

MOVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

New Beginnings

January marks the season of fresh starts. It's a time when gym memberships peak, and many of us make resolutions to build better habits. But what if this year's most crucial resolution isn't about doing more, but rather about becoming more like Jesus?

The New Year often inspires new beginnings, whether it's adopting a new exercise routine or starting a healthy diet. Similarly, the church celebrates new beginnings during the season of Epiphany.

Are you expecting God to do a new thing in your life? I believe that God will guide us in the New Year, continually working through us for His glory. We are called to live by faith and trust in the God who loves us and has come to us in Jesus Christ. While we cannot predict what 2026 will bring, one thing remains certain:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” Hebrews 13:8.

May God's grace be with us every step of the way in the New Year, to share his love and make a difference for Jesus. Grace to you, and God bless you.

Have a Blessed New Year!

Pastor Eric Sayonkon



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January 2026 Dates and Calendar

Birthday		
9	Judy Chesley	.
11	Kennedy Countryman	.
13	Willa Montange	.
14	George Allan	.
	Josh Sitzmann	.
17	Glenn Metcalf	.
20	Mary Livermore	.
22	Jesse Scheelhaase	.
23	Bev Arvin	.
	Jesse Scheelhaase	.
24	Abby Sanyonkon	.
25	Lori Borland	.
26	T Countryman	.
31	Fred Sands	.
	Barry Wahlberg	.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Hot Beef Fundraiser MUMC	5	6	7	8 Church Council Meeting 6	9	10 Yearly Donations Due
11	12	13	14 WiF Luncheon 12:30	15	16	17
18	19 MLK DAY	20	21	22 Girls Night Out	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Hot Beef Fundraiser – January 4!

Our church family is coming together to support the Movable Childcare Center with a hearty Hot Beef Dinner fundraiser!

- Coordinator: Nicole Jensen is leading the charge with joy and dedication.
- Get Involved: If you'd like to help with planning, reach out to our wonderful church secretary, Cassie Colyer.

Let's gather around the table, strengthen our community, and bless our children's future together!

MUMC Girls Night Out January 22

January 14, 2026

Luncheon at 12:30 PM

Lunch: Terri Koehn and Kristy Baier

All women are invited to our luncheon.



United
Women
in Faith

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



January 2026 Lectionary

The Epiphany 6 January : Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm
72: 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1
-12

4 January. Sunday after Epiphany 11 Jan and
1st in Ordinary Time (Baptism of Jesus) Isaiah
42: 1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 3:
13-17

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 18 Jan Isaiah 49:
1-7 Psalm 40: 1-11 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 John
1: 29-42

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 25 Jan Isaiah 9:
1-4 Psalm 27: 1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
Matthew 4: 12-23



Sunday School

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.!

Christmas Presentation by Choir and Sunday School

December 21

(Full Video can be viewed online)

I pray your Holy Spirit will help me be loving and kind to everyone, even if they aren't kind to me. Help me remember that you love me even when I make bad choices. Help me love others unconditionally the way you love me. Thank you, Jesus.



Dedications

Honoring Loved Ones This Holiday Season

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Psalm 133:1

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"



Kirk and Tam Scheelhaase

"In memory of our beloved parents"



Russ and Buddie Spotts

Kay Chapman and Jeannie Crick



Liz Ross

My Parents



Irene Clause

Ray



Diane Weaver

Grandma and Grandpa Weaver
Nana and Papa Rogers



Linda and Terry Waugh

"Gene and Betty Barth &
Doris and Leonard Waugh."



Randy and Kathy Petersen

Bernedine Petersen, Leroy,
LaVonne and Roger Miller



John and Marcia Neely

"Honoring my loved ones
with beauty and grace."



Deb Sitzmann

Craig and Loved Family
Members



Rochelle and Roger
Wilson

"Keith and Franchon
Haddock
Floyd and Earlene Wilson



Donna Flewelling

Marvin Flewelling, Dave
Cross, John and Helen
Cross, Tom and Lily
Flewelling



Pam Clark

Mom and Dad Harrison &
Mom and Dad Clark

A Prayer for the New Year
Gracious and Faithful God,

As we step into a new year, we pause to remember your goodness that has carried us this far.

Thank you for every mercy that met us in the past twelve months—seen and unseen, quiet and powerful.

Walk with us now into the days ahead.

Give us hearts that trust your leading, eyes that look for your presence, and hands ready to serve with love.

Where there has been worry, plant peace. Where there has been weariness, breathe renewed strength.

Where there has been division, sow unity and compassion.

Make our church family a place of welcome, encouragement, and hope.

Help us to lift one another up, to share generously, and to shine your light in our community.

Guide our plans, bless our ministries, and keep us faithful to the work you call us to do.

Lord, go before us into this new year.

Shape us, steady us, and surround us with your grace.

May everything we do bring honor to your name.

In Christ, who makes all things new, we pray. Amen.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, November 13, 2025

PRESENT: Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Jody and Diane Weaver, Janice Schlotman, Deb Sitzmann, Kirk Scheelhaase, Pastor Eric Sayonkon, Nicole Jensen

Susan opened the meeting with prayer.

Nicole spoke to the Council in regard to a fundraiser for the Childcare Center. She is working with a group of people to put on a hot beef dinner and bake sale in our church Sunday, January 4, 2026. She will plan and prepare the meal. Our congregation is being asked for volunteers to serve and clean up. More information will be coming out on this.

MINUTES

Minutes from the October 9, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion by Kirk to accept the minutes, 2nd by Deb; motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October giving exceeded the budget by \$500. Y-T-D weekly giving through October, 2025, was \$70,000. For 2024, giving was \$61,000 for the same 10-month period.

We received \$2831 in interest from the initial parsonage insurance money that was invested in a 3-month CD at Security National Bank.

We will continue to receive lost income (rent) insurance payments through closing of the parsonage sale, estimated to be December 1, 2025.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor will be attending the annual fall retreat with the Bishop in Des Moines tomorrow, 11-14-2025. Our district will be getting a new lay leader.

Sunday we will have a congregational meeting during our normal church service. Topics to be covered are: 1) Better communication and support, 2) Reaching out to our members and our community, and 3) Inviting and increasing discipleship and fellowship.

OLD BUSINESS

HALLOWEEN - We handed out 450 Halloween treats to children at the annual Halloween parade. We fell short by a few. Next year we will go back to having enough for 500.

PARSONAGE UPDATE - We accepted an offer from Jeff Petersen to buy the parsonage. He signed a Purchase Agreement and has paid the 10% as stated in that document. We hope to close on December 1st. Scott Gernhart has completed the survey. Thank you, Scott, for the quick work in getting that done.

DAYCARE UPDATE - We have received a set of blueprints for the daycare. They are available for your review. We should begin cleaning out items from the classrooms.

SNOW PROCEDURES - Cassie will post any weather-related updates to our church service on KTIV website and on our Facebook page.

SOUND SYSTEM REPORT - John Neely has made some repairs to the sound system in our sanctuary and they seem to have been helpful.

NEW BUSINESS

We plan to have a class for those adults who are interested in joining our church. We are hoping to have that next spring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/MISSIONS - We have had a very good response to the collection of donations for our Guatemalan student.

The current balance is \$979.97.

SPRC - met with Shar Duncan and Vern Knaack from Correctionville, as well as Pastor Eric. After discussion, the three goals (mentioned above in PASTOR'S REPORT) were agreed upon.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Krejci

-Sorry this was missed last month.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Thursday, December 11, 2025

PRESENT: Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Jody and Diane Weaver, Janice and John Schlotman, Randy Petersen, Gene Groetken

Susan opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes from the November 13, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion by Diane to accept the minutes, 2nd by Janice; motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

November giving was \$500 below budget. Weekly giving Y-T-D for 2025 is \$77,000. Last year at this time, giving was \$71,000.

We received \$60,979.87 from the sale of the parsonage. Those proceeds have been deposited into a Security National Bank 30-month step-up rate CD at 3.5% interest, maturing June 1, 2028.

We have an option, after 15 months, to withdraw half of the principle without penalty or step the rate up to the prevailing interest rate at the time. We currently have a CD of \$339,432.35 at 3.9%, which will mature April 10, 2026. We will be researching how to handle that money next year when that CD comes due.

The balance in the Guatemalan Student Account is \$1013.97.

PASTOR'S REPORT

We will be having a Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th at 5:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

PARSONAGE UPDATE - We closed on the parsonage December 1st. We will continue to carry liability insurance on the property until spring.

DAYCARE UPDATE - At the last meeting with Crittenton, we were made aware that they need a dishwasher for their use. We are in the process of discussing where that will be located.

NEW BUSINESS

Plans are moving along for the Hot Beef Meal to be held in our church following church on January 4th, 2026. Sign-up sheets are in the church lobby.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/MISSIONS - We are committed to finish the support of our current Guatemalan student through spring, 2026. At that time, we will decide on our next mission project.

We will have a financial audit spring, 2026.

MEMBER SUPPORT/EDUCATION - Sunday School will be presenting a Christmas program on Sunday, December 21st.

UWIF - Held our annual Christmas potluck on Wednesday, December 10th. It was well-attended. The group's focus is on providing supportive fellowship for all members.

Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be Thursday, January 8, 2026, 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Krejci

United Women in Faith 2026 Bible Verses

Psalms 46:5 (ESV): "God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day." This verse is often used to emphasize strength and God's constant presence.

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

Blessed Giggles

For Christmas, my boys got deodorant in their Christmas stockings. (It was high time and this was a festive way to get 'em going!) When I explained that it was to be applied every morning before school, Jerry Jr. slumped his shoulders forward and took in a huge breath of air.

"Every single day," he sighed.

"Yes, son. Every single day."

"The next morning, I caught him in the bathroom. He was slathering the stick of deodorant under his arms with passion. They weren't two or three simple strokes – but *dozens* of them, leaving a pool of white paste. When I saw him move from his underarms to his neck, I stopped him.

"JC, what are you doing?"

"Mom, I'm trying to put on enough to last me all week. I don't want to do this everyday!"

I laughed hysterically and then tried to help my five year old learn the finer points of hygiene. As the day went on, I smiled every time I remembered the incident. Yet over time, it wasn't as funny as it was convicting. You see, this is how I often treat my relationship with the Lord. I try to slather on enough of Him during my quiet time at the first of the week or during service on Sunday to last me all week. Sometimes, I inadvertently think that what I've gathered at his table on one day will be enough to keep me refreshed all week long. The Spirit gently reminded me that being a sweet smelling fragrance to the Lord requires a fresh application of His truth – not just on occasion, but every single day.

"Every single day?"

Ministry Corner

Giving back to your community



We are collecting **Cereal** 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! December food distribution will be on the 20th at the Menville Community Center at 10AM.

Midwest Mission

Midwest Mission has purchased their Jefferson, Iowa facility and now has a permanent home. Through October 10, 2025 there have been 54 International shipments of supplies and 149 Stateside deliveries of supplies.

During December Financial Support is needed for:

The Siouxland Warming Shelter
The Community Basket
The Guatemalan Student Scholarship
Woodbury Central Student Needs

Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

Thank you for your generosity in answering the call for support of our student, Leslie, over the last few months. Our student account balance has risen from a negative \$193.18 following our May, 2025, semi-annual payment to a positive \$979.97 as of November 4th. Our next semi-annual payment (\$745) will be sent in January 2026, then again in May 2026. Your generosity is making a tremendous difference in Leslie's life! Thank you!

"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 third quarter of 2025 the approximate interest values for each were: General \$31,500; Building \$6000; Missions \$450; Special Ministries \$260; Education \$3200. Contact the church office if you would like to learn more about the MUMC Endowment Fund."

There are plenty of Upper Room Devotionals in the entryway of the church placed in the magazine rack. If you would like a copy but can't make it to church Janice would be happy to deliver one to you. Please contact her or the church office, 873-5117 if you

Heifer Highlight

Far too many children around the world feel the constant, gnawing pain of hunger and countless families are falling into poverty. It may be international conflict, extreme weather, food supply shortages or the soaring cost of food, but the global hunger crisis is real. Heifer International helps families lift themselves out of hunger and poverty by providing bees, chickens, goats and cows along with training in their care. These animals supply families with nutritious honey, eggs, milk and meat to stay healthy and they can sell the extra for income. Since 1944, Heifer has helped 46.4 million families break free from the vicious cycle of poverty and despair. When you contribute to Heifer, you empower families and communities so they can achieve self-sufficiency and success.

