

The Messenger

Spreading the Good News since 1866

August, 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 Your Pastor's Cabin at Mr. Morris....

There are just some things that I wish I could experience again for the first time. Here at camp, we have a whole host of experienced Mt. Morris veterans. We actually have a mini-Freedom Moravian reunion with Jason Andersen leading worship, Vicki Jens-Page helping in the kitchen, Ryan Dombrowski counseling a cabin, Mike and Lori Mischnick preparing food, leading small groups, and babysitting, and Caitlyn and Jordan Forbes directing the camp with their kids running around keeping us all on our toes. We also have several counselors and campers who have spent many summer weeks here and who remember each other from years past. But every camp brings a few new faces – kids who quite frankly have no idea what they're getting into. They arrive hesitant and shy, and just 48 hours later it's like they've been here forever. It is such a joy to watch them learn the songs and to act in the classic skits at campfire. I think knowing that these traditions are brand new for someone helps to keep them fresh; it preserves their sense of wonder.

Seeing a new camper settle in always reminds me of my first time at camp when I was a kid. I still remember the song "Ask, Seek, Knock" some 22 years later (although, I had to text my older brother for a refresher on the hand motions). I can still picture my counselor, J.C., who won that summer's prestigious belly flop competition. And I can remember feeling God's presence somewhere other than a sanctuary for the first time in my life. It is a remarkable feeling as a kid for your understanding of God to drastically expand in an instant. Those early camp moments started a lifelong journey of looking for a noticing God in the world, and for that I will always be grateful.

In the midst of the incredibly humid days and endless bug bites, we're able to teach kids about God here in a way that I don't think exists back in the "real world." We're almost in a bubble of our own, a place where the kids can be their true selves and be celebrated for who they are. God is tangible here. Any stresses at home can fade away for the week and they can take time exploring where God is leading them in their lives.

I write this to simply share the wonderful work that is done here at Mt. Morris. This is just one of several camps that takes place every summer, and each is full of pastors, leaders, staff, and campers who are just so thrilled to see God in a new way, and it is an absolute blessing to be a part of it. As a week at camp drains your body of energy, it finds a way to renew your spirit.



Pastor James

Joint Board Meeting - July 13, 2021

We had John, Norm, Rob, Michele, Alyssa, Sami, Jim, and Pastor James in attendance.

Our meeting began with a brief update from the Elders and the Trustees. Elders continue to work with worship, pastoral care, and Christian education. Trustees have been working on the parsonage roof and a few other projects around the church grounds.

We continued our discussion regarding worship as we emerge from the pandemic. We have been greatly encouraged by our Sunday attendance – both in person and online. Our online service is working well and we will keep offering worship in the parking lot; hopefully we can limit the feedback from the FM transmitter microphone and our PA system inside.

Sami and Pastor James were our delegates to a recent special synod for the Northern Province of the Moravian Church that affirmed Moravian Theological Seminary and Lancaster Theological Seminary joining. This relationship allows students access to more classes and gives the flexibility for students to earn their degree entirely online if that works best for them.

It is exciting to bring back special events like the Rummage Sale and social hours after worship. On 8/29 as we bless the backpacks for our youth, it will also be a “Welcome Back Sunday” to invite folks back to worship so we can share our gratitude for getting through a challenging year. On 9/19 we will have a special service that honors the Moravian Day of Service.

Our next meeting is 8/10 at 6:00pm.

We closed our meeting in prayer.

Elders Update - July 13, 2021

Sami, Alyssa, Jim, Michele, and Pastor James were in attendance.

Pastor James opened the meeting by reading the Daily Text.

We heard updates on those in need of prayer; whether they are preparing for procedures, recovering from surgery, or going through other challenging circumstances.

Chapel services have resumed at Good Shepherd on Sunday afternoons. Pastor James led the service on 7/11 and will be there again on 8/8.

We are pleased with the current setup for worship – offering in person, on the radio, and online. Our next goal is to train a few folks on how to start the online stream in the event that Pastor James is away for a Sunday.

We have reinstated our Elder of the Month schedule: Jim – July, August – Alyssa, Sami – September, Michele – October, Chelsey – November, Jim – December. This Elder will assist with communion on the first Sunday of the month.

On 8/29 we will have a Welcome Back and Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday with a social hour after the service.

On 9/19 we will have a Moravian Day of Service worship that celebrates the ways people have served our congregation.

Youth group and Sunday School will resume this fall and we hope to have VBS in late August. Pastor James will be working with the CEC on our approach to those events.

Pastor James will be away on vacation from 8/12 to 8/17.

Our next meeting is 8/10 at 5:30pm.

Trustees Update - July 13, 2021

We had Rob, Norm, John, and Pastor James in attendance.

We are happy with the lawn mowing routine over the summer and want to thank Jim Bernetzke for offering to help on so many occasions.

Our parsonage roof was replaced in the last week over the course of a couple days. Thank you to those who made the Parsonage Roof Fund possible.

Mike Mischnik discovered a leak in the church basement that we are working on solving. Rob will contact a friend who might be able help us out.

We have also discussed the possibility of getting air conditioning in the sanctuary. We will get various quotes to see what we are looking at in terms of options and prices.

The parsonage deck is in a bit of rough shape and we are wondering if replacing the deck with a concrete patio would be an option. It would save money and be easier to maintain. We will get quotes on this as well.

Our next meeting is 8/10 at 6:30pm.

Update since our meeting

The gutters on the parsonage roof have been replaced as well.

The leak in the church basement was fixed at no charge by Andy from A P Plumbing.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/3: Louisa Schwalbach

8/4: Barb Muenster

8/9: Carol Steffens

8/11: Dean Wendt

8/19: Ryan Dmbrowski & Spencer Tank

8/21: Sherri Schwalbach & Toni Micke

8/23: Beth Lillge

8/25: Cathy Anschutz

8/27: Connor Seitz



Rummage Sale Final Reminder

Bake Sale Items are still needed (bars/pies/cake squares/cookies); drop them off at the Church on Wednesday, August 4. Direct questions to Jeanne Sprister at 920-450-3377 or Shari Nachtwey at 920 984-3848.

Volunteers needed after church on August 1 and during the day on August 2 to set up tables, mark items and general organization tasks.

If you can help out on Thursday, August 5 and Friday, August 6 during the sale, please call Jeanne.

Hours on August 5: 8am to 5pm (Bake Sale also)

Hours on August 6: 8am to 4pm

After all of the 'fun' is over, consider volunteering for the Cleanup Crew!

Congratulations to Keiana Bernetzke who graduated from Freedom High School. Best wishes for much success go out to her.



See you for Worship on Sunday, August 29 for a 'Welcome Back to Worship' Service which will include the Blessing of the Backpacks for those heading back to school. A Social Hour will follow the service.

Elder of the Month : August is Alyssa Seitz

September is Sami Petit

October is Michele Remter

November is Chelsey Thiel

December is Jim Muenster

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/10: Mike & Nancy Land

8/12: Jim & Deb Bernetzke

8/17: John & Deb Merkel

8/23: Steve & Terrie Carpenter

8/25: Bruce & Jan Eggert

8/28: Sam & Brooke Tank

Jim & Cathy Anschutz

THINGS TO GET EXCITED

ABOUT!!

Watch for the return of Sunday School this Fall!!!

News of Vacation Bible School at the end of August is coming soon!!

Moravian Day of Service scheduled for Sunday, September 19.

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



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FREEDOM MORAVIAN CHURCH

