



CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love

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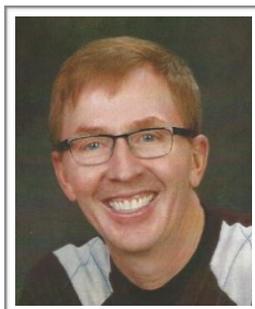
Pastor: Stephen Gohdes
Church Secretary: Andrea
Music: Heidi Gohdes

Executive Board

Chair: Alan Bartlett
Vice Chair: David Bennett
Secretary: Pat Holm
Bookkeeper: Bobbie Callander
Treasurer: Roger Lohrey
Spiritual Programs: Arlene Kawchuk, Donna Gordon, Alan Bartlett
Congregational Nurture: Glen Newberry, Bob Tedrick
Mission & Outreach: Donna Gordon, Martin Driver, David Bennett
Church Operations: Arn Wylie, Roger Lohrey
Finance: Roger Lohrey, Pat Holm

Church Elders

Bernard Amiot, Mary Ann Gates, Pastor Stephen Gohdes, Donna Gordon, Holly Heffernan, Doug Hill, Duncan McKerchar, Brian Pemberton, Gloria Taylor, Gloria Toole, Pat Wolff, Doug Zeck



Pastor's Message For Lent and Easter

Lent is a special time of faith. It is a time when we probe a bit deeper into our hearts through prayer, through devotion, and even through those surprises which arrive in the season of Lent. As the winter slowly gives way to the hope of spring, I invite each of us to be aware of the presence of God in the quiet, subtle places of our lives. Maybe even in the places where we doubt, struggle or deny. Amidst the worship times this season, we will be attentive to the rich colours and hues of faith that Jesus comes to display as a stunning rainbow of life. The colours and tones are often most appealing after times of gazing at life's blandness or spending time in dim light. It's when we walk from the shadows into the bright, daylight, that those colours of life and faith may stand out with such beauty. Below is a simple prayer for us as we might struggle with our doubts, burdens or problems of life.

May all be richly blessed and be a rich blessing this Lent and EasterSeason.

A Litany of Belief and Doubt

O, God, sometimes when I want to hear you most, you are quiet as no one.

O God, sometimes when I do not want to be disturbed,
Your voice is as loud and clear as a police siren.

O God, sometimes when I want to prove you are here,
I babble like a baby, trying to speak without knowing words.

O God, sometimes when I am reduced to silence,
others see something of you in me that they could not hear before.

O God, sometimes when I think I know all about you,
I become dry bones and a clanging cymbal.

O God, sometimes when I doubt that I can ever know and tell who you are,
You pour over me like living waters.

No, not sometimes, O God, but always,
It is in you that I live and love and doubt,
And always only your loving grace matters.

Amen.

NEWS & EVENTS?

Upcoming Events

Sundays

Bible Study: 9:30am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Communion: 1st Sunday

Noisy Offering: Last Sunday

March 2018

3 Pre Synod Meeting, 9am - 1pm

7 Women's Fellowship, 1:15pm.

8 Canasta, 1 pm.

8 Elders Meeting, 7 pm.

10 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am

11 Time Change

12 Spiritual Companions, 1:30pm

16 Mustard Seed Lunches, 1pm

21 Lenten Soup & Study, 6pm

21 Board Meeting, 7pm

22 Canasta, 1 pm

23 Ladies' Tea, 1:15pm

25 Palm Sunday

27 Grief Support Group, 10am

29 Seder Supper, 6:30pm

30 Good Friday Service, 10:30am

April 2018

1 Sunrise Service, 8:30am

Easter Breakfast 9am

4 Women's Fellowship, 1:15pm

12 Canasta 1 pm

21 Pub Night, 7pm

26 Canasta, 1pm



Women at the Well

Sunday, March 18th

Good Shepherd, 10am

This Reader's Theatre takes place in Bethany, 12 miles east of Jerusalem in the village of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, friends of Jesus. It was from Bethany that Jesus rode a donkey to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

The play begins the morning after Mary, the mother of Jesus, arrives in Bethany. She and her women friends gather at the well to tell their stories during the last week of Jesus' life.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 7pm

**A Taste of India: Celebrate and Support the
Rajpur Orphan Project**

Entertainment, Information, Food & Fun

Details coming soon....



When is the next Pub Night?

This question has been floating around for some time, and **a tentative date has been set for April 21**. Glen Newberry has agreed to chair a committee to host this event, **but help with planning an implementation is needed to make this happen.**

GOT TALENT? Can you sing, dance, recite a poem, tell jokes, play an instrument or act out a skit? **Then we need you!**

Please speak with Glen Newberry if you are able to help with this event, or have a "talent" that you are willing to share.

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

It is an honour to share the responsibility of being God's hands and feet on earth with each one of you. Membership on the Christ Moravian Church (CMC) Executive board is both a joy and responsibility for each person who accepts an Executive board position. Being on the Executive board can be a busy as our God is active and working in Calgary through Christ Moravian Church. The CMC executive board has five main areas of discussion at each Executive board meeting: Financial Committee, Spiritual Program Committee, Church Operations, Congregational Nurture, and Mission and Outreach.

Alan Bartlett, Executive board Chair Person, leads the members of the board through the meeting agenda. He starts with a review of new/unfinished business. For example, I am responsible for the investigating the options available to enhance the sanctuary's audio/visual system. Please come and chat with me if you have concerns or opinions about the current PA system. In addition, Ken Schultz is researching a replacement for the CMC envelope offering computer software. The current software cannot be installed on the latest Microsoft operating system.

The Financial committee report is presented by the CMC treasurer, Roger Lohrey. I have been volunteered (army style) to be the Interim Treasurer while Roger & Barb are off on vacation so please don't ask any hard questions. The treasurer's job is made a lot easier by members of the congregation and staff submitting receipts for reimbursement in a timely manner (the 10th of each month). This is important so that our bookkeeper, Bobbie Callander, can get you a check to pay for the purchase you have made on the church's behalf.

If you would like to have an CMC Executive board update included in future newsletters, please talk to one of the following CMC Executive board members: Alan Bartlett, Arlene Kawchuk. Arnold Wylie, Bob Tedrick, David Bennett, Donna Gordon, Glen Newberry, Martin Driver, Pat Holm and Roger Lohrey.

In closing, I could talk more about each committee that is part of the CMC Executive board portfolio but perhaps I can talk more on this in a future newsletter.

if you would like to have the Executive Board answer your question, as part of the next newsletter or personally, then please email your question to Andrea at moravian@nucleus.com. Also, please give your email the subject line: CMC Executive Board Question.

Yours in Christ

David Bennett,

Vice Chair Person, Christ Moravian Church



**Click on the Passage to
Read the Scripture**

SCRIPTURE AND WORSHIP



March 4

[Exodus 20:1-17](#)
[Psalm 19](#)
[1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)
[John 2:13-22](#)

March 11

[Numbers 21:4-9](#)
[Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22](#)
[Ephesians 2:1-10](#)
[John 3:14-21](#)

March 18

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)
[Psalm 51:1-12](#)
[Hebrews 5:5-10](#)
[John 12:20-33](#)

March 25

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)
[Psalm 31:9-16](#)
[Philippians 2:5-11](#)
[Mark 14:1-15:47](#) or
[Mark 15:1-39, \(40-47\)](#)

April 1

[*Acts 10:34-43](#)
[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)
[1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)
[Mark 16:1-8](#)

April 8

[*Acts 4:32-35](#)
[Psalm 133](#)
[1 John 1:1-2:2](#)
[John 20:19-31](#)

April 15

[*Acts 3:12-19](#)
[Psalm 4](#)
[1 John 3:1-7](#)
[Luke 24:36b-48](#)

April 22

[*Acts 4:5-12](#)
[Psalm 23](#)
[1 John 3:16-24](#)
[John 10:11-18](#)

April 29

[*Acts 8:26-40](#)
[Psalm 22:25-31](#)
[1 John 4:7-21](#)
[John 15:1-8](#)

Lent, a Rainbow of Faith is Discovered

WORSHIP THEMES AND HIGHLIGHTS!

- March 4** Message: The Colour of Energy - Green
Special Music shared by Kathy Peppers
Holy Communion is celebrated.
- March 11** Message: The Colour of Love - Yellow
Special Music shared by Marty Antonini
- March 18** Message: The Colour of Roots - Orange
Special Music shared by Marty Antonini
- March 25** **Palm Sunday**, Message: The Colour of Home - Red
Special Music shared by Kathy Peppers
- March 29** **Seder Dinner**, 6:30pm
- March 30** **Good Friday Service** (10:30am)
Message: The Colour of the Shadows - Black
Holy Communion



April 1 **EASTER SUNDAY**

- ✦ Sunrise Service (8:30am)
- ✦ Easter Worship & Celebration (10:30am)
- ✦ Message: Colour of New Creation - White
- ✦ Special Music shared by Marty Antonini
- ✦ Bring your Easter flowers to share.

- April 8** Message: Jesus lives beyond the doubts.
A day of laughter and joy
- April 15** Message: Jesus arrives within the Room.
- April 22** Message: Jesus "The Good Shepherd"
- April 29** Message: Jesus "The Vine"
Birthday Sunday, Noisy Offering

MORAVIAN MOMENT

“Mission Is Who We Are.”

Submitted by Alice Sears, Past Chair of the Canadian Moravian Mission Society

“Mission Is Who We Are.” These powerful words began the Third Moravian Unity Mission Conference held November 15 - 20th in Cape Town, South Africa. Two hundred Moravians from thirty-five nations and speaking eleven different languages gathered as the largest and most diverse Unity group to date. Bishop Abrahams, of South Africa proclaimed with joy, “We are the United Nations of Moravians.” The diversity of experience and culture in itself was inspiring but became just one of the many dimensions of insight and inspiration felt during the four full days of the conference. It was an honour for me to attend representing Canada, our small corner of the Moravian Unity.



Each morning began with worship led by one of the countries. It was a visceral experience of God’s multi-coloured presence and our church’s faith and diversity: to sing hymns in eleven different languages; to see the tapestry of colourful garb; to share silent and spoken prayers of concern and hope; to sit beside and among sisters and brothers so different yet at the same time similar to me. After grounding ourselves in worship, we listened to keynote papers on topics with an academic focus that were thought provoking: Congregational Mission in a Globalized Moravian Church; Spirituality of Mission, Mission and Culture; to name a few.



In the afternoons, we attended workshops and then met in our small groups. As many of us in Alberta have been personally involved with Canada’s welcoming of refugees from Syria, I felt compelled to attend the workshop on refugees led by representatives from Tanzania and Burundi. However, I was not prepared for the emotional impact when hearing about the displacement of people fleeing war in Angola, Burundi, Rwanda and the Congo, in the past few years.

It is difficult to absorb the numbers, but to help put it in perspective here is one comparison: Worldwide there are 65.5 million refugees. Canada opened its doors to 25,000

refugees in 2016, while during the same year 364,276 refugees fled to Tanzania. Tanzania has accepted more refugees than any other country, and the Moravian church has responded; Moravians have been at the centre of welcoming those in need, working along with the UNCHR to bring hope where there is despair.

Many refugees have found themselves spiritually transformed by the welcoming spirit of God demonstrated by the Tanzanian churches, becoming Moravians through the process. Today, after returning to their own country, there are 20,000 Moravians in Burundi. One of them, and now a Moravian pastor, proclaimed to the attendees: “When I was a refugee, I was nothing. Then God made me something – I was transformed.” Rev. Edward, Burundi.



Another life changing experience was attending a service in the Moravian Church that sits on a hill overlooking Cape Town. This large white church is the only building that was somehow be spared by the bulldozers that tore through the black area known as District 6 during the time of Apartheid. Having walked through the museum that stands as a reminder of the horrors and injustices of those times, and just around the corner from the church, it was profound to be together in worship there. Brass bands and choirs from all over the Unity joined the attendees - adding to the spirit of hope and joy we felt knowing that change is possible; and that God's spirit is alive as we move into future relationships of understanding, mutuality, and respect, together.

On a more personal note, it was heartwarming to reconnect with dear brothers & sisters from around the world. Rev. Judy Ganz, who served at Edmonton Moravian, was making her last official trip as the Executive Director for the Board of World Mission as she anticipated retirement. Clearly her call from EMC to serve the church in this way was confirmed as there were many expressions of warmth and appreciation from the many people and countries she has connected with through her work. It was good to see Rev. Mary Kategile, one of the first women ordained in Tanzania, sent warm greetings to Canada, especially the Rio Terrace Congregation who supported her through seminary. It was a delight to reconnect with Rev. Bob Hopcroft, from the British Province, as we worked together in the small group and again shared our deep interest in the Moravian Institute in Rajpur India. I met so many wonderful people, including Rev. Beatrice Hope, an amazing woman and the first ordained woman in Labrador.



Another highlight for me was to reconnect with dear friends from Tanzania, some from the HUKWAFWA project, which has been strongly supported by the Moravians in Canada. The Tanzanians blessed us with praising God as a whole body experience, a cappella voices raised in song with bodies swaying and hands clapping to the beat. They brought their enthusiastic singing everywhere - to the church, the conference rooms, and even the hotel lobby. The sound of their joyous voices made our heads turn and our hearts sing!



Rev. Mary Kategile, was recently consecrated a Presbyter, confirming her ministry as an ordained servant of Christ. She preached the final sermon at the conference and reaffirmed that mission is not only who we are as Moravian Christians, but also something we do holistically and wholeheartedly: "Jesus said 'GO'. Go next door. Go across the street. Go across the ocean. Go to other cultures. Go is a verb. Jesus said, 'Go.'"

As the conference concluded, I was filled with gratitude, for God whose spirit moves us in such powerful and varied ways; and for the Moravian church, through which we can share our faith, connect with brothers and sisters around the world, and find our courage and inspiration to be people of mission.

GROWING IN SPIRIT

Spiritual Companionship Group

Submitted by Gloria Toole

What spiritual outcome do you hope for this Lenten season?

What action/observance will help you get there?

Our small group didn't meet during the bitter cold of February, but we were asked to consider those two questions. I wonder what we have discovered as we have quietly considered these questions with God? I wonder what we'll share? And yes, I wonder if anyone did their "homework!" (Still a teacher, aren't I)?

Our gatherings don't work like a discussion group. Instead they offer us time for personal exploration in silent prayer. We share what we find - if we wish. Sure, we could do that on our own. Some of us do, but sharing what we are experiencing focusses and clarifies what's happening to us spiritually. It helps us to notice how God is working in our everyday lives... in the ordinary things like a stranger's smile or sunlight enlivening snow crystals or in promptings that ask us to look more closely at something we'd rather not notice about ourselves. We find some comfort in knowing others also are on a spiritual journey and that none of us are "making it up."



We cannot find God in noise or agitation. Nature: trees, flowers and grass grow in silence. The stars, the moon, and the sun move in silence. What is essential is not what we say but what God tells others through us. In silence He listens to us; in silence He speaks to our souls. In silence we are granted the privilege of listening to his voice.

Silence of our eyes. Silence of our ears. Silence of our minds. ... In the silence of the heart God will speak.

--Mother Teresa, cited in *The Power of Prayer* (New York: MJF Books, 1998), 3, 3-8

How does that play out? One day, for example, we were shown a pictures of road signs and asked to pick one that seemed to describe where we were at spiritually right now. Then we sat, eyes closed in silence, and "waited" for God to add meaning to what we had picked. When everyone seemed to be ready, we described what we had noticed. Some of us remembered the past and made different connections with it. Some of us found a word or an image that clarified the spiritual direction or meaning of the sign we had picked. Some of us added our own experience or personal insight that had been triggered by what another had said. No one offered advice. We closed with a word or short phrase that seemed to sum up our experience.

Silence isn't comfortable for some of us. Sitting in silence with others seems even more unnatural. But those of us who have been gathering in our church, in other Moravian congregations and beyond are finding it spiritually worthwhile.

The companionship group meets mid-month on a Monday afternoon. Anything said is held in confidence. Chat with Gloria Toole after the service or by calling her home if you want to learn more or want to come along.

YOUTH NEWS



Sunday School During Lent - Easter

Submitted by Gloria Toole

Sunday School at Christ Moravian can mean many things: deep discussions related to scripture; sharing what's happening in our lives; considering how we can live out loving our neighbours, making crafts or playing games related to the day's theme or just having fun together.

During Lent, our young people will be considering God's promises to Abraham and Sarah, those written in the Psalms and those described by Jeremiah. Following Easter, (April 1 this year), we'll look at stories from the New Testament: Jesus appearing to the disciples after the Resurrection and how Jesus' followers spread that good news. We'll look at how that can play out in our lives now. The stories we study will come from John 20:19-31; Luke 24: 36b-48; John 10:11-18; John 15:1-8; John 15:99-17 and Acts 1:15-17, 21-26.

MIGHTY MORAVIANS - Walking for Social Justice

Thanks to the donors and walkers who participated in *Coldest Night of the Year* on February 24, the Mighty Moravians from Christ Church raised \$2400 for StreetLight, a division of Youth Unlimited.

The StreetLight program aims to reach youth who are living on the streets through mobile drop-in centres in Bowness and the downtown core, as well as through two 24/7 crisis lines. This program provides a safe environment for these vulnerable youth and facilitates mentorship relationships to help them make positive life changes.

A special thank you to Rebecca Holm, for organizing our team and for her touching stories about her work with StreetLight.

