

MOVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Hello September

What comes to mind for you when you think of the word “Hospitality?” Perhaps you think of something as simple as having a few people over for a meal. Whatever your notion of hospitality, it’s worth considering afresh how can we display radical hospitality as the church- the people of God? The church is where we must share God’s love and live out that love in community wherever we go. Through this new school year, let us demonstrate God’s love.

At the heart of Jesus- shaped hospitality is a posture, an orientation of openness and welcome toward those understood to be strangers. Biblical hospitality first is not just about entertaining guests. It is about an attitude, or a lifestyle, both for individuals and for a whole community.

Bishop Robert Schnase writes, **“The personal practice of Radical Hospitality begins with accepting God’s love for us offered through Christ and deciding to let that gracious love make a difference in our lives”.** It is celebrating what God’s love has done in our lives and extending that love to the stranger. It is making room in our lives for the other, for the stranger. “For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me”. (Matthew 25:35-6).

My hope is that we will demonstrate radical hospitality in reaching others in our community by sharing God’s love and live with **“open hearts, minds and open doors”**

It is about God’s love. He loves each of us unconditionally and wants to give us his best in sharing with our neighbor. Grace to you and God bless you!

Serving Together,

Pastor Eric Sayonkon



2301 Rittenhouse St.
Des Moines, IA 50321

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
Resident Bishop, Iowa Area

Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula
Conference Superintendent
Michel.Lundula@iaumc.org

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August 25, 2025

Jeff Krejci
Moville United Methodist Church
450 S 1st St.
Moville, IA 51039

Dear Jeff and Moville UMC,

This letter grants Moville United Methodist Church the permission to hold a Special Church Conference on **Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025**, at Moville United Methodist Church (450 S 1st St Moville, IA 51039) at 6 p.m. The purpose of the Special Church Conference is to approve the sale of the parsonage located at 419 S. Pearl St. Moville, IA 51039. Please know that funds from the sale will be used for capital improvement with the authorization of the Bishop and the Appointive Cabinet of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church.

As per the 2016 Book of Discipline, specifically in ¶246.7, I will be your presiding elder at this Charge Conference. Additionally, according to ¶246.8, two or more methods shall give notice of time and place at least 10 days in advance.

After the Special Church Conference, we kindly request that you submit a signed copy of the minutes, including attendance, to the District Office within one week for our records and further processing.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula
Camp Clear Lake District Superintendent

CC- Rev. Dr. Eric Sayonkon

August 2025 Dates and Calendar

Offering & Gifts

If you are unable to worship with us in-person we encourage you to continue to mail in your offering and gifts so that we may continue to pay staff, bills, apportionments and take care of the upkeep of the church building. If you would like to contribute through online giving, please contact Cassie in the church office by phone or email. There is a form to be filled out and a voided check will need to be obtained.

Birthday

Anniversary

5 Peggy Keizer
6 Lori Watts
10 Sharon Sands
11 Donna Flewelling
13 Chuck Eskov
15 Derl Petersen
16 Tony Jensen
21 Haylie Borland
24 Deb Petersen
25 Bobbie Wahlberg
26 Terry Waugh
27 Tom Utesch
28 Vicki McElrath
29 Diane Weaver
Gene Groetken

12 Gary & Mary Bruce
13 Derl & Linda Petersen
22 Fred & Sharon Sands
23 Tom & Shawna Dennison
Joe & Deb Petersen
27 Bill & Becky Dahna
30 Randy & Kathy Petersen

We would like to thank all the
guest speakers over the month
of August.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

UWIF
Luncheon
Diane Weaver

Ad Council
Meeting

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Homecoming Soup and Pie Lunch

Food Distribution
Menville Community Center 10

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Parsonage Vote
6 PM

28 29 30

Sunday
School Starts

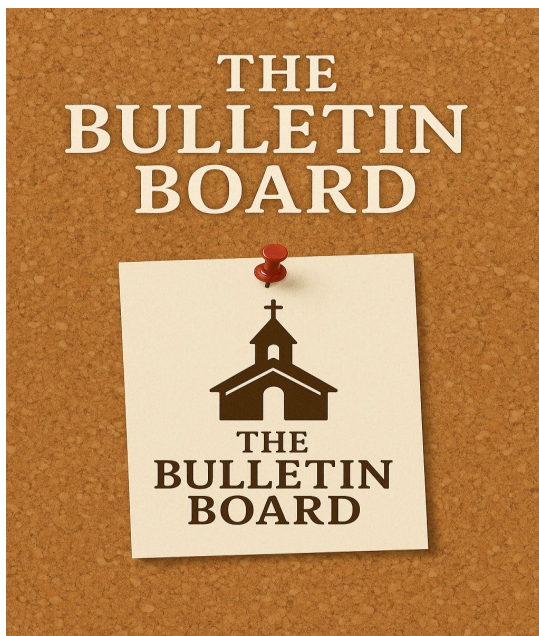


In July, we were blessed to hear Abby Sayonkon share a heart-felt update on her experience at church camp. Her joy and growth were a beautiful reminder of how meaningful these opportunities can be for our young people.

We give thanks that our church family continues to provide scholarships that make summer camp possible for our children. Through your generosity, seeds of faith are planted, friendships are formed, and lives are touched in lasting ways. Let us continue to lift up our youth in prayer and support, as they grow in spirit, courage, and love.



Pastor is inviting our congregation to contribute school supplies for children in Liberia. A bright blue barrel has been placed in the church entryway, ready to be filled with your generous donations. Every pencil, notebook, and crayon will help equip young minds with tools for learning and hope.



Sunday School will be starting September 28. Registration Sheets will be set out at the beginning of September. We have been able to add another class room this year! We will be meeting our Sunday School team in an upcoming

MUMC Girls Night Out

On Pause for the month of September. It was great seeing everyone at The Bronson Bar.



BENEFIT SUPPER FOR

Julianne Scheelhaase



We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sandy for her incredible dedication and love poured into the recent bake sale for the Scheelhaase family. Your kindness and effort have been a true blessing.

To our entire church family—thank you for coming together in this time of need. Your generosity, prayers, and presence remind us that we are more than a congregation... we are a family. In moments like these, we see the beauty of community, the strength of faith, and the grace of God working through each of us.

We are so thankful to walk this journey together.



In Times of Need

When burdens rise and hearts feel low,
When tears fall fast and fears still grow,
A gentle hand, a prayer, a smile—
The church walks with us every mile.
Not just a building, brick and beam,
But love that lifts, a living stream.
In every hug, in every song,
We find the strength to carry on.
So when the night feels cold and long,
Lean on the family that keeps you strong.
For in God's house, through joy and pain,
We're never lost—we rise again.

A Note From Pastor Eric-
Greetings to the church family in the love
of God.

Grace and peace to you from Liberia. We arrived safely in Liberia, and the funeral service of my sister Sarah was reflective, tearful, and full of love and memories. My gratitude to the entire church family for your prayers and support during this time of grief.

By God's grace, I was able to preach the service. May the grace of God be with you all.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Eric

Exciting Childcare Center Development

They reached their fundraising goal! Missouri River Historical Development (MRHD) proudly announced the recipients of our 2025 Economic Development Match! The **Moville Area Childcare Center** received \$450,000 which helps them meet their fundraising goal and will allow them to begin construction immediately so they can open in 2026! The new childcare center will accommodate 60 children.



Sunday School will be starting September 28. It is held during Fellowship Time following Sunday Service.

There will be three separate classrooms:

Diane Weaver will teach P-2

Danielle Jensen will teach grades 3-6

Becky Dahna will teach the Middle School/High School Class.

We would love to see your kids there.

Sept 10
Luncheon at 12:30 PM
Lunch: Diane Weaver



United
Women
in Faith

All women are invited to our luncheon.

"There are different kind of gifts but the same spirit."
1 Corinthians 12:4 (NIV)

Office Hours Update

As many of you know, I currently substitute teach in Sioux City and assist my family with harvest work during the fall season. While I aim to keep Tuesdays open for church responsibilities, there may be occasional scheduling conflicts due to subbing or weather-dependent fieldwork.

Each week, I'll post my planned office hours and any updates on our church's Facebook page. You're always welcome to reach out via email at movilleunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com—I regularly check messages and will respond as promptly as possible. Thank you for your understanding and continued support during this busy season!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, August 14, 2025

PRESENT: Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Jody and Diane Weaver, Harold Werley, Randy Petersen, Daryl Carr, Pastor Eric Sayonkon, Janice Schlotman, Tom Utesch, Gene Groetken
Pastor Eric opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes from the July 10th meeting were reviewed. Motion by Janice to accept the minutes, 2nd by Gene; motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We received a large donation just after the first of July which helped considerably to bring our actual giving more into line with budgeted. Y-T-D expenses match very closely with Y-T-D income.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor has been dealing with grief in his personal life. He will preach this Sunday and then plans to leave early next week to travel to Liberia for his sister's funeral. The funeral is scheduled for Saturday, August 23rd. He will be gone approximately 12-14 days. He asks for our prayers as he travels and conducts the funeral in Africa.

Harold will preside over a baptism that is scheduled in our church for August 31st.

OLD BUSINESS

DAYCARE UPDATE - MCDAL has proposed an additional section to our classroom lease with them outlining the Right of First Refusal; in the event that at some time in the future our church should no longer exist and the Conference decides to sell the building. Motion by Jeff to accept this modification to the existing lease which was approved June 20th, 2nd by Janice; motion passed. Jeff will forward the proposal to the District Superintendent for review by the Conference.

MCDAL plans to make a formal announcement on August 21st as to the award amount for this project.

PARSONAGE - We have rented out the parsonage for over five years with an average annual rent of nearly \$11,000. Average annual expenses including property taxes, insurance, and maintenance, have been approximately \$7000, leaving a net annual income after expenses of approximately \$4000.

We have received insurance payments of \$339,000 and a verbal offer of around \$50,000 for the sale of the parsonage. The resulting \$389,000 invested at 4% would provide a net annual income of \$15,500, significantly more than the net annual income of \$4000 provided by keeping, repairing, and renting the parsonage.

Cont.

The county assessor has set a market value for the parsonage at \$270,000. Market analysis on the Zillow website places the parsonage market value at \$290,000, based on the actual sale of similar homes in Merville, IA. These estimated market values indicate a real opportunity to accept and invest the insurance money and salvage money of nearly \$390,000 and invest it for steady interest income.

It was noted that, although not currently the case, there is the possibility, depending on pastor assignments and church partnerships, that a shared housing allowance would be part of the pastor salary package. This would come out of the investment interest income.

It was also made clear that the insurance and salvage amount to be invested can only be used for church capital projects as needed. Only the interest can be used for operating expenses, just like the rent was being used for operating expenses. The steps to sell the parsonage, as outlined by the DS, were reviewed with the Ad Council. As was voted on at the August 10, 2025, meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Trustees recommended to the Ad Council to start the process to sell the parsonage.

A motion was made by Jody to sell the parsonage, 2nd by Jeff; motion passed.

Informational meetings will be held with the congregation in preparation for a future church conference regarding the parsonage.

WATCHFIRE DIGITAL SIGN - We will get back to them with our thoughts and ask them for pricing ideas on signs for the front lawn of our church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/MISSIONS - Finance committee met to review scholarship applications for the 2025/26 academic year. They approved six students to receive \$500 each for the academic year. The scholarships are sent to the educational institution in the amount of \$250 per semester. Gene will review the students; records at the end of fall semester to ensure they remain eligible before the second semester checks are mailed.

Balance in the Guatemalan student account is \$16.82.

MEMBER SUPPORT/EDUCATION - Sunday School will begin September 28th. There will be three separate classrooms; Diane will teach P-2, Danielle Jensen will teach grades 3-6, and Becky Dahna will teach the older children. THANK YOU, ladies, for covering this very important part of our church mission.

Cont.

SPRC - Pastor reported that they are preparing for charge conference. Pastor would like to continue building faith and fellowship. We will be planning another potluck meal this fall. More details to come as plans are made.

Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be Thursday, September 11th, 2025, 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Krejci

Blessed Giggles

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said the father, "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth'"

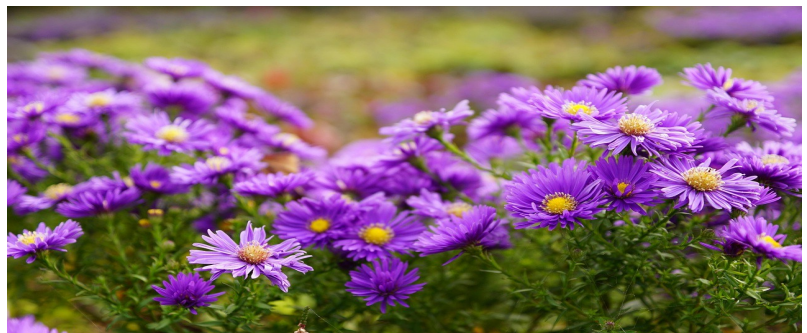
Support the Ingathering

During August and September items for Student (school) Kits are being collected for the November Ingathering. These will be taken to the Midwest Mission sight in Jefferson, Iowa for distribution where needed.

"Where to begin? Where to begin?"

A voice in the crowd yelled, "As close to the end as possible!"

- Norman J Muckermann, CSSR



Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

If we had 30 families to commit \$10.00 a month for six months to the fund we would have enough to cover the request for Leslie Jimenez's education.



STUDENT KIT SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ 3 Notebooks - 1 Subject spiral 8" x 10 1/2"
- ☐ 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
- ☐ 6 Pencils - unsharpened
- ☐ 1 Pencil Sharpener
- ☐ 1 Pencil Eraser - 2" or larger
- ☐ 1 Box of 12 Colored Pencils
- ☐ 1 Box of 24 Crayons
- ☐ 1 Pair of Student Scissors
- ☐ 1 Handmade One-Handled Bag

(pattern at midwestmission.org/patterns)



United Women in Faith 2025 Bible Verses

Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly
and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your
God."

Our Mission is to:
PREACH the Gospel of Jesus Christ
TEACH love and forgiveness
REACH out in service
(Matthew 28:19-20)

Pastor

Reverend Dr. Eric Z.
Sayonkon

Office Administrator

Cassie Colyer

Music Director

Elizabeth Ross

Accompanists

Rochelle Wilson
Peggy Hammer

Lay Leader

Treasurers

Jeff & Mary Krejci

Ad Council Chair

Susan Hunting

Finance Chair:

Gene Groetken
Vice-Chair:
Scott Gernhart

Member Support & Ed

Co-Chair:

Diane Weaver
Co-Chair:
Becky Dahna
Co-Chair:
Kristy Baier

SPRC Chair:

Kirk Scheelhaase
Vice-Chair:
Deb Sitzmann

Trustees Chair:

Jody Weaver
Vice-Chair:
Randy Petersen

UWIF

Janice Schlotman

September 2025 Lectionary

September 7, 2025
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1: 17-27
Luke 14: 25-33

September 14, 2025
Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:13-17
Luke 16:1-13

September 21, 2025
Jeremiah 8: 8-9:1
Psalm 79: 1-9 or Psalm 4
1 Timothy 2: 1-7
Luke 16: 1-13

September 28, 2025
Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6: 6-19
Luke 16: 19-31

Praying for the Students and Chil- dren of our Community-

A. That they will grow to love God-

Deuteronomy 6:5

B. That they will long for God's

Word- 1 Peter 2:1-3

C. That they will be eager to serve

God and bless people- Galatians

5:13-14; 6:10

D. That they will be filled with the

Holy Spirit- Ephesians 5:18

E. That they will share Christ- Co-

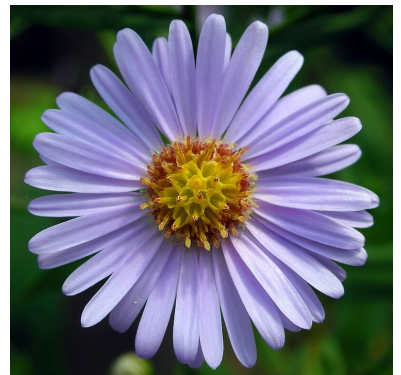
lossians 4:2-6

F. That God will open the eyes of

unbelieving students and chil-

dren- 2 Corinthians 4:4

**If you have any pictures of the church or
services you would like to share in the
Newsletter, please send them. We would
love for you to share. I would also love for
you to share your pictures and memories
with the congregation.**



Ministry Corner

Giving back to your community



Community Basket September

We are collecting **Cleaning Supplies** that will be given to the Community Basket. You may bring your donations to church on Sunday's, or you may drop them off at the Community Basket. Thank you for helping those in need! August food distribution will be on September 20th at the Menville Community Center, 10 AM.

UMCOR

On July 4, 2025, historic rain levels led to catastrophic flash flooding along the Guadalupe River in Central Texas. UMCOR has awarded a solidarity grant to the Rio Texas Annual Conference to support their relief efforts. This grant will provide immediate relief to those impacted through Early Response Team deployment, debris removal, distribution of relief supplies

"MUMC has a Permanent Endowment Fund. Your charitable gift will continue to work forever. Gifts can be made outright, can be memorials to family or friends, or bequests within your estate planning. You may designate the gift to a specific fund within the endowment: General, Building, Missions, Special Ministries, or Education. The fund's interest earned may then be used. After the second quarter of 2025 the approximate interest values for each were: General \$29,800; Building \$5800; Missions \$420; Special Ministries \$250; Education \$2900. Contact the church office if you would like to learn more about the MUMC Endowment Fund."

Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

We provide a scholarship for Leslie Jimenez a student in Western Guatemala. She is in grade 11. Her school year is from February to November and we provide tuition assistance plus funds for her to participate in the Lifting Up My Student program which provides online courses with private tutors to help with subjects at school. Your gifts make a difference in Leslie's life.

Leslie's scholarship is totally funded by your donations (no money comes from the church budget). Leslie's scholarship for 2025 is \$1490.00. . A container remains on the table at the back of the sanctuary for your donation. Your help is really appreciated for the 2025 school year.

If we had 30 families to commit \$10.00 a month for six months to the fund we would have enough to cover the request for her education.



Heifer Highlights

Robina Akello is a 24 year old with a young son. She used to worry about the kind of future she could provide for him. In Northern Uganda, where they live, poverty is common and Robina wondered if she would be able to give her son the future he deserved. But thanks to Heifer International she no longer worries. Robina joined a Heifer self-help group where she was introduced to a farming cooperative.

Through the co-op, she received training in best farming practices, money management and, most importantly, Heifer helped her buy soybean seeds - a crop she could plant on her small farm and sell for a reliable income. Small seeds made a big difference. Robina's farm and family are now thriving. The co-op collects her crop directly and sells it for her.

Robina can now provide for herself and her son plus grow her farm. She has been able to purchase three goats, added a variety of vegetables and plans to buy oxen to plow her land. Thanks to those who support Heifer, Robina and others can create the bright future for themselves and their children that they all deserve.

"Feed" Rosie the cow with your quarters as a way to support the work of Heifer International.