

CHURCH MATTERS

APRIL
2017



MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

3824 Swamp Rd., P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, NY

www.morrisvillechurch.org

morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Facebook - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-12pm

Office 684-3314

Pastor's Office 684-9971

Kitchen\ Clothes Basket 684-9970

April Birthdays

1 Ann Batchelor	19 Adrianna Griffin
2 Amanda Miller	19 Paul Mockovak
2 Pat Olsson	20 George Fearon
5 Maxine Hunter	20 Dakota Merkle
5 Harriet Stevens	21 Ron Brodeur
6 Robin Suarez	25 Jacalyn Groves
7 Nick Hunter	30 Joel Bush
12 Karen Holbert	

April Anniversaries

4 Tom & Jill Leamer

Pulpit Supply for upcoming weeks are as follows:

April	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima
2	- Communion
9	- Palm Sunday
16	- Easter Sunday
23	Elder Pat Olsson
30	Elder Bill Porter

April 2017 Calendar of Events

2 Worship Service 2:00pm Crouse Community Center

3 CE Committee 5:30 pm SS Room

3 Deacons 6:30 pm Library

4 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library

6 PW Committee 6:30 Library

6 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall

9 Palm Sunday

10 Outreach Committee 5:30 pm SS

10 Worship Committee 6 pm Library

10 Property Committee 7 pm Fellowship Hall

11 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library

11 Rebekahs 2:00 pm Fellowship Hall

13 Finance Committee 7 pm Library

13 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall

14 Good Friday

16 Easter Sunday

17 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library

18 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library

18 Faith Circle Noon Marcia Vair's home

20 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 Fellowship Hall

25 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library

25 Rebekahs 2:00 Fellowship Hall

26 WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall

27 Book Read "The Truth According To Us" noon at

Church Library

27 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall

Please Note:

Clothes Basket will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10 to 2 pm unless otherwise noted.

Adult Bible Study is held every Sunday at 9:30am in the Church Library during the school year.

Sunday Hour of Prayer is held every Sunday from 6:30-7:30 pm. This will be time for anyone from our church and community to gather with others and share a time of prayer.

From the Worship Committee

Showers of Blessings

"I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessings." Ezekiel 34:26

As I thought about what I should write for the April newsletter the popular song, "April Showers", played through my head. I even sang a few of the words. How happy I felt singing about April showers that bring May flowers, as well as singing the words which implore us "to listen for a bluebird and listen to its song when ever April showers come along." There is a blessing in such things as a song or even a happening that puts happiness in our hearts and the hearts of others. What a blessing to be cheered by a spring time song. Then another blessing fell upon me: the scripture, *Ezekiel 34:26*.

In the scripture we are promised showers of blessings—and these blessing come from God. What an interesting image and thought the words invoked in my mind. First, God promises to make "them" (which in my mind is us) and the "places surrounding my hill a blessing". God will make us a blessing by sending us blessings. God showers us with an abundance of blessings such as food and shelter to joy and hope. One of the biggest blessings sent to us is Jesus. With the happiness these blessings bring we are to pass the blessings to others. Second, I liken the "hills" mentioned in the scripture to the hills of central New York. This is the place we live and God is here—not exclusively here—but God is here. Third, what a blessing it is that "in season" God sends the rain and, in our case, snow, to refresh the beautiful hills of central New York. As spring turns to summer the foliage turns our hills a vibrant green. How many of you have heard this comment from a person visiting Morrisville in summer: "There are so many shades of green here". Yes, our hills are covered in overwhelming shades of green and what joy it is to see. Not only is the land refreshed but the life supporting showers replenishes our wells, reservoirs, lakes and streams. We are so blessed here to have available to us fresh, cool and clean drinking water. Yes, this is the season when our natural world awakens and our spirits awaken in the promise of Easter. Words from an old gospel

hymn say it best: "There shall be showers of blessing: This is the promise of love; there shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Savior above."

Dear God, We give you thanks and praise for the showers of blessings in our lives. We ask your guidance to help us and the church to be blessings to others in Morrisville, central New York and beyond. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

On Behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter

From the Food Pantry

Twenty seven (27) families visited the pantry in February. Eighty dollars (\$80) in cash was received along with 207 food items and other products that were donated. Of these items, the 2nd Graders at Morrisville-Eaton collected 35 food items from their "Good Deed Project"

I have been working on the final reports, with the assistance of Jeff Gay, that will be due for the Food and Shelter Program Grant and application for the Central NY Food Bank Grant, with the assistance of Mark Shepard, that has to be in by April 7, 2017. The CNY Food Bank Grant will be awarded sometime in May but we have no idea what the award might be this year.

Sue Bartow, Co-Coordinator

From Outreach & Evangelism

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in helping us with the new vision study sheet. We are compiling for the information and will be letting everyone know the results. We have already started to put ideas in place.

We want to remind everyone about the upcoming covered dish dinner on Saturday, May 13 at 5:30pm. Please come join us with the "Friends of God" band. Let's enjoy the music, fellowship and food.

The Outreach and Evangelism have started Sunday Night Prayers on every Sunday night at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

God Bless, Outreach & Evangelism Committee

From the Property Committee

Boilers were inspected.

Door stoppers were purchased.

Doug M. will be doing the emergency lights.

A letter will be sent to Bob Mitchell thanking him for all of the time and energy he spent cleaning and painting the walls in the lower level of the building.

Bonnie Olney, Pathrik Olsson and friend spent about three hours evaluating the speaking system. He will be checking the information that came with the system and returning to finish with: putting on casters, drawing designs and directions for operation (laymen's language). We will be placing a Plexiglas with latch on the front of the shelving. Thoughts are to replace the old CD and VHS with new equipment so that homebound might enjoy the service.

Syracuse Time Alarm contract has been signed.

J. Meadows will be doing an inspection of sprinkler system/compressor this year.

Much time was spent making a new draft for the letter that is sent out for bids on our lawn. It will be sent out in April.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon, Chairperson

New Moderator

Rev. Earl Arnold will be leaving us as Moderator of Session. He and his wife will be moving to Owego, NY. Our April Session meeting will be his last time with us. Replacing Rev. Arnold will be Rev. Diane Monger of Cazenovia.

BAZAAR BUZZ Start Crafting!!

“*Country Crossroads 2017*” is scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2017. We are beginning to plan for it and hope all our crafters are thinking about projects they can do and donate. We have lots of craft supplies and even kits available in our Bazaar Workroom downstairs. Before you purchase supplies for your craft projects you should check and see if we have what you need.

Naydene Ames and Sylvia McKinnon know all the products available downstairs...ask one of them.

IN GOD'S EYES, I'M SPECIAL

(In difficult times pray/read this to Understand Your True Worth)

I'm special. In all the world, there is nobody like me.

Since the beginning of time, God has never created another person like me. Nobody has my smile, nobody has my nose, my hair, my hands, my voice. I'm special.

No one can be found who has my handwriting.

Nobody has my tastes – for food or music or art. No one sees things like I do.

In all of time there has been no one who laughs like me, no one who cries like me. And, what makes me laugh and cry will never provoke identical laughter and tears from anybody else, ever. No one reacts to any situation just as I would react. I'm special.

I'm the only one in all of creation who has my set of abilities. Oh, there will always be somebody who is better at one of the things I'm good at, but no one in the universe can reach the quality of my combinations of talents, ideas, abilities, and feelings. Like a room full of instruments, some may excel alone, but none can match the symphony when all are played together. I'm a symphony.

Through all of eternity, no one will ever look, talk, walk, think, or do like me. I'm special. I'm rare. And, as in all rarity, there is great value.

Because of my rare value, I need not attempt to imitate others. I will accept – yes, celebrate – my differences.

I'm special. I'm beginning to realize, it's not by accident that I'm special. I'm beginning to see that God made me special, for a very special purpose. He must have a job for me to do, that no one else can do as well as I. Out of the billions of applicants, only one has the right combination of what it takes.

That one is me. Because I'm special.

*From Group Magazine – October 1977. *

(Submitted by Tom Lemery)

Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team

There will be a third indoor **Sale of Craft Supplies** on Saturday, May 20, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall at the Morrisville Community Church, 3824 Swamp Road, Morrisville, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have unpacked more storage boxes. Some of the items for sale will include (but are not limited to) ribbons, plastic mesh, doll supplies, artificial flowers, wooden items, felt, and craft kits. Several additional crafters will have their own tables offering their excess supplies, including Stampin' Up items, scrapbooking, wooden items, tins and much more. If you craft, this is a sale you won't want to miss. Mark your calendars and join us on May 20. For additional information, call Jackie Groves (684-9337).

SAVING GRACE

By: Pathrik L. Olsson
A.K.A. Mr. Bonnie

Psalm 104:34

May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

Some time ago my family was sitting down to dinner and it was Corey's turn to say the blessing, it went something like this...

Blessthisfoodandthehandsncenvkejnfvkijnv...Amen.

Corey has been getting better and he was not the first perpetrator of this offence that I had witnessed. I have been guilty of it myself with the standard "God is great, God is good thank you for the food, Amen". But hearing Corey's high speed version set me to thinking...

When did saying grace or saying the blessing become so unfeeling and blurted? Isaiah 29:13 warns us that "The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught." The blessing of the meal should come from the heart not from the memory. To me it is a time for serious contemplation about how lucky we are to have food at all.

It is a time to thank God for not only the food itself or the cook but also to thank God for the

farmers, pickers, canners, butchers, meat packers, etc. It is a time to thank God for living creature that died so we could live and serve God.

So I'm not saying that everyone should be mentioned by name. We can all take a lesson from Ecclesiastes 5:2 "Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few." But thought should be given to *all* that God provided to us to enable us to eat. When we thank God for the meal it should be sincere and meaningful.

The old standard blessings are a fine start (we all love traditions) but I think a personal, heartfelt prayer should be added. And always remember Matthew chapter 6 verses 7 and 8 "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

From the Deacons

Deacons would like you to know we are here for you. If you need any special requests or prayers please let us know.

We are collecting cans of fruit for the Christmas baskets it might seem real early to do but they seem to be the item we never have enough of. Thank you in advance for your donations.

We would like to wish everyone who has a Birthday or Anniversary this month the most blessed day and many more to come. Prayers that everyone feels God's love every day.

Deacon Greeters for April

April 2 - Calla Miller, Sue Bartow

April 9 - (Palm Sunday) Rachael Armstrong, Norma Galbreath

April 16 - (Easter) Calla Miller

April 23 - Roberta Link, Dave Link

April 30 - Robin Suarez, Tom Leamer, Jr.

God bless, Connie Shepard

Reflections from the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee would like to return to some practices from the past in order to enhance our worship and create a reflective environment.

We are encouraging everyone to move into the Sanctuary in a timely manner upon arrival on

Sunday mornings. Our thought is that this will cut down on the noise in the Narthex that filters into the Sanctuary. We would like the Sanctuary to be a quiet place so that those who wish can experience a quiet time of reflection and prayer before the service begins. Therefore the doors will be closed at approximately 10:15 as Keith provides some spiritual music conducive to meditation. Thank you for your cooperation.

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Class of 2017

Henry Douglas
Sylvia McKinnon
Mark Shepard
Priscilla Suits
Nancy Douglas

Class of 2018

Jeff Cring
Lois Thurston

Class of 2019

Pathrik Olsson

DEACONS

Class of 2017

Calla Miller
Connie Shepard
Sue Bartow

Class of 2018

David Link
Roberta Link
Robin Suarez

Class of 2019

Norma Galbreath
Rachael Armstrong
Tom Leamer, Jr.

Statistics for March 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
5	36	\$ 2102.00	\$ 270.00
12	35	\$ 1912.00	\$ 180.00
19	33	\$ 1353.00	\$ 10.00
26	42	\$ 1609.00	\$ 375.00