G L O R Y Q H Q T L N K A
 H L N J F Z N T Y M S I E W N
 N A A A K Y I F Q V D E T D T
 D S D R L A B K S D Y S K E S
 C T Z S F W F I E N E N M S X
 F I U M O I T W N B O D H H I

JARS	WEDDING	FILLED	MASTER	SAVED
LAST	SIGNS	FAITH	BEST	CANA
GLORY	WINE	TASTED	SERVANTS	WATER

Christ Moravian Church
 Calgary, Alberta

Multiple Choice Quiz

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A ceremony joining a man and woman as husband and wife
 A. taste B. cheap C. wedding D. wine
- ___ 2. A beverage made of the fermented juice of grapes
 A. miracle B. servant C. wine D. best
- ___ 3. An event that cannot be explained by the laws of nature
 A. best B. wedding C. servant D. miracle
- ___ 4. One who is employed to perform services for someone else
 A. wine B. servant C. water D. taste
- ___ 5. To eat or drink a small amount
 A. wine B. miracle C. cheap D. taste
- ___ 6. A clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid, H₂O
 A. taste B. water C. best D. servant
- ___ 7. Low in cost; of poor quality; inferior
 A. servant B. water C. cheap D. wedding
- ___ 8. Of the highest quality; One that surpasses all others
 A. best B. wine C. wedding D. water

The Miracles of Jesus



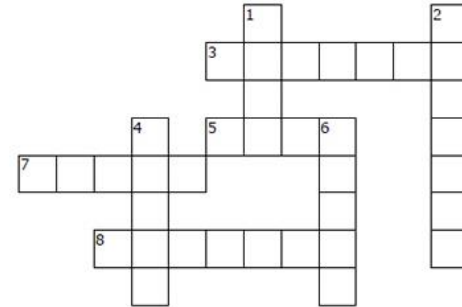
Coloring Page



Jesus is special. He can do miracles.

From Thru-the-Bible Coloring Pages for Ages 4-8. © 1986, 1988 Standard Publishing. Used by permission. Reproducible Coloring Books may be purchased from Standard Publishing, www.standardpub.com

Crossword Puzzle



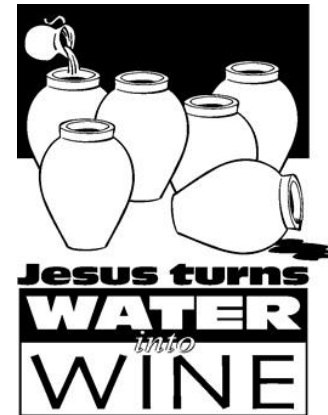
ACROSS

- 3. An event that cannot be explained by the laws of nature
- 5. Of the highest quality; One that surpasses all others
- 7. Low in cost; of poor quality; inferior
- 8. One who is employed to perform services for someone else

DOWN

- 1. A beverage made of the fermented juice of grapes
- 2. A ceremony joining a man and woman as husband and wife
- 4. A clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid, H₂O
- 6. To eat or drink a small amount

TASTE	SERVANT	WATER	MIRACLE
WEDDING	BEST	WINE	CHEAP



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Focus on John 2:1–11

WHAT is important to know? — From “*Exegetical Perspective*,” Linda McKimish Bridges
Six water pots, used for ritual cleansing, are available. These are symbols that point to the emptiness of the traditional religion. The six pots, while used for religious purposes, are still not complete. The pots contain only water. Soon Jesus will fill them with eschatological wine, a rich symbol in the biblical tradition inferring prosperity, abundance, good times; the wine will overflow the water pots. Their true purpose will be fulfilled. Changing the pots of water into pots flowing over with good wine becomes a metaphor for Jesus’ ministry as he brings vitality to the ancient religion.

WHERE is God in these words? — From “*Theological Perspective*,” Carol Lakey Hess
Yet just as the mother of Jesus saw her son as one who could—and should—meet need, so do many followers of Jesus. We see a world in need, and we believe in one who claimed to bring abundant life to those in need. In a world where for so many there is no clean water—let alone fine wine—where is the extravagance of God? In a world where children play in bomb craters the size of thirty-gallon wine jugs, why the divine reluctance? In a world where desperate mothers must say, “We have no food,” why has the hour not yet come? No matter how we rationalize divine activity, we still want to tug at Jesus’ sleeve and say: “they have no wine.”

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives? — From “*Pastoral Perspective*,”
Robert M. Brearley

It is called Cana Grace, and it is worth a miracle because it manifests the glory of God—the very God who wants even now for the community of faith to be a celebration of people. Brothers and sisters in Christ eating on the back porch and laughing until the sun goes down; a new members’ dinner at someone’s home that ends with folks giving thanks to God for the welcome they have received at church—it is called Cana Grace. Give thanks for everyone in your church and in your life who has the knack for throwing a party. What a way to begin a ministry!

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do? — From “*Homiletical Perspective*,”
Ernest Hess

The chief steward recognizes the excellence of the wine when it is brought to him, but he does not know its source in Jesus, or its meaning as a sign pointing to God’s grace. We are often like that, recognizing good gifts without recognizing their source in the Creator’s love. The steward also notes that the ability of people to discern even what is good wine is typically impaired when they are drunk. Both literal drunkenness and, more profoundly, drunkenness as a metaphor for all the ways we dull our physical and spiritual perceptions prevent us from recognizing and choosing not just the better things in life, but the One who is the source of all these things.

Transforming Need to Abundance



The following statistics give snapshots of a persistent and seemingly intractable problem that serves to limit access to the abundant life for millions. Choose one statistic representing a problem, or do a search for statistics on another persistent problem of which you are aware. Sketch a symbol for that problem, or create a metaphor using words. Then transform your symbol or metaphor into one delineating abundant life. For example, you might draw an empty bowl to symbolize persistent hunger. Persons filling the bowl to overflowing from other bowls freely offered might represent abundance.

Reflect on the following:



- What actions or attitudes of those of us who live in abundance contribute to blocking others from the life God intends for them?
- What is one small step you could take on behalf of making the abundant life available for all?
- What are some steps we as a community of faith might consider taking?

Statistics

1. Since 1990, the international poverty line rose from \$1 a day, to \$1.25 a day, and most recently in 2015 to \$1.90. In the United States alone, 689 million people live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$1.90 a day.
2. Seventy percent of poor children were children of color. More than 1 in 4 Black children and more than 1 in 5 Hispanic, American Indian, and Alaska Native children were poor compared with 1 in 12 white children.
3. More than 77 percent of Hispanic and more than 79 percent of Black fourth- and eighth-grade public school students were not proficient in reading or math in 2019.
4. In 2017, 785 million people were lacking access to clean water.
5. Worldwide, about 160 million children ages 5 to 17 are engaged in child labor, nearly half of them work under hazardous conditions.
6. Global poverty is expected to rise for the first time in 20 years. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to push 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, with the total rising to as many as 150 million by 2021.
7. Worldwide, 2.6 million people, many of them children, die from hunger-related causes each year.
8. In a 2020 report, at least 133,000 people were living in a state of catastrophe or famine and at least another 28 million people in 38 countries/territories were considered “one step away” from famine.

Statistics compiled from
www.worldvision.org/sponsorship-news-stories/global-poverty-facts,
www.bread.org, and
www.childrensdefense.org

Refugee Support Group Annual Report 2021

In a world where human tragedies can seem overwhelming, with your help we make a difference for one family at a time.

2021 marks the sixth year of supporting refugees. This work began in 2016 when McDougall United Church partnered with three other United Churches to support a Syrian refugee family. From 2017 to 2020 McDougall, with support from a member Deer Park United, continued the work with refugees. During this period we supported a second family from Syria, a family from Palestine and a family from Egypt. Beginning in late 2020 McDougall and Christ Moravian Church began working together to support two families from Angola. All of these families had to flee from their home countries because of threats to their lives.

Support for a refugee family varies according to their needs and our skills. 2021 has been the most challenging year by far. Covid has reduced the amount of in person support our ecumenical group could provide to our two Angolan families and that is always the fun part and the most emotionally rewarding. We do short drop in visits but mainly rely on email to communicate.

Based on our conversations with them about their needs, during 2021 we have helped them in the following areas:

- job search
- tutoring in English as a second language and tutoring in Grade 12 courses to the two older boys
- obtaining food from the Calgary Food Bank and other social services
- Christmas food hampers and gift cards
- driving
- advice regarding application for various government services in particular Alberta Works.
- support in obtaining legal advice in appealing their deportation orders. Both families are now in the third and final stage of their applications to the federal government to be able to stay in Canada. This process began in February 2020. You have no doubt read in the papers that the backlog for reviewing refugee cases by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada is in the hundreds of thousands. This is a long time to wait and not know about your future.

We did manage to have a picnic with the two families at Bonavista park in August. This was a lot of fun for us and the kids all enjoyed the water and the pizza.

While the mother and the four children in the Branco family (ages 18, 15, 13 and 5) are in Canada, the father is still in Angola. He cannot directly support them and so waiting is harder for them. With help from our group the 18 year old son was accepted into the four year Registered Apprenticeship program as an electrician and worked in this program over the summer. He finishes Grade 12 in January (pending Covid decisions about final exams) and he plans to continue with this program. The two older girls are in junior and senior high and have joined Girl Guides. The 5 year old girl started school in September. When she came home from the first day, she said to her mother, "This is my best day in Canada". The mother who

was a trained accountant in Angola, has worked in cleaning jobs since last spring when she got her work permit.

The father in the Azulay family has found work part-time as a labourer. (He worked repairing printers in Angola.) At the age of 50 this is hard work but they are a very determined family and have been self-supporting since September. The older son will finish grade 12 in June 2022 and the younger son is in grade 7. The mother Leda is expecting her third child in March. Our hope is that both families will receive approval to stay in Canada.

In the spring of 2022 we will look for a new family to support. People have asked us if we could support an Afghan family. If we can make the connection, we would like to do this for an Afghan family that is already in Canada. Sponsoring a family to come to Canada (as we did in partnership with 3 other churches in our first year of operation) is simply too expensive - in the neighbourhood of \$30,000 – and takes years to occur. Supporting a family that is already here typically costs about \$5000 a year depending on the circumstances.

We are still in touch with all of 'our' families from time to time. Through our help with the Immigration Review Board process the Palestinian and Egyptian families have now been accepted as permanent residents, a significant landmark in the settlement process. Skip the Dishes has been a rewarding employer for the two fathers. The father in the Egyptian family is now saving to buy a house.

Our partnership since the fall of 2020 with Donna Gordon and Gloria Toole from your church has been wonderful and has really added to the skills of our original group. This year we were also very pleased to have Kirin McKee, the former social worker from Deer Park United, join our group. She is very knowledgeable about social services in Calgary and is a tremendous help.

We have found the six years of supporting refugee families so rewarding for these reasons:

- our belief that all these families will make solid contributions to Canadian society
- their gratitude to Canada in providing them with safety from persecution and to our group for providing them with support and new opportunities
- the eagerness of the parents to learn English and to study, become self-sufficient and help other immigrants, and
- our recognition that their children will have educational and career opportunities that they never would have had in their home countries.

It is a case of "there but for the grace of God go I".

Our group is immensely grateful for the interest and financial support of your church. Without the support of your church and McDougall we could not continue to this work.

Marjorie MacRae, team lead, Refugee Support Group on behalf of team members: Jim Adamson, Penny Bailey, Donna Gordon, EVELDA Love, Kirin McKee, Les and Judy Pearson, Michael Plumb, Joanne Pritchard, Janis Svilpis and Gloria Toole.