

CHURCH MATTERS

APRIL

2018



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 9:30 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	12	Karen Holbert
2	Amanda Miller	19	Adrianna Griffin
2	Pat Olsson	19	Paul Mockovak
5	Maxine Hunter	20	George Fearon
5	Harriet Stevens	20	Dakota Merkle
6	Robin Suarez	21	Ron Brodeur
7	Nick Hunter	25	Jackie Groves

April Anniversaries

3 Tom & Jill LeamerArmstrong

Pulpit Supply for upcoming weeks are as follows:

April 1	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima - Easter Sunday
8	Rev. Bud Adams
15	PW Gifts of Women
22	Pat Olsson
29	Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams

REQUEST FROM PROPERTY COMMITTEE

If you did not receive a letter from Sylvia about having church "keys" in your possession, please contact her if you do have keys. Thank you (Sylvia 315-684-3194)

Per Capita for each member in 2018 is \$35.22.

Clothes Basket

Wednesday & Saturday 10 am - 2 pm.

We will be closed March 31 (Easter Weekend) and the next week...April 2 through April 10. We will re-open Wednesday, April 11 with spring/summer fashions.

April 2018 Calendar of Events

1	April Fools' Day
1	Easter Sunday - Communion - 10:30 service
2	Deacons 6:30 pm Library
3	Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
5	Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
9	Worship Committee 6 pm Library
9	Outreach Committee 6:30 pm SS Room
9	Property Committee 7:00 Fellowship Hall
10	Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
10	Rebekahs 2:00 pm Fellowship Hall
12	Finance Committee 7 pm Library
12	Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
16	Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
17	Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
17	Homecoming Committee 6:30 pm Library
19	Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
24	Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
24	Rebekahs 2:00 pm Fellowship Hall
25	WIC 9:30 - 3:30 pm Fellowship Hall
26	Book Read "Miss You" by Kate Eberlen - Library
27	Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall

Please Note:

Adult Bible Study has been discontinued for the summer, and will resume after Labor Day every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library.

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.

Spring

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

Spring, March 20, arrives in Morrisville with the hills and valleys covered in snow. The snow is deep and the air temperature is below normal, but the bright March sun, when it is not covered by clouds, is a hopeful sign. And although mornings are cold and snowy, the morning air is filled with the territorial songs of Cardinals and the cooing of the Mourning Doves. The Red-winged Blackbird has returned. Chipmunks are poking their heads out of the snow. Life is stirring and returning, but the leaves and flowers have yet to breach the snow.

Now it is April—the month when the natural world "opens"—symbolizing the growing season when trees and flowers begin to "open". Here in Morrisville the snow cover is slowly, ever so slowly melting. Soon the spring time we picture in our minds will become reality.

It is also the Easter season—the spring time of our faith. Hallelujah! Christ has risen. A time when we celebrate "new birth into living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Through Lent we meditated, prayed, and reflected on Jesus' life and ministry which led us to the cross. We are now at the cross and the good news is hope lives with us through the resurrection of Jesus. During this season may our faith blossom in beauty and strength.

In closing, I hope you'll find this reflection and prayer written by Barbara Schiavone, "Sharing Our Faith", Day 55, 1996, as moving as I did. Barb based the reflection and prayer on Isaiah 55.

"My spirit exults in the spring as the sun shines warmer and longer and the earth burst forth with new life. So, too, can the winter of our soul burst forth with new life and joy in Christ, and as we find peace and joy in Christ, so too can others if we will but introduce them to him. Peace in the world can start with us."

Prayer: Dear Father and Creator, thank you for this spring and its new life. Help us to *"go out in joy and be led forth in peace"* to share that joy and excitement with others, *"that they shall break forth into singing...(Then) instead of the thorn shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial."* Amen

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Worship Committee, Maxine G. Hunter

I WAS JUST THINKING...

by Tom Lemery

I was just thinking about April Fools' Day, and how much I disliked it. I don't like April Fools' Day just because of the jokes! It's the fact that people can't be happy pulling just one good April Fools' joke. I know working at the elementary school, students were always trying to make April fools out of their teachers on this day...for almost 5 hours. (You have to figure teachers would get a break when the kids have gym, and lunch and recess.) Of course, who wants to be constantly on the receiving end of an April fool's joke? Who really likes it? Not me. There wasn't an April Fools' joke pulled on me that I ever liked...until this year.

I was thinking...as much as I strongly dislike these pranks and being on the receiving end of them, my mind changed this year.

I noticed Easter fell on April Fools' Day. Then, I had this train of thought...

Having Easter on April 1 seems apropos. Why? When the people who mocked, abused, and crucified Jesus on the cross, they thought he was dead for two days. They were right...until they looked in the tomb. He wasn't there. The third day, Jesus came back, and lives in the hearts of believers, and waiting for non-believers to turn to Him.

The fact that Jesus is not dead, and lives in me...I praise God for that. Where would my life be if he wasn't born, lived, died for my sins, and rose from the dead? Where would your life be?

If this was an April Fools' Day joke, this, to me, is the ONLY ONE I'd like and be thankful for.

One final thought...

What do you think Jesus would say to those people who crucified him?... "April Fools!!" or "Happy Easter."

BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Blessings from God...

Loving me unconditionally.

Everlasting life.

Saving my sinful soul.

Staying with me In good and bad times...

Never leaving me.

Grace that I don't deserve.

Shining His Light in me.

THANK YOU GOD FOR ALL THESE BLESSINGS!

- Tom Lemery

Psalm 104:34

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

Isaiah 40:9

“You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

The last four words say it all and are what we are all after... But how do we get there?

How do we get to “Here is your God!”

Let’s look into the Scriptures...

Acts 17 verses 26 and 27 are a good place to start since it starts at the beginning...

“From one man He made all the nations that they should inhabit the whole earth;
and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.
God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him,
though He is not far from any one of us.”

Luke says that all we have to do is seek God and if we reach out for Him we will find Him...

A good start... Let’s try another...Jeremiah 29 verses 12 and 13...

“Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”

If we reach out to God through prayer and seek Him with all our hearts we will find God...

From Deuteronomy 4 verse 29...

“But if from there you seek the LORD your God,
you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Matthew 7 verses 7 and 8. Ask, Seek, Knock...

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds;
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

And lastly from Proverbs 8:17...

“I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me find Me.”

All we have to do is to seek God with all our hearts and souls and through prayer we will get to “Here is your God!”

An afterthought...

Some time ago I rescued an old Bible from the Clothes Basket. It has since become the Bible that I use to prep for Adult Bible Study.

Recently I realized that it had apparently been donated from a secondhand store when the other day I noticed the word “USED” stamped on it...

And I thought to myself... how wonderful to know that this Bible was, and still is being, “USED”, and not just read...

CWS Hygiene Kit

Again Presbytery is sponsoring a CWS (Church World Services) Kit Drive.

Last year when we got hit with 3 hurricanes in a row, Church World Service warehouses were almost empty. Thankfully, congregations all across the United States stepped up and helped provide CWS kits in the aftermath of the hurricanes. CWS doesn't want to be in that position again, so they are asking for your help. Park Central, in Syracuse, is serving as a depot again.

CWS will be picking up the CWS Kits in New York on April 30. If you wish to supply a kit or kits, please have them in to church by Sunday, April 22 so that someone can take them to Park Central in time for shipment

CWS Hygiene Specifications and Supplies needed:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15"x28" to 16"x 32" (no fingertip, bath. dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from package
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene Kit just prior to its journey.

Value: \$15

Processing fee: \$2 per Kit

Do not enclose money inside the kits or in the shipping boxes.

Find shipping and donation instructions at cwkits.org.

Thank you for your help.

REMEMBER WHEN...

THIRTY YEARS AGO

By Ann Berlew

Maxine Hunter and I were privileged to attend the first Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana from July 13 to the 18, 1988. It was a wonderful experience connecting with Presbyterian sisters from around the world...a merging of the United Presbyterian Women (UPW) and Women of the Church (WOC).

The programs and worship services were extraordinary. I will never forget the thrill of singing hymns with 3,000 women. The theme of the gathering was "Drawn by the Waters of Life". We stayed in the college dorms which had no air conditioning and the temperatures that week ranged from 107 to 113 degrees! Luckily I had lugged a window fan on the plane so Max and I were somewhat cooler than most. On the last day I ventured to the pool I had seen from our window. When I looked at the pool there was never people in it. I found out why when the lifeguard told me the temperature of the water was the same as the air!

From the Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team

The following were in attendance at our March meeting: Naydene Ames, Maxine Hunter, Karen Jacobs, Sylvia McKinnon and Marlene Miner.

We received thank you notes from The Thea Bowman House and from Judy Parker of the Morrisville Community Christmas Project for the monetary donation we sent them.

Marlene Miner reported that the Faith Circle bible study group has disbanded for now.

Under past events, it was reported that \$113 was made from the Clothes Basket Mini Garage sale held on January 20. Our 7th Annual Valentine Express was held on January 16, which had a good turnout and the ladies enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship while creating valentines. On February 13, five ladies distributed 120 valentines to residents at Crouse Community Center where they were well received.

After some discussion, it was agreed by all to cancel the Fashion Show for November 2018. If there is interest and enough volunteers, we may bring this event back in 2020.

Karen reported that the Clothes Basket staff has been fortunate over the past several years to have a retired couple come and pick up the surplus items and take them

to a shelter in need. Due to health reasons, this couple can no longer provide this service. We know that Madison County Landfill accepts used clothing, HOWEVER, we need a volunteer(s) with a vehicle to pick up the bags of clothing (which are heavy) and take them to the landfill. This job would only be for two times a year, once in the Spring when the Clothes Basket staff bags up the fall/winter items that did not sell and once in the fall when the Clothes Basket staff bags up the spring/summer items that did not sell. The Clothes Basket also agreed to offer a small stipend (time and mileage?) to any volunteers who would help us get the clothing to the landfill. If you, or if you know of someone in the community who would like to volunteer for this service, PLEASE see Karen Jacobs or Claudia Loomis.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the church library. All ladies of our church are welcome to attend.

Respectfully,
Naydene Ames, Secretary

From the Deacons

We pray all of you not only survive April Fools' Day, but the rest of the month as well.

If you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month, we pray that it's a wonderful day for you.

We have finalized our Deacons Caring List. You will receive a letter with the name of your deacon for this year, along with the complete caring list. Any questions or problems, contact Tom Lemery at 315-684-7535.

- The Deacon Greeters for April are:
- 1 Tom Leamer, Jr./Ron Brodeur
 - 8 Connie Shepard/Evie Shepard
 - 15 Robin Suarez/George Fearon
 - 22 Norma Galbreath/Rachael Armstrong
 - 29 Robin Suarez/Connie Shepard

The Deacons want you to know...God loves you, and SO DO WE! If you need anything, please call on us.

May the Love of God fill your heart, and may April bring you many blessings!!

Sincerely,
The Deacons

From the Food Pantry

One new family was among the twenty-two families that came to the pantry in February. 648 meals were provided. We also received \$72.00 and 68 food and hygiene donations.

Mike Watros, our agency coordinator from the Food Bank of Central New York, visited the pantry on February 14, to do an inspection and advise of updates. He informed us that the Produce Grants applied for in May of 2017 did not come through and a new Seed Grant (fresh produce) application is available and needed to be in by February 28, 2018. We did submit an application prior to the deadline. Mike was pleased with our pantry and that postings, food safety, and procedures were being complied with.

Mark Shepard was able to get the square footage of our new location so a floor plan can be established prior to our move. We are still not sure of our move date.

Sue Bartow, Co-Coordinator

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

- Class of 2018**
Jeff Cring
Lois Thurston
Bonnie Olney

- Class of 2019**
Pathrik Olsson

- Class of 2020**
Sylvia McKinnon
Mark Shepard
Tom Leamer, Sr.
Sheila Bartlett
Ellen Davis

DEACONS

- Class of 2018**
Robin Suarez
Connie Shepard
Evelyn Shepard

- Class of 2019**
Norma Galbreath
Rachael Armstrong
Tom Leamer, Jr.

- Class of 2020**
George Fearon
Tom Lemery
Ron Brodeur

Statistics for March 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Bldg Fund</u>
4	35	\$ 1,630.00	\$ 350.00
11	30	\$ 2,030.00	\$ 150.00
18	35	\$ 1,965.00	\$ 1,240.00
25	40	\$ 1,870.00	\$ 80.00
25	One Great Hour of Sharing \$562.00		

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