

MOVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Waiting For Christmas

Peace to you and praise be to God, who comes to redeem his people! I hope that you are all doing well and had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Advent is a time when you and I prepare ourselves for this coming Messiah, who has already come in the past and continually comes to us in the here and now and will come again in the future. We embrace that truth and have that complete confidence in His return.

Advent is the season we prepare for Jesus' coming. We wait for something that will change everything and turn the world upside down. The journey toward and beyond the manger is one of reversing expectations, encountering what we thought we already knew in brand new ways, and receiving good news unexpectedly.

The God who came, who is coming again, comes to us every day. This is not "holiday hype", but the promise of hope through Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "**She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.**" (Matthew 1:21)

Let's each of us keep awake and alert. Living each day through this Advent season in hopeful expectation, not just on this day, or these weeks, but every day. Have a blessed and Christ-filled Advent and Christmas!

God bless you, Pastor Eric Sayonkon



The Heart of Advent



CELEBRATING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

VETERANS DAY 2025

GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS

George Allen – Marine Corps

Nate Bauer – Army

Blaine Borland – Army

Daryl Carr – Air Force

Gary Chapman – Army

Glen Clark – Army

Jeff Crick – Navy

Bill Dahna Sr. – Air Force

Bill Dahna Jr. – Air Force

Arvin Daniels – Air Force

Briley Dixon – Navy

Chuck Eskov – Air Force

Larry Etler – Air Force

Tony Jensen – Air Force

Larry Koehn – Army

Todd Kuebler – Army

Dean Livermore – Army

Brad Nash – Army

Derl Petersen – Navy

Randall Petersen – Navy

Marcia Smith – Army

Jim Utesch – Army

Barry Wahlberg – Navy

Terry Waugh – Army

John Weaver – Army

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED

IN THE LAST YEAR

ALL SAINTS DAY

- **Gary Wayne Howard** April 18, 1946 ~ October 3, 2024
- **Sue (Nichols) Howard** June 5, 1946 ~ November 17, 2024
- **Norma Jean (Kirkholm) Scheelhaase** February 27, 1931 ~ November 19, 2024
- **Linda J. (Payne) Petersen** January 15, 1944 ~ February 24, 2025
- **Craig A. Sitzmann** June 12, 1959 ~ April 9, 2025

December 2025 Dates and Calendar

Birthday

5	Jeff Crick
6	Nic Scheelhaase
10	Suzy Chapman
11	Harold Werley
12	John Schlotman
17	Nancy Ferdig
19	Larry Epling
20	Marcia Neely
	A.J. Jensen
26	Scott Gernhart

Anniversary

If I am missing your birthday or anniversary please let the office know



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 1st week of Advent Hope	1 Pastor in DesMoines	2 Pastor in Office	3	4	5	6 Pastor in DesMoines
7 2nd week of Advent Peace	8 Pastor in DesMoines	9 Pastor in Office	10 UWif Potluck	11 Council Meeting	12	13
14 3rd week of Advent Joy	15 Pastor in DesMoines	16 Pastor in Office	17	18 Girls Night Out	19	20 Food Distribution Moville Community Center 10AM
21 4th Week of Advent Love	22	23 Pastor In Office	24 Christmas Eve!	25 Christmas!	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve			



Hot Beef Fundraiser – January 4!

Our church family is coming together to support the Moville 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.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Signups for cooking and serving will open in December

This is a perfect way to share fellowship and service.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



There are United Methodist Shirts for sale- \$5 each. First come first serve. Please see Cassie if you would like one

School Room Inventory Helpers Needed!

Our church family is taking inventory of the school rooms, and we'd love your helping hands! • **How to Join In:** If you're willing to lend your time and energy, please reach out to our church secretary, Cassie Colyer. • **Why It Matters:** Your support ensures our classrooms stay organized, welcoming, and ready to bless our children and teachers. ☺ We would be so grateful for your help—together we can make this space shine with care and love!

IOWA CONFERENCE *of the* UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ingathering



2025 Ingathering total exceeds a half million dollars!

Totals from 5 Ingathering Sites:

Cash donations	\$147,057.44
In-kind donations	\$359,196.65
	\$506,254.09

Moville totals:

Cash donations	\$1,641.00
In-kind donations	\$ 356.00

**"Showing the love of Christ to the world's people by
Ministering to their needs" Thank you to all who gave.**



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!.

**MUMC Girls
Night Out
December 18**

December 10
Luncheon at 12:30 PM
Lunch: Potluck



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)

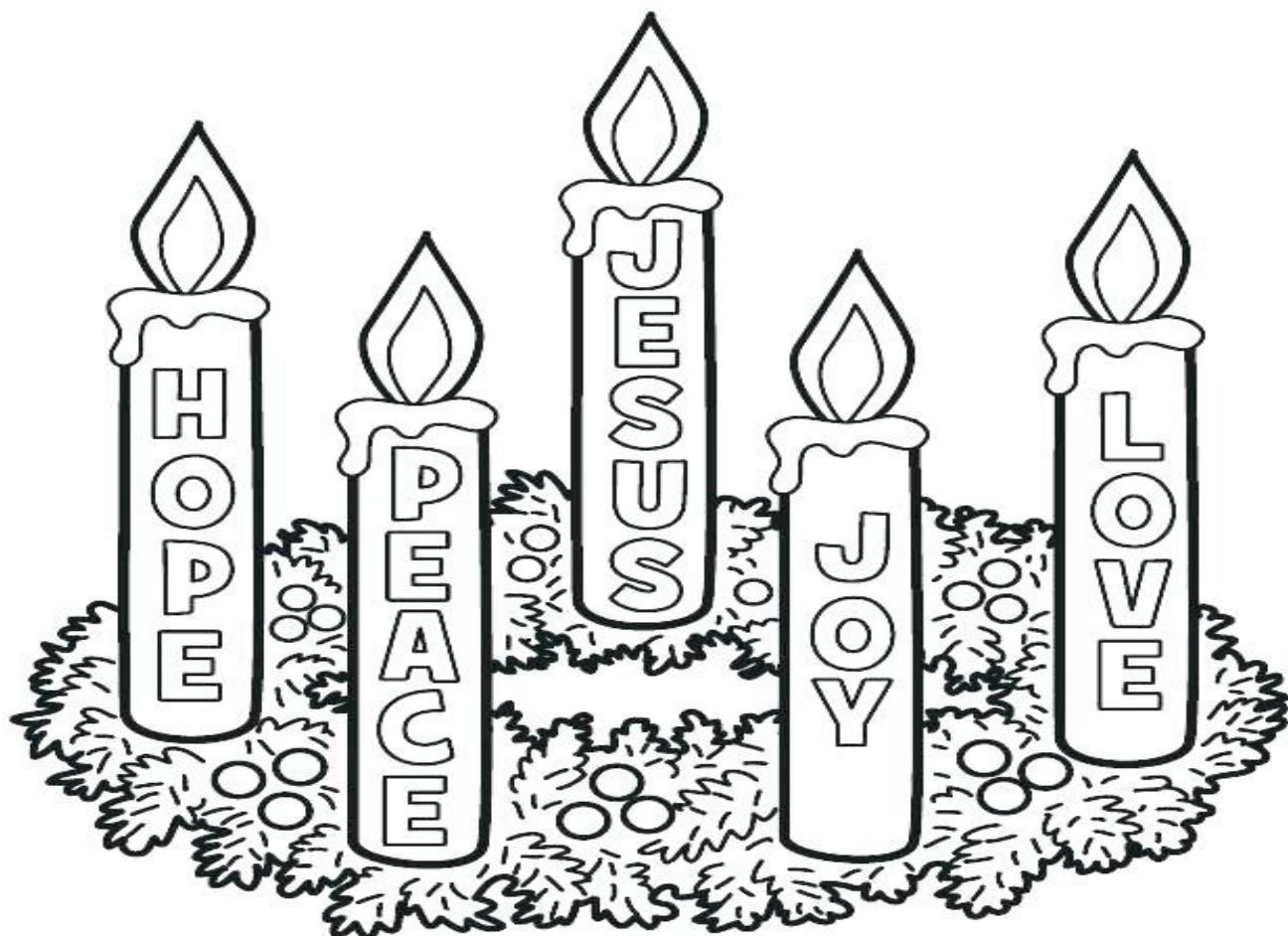
Advent

What Is Advent? A Season of Hope and Preparation

Advent is the beginning of the Christian year—a four-week season leading up to Christmas that invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In the Methodist tradition, Advent is a time of expectant waiting, reflection, and joyful anticipation. Each week centers on a theme—hope, peace, joy, and love—guiding us through scripture, prayer, and worship as we journey toward the birth of Jesus.

We light candles on the Advent wreath, sing hymns of longing and promise, and reflect on both the birth of Christ and His promised return. It's a season that reminds us that God is with us—in our waiting, in our wondering, and in our worship.

As we enter Advent, may we open our hearts to the light of Christ and share that light with others, embracing the hope and renewal this season brings.



United Women in Faith 2025 Bible Verses

John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him not perish but have eternal life."

Our Mission is to:

PREACH the Gospel of Jesus Christ
TEACH love and forgiveness
REACH out in service

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

December 2025 Lectionary

1st Sunday of Advent 30 Nov -

Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44

2nd Sunday of Advent 7 Dec

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7,
18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

3rd Sunday of Advent 14 Dec

Isaiah 35: 1-10 Psalm 146: 5-10 or Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11

4th Sunday of Advent 21 Dec

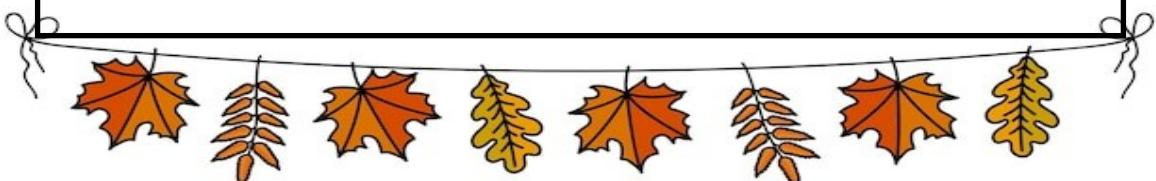
Isaiah 7: 10-16 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-25

Christmas Day 25 Dec

I Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) II
Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20 III Isai-
ah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

1st Sunday of Christmas 28 Dec

Isaiah 63: 7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2: 10-18 Matthew 2: 13-23



Blessed Giggles

The Answer is Always Jesus: In a children's sermon, a pastor asked, "What is gray, has a bushy tail, and gathers nuts in the fall?" After silence, one boy cautiously said, "I know the answer is supposed to be Jesus, but it sure sounds like a squirrel!"

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 Moville Community Center at 10AM.

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!

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.

"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.

