



The Messenger

Spreading the Good News since 1866

October 2021

The Freedom Moravian Church is a Christian Community seeking together to discover Jesus Christ through worship, education, and fellowship; so that all may know they are loved by God and become responsible members of His church.

From the Pastor's Desk:

On September 16th, Moravian pastors in the area gathered in Sturgeon Bay for our annual Cup of Covenant. It is an opportunity for fellowship, but also a time for us to reread our ordination vows – a reminder of our calling and a way of saying, “yes, I’m ready to continue this ministry thing into the next year.” Last year, we were limited to an online get together, so actually being in the same space was a tremendous gift. The coffee and the donuts weren’t bad, either.

We went around the group and were invited to share how we were feeling as we reflected on the year gone by and as we considered what the next year might bring. In our group you can find a wide variety of worldviews; pastors who are retired, pastors who have been serving for decades, and pastors just beginning their ministry. The last year brought different challenges for all of us – places of loss and grief, places of frustration, but also moments of great joy and a sense of accomplishment. And while our experiences may have been unique to each individual, the sentiment was the same: we have been hit with a flood of awesome highs and terrible lows. Basically, it was a tough year, but we made it. Things aren’t all better or fixed, things aren’t back to “normal,” but we handled whatever was thrown our way and we are still standing. Our knees might be a little wobbly, but we’re confident that the same God that brought us this far will continue to guide us through whatever the future holds.

What followed was a conversation about how we have absolutely no idea what will happen next. What will the church look like? What changes are here to stay? In what ways does the world need us to serve God’s people today and do we have what it takes to make it happen? We simply do not know. And as frightening as that sounds, to be venturing ahead largely without answers or solutions, there was a consensus that the fear does not overpower the hope we feel.

Our world and our church have always been changing and God has been there with us through it all to bring us here. Even though it feels like the changes are speeding up exponentially, our God is still present.

For any and all of the ways that the future is an intimidating mystery for you, know that you are not alone. You have never been alone. As God has helped you through the challenges that have brought you here, God will be there as you face any unknowns that lie ahead. If you're frightened, anxious, or unsure, that's to be expected. Life can be scary. It can be downright difficult. But we rejoice in knowing that God is bigger than any of our troubles, that God has an answer for all of our question marks. And although we can't always see those answers clearly, knowing God will provide allows us to move forward full of hope.

Pastor James

***** **Board of Elders Meeting Minutes 9/7/2021** *****

Present: Pastor James, Jim Muenster, Chelsey Thiel, Sami Petit in-person.
Pastor James led us in devotion and prayer and then gave us a Pastoral Care update.

Old Business

Worship in response to Covid-We are going to keep things the same. We have had the same attendance inside, about 20 views on YouTube, and just a couple people attending in the parking lot.

Good Shepherd Services- Pastor James will be at Good Shepard on October 24 and December 19.

Sunday School and Youth Group this Fall-This first group is this Thursday, the kids will be wearing masks. This Sunday Pastor James will be doing a longer lesson during worship as the Sunday School lesson. Friday, October 8-There is a lock-in planned tentatively depending on what COVID cases are doing in schools.

Elder of the Month/Communion-Michele is the October of the month.

8/29 Jim Quales and Blessing of Backpacks Recap-Thank you to the Worship Committee for organizing the service and social. We discussed the feedback received from the worship and decided we would still be interested in having him back but, with providing some feedback as to what we would be looking for at any future performances.

9/12 "You Belong Sunday" Visit from Greg Behrend-Greg will be providing the service, Pastor James is going to be away for the Sunday.

9/19 Moravian Day of Service Sunday-There will be a social after worship.

New Business

Chili Supper-This will be discussed more during Joint Board.

Chimes Choir-Jane Ewald is hopeful to start Chimes Choir back up in Mid-October and to perform close to Thanksgiving and Christmas time. Practices will be 5:30pm on Wednesdays.

Cup of Covenant-Pastor James will be attending this next Thursday September 16 in Sturgeon Bay.

Pastor James will be away September 24&25 of this month for Cassie Petit's wedding.

Pastor James recapped his time away for us and does not have any days away scheduled after this month.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 5:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Chelsey Thiel, Board of Elders Secretary

***** **Joint Board Meeting Minutes 9/7/2021** *****

Present: Pastor James, Jim Muenster, Chelsey Thiel, Norm Blohm, Rob Sprister, Sami Petit in person, Shari Leisch via Zoom.

General Updates

Elders: Pastor James gave an update on pastoral care, worship, and special Sundays coming up.

Trustees: Pastor James gave an update on the financials.

Approach to Covid and Worship-Worship will remain the same setup as we have been doing.

Chili Supper Drive Thru-Chili Supper is October 7. The Mary & Martha group is meeting on Thursday to determine if/what they would like to do this year for a possible Bazaar. We discussed traffic control-Norm and Rob will work on this again. Jim will be cashier. Pastor James will check with Michele if he is willing to coordinate the 50/50 again.

Next Meeting Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Pastor James closed our Joint Board meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chelsey Thiel, Board of Elders Secretary

***** **Board of Trustees Minutes 9/7/2021** *****

We spent some time coordinating our efforts for the Chili Supper – thinking of how many people will be needed in the parking lot and in the kitchen and how we can help out. There is a hive of bees near the door that leads from the kitchen to the parking lot and we are trying to get rid of them. If our efforts fail, we'll call an exterminator so we can have access to that door for the Chili Supper. We continue to appreciate all who have joined the rotation to mow the lawn.

As fall rolls around, we thought of a few projects we'd like to keep our eye on: leaves, changing the windows in the sanctuary, among others. Rather than schedule a fall clean-up day, we will stay in conversation and tackle the projects together when they come up. Our next meeting will be on 10/5 at 6:30pm so can touch base before the Chili Supper.

Submitted by Pastor James

***** **MARY AND MARTHA CIRCLE** *****

The Mary and Martha Circle met on Thursday, September 9th. We discussed the upcoming bazaar and chili supper. Since the chili supper is a "drive through" again this year, we will utilize the fellowship hall for the bazaar. We are seeking donations of candy, baked goods, snack mixes, sewn and craft items. (no white elephants please.) We will be setting up on Tuesday, October 5th at 10:00 a.m. If you have candy to donate, we would appreciate having it by that time so it can be weighed and packaged. Other baked items should be packaged and priced before they are brought to church. If you are unsure about pricing your goods, we will provide updated price lists and place them in the narthex for your use. If you prefer, we can price the items for you. Also available at the bazaar, will be dishcloths and brooms.

At our September meeting we voted to make donations to the following: \$100 to Downs Syndrome Walk, \$200 to "You Belong" for kits for the underprivileged (Greg and Amy Behrend's new ministry) and \$125.00 to Jim Quales to sponsor a senior home concert.

Our next meeting is October 20th at 1:00. As always, all ladies are welcome.

***** **CHIMES CHOIR** *****

JOIN US! CHIME CHOIR IS RETURNING! WE NEED YOU!

Talk to Marilyn at 920-358-7097 or msmazimmer@gmail.com or Jayne at 920-540-8541 or jsewald28@gmail.com

Beginning on Wednesday, October 20, at 5:30p.m. - new earlier time.

We've ordered new arrangements for small choirs and are excited to once again add the beauty of the chimes to our worship experience.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Russ & Diane Brugger 10/02
Brandon & Erin Conrad 10/02
Mark & Sarah Schmit 10/05
Joel & Darlene Schultz 10/07
Harry & Elaine Brockman 10/14
Dean & Debbie Seitz 10/21



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ben Muenster 10/03
Cindy Bernetzke 10/11
La Verne Muenster 10/13
Josh Bernetzke 10/15/
Mary Busick 10/23
Alyssa Seitz 10/23
Erin Steffens 10/25
Chelsey Thiel 10/26
Axzil Eggert 10/28
Grayson Ratajczak 10/30

Prayer Chain

A prayer chain is a way for people to gain assistance in prayer for any serious and pressing problem. It is also a way for any person to act on God's command to love one another (*John 13:34-35*). Many people cannot engage directly in ministry but we can all pray. We can all take the time to help others and to make their time and suffering valuable. Jesus teaches us that if we agree on anything and ask in faith it will be granted (*Matthew 18:19*). If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, **please call Pastor James (920)495-5400, or Carol Jens (920)740-7981**. As a courtesy to our prayer chain members, no calls are made in the middle of the night.

CHILI SUPPER

The Chili Supper is Thursday, October 7th.

The bazaar will be in the fellowship hall again this year. Those coming to the bazaar will also have the option to purchase chili items inside the church to take home. There is no dine in option at the church only to go.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer your time, would like to make some chili, pies, tortes, or would like to make a donation, please contact Brittney Muenster at 920-634-8872.

Looking forward to another great year.

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love.



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FREEDOM MORAVIAN CHURCH

