

# Moville United Methodist Church

May 2026

## Growing in Grace

Take a few minutes to consider this question. What are you going to be when you grow up? It's important to grow. It's important to grow up. Most of us, at different times, are concerned with growing up. Have you thought about growth? Growth... Everything that's alive grows. If it's not growing it's in the process of dying. Our human body is still growing. ( And I'm not talking about our waist lines) Our stature may remain the same or even be shrinking but our cells are always working to rejuvenate, replenish and respond to our daily physical, mental and emotional needs.

We are commanded by our Jesus Christ to grow spiritually, more of his, less of us. We serve Christ not out of duty but because He is worthy of all honor, praise, and worship. We love him because he first loved us. The Apostle Peter writes encouraging us to grow spiritually.

“But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen” 2 Peter 3:18

Our focus in the month of May is “Growing in Grace” When God calls us to become members of His body, He builds a root system among us to form an interdependent network that grows and produces His kind of fruit. In order to grow to maturity in Christ, God calls us to build one another. It is a joy to see a spirit of encouragement in the church.

I believe healthy growth requires that we recognize our need for each other and accept our individual responsibility to work toward mutual maturity in Christ. God calls us to continue to be built up in Him until we are mature in Christ. He wants us to grow up. Let's recommit to Him together as we serve in the power of the Holy Spirit that is at work in us. Glory be to God!

Growing Together,

Pastor Eric Z . Sayonkon



## Anniversaries

12 Kelly & Susanne Weaver

17 Jim & Mary Utesch

31 Terry & Linda Waugh



## Birthdays

- 1 Jeff Krejci  
John Neely  
Barb Carr
- 2 Sandy Baker
- 10 Daryl Carr
- 15 Larry Koehn
- 17 Margaret Nissan
- 22 Beth Nielsen
- 27 Bella Moody
- 28 Robin Beck
- 30 Abbygail Flewelling

## **COVERING GOD'S HOUSE**

We're on a mission... and this time  
it's raising the roof—literally!

Thanks to the generous support of  
the Maxwell family, we're already  
partway there, but we still need to  
raise \$9,000 (approx.) to complete  
our new roof. Now it's our turn to  
step up in faith and fellowship!

Many hands make light work—and  
maybe even some fun along the way.

Let's come together, trust God's  
provision, and build something that  
will shelter our church family and  
Daycare kiddos for years to come.

Reach out to the with your  
donations—and let's raise the roof  
together!

## **Raise the Roof**



# The Sunday School singing



**Sunday School  
will continue next school year!**

## The Dragonfly

Once, in a little pond, in the muddy water under the lily pads, there lived a little water beetle in a community of water beetles. They lived a simple and comfortable life in the pond with few disturbances and interruptions.

Once in a while, sadness would come to the community when one of their fellow beetles would climb the stem of a lily pad and would never be seen again. They knew that when this happened, their friend was dead, gone forever.

Then, one day, one little water beetle felt an irresistible urge to climb that stem. However, he was determined that he would not leave forever. He would come back and tell his friends what he had found at the top.

When he reached the top and climbed out of the water onto the surface of the lily pad, he was so tired, and the sun felt so warm, that he decided he must take a nap. As he slept, his body changed and when he woke up, he had turned into a beautiful blue-tailed dragonfly with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying.

So fly he did! And, as he soared he saw the beauty of a whole new world and a far superior way of life to what he had ever known existed.

And he remembered his beetle friends and how they were thinking by now he was dead. He wanted to go back to tell them, and explain to them that he was now more alive than he had ever been before. His life had been fulfilled rather than ended.

But, his new body would not go down into the water. He could not get back to tell his friends the good news. Then, he understood that their time would come, when they too would know what he now knew.

So, he raised his wings and flew off into his joyous new life!



**Not Only for Children's  
Story by Janice Schlotman**



**If you would like to  
volunteer for the  
Not For Only Kid's  
story contact the  
office. (I swear the  
kids aren't that  
scary)**

# MOVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE DECOMMISSIONING

APRIL 26, 2026

Honoring 50 Years of Faithful Service  
1976 – 2026

## **A Home Built with Prayer, Vision, and Love**

For half a century, the Movable United Methodist Church Parsonage stood as a place of welcome, ministry, and daily life. It sheltered pastors and families, hosted prayers and conversations, and quietly supported the work of Christ in our community. Today, we give thanks for its years of service and release it with gratitude and blessing.

## **A Brief History**

**January 23, 1974** – Parsonage Study Committee formed

Bill Hay (Chair), Cleone Wright, Wayne Luse, Harold Baker, Doris Schreiner,  
Miriam Speke, Marg Spencer

**March 3, 1976** – Bean & McIntosh Architects hired

**June 26, 1976** – Congregation votes to move forward

59 Yes, 9 No

**January 19, 1977** – Cost estimate: \$63,164

**1978** – Construction completed

With significant volunteer labor from the congregation

**December 3, 1978** – Open House hosted by Rev. Dr. John Dowd, the first resident

Pastors Who Called the Parsonage Home

Rev. Dr. John Dowd – 1978 to 1979

Rev. Travis Cannaday – 1979 to 1985

Rev. Marvin Ceynar – 1985 to 1990

Rev. Orrin Potter – 1990 to 1996

Rev. Harold Werley – 1996 to 2005

Rev. Ed Frank – 2005 to 2016

Rev. Janet Rieckhoff-Faris – 2016 to 2019

Each pastor carried forward the ministry of this congregation, supported by the walls and rooms of this home.

# MOVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE

## Continued

### Later Years

July 2019 – Parsonage begins rental use

April 21, 2025 – Parsonage fire

September 23, 2025 – Congregation votes to sell as-is  
29 Yes, 0 No

December 1, 2025 – Sale completed

April 26, 2026 – Decommissioning Ceremony

### **A Prayer of Release and Gratitude**

Holy God,

We thank You for this parsonage—  
for every meal shared, every prayer whispered,  
every sermon written, every child tucked into bed,  
every moment of ministry nurtured within its walls.

As we release this home,  
we honor the love, labor, and faith that built it.

May its memory remain a blessing,  
and may Your Spirit continue to guide our church  
into new seasons of ministry and hope.

Amen.

**“Well done, good and faithful servant.”**

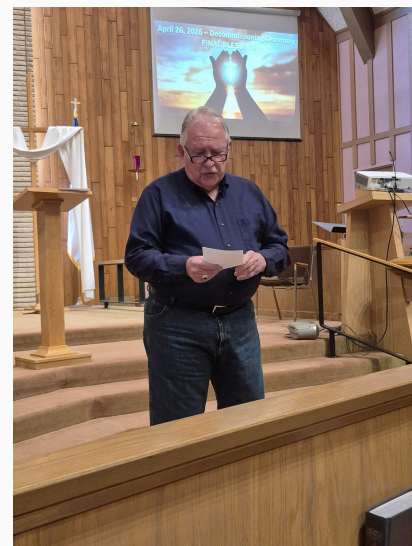
With gratitude, we mark the closing of this chapter and the opening of the next.



# MOVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE Continued

Thank you Jeff and Harold for the decommissioning ceremony.

Thank you Harold for your years of service and dedication to the church. We wouldn't be the family we are now without you.



## 2026 Senior Recognition

**Katlyn Jensen**

Daughter of Tony and Danielle Jensen



**Abigail Sayonkon**

Daughter of Pastor Eric and Eboni Sayonkon



Graduation Prayer  
Gracious God,  
We thank you for this milestone and for the journey that has brought these graduates to this day. Bless their steps as they move forward—give them courage in uncertainty, wisdom in their choices, and compassion in all they do. May your light guide their paths, and may they always know they are held, loved, and strengthened by you.  
Amen.

# MAY 2026 LECTIONARY

## 5th Sunday of Easter

3 May Acts 7: 55-60 Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14 6

## 6th Sunday of Easter

10 May Acts 17: 22-31 Psalm 66: 8-20  
1 Peter 3: 13-22 John 14: 15-21

## Ascension

Day 14 May (Thursday) Acts 1: 1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1: 15-23  
Luke 24: 44-53

## 7th Sunday of Easter

17 May Sunday in Ascensiontide Acts 1: 6-14  
Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4: 12-14;  
5:6-11 John 17: 1-11  
Or for CONVERSION OF JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY  
Isaiah 12: 1-6 or Isaiah 51: 1-3, 7-11  
Psalm 130 Romans 5: 1-11 or 2 Peter 1: 1-11  
Mark 12: 28-37 or Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

## Pentecost

24 May Acts 2: 1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30  
Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13  
or Acts 2:1-21 John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-39

## Trinity

Sunday 31 May Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 4a  
Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13  
Matthew 28: 16-20

As spring blooms bright in early May,  
The Bible lights the heart's own way.  
With promises in every flower,  
It strengthens us with loving power.  
Like gardens fresh after the rain,  
His Word brings joy and heals our pain



May 13, 2026

Luncheon at 12:30 PM

Lunch: Deb Sitzmann

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

Is Paused Until Next Fall

Come Join us for Companionship,  
fellowship and laughs

Everyone is Welcome to Join Us!

## United Women in Faith

### 2026 Bible Verses

Romans 8:28

We know that God works all things  
together for good of the ones who love  
God, for those who are called  
according to his purpose

If you have any pictures you  
would like to share of this  
and any other event please  
feel free to send them to the  
Church Email!



# Treasury Talk

2026 Quarter 1

## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you are 70½ or older, you may be able to make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA to support the ministries of Movable United Methodist Church through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This allows you to see the immediate impact of your generosity while potentially reducing your tax liability.

### Key Benefits:

**Tax-Exempt Giving:** A QCD allows individuals to transfer up to \$111,000 per year (2026 limit) directly from an IRA to a qualified charity. For married couples with separate IRAs, the combined limit is \$222,000.

**Income Exclusion:** Because the funds go directly from your IRA to the Church, the distribution is excluded from your taxable income. This is beneficial even for donors who do not itemize deductions.

**Satisfy Your RMD:** For donors aged 73 or older, a QCD can satisfy all or part of your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

**Adjusted Gross Income (AGI):** By lowering your AGI, a QCD may help you avoid higher Medicare premium surcharges or the taxation of Social Security benefits.

There is a handout on the table next to the sign-in lectern containing more information regarding QCDs.

### Raise the Roof!

As of 4/22/26, the total raised by the congregation for the flat roof was \$11,580. The goal is to raise \$20,000 by August 1, 2026.

As a reminder, the total cost of the flat roof is \$70,000, with \$50,000 already donated to the project by Tad and Stee Maxwell, and the remaining \$20,000 to be raised by the congregation. We have covered our church's \$20,000 portion of the \$70,000 commitment out of Building Fund reserves, but must replenish our reserves to be ready for ongoing building expenses, such as boiler related expenses.

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



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## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES –

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Thursday, April 9, 2026

PRESENT: Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Jody and Diane Weaver, Deb Sitzmann, Gene Groetken

Susan opened the meeting with prayer.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes from the March 12, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Motion by Jeff to accept the minutes, 2nd by Diane; motion passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Weekly giving for the month of March was down. We were one week short due to the cancellation of church service on March 15th as our church had no heat. For the year, giving was about \$2000 ahead of last year.

Jeff had informational handouts. One offers free estate planning from the United Methodist Foundation. The second handout explains Qualified Charitable Donations for people who have reached age 70 1/2 and would like to make a tax-free donation directly from their IRA to support Menville United Methodist Church. He will have those available at service on Sunday for anyone who is interested.

At last month's meeting we voted to invest \$100,000 from the insurance payout on our parsonage into the United Methodist Foundation Building Fund Trust for 5 years at a rate of 4%.

We have that check ready and will be sending that off tomorrow.

Jeff will be meeting with Robin Beck tomorrow at Security National Bank. As decided at last month's Ad Council meeting, he will deposit \$100,000 into a 30-month CD at 3.5% interest and the remaining \$139,432.35 from the parsonage insurance payout into a 6-month CD at 3.5% interest. All interest will go directly into our General Fund for operating expenses.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

DAYCARE WING UPDATE - We are still on schedule to have the work on the daycare completed by the end of May.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Finance Committee will be brainstorming for fundraising ideas to raise the balance of money needed to "Raise The Roof". We currently have \$11,000 of the \$20,000 raised.

As of the first of April we have \$561.97 raised for our Guatemalan student. We need approximately \$183.00 more to fulfill our commitment to her. The final amount will be mailed in May, 2026.

Becky Thomas had asked about using our church for the start of the Menville Daze 5k race. We told her we would be happy to offer our parking lot for that event.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMBER SUPPORT AND EDUCATION** - Sunday School will end on April 26th. We will recognize and thank the teachers at that time for all their dedication and work.

# ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Continued –

**TRUSTEES** - We still have a few items to get rid of. They are on a table in fellowship hall Woodbury Central will be holding their annual clean-up day for community service April 24th. We will have a group of students here to help with some clean-up work outside the church.

Plains Boiler and Boiler Room Maintenance sent out technicians to evaluate our boiler today. Both companies said they would not recommend replacing our boiler at this time. Newer boilers do not have the lifetime that older ones such as ours do. However, both companies recommended some replacement of inoperable valves, maintenance, and possibly burner replacement, depending on its condition. The boiler should be maintained every 5 years so we will be getting that set up in the near future. Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 14, 2026. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Krejci

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.



## LAST MONTH FOR PERSONAL DIGNITY KITS!



### PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT SHOPPING LIST

- 1 hand towel - no kitchen towels
  - 1 washcloth - no dishcloths
  - 1 Adult toothbrush (no multipacks)
  - 1 bar soap - 3-4 oz.
  - 1 shampoo -12-19 oz. (secure lid with packing tape)
  - 1 deodorant - 2-3 oz. (stick, roll-on, or pump)
  - 1 lotion - 8-10 oz. (secure lid with packing tape)
  - 1 One-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \*Place all items in resealable plastic bag including \$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag.



Scan the code to learn how  
to assemble this kit!



### A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who rallied together to clear out and organize the Sunday School rooms. It truly was a whole-church effort, with so many hands and hearts pitching in. Your willingness to show up, work side by side, and care for our shared spaces is a beautiful reminder of who we are. We are a family—each one of you an important and irreplaceable part of it. Your kindness, teamwork, and dedication shine brightly.

**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:**  
Terri Koehn

**Trustees Chair:**  
Jody Weaver  
**Vice-Chair:**  
Randy Petersen

**UWIF**  
Janice Schlotman

# MINISTRY CORNER

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



### COMMUNITY BASKET

We are collecting Peanut Butter and Jelly(Again) 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! May food distribution will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> at Kingsley-Pierson School in Pierson at 10AM.

### Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

Thank you for your generosity in answering the call for support of our student, Leslie, As of April 2, 2026, we have a balance of \$561.97 for our annual Guatemalan Student Sponsorship. We will need an additional \$183.03 by the end of May to make a second half payment of \$745.00.



## Heifer Highlights

The Heifer Project works to end hunger and poverty by partnering directly with the communities they serve. Their programs empower entrepreneurs worldwide, creating long-term, ground-up change. Each project begins with a seed investment—such as livestock or agricultural resources—paired with mentorship to help families build sustainable businesses.

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

### MIDWEST MISSION

Midwest Mission is inviting our church family to help serve our community from home by collecting items for Personal Dignity Kits from March to May. Information about Ingathering Kits in the Newsletter for your reference or lists are provided on the table in the entrance.

### PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND.

"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 first quarter of 2026 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."