

The Messenger

Spreading the Good News since 1866

February, 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 Desk....

A few weeks ago, a repairman came to fix up the furnace for the social hall and the humidifier at the parsonage. Considering how quiet our building is these days, the appointment really stood out on the calendar. An actual human being would be inside the church. What is that even like? My dog, who has gotten used to being bored in the office while she keeps me company, could not contain her excitement to see someone new.

The repairman and I engaged in small talk, spaced out with our masks on. We talked about sports and about how busy this time of year is for him. We talked about our profession's mutual conundrum of having too few young people interested in what we're doing. He explained the technical changes and adjustments he made to our equipment while I pretended to comprehend what he was saying. Just before he left, he made sure to thank me that our church is still being cautious and remaining physically distant. He said he's been on calls to several organizations who have seemingly gotten tired of dealing with Covid and gave in to the desire to go back to normal. As someone who has relatives who have passed from the virus, he is so thankful when he sees people still taking things seriously. I gladly received his compliment and mentioned that our approach is the product of such a thoughtful and wonderful congregation.

I share this with you to say that what we do still matters in this pandemic world. We are appreciated for what we're doing, even if we aren't told so nearly enough. As we get fatigued, as we watch other places of worship open up, as we no longer feel heroic for what we're doing simply because we're used to doing it by now, we are still doing the most loving thing for our families and our community. I also say to hang in there because it will still be some time before a sense of normalcy returns. There are certainly reasons to be hopeful and our Joint Board will continue to monitor how we can move forward, but there is no sense in rushing back and potentially throwing away the hard work we have done. And even when that normalcy returns, we will have to work together to navigate the places and practices that might never go back to the way things were. It is a tall task, to ponder what lies ahead. It is a tall task to be the church during an experience that might change our church forever. I'm excited to take what we've learned over this time, to continue to use the new skills we've found, and to feel a deep sense of appreciation for moments that previously seemed so ordinary. We are getting closer to embarking toward that unknown future together, but we aren't there yet. Stay hopeful, stay safe, and know that what we do still matters – both in these days of Covid and in the days ahead.

Pastor James

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, JANUARY 24, 2021

PASTOR JAMES HEROUX CALLED OUR MEETING TO ORDER AT 11:30 VIA ZOOM. WE SUPPASSED THE QUORUM OF 23 MEMEBERS WITH 20 MEMBERS ON ZOOM AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS VOTING VIA EMAIL.

OUR FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS THE BUDGET. OUR GIVING WAS DOWN 17% DURING 2020 LIKELY DUE TO COVID, PASSING OF SOME MEMBERS, AND PASTOR JAMES FRIEND ADAM NO LONGER LIVING AT THE PARSONAGE. IT WAS ASKED WHAT OUR EXPENSES WERE FROM 2020 AND IF OUR INCOME COVERED THEM. PASTOR JAMES WILL RETRIEVE THOSE NUMBERS FROM NANCY AND SEND THEM OUT AFTER THE MEETING.

SAMI PETIT HAS AGREED TO REMAIN OUR SYNOD DELEGATE FOR 2021.

THE BUDGET WAS ACCEPTED AS WELL AS SAMI AS OUR SYNOD DELEGATE.

WE PLAN TO RECONVENE FOR A MORE NORMAL CHURCH COUNCIL IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS TO ADDRESS ANY REMAINING CHURCH COUNCIL ITEMS AT THAT TIME.

Chelsey Thiel, Secretary, Board of Elders

Joint Board Meeting January 5, 2021

Pastor James, Jim Muenster, Sami Petit, Michele Remter, Rob Sprister, Shari Liesch, Alyssa Seitz, Norm Blohm, and Chelsey Thiel were in attendance on Zoom.

Pastor James led us in devotion and opening prayer and shared our watch words as well as gave a pastoral care update. He also gave a recap on Christmas Eve services. The 4:30 service had around 15 people and 7:30 had 7. There were many people who attended online via the recorded service on YouTube and the 6pm live on Zoom.

District Synod is now April 23 & 24, 2021. It will be two full days for Synod Business and will all be online. Clergy has been asked to attend the Racial Justice event this September 2021 that was supposed to take place in 2020.

Church Council: Nancy has emailed a copy of the church budget over to Trustees for 2021 so it is ready to send out to members before we have a Church Council Zoom meeting. We then discussed options for the day/time. It was decided we will have the Zoom meeting on 1/24/2021 at 11:30am. A Quorum for us is 22 members. This meeting will be short as we will only be establishing a quorum and approving the budget ONLY. We will NOT be doing any elections at this time. Elections are post-phoned tentatively to May 16, 2021 with plans to do a parking lot Church Council meeting after church and vote at that time.

Our next meetings will be February 9, 2021 on Zoom:

Elders: 5:30pm

Joint Board: February at 6:00 pm

Trustees: After Joint Board

Pastor James led us in closing prayer.

Chelsey Thiel, Secretary, Board of Elders

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/2: Jordan Forbes

2/6: Dean Seitz & Jerry Bernetzke

2/11: Crystal Ambrosius & Christian Merkel

2/16: Nancy Land

2/17: Ayzha Eggert

2/21: Shari Nachtwey

2/23: Shari Liesch

2/28: John Merkel

2/29: Samantha Merkel



"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY CHURCH FAMILY FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL CARDS WITH WORDS OF COMFORT AND SYMPATHY FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF MY HUSBAND, RON. YOU LIFTED UP MY FAMILY AND ME DURING THE SADDEST CHRISTMAS WE'VE EVER EXPERIENCED. YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS WAS TRULY A BLESSING. I PRAY THAT COVID WILL SOON BE IN OUR PAST AND WE CAN WORSHIP TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN. I MISS ALL OF YOU. "

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

SHARI NACHTWEY

Prayers Requested

Former Members and long time friends of Freedom Moravian Church passed away in Oklahoma . Joanne Buelow died of COVID on January 18 and her husband, Jim, died of COVID on January 20.

Please remember their children, Becky and Steven in your prayers..

Condolences can be sent to

Becky and Ken Riddle
19400 Sportsman Road
Edmond, OK 73012

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Robin Behrent on February 14

TENTATIVE ANNUAL MEETING DATE IS MAY 16, 2021

Board Rotations:

2 CEC: Jody Eggert & Darlene Missling both completing second term (CEC)

3 Elders: : Jim Muenster and Michelle Remter completing first terms; vacancy from Fred Ewald

1 Trustee: Marilyn Zimmer completing second term

1 Worship Committee: Cathy Anschutz completing first term

Those who have finished their first terms are certainly welcome to consider continuing their service on their respective boards/committees but it is not an obligation to serve two terms. If your first term is ending, give it some thought and please let your board/committee know how you are planning to proceed so we can have an accurate picture of the seats we will need to fill. Our hope is that our boards will start to function at a more "normal" capacity once we can start to move forward as Covid becomes less restrictive.

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



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FREEDOM MORAVIAN CHURCH

