

MOVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Do you know what the church is all about? I believe the defining truth of the church's existence is the amazing Love of God. There is so much brokenness and injustice in our world. The need for love and compassion is real. What is it that drives you to church? It is about God's Love. The hymn writer puts it this way: "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people. I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together."

God's Love seeks us out and invites us to participate in His Love. God is literally for-giving, giving Love ahead of us before we even realize our need. We may have our doubts about this, but they don't determine God's action. And God's Love is sacrificial in nature by sending his only Son. God's love is unconditional. No matter who you are or your past or present condition.

Remember His Love is the deep and vast ocean of God's embrace, which is always otherwise, directed outward to the world. Love must incarnate. If not, it is not God's Love. Christ's Love is the litmus test for Christians. It's where the rubber meets the road.

God takes the initiative to love and reveal Love for us in Jesus Christ. And if you ever wondered what God's Love looks like, John helps us see it. "God's Love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is Love, not that we loved but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." (John 4:9-10). As we prepare our hearts for Lent and Easter, let us renew our commitment to loving God and give thanks for the victory we have in the Love of Jesus Christ.

God bless you, and I love you with the Love of Christ.

Pastor Eric Sayonkon

FEBRUARY 2026

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Save the Date
Come & Go Social for Arvin Daniels

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 DANA FLEWELLING
- BEATRIX COLYER
- 11 JODI FRENCH
- 15 DIANE EVERHART
- 20 DEB SITZMANN
- 22 JIM UTESCH
- JAKE DENNISON
- 24 TAMI JENNESS
- 26 WYATT JENSEN
- 27 PAM CLARK
- ADAM PETERSEN
- 29 NANCY HONE

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 TONY & DANIELLE JENSEN
- 13 JOHN & DIANE WEAVER



Saturday, February 7 • Noon–4 PM
Mitchell Hospice House
6140 Morningside Ave, Sioux City, IA

(Former Countryside Retirement Home—drive left around the apartments to reach the Hospice House.)

Thank you for holding Arvin and his family in prayer as we walk with them.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 ARVIN DANIELS SOCIAL
8	9	10	11 UWIF LUNCHEON	12 COUNCIL MEETING	13	14 VALENTINE S DAY
15	16	17	18 ASH WEDNESDAY	19	20	21 FOOD DISTRIBUTION ANTHON EVENT CENTER 10 AM
22	23	24	25 LENTEN BREAKFAST IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	26	27	28

HOT BEEF DINNER FUNDRAISER

The Hot Beef Dinner Fundraiser was a resounding success! After everything was tallied, we received a total donation of **\$4,401.18**.

Thank you to every single person who donated or helped with the Hot Beef Dinner and Bake Sale. Your generosity and hard work made this event possible, and because of you, we reached our donation goal.

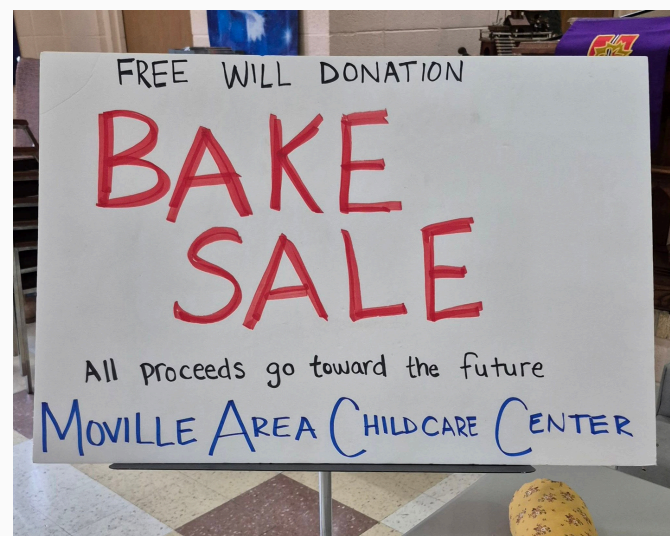
A special thank-you to our Beef Donors for giving so generously. And most of all, thank you to Nicole Jensen for partnering with MCDAI and pouring so much heart into this project. Because of your dedication, our church will continue to be a place that is used, cherished, and filled with love for years to come.

The Movable United Methodist Church would like to say



To the BEEF DONORS that helped make Sunday's hot beef dinner a success!

- *In Honor of our Church Family
- *In Memory of Dale & Doris Weaver
- *From a jolly man with a white beard and red Hat
- *In Memory of Luke Etler
- *In Memory of Craig Sitzmann
- *In Memory of Grandma Miller & Grandma Jensen
- *In Memory of Barth's & Waugh's Families
- *Groetken Family





A Short Parable on Showing Up

A small church once had a lantern that hung in its entryway. It wasn't fancy, but every Sunday someone lit it before worship. One winter morning, the wind howled, the roads were slick, and only a handful of people made it to the service. As they gathered, they noticed the lantern glowing warmly in the cold.

After worship, a child asked the pastor, "Why do we light the lantern if some Sundays hardly anyone comes?"

The pastor smiled. "Because the light reminds us that the church is never kept alive by crowds, but by the people who show up. When even one person comes to pray, to sing, to serve, the light keeps shining—for them, and for everyone who needs it."

And from that day on, the child understood: Showing up doesn't just fill a seat. It keeps the light of the church burning for the whole community.

MOBILE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION LENTEN BREAKFAST SCHEDULE FOR 2026

**BREAKFAST WILL BEGIN AT 7:30
A.M. FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF
SERVICE DURING THIS LENTEN
SEASON**

**FEBRUARY 25TH AT IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION WITH PASTOR
HAROLD**

**MARCH 4TH AT TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH WITH FR. MICHAEL**

**MARCH 11TH AT IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION WITH PASTOR ERIC**

**MARCH 18TH AT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH WITH
PASTOR ED**

FEBRUARY 2026 LECTIONARY

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

- MICAH 6:1-8
- PSALM 15
- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31
- MATTHEW 5:1-12

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD -

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

- MALACHI 3:1-4
- PSALM 84 OR PSALM 24:7-10
- HEBREWS 2:14-18
- LUKE 2:22-40

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

- ISAIAH 58:1-9A (9B-12)
- PSALM 112:1-9 (10)
- 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-12 (13-16)
- MATTHEW 5:13-20

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

- EXODUS 24:12-18
- PSALM 2 OR PSALM 99
- 2 PETER 1:16-21
- MATTHEW 17:1-9

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

- JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17 OR ISAIAH 58:1-12
- PSALM 51:1-17
- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10
- MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

- GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7
- PSALM 32
- ROMANS 5:12-19
- MATTHEW 4:1-11

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.

February 11, 2026

Luncheon at 12:30 PM

Lunch: Kathy Petersen

All women are invited to our luncheon.



"There are different kind of gifts but the same spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NIV)

MUMC

Girl's Night Out

Thursday February 19
5:30 @ Outlaw Bar and Grill
Come Join us for Companionship,
fellowship and laughs

Everyone is Welcome to Join Us!

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.!

United Women in Faith 2026 Bible Verses

Romans 12:12 (RSV)
"Rejoice in your hope, be
patient in tribulation, be
constant in prayer."



2025 Q4 TREASURY TALK
Year in Review

Parsonage Update

On December 1, 2025, we officially closed the sale of the parsonage “as-is” for \$65,250. Net proceeds after expenses were \$60,979.87. The proceeds were invested in a 30-month CD at 3.5% interest. Any time after 15 months, we have three options with this CD:

- 1. Take a one-time rate increase to the current 30-month rate on the date of request.
- 2. Make a one-time withdrawal equal to ½ of the principle without penalty.
- 3. Leave it untouched at 3.5% for the duration of its 30-month term.

2025 Finances “By the Numbers”

A few observations from the 2025 financial year:

- Our weekly giving for the year was \$87,922, compared to \$82,367 for 2024, a 6.7% increase.
- Our weekly giving for the year (\$87,922), was 96% of budgeted giving of \$91,450.
- Excluding a \$4800 pump motor required for the boiler at year’s end, income from all sources in 2025 (\$103,576) exceeded 2025 expenses (\$102,328).
- Designated donations given by individuals and forwarded by the church in 2025:
 - * Guatemalan Student - \$1483.22
 - * Parsonage Fire Fund for Tenant Sara - \$1263.36
 - * Community Basket - \$1053.80
 - * Backpack Program - 429.47
 - * Ingathering Blankets - \$310.00
 - * Ingathering Midwest Mission - \$304.00
 - * Warming Shelter - \$220.00
 - * Woodbury Central - \$100.00
 - * Halloween Trunk or Treat - \$80.88
 - * UMCOR - \$34.75
 - * Total - \$5279.48

If you ever have any questions regarding church finances, please reach out to me. I am always happy to discuss any questions you might have.

Blessings,
Jeff



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 WOULD LIKE ONE DELIVERED TO YOU.

**OUR MISSION IS TO:
PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST
TEACH LOVE AND FORGIVENESS
REACH OUT IN SERVICE**

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

PRESENT: Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Jody and Diane Weaver, Janice and John Schlotman, Randy Petersen, Pastor Eric Sayonkon
Pastor Eric opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes from the December 11, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion by Diane to accept the minutes, 2nd by Janice; motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Weekly giving for the month of December was \$10,800; \$3200 over budgeted giving of \$7600. Weekly giving for the entire year of 2025 was \$88,000; \$3500 under budgeted giving of \$91,500 and \$5600 over weekly giving of 2024. We incurred \$1164 in legal fees associated with the sale of the parsonage. The replacement of a pump motor for our boiler was \$4800.

Total expenses: 2025 ----\$107,128 Budget 2025 ----\$106,706

Total income (from all sources): 2025 ----\$103,576 Budget 2025 ----\$106,706

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor sees lots of collaboration and support among the members of our church. December was a very busy month for everyone. Pastor is now planning for annual conference. He will be starting his "Abundant Life" scripture.

Pastor is hoping to have a choir from Uganda perform at our church later this fall.

OLD BUSINESS

DAYCARE UPDATE - Sunday we will hear an update on the roast beef dinner that was held last Sunday, January 4th. Comments from those who attended and from those who served feel it went very well.

The issue of installing a dishwasher in our church for the benefit of the childcare center is still up in the air. We will work to get that settled and also to resolve the division of utilities between the daycare and our church. The music room, nursery, and decor rooms have been fairly well cleared out with many of the furnishings in those rooms being moved to a storage unit in town. Some cabinets are being kept for storage of Sunday School materials. February 1, 2026, has been set as the date for construction to begin and for all of the church's furniture to be moved out of the daycare wing.

COMMITTEE UPDATES - All committee chairs should get their committee membership changes to Cassie as soon as possible for inclusion in the 2026 Yearbook.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance committee will be doing an audit before March 1, 2026.

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/MISSIONS - We are looking at finding another mission project after we complete the final payments to our Guatemalan student this year. The current balance in the Guatemalan student account is \$1196.00.

MEMBER SUPPORT/EDUCATION - The teachers will be moving their Sunday School rooms to other locations during the construction phase of the daycare project.

TRUSTEES - All insurance claims resulting from the parsonage fire have been filled. We have lost some fascia from the southwest corner of the church. Jody has contacted Mullin Siding and they have ordered replacement pieces and will install that once it arrives.

UWIF - Have had good attendance at our meetings. Held a potluck in December. We'd like to remind all women that they are welcome to attend. We share fellowship and support with each other.

Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be Thursday, February 12, 2026. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Krejci

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:
Deb Sitzmann
Vice-Chair:
Linda Waugh

Trustees Chair:
Jody Weaver
Vice-Chair:
Randy Petersen

UWIF
Janice Schlotman

MINISTRY CORNER

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY BASKET

We are collecting Personal Care Items 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! February food distribution will be on the 21th at the Anthon Event Center at 10 AM

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!



Heifer Highlights

Mosammat Laboni Khatun, a 30-year-old farmer from the Jashore district, has transformed her one-bigha (about one-third of an acre) plot into a thriving market garden through collective support from Heifer Bangladesh's Women Farmers Grow Vegetables, Flowers and Wealth project. Before joining the project, Laboni earned about 70,000 taka (about \$574) per season. Today, she earns roughly 110,000 taka (about \$902) and leases additional land using her increased income. As part of a women's cooperative, she also sells produce collectively, gaining better prices and market linkages, and teaches other women the same techniques.

OUR MISSION:
PREACH THE GOSPEL OF
CHRIST
TEACH LOVE AND
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REACH OUT IN SERVICE
MIDWEST MISSION

Midwest Mission's mission is to provide hope and empowerment by transforming donated resources into humanitarian aid for people in crisis globally and locally, focusing on disaster relief, health, education, and micro-business development through trusted nonprofit partners, relying on volunteers and donors to assemble and distribute essential kits and refurbished items like school supplies, hygiene kits, and sewing machines to show God's love tangibly

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND.

YOUR CHARITABLE GIFT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOREVER. GIFTS CAN BE MADE OUTRIGHT, CAN BE MEMORIALS TO FAMILY OR FRIENDS, OR REQUESTS 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 FOURTH QUARTER OF 2025 THE APPROXIMATE INTEREST VALUES FOR EACH WERE: GENERAL \$32,900; BUILDING \$6300; MISSIONS \$470; SPECIAL MINISTRIES \$280; EDUCATION \$3400. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MUMC ENDOWMENT FUND."