

CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

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

Contact Us

Christ Moravian Church

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Treasurer: Roger Lohrey

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Mission & Outreach: Donna

Gordon, Martin Driver, Jody Gorai

Church Operations: David

Bennett, Roger Lohrey, Jody Gorai

Finance: Pat Holm, Roger Lohrey

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Bernard Amiot, Mary Anne Gates,

Rev. Gohdes, Donna Gordon,

Holly Heffernan, Arlene Kawchuk,

Duncan McKerchar, Brian

Pemberton, Gloria Taylor, Gloria

Toole, Pat Wolf, Doug Zeck



Pastor's Ponderings

On Our Way to Meet the Christ Child

Christmas memories often revolve around going somewhere to be with someone special - driving back home to spend Christmas with Grandpa and Grandma; flying to a holiday destination to be with friends or brothers and sisters we haven't seen in a while; traveling with a fiancé to meet the family and get wedding plans in motion; heading home after a long semester of studies at university or a tour of duty in the service.

Christmas finds us on a journey, and the story of Jesus' birth announces that this journey is to meet the Christ Child who holds such love for the world. I like to believe that each Christmas, and each new year, reveals some newfound experience in our relationship with God. If my life and your life is truly a journey of faith, each new experience holds such powerful opportunities to grow and to discover.

The four primary themes of Advent, *Hope, Peace, Joy and Love*, provide such a rich atmosphere for this kind of quest. I pause to wonder - What new revelations of the nature of *hope* will be found in 2018, a time in which *hope* is so vital? Or, what will we experience in our fragile relationships that offer *peace* and *deeper unity* where so many divisions exist? So too, for *joy* and *love*. Can God express a newfound *joy* at Christmas so many years after Jesus' birth? Might *love* be newly experienced so that 2018 will be a life changing turning point of us?

This is why we will journey and travel together to the manger this Christmas. God offers us an invitation to come and meet a child we have already met, the one who lives in our hearts and is now at the manger. This year, the journey finds a whole new discovery for us. Let's go on this journey together to meet the Christ Child! I hear that you know the way!

Pastor Steve Gohdes

NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Events

Sundays

Bible Study, 9am
 Worship Service: 10:30 am
 Communion: 1st Sunday
 Noisy Offering : Last Sunday

November 2018

- 3** Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
- 4** Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 7** Women's Fellowship, 1:15pm
- 8** Canasta, 1pm
- 13** Grief Group, 10am
- 9 - 12** VanEs Youth Retreat
- 11** Office Closed
- 14** Southwood Chapel, 9:30am
- 16** Mustard Seed Lunches, 1pm
- 22** Canasta, 1 pm
- 22** Thanksgiving Lunch, 12pm
- 22** Youth Group
- 28** Knitting/Crafts, 10:30-2:30pm
- 28** Board Meeting, 7pm
- 30** Ladies's Tea, 1:15pm

50th Anniversary: *Volunteers Needed*

Pat Wolf has agreed to spearhead a committee to develop plans to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Christ Church in April 2019. Whether you are a founding member or someone who has just found their way to CMC, your participation on this committee will be greatly valued. Please speak with Pat if you are able to help with planning for this important event celebrating the ministry of Christ Church.

Everyone Has a Story: *50 Stories for 50 Years*

We are looking for faith stories to publish in a 50th Anniversary commemorative book. What is your story? Do you have a faith experience to share - a time when you knew that God was active in your life? Perhaps you have a favourite memory of your time at Christ Church - something that touched you deeply or made you smile? Tell us your faith story.

Pat Wolf will be collecting stories (no more than two typed pages please) up until March 15, 2019. If you need assistance putting your story into words, let Pat know so can find someone to help.

Advent Bible Study: *December 1, 9:30 - 11:30 am*

The season of Advent arrives Sunday, Dec. 2. An Advent Study Group will be held Dec. 1 from 9:30 - 11:30am to emphasize our readiness, awareness, and anticipation of the arrival of Christ in our lives. This group will study the four prophetic readings of Advent that cast a vision of the Messiah's gifts found in Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. Sign up sheet is on the entryway table.

Warm Feet for the Street: *December 2 - 19*

Help meet the practical, everyday needs of the men and women who stay at the Mustard Seed's Emergency Shelter, while providing encouragement with special gifts. Purchase a pair of warm socks or a backpack to fill with items such as travel size toiletries, transit tickets, candy, chocolates, gift cards for coffee, movies or food, underwear, socks, gloves, jogging pants, water bottle, watch, hand warmers and earplugs. Please do not include perishable food items or any item containing an alcohol base, such as mouthwash or perfume. Please tag your socks or backpack with the gender it is intended for, male or female.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events

Sundays Bible Study, 9am
 Worship Service: 10:30 am
 Communion: 1st Sunday
 Noisy Offering: Last Sunday

December 2018

- 1 Advent Study Group, 9:30am
- 2 WF Bake Sale, 10:30am
- 2 Advent Choir, 9:30am
- 5 Women's Fellowship, 1:15pm
- 6 Youth Group, 7pm
- 8 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
- 9 Bring Tree Decoration, 10:30am
- 12 Southwood Chapel, 9:30am
- 13 Canasta, 1 pm
- 16 Craft Party & Lunch 11:30am
- 19 Knitting/Crafts, 10:30-2:30pm
- 19 Board Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Youth Group, 7pm
- 23 Children's Pageant/ Party, 11:30am
- 24 Christmas Eve Services, 6 & 8pm
- 25 Christmas Day, Office Closed
- 26 Boxing Day, Office Closed
- 27 Canasta, 1pm



Saturday, Dec. 1, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Advent Bible Study: *The Gospel Before the Gospel*

Walking through the Old Testament Prophecies found in Advent.

Sunday, December 2

9:30 am: Advent Choir Practice: Come and make a joyful noise! Further practices to be determined.

11:30 am: Women's Fellowship Bake Sale: Come do your Christmas baking. Lots of yummy delights.

Saturday, December 8, 8:30 am

Men's Group Christmas Tree Raising: Guys are invited to assist in raising the CMC Christmas Tree. Breakfast and Laughter to be enjoyed.

Sunday, December 9, 10:30 am

Decoration of CMC Christmas Tree: All are invited to bring ONE favourite decoration from home, to be included in decorating the CMC Christmas Tree.

Sunday, December 16, 11:30 am

Christmas Craft Party and Luncheon: Take part in the special Moravian tradition of decorating beeswax candles used for Christmas Eve Service. A separate craft will be available for the children, and you can also learn to make paper Moravian Stars. Includes a luncheon and Christmas goodies.

December 23, 10:30am

CMC Children's Christmas Pageant and Party: A special time for children and youth as they present the Christmas story. Stay after worship as Santa arrives to bring a few goodies.

Monday, December 24, 6pm and 8pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: Invite a friend and lift your fragrant candle on this Holy, Silent Night. Special music offered at both services and the wonderful highlight of "Morning Star" are such touching moments of faith.

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day

Enjoy this special day with family and friends.

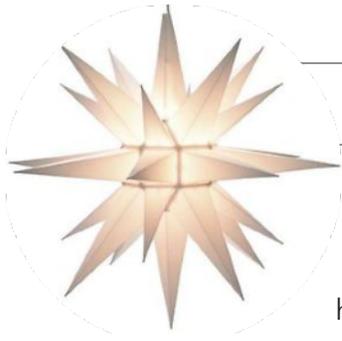


Advent Choir

O Come All Ye Faithful Singers:

Heidi Gohdes is leading the CMC Singers in an Advent Choir for the December 16 worship service. The first practice will be 9:30am, Sunday, December 2 with subsequent practices to be determined at that time. Bring a recording device or cell phone to assist with practise at home.

MORAVIAN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS reprinted from 2015 Newsletter



Christmas Eve service at Christ Moravian Church is a wonderful experience of scripture and music that reminds us of the story of God's amazing gift of love, hope, peace, and joy - the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. This service is filled with beautiful Moravian traditions which have spread throughout the world. Many of these customs involve the symbolism of light as a means to express our belief that Christ is the light the world. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

As you enter the church, the walkway is lit with candles, reminiscent of the Moravian Illumination custom in which lighted candles were placed in each window of Moravian settlements on Christmas Eve. The candles told guests they were welcome and that the presence of Christ was within.

Inside, the sanctuary is illuminated by a large multi-pointed Moravian Advent Star that reminds us of the star of Bethlehem which shone over the birthplace of Jesus. It originated as an exercise in geometry in the 1850s at Moravian boarding schools of Germany. The star was soon adopted by the church and was carried throughout the world by Moravian missionaries. Traditionally, the star is hung the first Sunday of Advent and remains lit until Epiphany and the coming of the Magi on January 6. It is the star of promise, fulfillment and hope that comes with the birth of Jesus as foretold by the prophet, "A star will come out of Jacob; a sceptre will rise out of Israel." (Numbers 24:17)

The Moravian candlelight service originated in 1747 in Marienborn, Germany, when handmade beeswax candles with red trim were first distributed at the children's Christmas service. This custom of giving candles to children continued until the late 1800s when many Moravian Churches adopted it for the whole congregation. The beeswax is symbolic of the purity of Christ, the flame represents Christ as the Light of the World and the red trim reminds us of the sacrifice Christ made for us upon the cross.

The candles are lit from the Christ candle at the centre of the advent wreath, and is accompanied by the singing of a favourite Moravian hymn, *Morning Star*, which was composed in 1836 by a Moravian Seminary student. Morning Star is traditionally sung by a child soloist and attests to the fulfilment of prophecy through Christ Jesus who said, "I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star". (Revelation 22:16) With all of the candles lit, the service concludes with the singing of Silent Night under the soft glow of candlelight and the fragrance of beeswax. As the last verse is sung, the candles are raised as a reminder to let your light shine and share the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, with others.



[Click on Passage
to Read Scripture](#)

SCRIPTURE & WORSHIP THEMES

November 11

[1 Kings 17:8-16](#)
[Psalm 146](#)
[Hebrews 9:24-28](#)
[Mark 12:38-44](#)

November 18

[Daniel 12:1-3](#)
[Psalm 16](#)
[Hebrews 10:11-14,
\(15-18\), 19-25](#)
[Mark 13:1-8](#)

November 25

[Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14](#)
[Psalm 93](#)
[Revelation 1:4b-8](#)
[John 18:33-37](#)

December 2

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)
[Psalm 25:1-10](#)
[1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#)
[Luke 21:25-36](#)

December 9

[Malachi 3:1-4](#)
[Luke 1:68-79](#)
[Philippians 1:3-11](#)
[Luke 3:1-6](#)

December 16

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)
[Isaiah 12:2-6](#)
[Philippians 4:4-7](#)
[Luke 3:7-18](#)

December 23

[Micah 5:2-5a](#)
[Luke 1:46b-55](#)
[Hebrews 10:5-10](#)
[Luke 1:39-45, \(46-55\)](#)

December 30

[1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26](#)
[Psalm 148](#)
[Colossians 3:12-17](#)
[Luke 2:41-52](#)

January 6

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#)
[Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14](#)
[Ephesians 3:1-12](#)
[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Travelling Upon God's Steward 'SHIP'

As God's stewards, we are invited to recognize the many ways we find life blessed and abundant as God guides us through each day. The church at Philippi faced many of the same questions, issues, and considerations that we do at Christ Church today.

Nov 18 Pondering the "Y" of Stewardship: Philippians 1:3-11
Kathy Pepers offers music leadership

Nov 25 Finding the "I" of Stewardship: Philippians 4:10-20
Kathy Pepers offers music leadership. Grey Cup Preparations!



Worship in the Season of Advent

As the Season of Advent arrives, it creates much activity and many special events. Amidst the December rush, our schedules simply get "maxed out". Advent is a time of movement, action, and preparation. The birth of Jesus those many years ago in a rustic manger has given a design to the movement or pathway of Advent. Jesus, the Living Christ, is revealed amidst the expectations and preparations in the season of Advent. Each Sunday in worship our preparations will discover this profound journey to the manger awaiting the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Dec 2 *Advent 1: On the Journey to the Manger, Hope Moves Us*

The Hosanna Anthem is Sung, The First Candle of Advent is Lit
The Advent Voice speaks of "Hopes Vision"
We share the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Dec 9 *Advent 2: On the Journey to the Manger, Peace Sustains Us*

The Christmas Tree is decorated (bring an ornament!)
The Second Candle of Advent is Lit
The Advent Voice speaks about "The Sound of Peace"

Dec 16 *Advent 3: On the Journey to the Manger, Joy Awakens Us*

The Third Candle of Advent is Lit, CMC Singers offer Special Music
The Advent Voice speaks about "The Touch of Joy"

Dec 23 *ADVENT 4: On the Journey to the Manger, Love Drives Us*

The Children's Pageant is Shared, The Fourth Candle of Advent is Lit
The Advent Voice speaks of the Flavour of Love

Dec 24 *CHRISTMAS EVE*

6pm Traditional Candlelight Service
8pm Quiet Candlelight Service



MORAVIAN MISSION MOMENT

A Glimpse of the Kingdom Through the Children of Nain

by Pat Wolff



Two years ago, Marilyn Gurnsey asked me, as an elder at Christ Church in Calgary, to accompany her on a mission trip to Nain, Labrador to operate a summer bible school. I said, "NO". I was an old lady of seventy, and I was very busy and involved in our own church. I had a million reasons to say no!

She asked me again a year ago when actual plans were being made, and I still said, "no"! I had no special gifts to offer. I can't sing or play the piano. I don't like to travel, and I certainly was not comfortable staying in a remote northern native community for a week!

On a Sunday shortly after Marilyn approached me again, I was at church for the worship service and we were invited to sing one of my favourite songs, "I the Lord of Sea and Sky". When I sang the words, "I will go Lord, if you lead me", I knew I was being a hypocrite. God was calling me to His service and I had said, "no". I knew then, that I needed to forgo my fears and trepidations and accept God's call. Feeling like Jonah on the way to Nineveh, I finally said, "Yes".

Marilyn reminded me that we were not going to Nain to solve the BIG problems - poverty, lack of housing, alcoholism... We were going to show the children of Nain the God we Moravians know and worship, not the God who is a disciplinarian, sending people who make mistakes to a lake of fire for eternity, but a kind and loving father. We wanted to give these children a safe indoor place to play and learn about God (away from the mosquitoes), and where we could show them that they were special and lovable.



AND WE DID!

The children came, brought their friends, four on the first day that quickly turned to eighteen. We fed them and they felt safe, loved and cared for. They learned about God and His gifts to them that made each one of them special! We emphasized the importance of community and looking after each other.

We, the leaders, were surrounded by the children's love. They didn't care that I was old. In a community where many don't live to be 70, and white grey hair like mine is less common, the children were intrigued by my hair and wrinkles. They loved to sit on my lap and stroke my hair or stretch away the wrinkles on my face as we laughed together. They didn't care that I was always the last one to get up off the floor when we played "Hit the Deck", or that I was off key when I led them in singing! I was "Grandma Pat". They loved and accepted me just as I am and they knew that I loved and accepted them, too.



The greatest gift for me was watching the children enjoy themselves and be open to learning about God's love and God's commandment to "love your neighbour". It was a true reflection of what Jesus meant when he said, "Let the children come to me for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:15). I finally understood the meaning of Luke 17:20 where Jesus, in replying to the Pharisees' question about the coming of the kingdom, told them that "the kingdom of God is in your midst." The presence of God was felt throughout our time in Nain.

When the children came to be with us at the bible school, they left their worries behind for a short while. They came and enjoyed God's gifts of safety, food, fun, love and community. Too often, we as adults are too busy, occupied with daily responsibilities, to put aside our concerns and just enjoy God's gifts - like children! I am glad that God and Marilyn were persistent in calling me to Nain, and I am grateful for the glimpse of His kingdom that was given to me through the children in Nain.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Group News and Events!

Everyone at Christ Church was grateful for the heartfelt and joy filled worship service the youth offered on Sunday, October 28. Many of us are still singing the song about "Blind Bartimaeus".



Upcoming Events

Thursday, Nov 22, 7:00pm

Youth Group led by the Youth! The youth are planning the study and games to be offered this night.

Thursday, Dec 6, 7:00pm

The Youth Group make their yearly visits with church seniors.

Thursday, Dec 20, 7:00pm

Youth Christmas Party with Pizza! Bring a gift under \$5. Lots of fun and games!

Sunday School Christmas Preparation and Celebration

The awe of Christmas! Each year, our children at Christ Church find Jesus beneath a star lying in a manger surrounded by his parents, the shepherds, angels and the wisemen .

Beginning on November 25, Scott Paisley will inspire and help our Sunday Schoolers to develop another Christmas mural, this time featuring the Wisemen. The children will share their work with the congregation on Sunday, December 23. At the same time, the older youth will express their understandings of wisdom. If you know of a child who would like to participate, please encourage them to come along for this five Sunday series.



Our church knows that fellowship is critical to our Christian walk and our personal well-being. That goes for our children, too. After their presentation, the children will play games downstairs. Family and friends are invited after the service to join the kids as they share the treats that spill from a piñata, meet with Santa and enjoy a light lunch.

Please let us know if your child or grandchild will be coming to the party so that Santa is prepared with a small suitable gift. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the table outside the sanctuary during Advent.