

Christ Moravian Church

Pastoral Letter for the Weekend of July 12, 2020

Sunday Worship Focus: *Unexpected Surprises of Faith - Surprising Buds and Blossoms of Growth*

2020 will truly be recalled into the distant future, as a year of surprises. Surely as many of these surprises have unfolded, we've discovered insights and new understandings of all sorts. These next Sundays of worship will help "unpack and uncover" faith found in surprises of life. This first one will speak to the surprises found in seeds that grow. Two parables offered by Jesus found in Matthew 13 will lead us to those discoveries. God planting seed on hard paths, rocky soil, weedy underbrush, and of course fertile soil and in all of this God seems to suggest that there is a miraculous plan. And that second parable that relays the story of a farmer planting pure seed in the field, and finding weeds planted by the "enemy". Then the farmer is led to patient waiting for the crop to ripen, and at that point the grain will be separated from the weeds. As will be highlighted in the worship video, our lives of faith unfold with the discovery of God's love and grace and power displayed in "ripened harvest" found in the gifts of our fruits shared with our world.

Sunday's New Testament Watchword nicely highlights a part of our unexpected surprises of faith saying: "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

I wanted to share a word of special thanks for all who took part in last Sunday's "Stampede Worship Service". There is such an amazing team of worship friends that are so willing to pitch in. Many of us noted the wonderful music of the service, so we truly thank Marty Antonini and those other song leaders involved. I can note that our upcoming worship videos will continue to have lots of congregational involvement. Many thanks to all who offer their gifts and support.

WANTED...PHOTOS OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG FOLKS... On Sunday, August 23 the worship theme will be **Unexpected Surprises of Hope**, and the Fellowship of Elders helped to highlight that the children of our lives are such a visible source of hope. We are planning to have a banner prepared displaying all the pictures of our children, so please get individual photos of the children and young folks of the church family (along with correct spelling of names) and forward them digitally to Donna Gordon dlgordon@shaw.ca, or a hard copy can be brought into the church office. Let's have these forwarded by August 8 so the banner can be prepared in time for the service. Thanks so much.

WOMEN'S GROUP LAWN VISIT JULY 22, 1:00PM

The Executive Board is moving forward to slowly and safely begin holding some special fellowship gatherings. The first one to be offered is for the women of CMC. We are limiting it to the **FIRST 15**. Women will be asked to bring their own lawn chair and beverage and snack. I will prepare a devotional and a topic for shared conversation as we meet safely on the lawn. Please phone the church office and leave a message to reserve your spot, or email me at sgohdes@shaw.ca

A special attachment from Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, President of the PEC invites folks to join a zoom conversation on issues of social justice. Please check out that attachment and get connected with the wider Moravian Church to take part in these important conversations.

There is an attachment for the Bible Buddies Sunday Study Group, and the zoom link has been refreshed. **Please take note of that change.**

Please see the notice from Rev. James Lavoy on an upcoming Family Camp.

The regular attachments are included in this letter. Please check out those pertaining to you.

Summer Blessings,
Pastor Gohdes

Worship & Event Links for July 12th, 2020

Topic: CMC Bible Buddies

CMC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Here is the **new Zoom link starting July 12th**:

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Weekly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUpdumgpjIjG9JKqHE5tej39mNFubKHPKWE/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqjoqEtycuRiBRpwcBoj4c_zxiFhEjfp3tw7NjNvHZwmlb-9sFKd9O_Dg

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81410889916?pwd=TjZxNGZIYmhHYTNKbmlrQUV3VVQ3UT09>

Meeting ID: 814 1088 9916

Password: 290418

One tap mobile

+15873281099,,81410889916# Canada

Links to Online Worship:

Christ Moravian <https://www.christmoravian.com>

Good Shepherd <https://www.goodshepherdmoravian.org>

Rio Terrace <https://www.rioterracechurch.org/live>

Moravian Church Northern Province Check <https://www.moravian.org>

for details of events happening within the wider Moravian Church

Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:13:01 PM

Subject: Last Chance - Road to Racial Justice - and more

I write with two reminders this afternoon.

First from Sr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman regarding the upcoming Workshop on Racial Justice:

Just a last blast invite to those interested in the Road To Racial Justice Training NEXT WEEK. It is Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. 11 am to 1:30 pm ET/ 10 am to 12:30 pm. Invite any interested friends and neighbors. This event is open to everyone – lay and clergy. There are still spaces available. Registration closes Sunday evening. Because this workshop is interactive, it will not be recorded. If you have questions please feel free to contact me at pastoramy@wacniamoravian.org. Here is the registration link: <https://bit.ly/RoadToRacialJustice>. Registration is free, but required.

There is still space on the second Racial Justice workshop – Race: The Power of An Illusion, offered July 14, 21, and 28 from 7-8 pm ET/ 6-7 pm CT. The Zoom link for that is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84214801531?pwd=VDRUaGxjbWtZKzdpN2ZjL2pKSIIVZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 1480 1531 Password: 223042

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller

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Equipping People and Congregations to be agents of God's transforming love in the world.

CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT

SPIRIT OF POWER

Acts 4:1–31

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

2 Timothy 1:1–14

Ephesians 6:10–20

SOONER OR LATER, EVERYONE should be arrested and imprisoned for a good cause. Or if not arrested and imprisoned, put in a position of suffering and sacrifice. Or if not that, at least be criticized or inconvenienced a little. Because if we're coconspirators with the Spirit of God to bring blessing to our world, sooner or later it's going to cost us something and get us in trouble.

Jesus told his followers to "count the cost." He promised that those who walk his road would experience push-back, even persecution. And he often described that push-back as demonic or Satanic in nature. Some people today believe Satan and demons to be literal, objective realities. Others believe they are outmoded superstitions. Still others interpret Satan and demons as powerful and insightful images by which our ancestors sought to describe shadowy realities that are still at work today. In today's terminology, we might call them social, political, structural, ideological, and psychological forces. These forces take control of individuals, groups, and even whole civilizations, driving them toward destruction.

Think of it like this: You can have a crowd of normal, happy people dancing in a popular night club. Suddenly someone shouts, "Fire!" and people panic. Within seconds, everyone stampedes towards the exits. Soon, some people are being trampled—even killed—in the chaos, which means

that others are doing the trampling and killing. None of the happy dancers in that club would have been seen as heartless killers before the scare. But we might say "the spirit of panic" possessed them and drove them to violence. That spirit had a will of its own, as it were, turning peaceful, decent individuals into a ruthless, dangerous mob that became every bit as dangerous as the threat it feared.

Now, imagine a similar spirit of racism, revenge, religious supremacy, nationalism, political partisanship, greed, or fear getting a foothold in a community. You can imagine previously decent people being possessed, controlled, and driven by these forces, mind-sets, or ideologies. Soon, individuals aren't thinking or feeling for themselves anymore. They gradually allow the spirit of the group to possess them. If nobody can break out of this frenzy, it's easy to imagine tragic outcomes: vandalism, riots, beatings, lynchings, gang rapes, house demolitions, plundered land, exploited or enslaved workers, terrorism, dictatorship, genocide. Bullets can fly, bombs explode, and death tolls soar—among people who seemed so decent, normal, and peace loving just minutes or months before.

You don't need to believe in literal demons and devils to agree with Jesus and the apostles: there are real and mysterious forces in our world that must be confronted. But how? If we respond to violence with violence, anger with anger, hate with hate, or fear with fear, we'll soon be driven by the same unhealthy and unholy forces that we detest and are trying to resist. To make matters worse, we'll be the last to know what's driving us, because we'll feel so pure and justified in our opposition. "We must be good and holy," we will say to ourselves, "because what we're fighting against is so evil!"

We can see in this light why ancient people described Satan as a deceiver, an accuser, and a liar. When we allow ourselves to come under the spell of an ideology or a similar force, we feel utterly convinced that evil is over there among *them*, and only moral rightness is here among *us*. In this accusatory state of mind, focused so exclusively on the faults of our counterparts, we become utterly blind to our own deteriorating innocence and disintegrating morality. Even when we begin to inflict harm on those we accuse, we are unable to see our actions as harmful. Self-deceived in this way, we lie to ourselves and live in denial about what we have become.

That's why Paul had so much to say about "spiritual warfare" against "the principalities and powers" that rule the world. He kept reminding the disciples that they weren't struggling against flesh-and-blood people. They were struggling against invisible systems and structures of evil that possess and control flesh-and-blood people. The real enemies back then and now are invisible realities like racism, greed, fear, ambition, nationalism, religious supremacy, and the like—forces that capture decent people and pull their strings as if they were puppets to make them do terrible things.

In that light, being filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit takes on profound meaning—and practical importance. Where unholy, unhealthy spirits or value systems judge and accuse, the Holy Spirit inspires compassion and understanding. Where unholy, unhealthy spirits or movements drive people toward harming others, the Holy Spirit leads us to boldly and compassionately stand up for those being harmed. Where unholy, unhealthy spirits or ideologies spread propaganda and misinformation, the Holy Spirit boldly speaks the simple truth. Where unholy, unhealthy spirits or mind-sets spread theft, death, and destruction, God's Holy Spirit spreads true aliveness.

How do we resist being "possessed" by the unholy, unhealthy systems that are so prevalent and powerful in today's world? Sometimes it's as simple—and difficult—as responding to harsh words with a kind, disarming spirit. When a website vilifies a group, for example, you might add a gentle, vulnerable comment: "You're talking about people I count among my closest friends." When a religious group, overly confident in its own purity or rightness, condemns others, you might humbly and unargumentatively quote a relevant Scripture: "Whoever thinks he stands should take care, lest he fall," or "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." When powerful forces organize to do harm, you may need to form or join some sort of collective, nonviolent action—a march, a boycott or buy-cott, a protest, even nonviolent civil disobedience. Whether in small, quiet ways or big, dramatic ones, if we join the Spirit in the ongoing mission of Jesus, we won't be overcome by evil; we will overcome evil with good.

But don't expect overcoming evil with good to be popular, easy, convenient, or safe, as Paul's words to his young protégé, Timothy, make clear:

"God has not given us a spirit of cowardice but of power, love, and a sound mind." When people are threatening you, hating you, and calling you a heretic, an infidel, or worse—a bold and courageous spirit of empowerment, love, and a sound mind is exactly what you need!

Paul, of course, spoke from personal experience. He had once been a confident, accusatory, violent persecutor of those he considered evil—utterly sure of himself, utterly convinced of his moral rightness in all he did. When he encountered Jesus and was filled with the Holy Spirit, he soon became the one being persecuted. The Spirit gave him nonviolent boldness to face repeated arrests, beatings, imprisonments, and ultimately, according to tradition, beheading by Nero in Rome. Clearly, for Paul, being a leader in the Spirit's movement wasn't a boring desk job!

No wonder one of their most oft-repeated themes in the New Testament is to *suffer graciously*, echoing Jesus' words about turning the other cheek. In 1 Peter 2:21 and 23 (CEB), for example, we read, "Christ left you an example so that you might follow in his footsteps... When he was insulted, he did not reply with insults. When he suffered, he did not threaten revenge. Instead, he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly." To do that takes courage and power. It takes love. And it takes a sound—or nonreactive—mind. In other words, it takes the Holy Spirit.

As we walk this road together, we are being prepared and strengthened for struggle. We're learning to cut the strings of "unholy spirits" that have been our puppet masters in the past. We're learning to be filled, led, and guided, not by a spirit of fear but by the Holy Spirit instead... a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind to face with courage whatever crises may come.

When a crisis hits, unprepared people may be paralyzed with fear, but we'll set an example of confidence and peace. Unprepared people may not know where to turn, but we'll have this circle of peace in which to welcome them. Unprepared people may turn on one another and pull apart, but we'll turn toward one another and pull together. Unprepared people may withdraw into survival mode, but we'll have strength enough to survive, and more to share. Through the Spirit, we will have unintimidated power, unflinching love, and a sound, nonreactive mind. When necessary, we will

suffer graciously. For we will know that for us, whatever happens, even the end of the world . . . isn't really the end of the world.

ENGAGE:

1. What one thought or idea from today's lesson especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, warmed, warned, helped, or surprised you?
2. Share a story about a time where you suffered in some way for standing up for what was right, or when someone else paid a price for standing up for you.
3. How do you respond to the idea that racism, revenge, religious supremacy, tribalism, political partisanship, fear, or economic greed can "possess" people?
4. For children: What would you do to help a child who is being bothered by a bully?
5. Activate: All of us can't do everything or fight every injustice everywhere. But we all should have "some skin in the game" on a handful of issues about which we feel a special call to action. Identify some of your issues and look for ways to stand up for them this week.
6. Meditate: Imagine your life as a tree in a storm. Imagine deep roots, a strong trunk, and flexible branches. After holding this image for a few moments, ask God for the strength to stand bold and strong against whatever adversity may come.

Esau Sells His Birthright

Genesis 25:19-34

Word Search Puzzle

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



Esau Sells His Birthright to Jacob
 Genesis 25:19-34

JACOB	HUNTER	DIE	BREAD	ISAAC
BOYS	HOME	REBEKAH	STEW	ESAU
BIRTHRIGHT	COOKING	TWIN	STARVING	LENTIL

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

F	W	O	N	M	A	Y	C	I	B	Q	T	E	V	G	U	D	S	H	K	P	X	Z	R	L	J
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

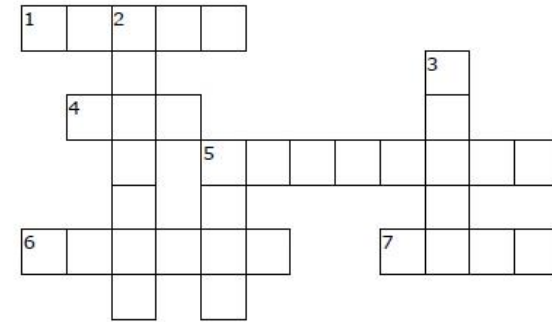
- 26-6-8-3-10 _____
- 13-18-6-16 _____
- 12-2-9-4 _____
- 10-3-7-18 _____
- 19-16-4-12-13-24 _____
- 8-3-3-20-9-4-15 _____
- 18-12-13-2 _____
- 10-9-24-12-19-24-9-15-19-12 _____

JACOB	BOYS	STEW	BIRTHRIGHT
COOKING	ESAU	TWIN	HUNTER



A birthright for a bow of stew!

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The twin brother of Esau
- A male child
- Suffering from a lack of food
- A person who likes to search for and kill wild animals
- The oldest son of Isaac who loved to hunt

DOWN

- Preparing food by heating it
- Two children born to the same mother on the same occasion
- A dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly in liquid

COOKING	HUNTER	TWINS	STARVING
STEW	BOY	JACOB	ESAU



**JACOB
&
ESAU**

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Quick Picks: Activities for Kids and Stretched Parents

July 4 – July 10, 2020

BITS and PIECES

As our son was growing up, we stashed interesting packaging, containers, paper rolls... in the drawer beneath his bunk. These materials – along with a lot of glue and duct and masking tape -- inspired endless props, imaginative characters, and crafts. Many of this week's activities integrate the materials we so often recycle or throw out. Some will need simple toys and objects that are likely in your home or garden. Consider documenting the results through pictures and videos; then, share them with others

I have tried to include a few more activities for very young children this week. Some of you have been hoping for them.

Float a boat or an ark : (just add toy animals) 2-13: If you have been using the suggestions offered in the past few months, you may have already created a boat out of recyclables. These links suggest a few other ways to float a boat. This activity is simple enough for wee ones <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxH8KUzd1gY> , but here's one that's more challenging and interesting for older kids: <https://www.feelgoodteaching.com/2017/05/stem-challenge-boat-building.html> If our weather continues to be as wet as it has been, you could try sailing these down the sidewalk gutters on a quiet street.

Shoe boxes aren't just for shoes: 2-7 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X82bXsNF8Rw>

Create a shoebox train, a barn, and even a hair salon. Although other boxes might be used, shoeboxes come in consistent sizes and they usually have a lid. Call a shoe store or shoe department to see if they'll save some for you.

Make and Play Your Own Musical Instruments : 3-11

https://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/activity_musical_instruments If you have several children in the household, extend this activity by encouraging them to listen to a favorite piece of band music and then ask them to recreate its sound.

Dance and "Make some Noise:" 3 - 11 Here's a dance readalong that can inspire some "ordered" noise and movement or just plain fun:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzgmPaQp7cc>

Puppets from Recyclables: 3-9: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SV_4N6d1Wc These puppets are made from paper tubes, egg crates, and paper plates. Kids love to enact puppet fights as their first go to "script". How about staging a favourite books or story, instead? Even better, have them create one.

Use puppets to problem solve: 4-9; prop and stage construction, 7-11: Puppets are sometimes used to resolve a conflict. Here are some guidelines on how to do it:

<https://susanfitzell.com/puppet-shows-for-peace/> and <http://www.momentsaday.com/practicing-conflict-resolution-through-puppetry/> I wonder if the outcome would be different if your child took the part of a friend's or sibling's puppet?

Imagine through natural objects 2-11 We are all probably hoping that our families can get outside this week. Here are some suggestions that might help us notice and interact with natural objects. <https://www.calacademy.org/educators/lesson-plans/nature-play-create-with-nature>

Play with water and sound: 2-adult techno We have a small pond in our yard with a spitting fountain. We love to hear the sound of running water as we sit beside it. This requires us to “tune” the water and rocks as water levels, pump pressure... change. Here's some guidance in doing that: <https://www.meetup.com/GenevaPond/messages/boards/thread/856467>.

Children can explore other “sound” ideas: <https://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/make-your-own-rock-band.html>

And if there's an adult in the house that loves sound and experimentation, here's a real thriller! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uENITui5_jU It's possible to make water go uphill.

Create a Rube Goldberg Machine: 2-adult

First, just be gobsmacked by this version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VODC7nFrYs> and then start thinking much more simply. We gathered materials for a camp a few years ago and set up several teams whose goal was to “prove their invention works.” The activity filled an entire morning and part of the afternoon.

For a toddler, Rube Goldberg machine might just be a slinky toy descending a stairway or maybe a ramp (consider an eggcrate top or an open cereal box) that will lead a ball to strike a toy at the bottom. A slightly older child might try to change the angle of the ramp so that the ball lands in a spoon. Try different spoon sizes and shapes. Let imaginations go crazy! Here's a great site to guide and inspire you: <https://tinkerlab.com/engineering-kids-rube-goldberg-machine/>

Involve other households and share online.

From: James Lavoy
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 10:50 AM
Subject: Registration for Family Camp

Dear friends:

Thank you for your hard work in publicizing the upcoming Family Camp, scheduled for July 24-26. The actual registration link is now finalized:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/familycohort-camp-tickets-113117928770>

I will work to get this on the Van Es website and facebook ASAP, but I ask that you circulate this link in your regular communications and to interested families/cohorts.

A detailed schedule and "how this works" is listed on the event description at the link above.

We are taking physical distancing measures and public health guidelines very seriously. To this end, there is a limited amount of people we can accommodate, so we ask that you encourage people to sign up sooner rather than later. Registration will close on Monday, July 20, at 11:30 pm.

This is a fundraiser for our Chapel/Retreat House renovation capital campaign. Registrants are asked to make a donation to this fund in lieu of any set fees. Donations amounts over \$50 are eligible to receive a tax-receipt (minus \$50).

There will be an outdoor worship service on Sunday at 11 am. If members of your congregation would like to attend, we welcome it. However, we will be limiting attendance to 100 people. (I am working on finding a way to stream it over youtube as well.)

Please have them complete this form: <https://forms.gle/3H77HrwUWTt5d4oj9>

If you have any questions or ideas, please do e-mail me!

James
jlavoy@gmail.com

Rev. **James Lavoy** *He/Him*
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