

Christ Moravian Church

WEEKLY PASTORAL LETTER



Christ Church Watchword for the Year 2021

"As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God."

Psalm 42:1

Moravian Daily Text Watchword for the Week

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints
and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19*

Congregational Newsletter for the weekend of July 18th, 2021

Greetings Friends in Christ Moravian Church:

While Steve and his support group that have provided us with our weekly church services these many months are now on a much-needed break, it is my privilege to be your Elder for this week. I am available to serve should you require assistance. My phone number is (403) 242 0498. Additional support is also available through the Canadian Moravian Clergy should you need it.

As I reflect over the year and a half of Covid - we have been challenged to work our way through it. I marvel at science which produced these amazing new vaccines in such short order and allowed countless numbers around the globe to be vaccinated. It has given us hope that the virus will be eradicated in the near future. There is of course much work to be done to reach those in areas still without the vaccines.

Might I suggest that we're experiencing a new birth of sorts as we slowly transition into a somewhat new lifestyle as the pandemic lessens.

Our faith reminds us that we are blessed with an awesome creator God. Throughout life we've learned in our quiet times of prayer to lean deeper into our faith and to be assured that our ever-present Lord is our North Star that never changes His abiding love for us.

The surprise of new birth continues on in many ways - our Creator is a Master Creator - His son's birth was a surprise to the world and the character that God puts into each new-born child speaks of the creativity of our God.

Marge and I were blessed February 3 (her birthday) with the arrival of a great grandson (Callan) and they will always share that special date. So again - be reminded as a congregation that we are blessed to have the love of each other and that we wait anxiously for that special day when we can once again worship together.

Prayerful greetings to everyone.

Dunc McKerchar

Upcoming Events

"Bible Buddies"

meet again on
Sunday July 18th
at 9:00 am

Zoom details are
on the Events page

Executive Board
Meeting July 20th
at 7:00 pm



Wanted

Need at Acadia Place: A single mom with a 16 month old son has just moved into Acadia Place and is in need of the following items: TV with stand, large bin to use for a toy box, pots and pans, boys clothing size 2T – 3T. If you are able to provide any of these items, please contact Melissa at (403) 667-8733.

Moravian Daily Texts for 2022

If you wish to pre-order a copy of the 2022 Daily Texts at the reduced price, please let Andrea know by calling or e-mailing the office. The order will be submitted the first week in August.

CMC Variety Show has been a Grand Success

Really big thanks to the entire team involved in the CMC Variety Show! We encourage everyone to make a special donation to assist the Hybrid Worship Fund. Funds raised will allow us to purchase equipment needed to stream the Sunday worship services in the future. View the show with this link:

Christ Moravian Church - Variety Show - June 2021

<https://vimeo.com/557900883>

Canadian Moravian Summer Camps

Check out registration news and use the link on the attachment included with this e-mail to register.

If you are volunteering in any capacity with camp this year, would you please fill out this form?

<https://forms.gle/anCCFhTzvyUaZ8s48>

Summertime Office Schedule

As summertime arrives the CMC Office and Pastoral Staff will take a much-needed break. In the upcoming weeks, the office will be open on a limited basis, so please phone ahead if there is a request, please leave a message if no one answers. As Pastor Gohdes is away there will be Pastoral Support available with Clergy from the Moravian Church in Canada, and a CMC Elder of the week will be delegated for support.

Summertime Worship Plans

The Executive Board and Fellowship of Elders have laid out the summertime worship schedule. As recognized the worship team is going to take a break, and for the next weeks of July we will make available the Worship Services from the Summer of 2020, highlighting several of the special services involving the “Surprises of Faith”. Each weekend throughout July a new “Surprise of Worship” will be re-visited.

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that Pastor Gohdes continues to be available for any needs that may arise. Feel free to phone the church office (403-271-2700) to speak with us or leave a message. Another option is that you may contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com [this is monitored daily] with any questions or communication.
- **If you require assistance in getting to your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please call the office.**
- 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.

In All Things Love...

Children's Worship Bulletin

Getting Away from It All

Mark 6:30-34

Word Search Puzzle

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

PEOPLE	TOWNS	SHEEP	BOAT	REST
APOSTLES	JESUS	CROWD	LARGE	TOWNS
SHEPHERD	SOLITARY	EAT	QUIET	TEACH

Your Church Name
Any Town, Anywhere

Coloring Page



"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place
and get some rest."
Mark 6:31

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Decoder Puzzle

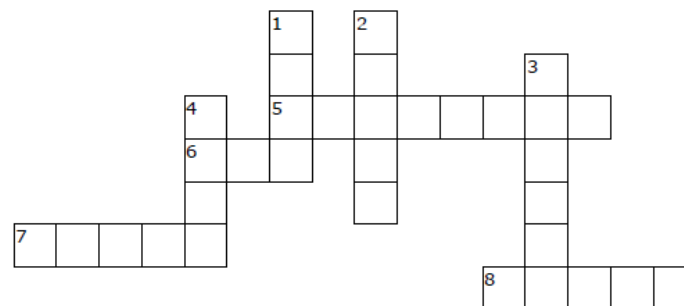
N	A	O	E	I	H	F	D	R	J	Q	B	W	Z	S	L	P	T	V	M	Y	K	X	G	C	U
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 4-2-18 _____
- 11-26-5-4-18 _____
- 9-4-15-18 _____
- 12-3-2-18 _____
- 15-3-16-5-18-2-9-21 _____
- 25-9-3-13-8 _____
- 17-4-3-17-16-4 _____
- 18-4-2-25-6 _____

PEOPLE	REST	QUIET	CROWD
BOAT	SOLITARY	TEACH	EAT



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The early followers of Jesus
- To take solid food through the mouth
- Without noise or activity
- To give knowledge or skills to others

DOWN

- A small vessel for traveling on water
- A large group of people
- Any group of men, women, and children
- To take a break from activity

EAT	TEACH	BOAT	APOSTLES
PEOPLE	QUIET	REST	CROWD



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Focus on 2 Samuel 7:1–14a

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Patricia K. Tull

It will not be David who establishes God, but God who will establish David—and this is not for David’s sake. Rather, God has given him peaceful sovereignty for the sake of the nation, to “plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly” (v. 10). In other words, God has been with David, not because of the virtues he brings to leadership, but so that God’s hopes for the people, great and small, might come to fruition.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Rebecca Button Prichard

“See, the home of God is among mortals” (Rev. 21:3). Ultimately, God promises to make a home in our midst, with us, within us. Transcendence cannot be tamed, nor can it be exiled from faithful sojourners. Divinity chooses to dwell (*shakan*) with God’s people; we are the tabernacle (*mishkan*) of God. David wanted to build God a house, but God dwells in a tent or a tabernacle, a mobile home that moves with wanderers, exiles, and sojourners. God does not settle down, but neither does God desert the wayward pilgrims.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” Steven A. Peay

What David learns is what many of us need to learn as we walk our spiritual journey: our plan for home and God’s plan are often quite different. To put it rather bluntly, it is not about us. David wants to do something for God, to demonstrate to God just how much gratitude he has for what has been done. All well and good, but that is not what is important. God seeks bigger, better things, so that David’s house will become a home encompassing all of humanity. God does not desire a house, but a heart. God does not want a dwelling, but David’s obedience. When the heart and actions are aligned, then they find their fit, and one is, finally, at home.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”

Patrick J. Willson

We celebrate the deep truth of the Lord’s promise to David not only on Christmas Eve but every time we gather for worship. We trust the promise to David because we trust in the faithfulness of the One who promises; and because we trust in the faithfulness of the One who promises, we know how the story comes out. Hear the last thing Jesus says in the Bible—“It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star” (Rev. 22:16). That signals a new dawn and a reign of wisdom, justice, and righteousness.

In Search of a Home



“Our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in Thee.” These words attributed to St. Augustine remind us of the universal longing for home in God. But while the gift of home stands at the core of God’s promise to David, the needs for such a gift vary widely. Consider the following individuals and groups in your immediate community and beyond who are in search of a home—and how you might be God’s servant in helping them find that gift.

The Homeless

In 2012, the statistics on the homeless in the United States ranged from 750,000 to 1 million people living on the street. Still today, many are veterans and children. Who, and where, are the homeless in your community? What are the programs your congregation participates in to address this problem, and in what other ways might you work together to help such persons find a home? Find more information at http://justiceunbound.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Homelessness_Creating-Just-Sustainable-Communities.pdf.

Refugees

The unaccompanied children at our Southern border. The tribal peoples and religious minorities in northern Iraq fleeing persecution. The victims of natural disasters. The flow of refugees may rise or fall, but it never stops. We have deep connections in our faith stories with such persons. The brothers of Joseph seeking food in Egypt. The exiles driven from their homes. Joseph and Mary fleeing from the wrath of Herod. The never-ending stream of refugees is also a never-ending opportunity to help such persons find home and place. How might you and others in your congregation partner to address such needs? For more information go to www.cwsglobal.org and search for “help refugees.”

The Unchurched

Some have never experienced a home in God in faith community. Others have experienced rejection or hypocrisy there, and left. Who are the unchurched among your neighbors, from your friends, within your family? How might you help them find a home in God in such community?

Board of World Mission Update – Cuba & Haiti

Dear Friends:

In the last few weeks, rising Covid-19 cases and political unrest have taken hold of the Caribbean nations of Cuba and Haiti where we have Moravian family members. The Moravian Mission Province in Cuba has eight congregations, five pastors, and a Bishop. In the last week or so, segments of the general population have taken to the streets to protest the lack of food and medicine as the country undergoes an economic crisis aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic and international sanctions. It has been difficult to communicate with our Moravian Church leaders because internet access has been restricted. What we have heard from there is a desperate need for prayers and help with getting medical supplies. At this point, the Board of World Mission has partnered with the Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation to send medical supplies through Panama to Cuba, a journey required to get around the sanctions. These supplies are being sent to the Cuban Council of Churches, of which the Moravian Church is a member. It is hoped that this delivery can be made on Monday, July 19.

Haiti is a Mission Area of the Moravian Church with around a dozen organized congregations. It is being jointly supervised by the Eastern West Indies and Jamaica Provinces. They have recently trained two pastors who are now doing ministry in Haiti. We have not yet heard directly from our church leaders in Haiti, but we know from news reports that the recent assassination of its President has made an already difficult situation even worse. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, ruled in many areas by rival gangs. The Covid impact has been devastating, and food security is always tenuous. As soon as we have more definitive information from Haiti will send that to you.

We ask for your earnest prayers for our Moravian Church family in these troubled areas.

Peace in Christ,
Chris

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<https://www.moravian.org/daily-prayers-for-moravians/>