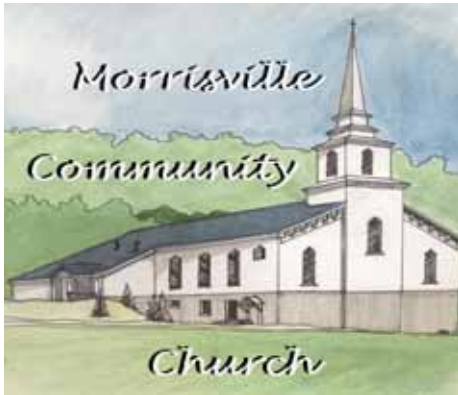


CHURCH MATTERS

DECEMBER

2015



MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

3824 Swamp Rd., P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, NY 13408

www.morrisvillechurch.org

morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Service 10:30AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am– 12pm

Office 684-3314

Clothes Basket 684-9970

Fax 684-7817

December Birthdays

1	Kyle Graves	14	Catharine Andrews
4	Kaydin Dutcher	14	Steven Broedel
5	Jill Leamer	15	Calixto Saurez
10	Delaney Graves	20	Greg Dutcher
12	Natalie Turner	22	Cory Olney
13	David Holbert, Jr.	28	Holly Page
13	Alison Mullenax	31	Bob Mitchell

December Anniversary

14	Stephen & Jacalyn Groves
19	Kenneth & Pat Parker
20	Jeffrey & Karen Gay
20	Jason & Laurie Zbock
21	Nathan & Calla Miller
21	Paul & Audra Mockovak

FACEBOOK "like" AND "share".

Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA.

Pulpit Supply

December 6 -24 Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima

27 Open

Soldier Christmas Cards - Update

The address that we included in the October Newsletter is **NOT** valid. Walter Reed Hospital will not accept mail unless it is addressed to a specific person. The US Mail will not deliver these letters. The reason for this is security for our soldiers and the personnel at the hospital.

December 2015 Calendar of Events

- 1 Ethel Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 2 **American Red Cross Blood Drive 1 - 6 pm**
- 6 **2nd Sunday in Advent Service 10:30 am**
- 7 CE Committee Mtg. 5:30 pm SS Room
- 7 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm Library
- 8 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 8 Rebekahs 12 noon - 3pm Fellowship Hall
- 9 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 9 New Hope Circle 6:30 pm Library
- 10 PW Ministry Team 6:30 pm Library
- 10 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Youth Room
- 10-11 Community Christmas Setup - Fellowship Hall
- 12 **Community Christmas Distribution 9 - 1 pm**
- 13 **3rd Sunday in Advent Service 10:30 am /
New Member Reception**
- 13 **Christmas Caroling at Harding Nursing Home 2 pm**
- 14 Outreach Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm SS Room
- 14 Worship Committee Mtg. 6 pm Library
- 14 Property Committee Mtg. 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 15 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 15 Faith Circle 12:00 noon Marcia Vair
- 16 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 17 Finance Committee Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 17 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Youth Room
- 17-18 Deacons Christmas Food Basket Setup –
- 19 **Deacons Christmas Food Basket Distribution 9-1**
- 20 **4th Sunday in Advent Service 10:30**
- 20 **Christmas Caroling at Crouse Comm. Center 2 pm**
- 21 Session Mtg. 7 pm Library
- 22 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 23 WIC 9:30 - 3:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- 23 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 24 **Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm**
- 25 **Christmas Day - Office Closed**
- 29 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 30 Zumba 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- 31 Tae Kwon Do 6 - 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- 31 **New Year's Eve**

From the Property Committee

We have received another payment for the sealing of the driveways. This almost costs all of the cost. Yeah!

We are evaluating the work sessions volunteered by the Cerebral Palsy clients to see if they are beneficial to both parties.

We have found a person who would like the fire proof filing cabinets that we can't use. They will be removed shortly.

Ron and Nate will be bringing all of the Christmas decorations down from storage in the garage so they can be arranged on Saturday, November 28, Hanging of the Greens. Come join us.

We will be needing persons to be on call for snow removal while Ron is away December 30 - January 3. Call Sylvia if you could help.

Respectfully Submitted
Sylvia McKinnon

Bazaar Buzz

Thank you to all who contributed to the PW Bazaar held Saturday, November 7. Your generous contributions of items for sale, food for the cafe and for the bake shop, and your time given made this a huge success. Our total for this bazaar is \$3612. Without each and every one of you this would not have been possible. The money earned will support our local community missions as well as a few broader ones over the next 2 years. Thank you for your continued support of our PW programs.

New Members

Our church is blessed to welcome seven new members to our congregation. Although they are now familiar faces, Session has voted to accept them into membership as official members of our family. On December 13, there will be a reception after the church service to welcome Tom and Jill Leamer, Pat Morse, Rachael Armstrong, Evelyn Shepard, Pat Olsson and Alison O'Hara. Please join us for this joyous celebration.

Morrisville Community Church Food Pantry

The Morrisville Community Church Food Pantry will officially open in January, 2016. Our pantry will be located on the lower level at the Cornell Cooperative Extension building. Times of operation are yet to be determined.

We have recently been notified that the Food Bank of Central New York has received additional funds raised in collaboration with the 2015 Boilermaker Road Race to provide our program with a \$1000 line of credit to assist in the operation of our site.

In the meantime, the CNY Food Bank will be constructing shelves for us to use and will move all items from the current Food Pantry on December 28.

The Food Pantry committee under the leadership of Sue Bartow and Hank Douglas will be traveling to the CNY Food Bank Headquarters on December 1 for training.

The current pantry volunteers are planning to continue in their roles at the pantry. However more volunteers are welcome. Training for new participants will be provided on site. If you are interested, please see Sue Bartow or Henry Douglas.

Monetary donations are always welcome. If you wish to contribute, checks should be made out to Morrisville Community Church with "Food Pantry" on the memo line.

We are excited to be able to provide this much needed service to our community.

Annual Report

REMINDER

Attention Committee Chairmen!

If you haven't done so already, please have your **Annual Report** to the Church Office **no later than December 31, 2015**.

From the Deacons

Congratulations to all the MECS students that recently made the High Honor and Honor Roll.

Congratulations to Nic Suarez. He was recently inducted in MECS National Honor Society. Nic is the son of Robin and Calixto Suarez.

Congratulations to Kyle Graves and the Men's Soccer team. He and his team went to post season play for the second consecutive time in the Division III NCAA Soccer Tournament.

LAST CALL!! The Deacons are encouraging you to donate any fruits and "veggies" to fill up our cardboard box in the Narthex. Let's see how many times we can do it! These cans will go into the Food Baskets we distribute at Christmas. No GLASS jars can be accepted. Please check the expiration date. Thank you in advance.

We also hope that you will join us for caroling at Harding Nursing Home. The date is December 13 at 2 pm. Please come to the church at 1:30 pm to work out rides.

Finally, the Deacons hope that all of you have a blessed month. May all of God's Love surround you always.

In His Service
Tom Lemery

UNITY ACRES

Background information of Morrisville Community Church's involvement. Unity Acres is a home for homeless men, located in Orwell, NY near Pulaski in Oswego County.

We first heard of Unity Acres at a Cayuga-Syracuse Presbyterian Women's meeting. We were telling some women about our Clothes Basket and what to do with the clothing after our change of seasons. It was suggested we could take them to Unity Acres. That is what we did.

At the spring changeover we loaded a vehicle with men's winter clothing, and in the fall we took a load of spring clothing. The clothes were put in a "store" where the men would shop for needed clothing for themselves. We also took some women's clothing with us. The men had their own mission where this clothing was needed. We began this in 1996.

Unity Acres was started by a Catholic priest, Father McVay. The buildings used to be a Tuberculosis Sanatorium. There are two buildings for the men to reside which include a library, and another building which has a kitchen and dining hall.

There are two rules - No Fighting, and No Alcohol or Drugs. The men keep the buildings up, tend a garden, and raise a few animals. They also have their own cemetery. At one time, there were as many as 140 men residing at Unity Acres. It is supported by donations, volunteers and faith.

We were told the men are very seldom in touch with any family members. They even enjoy receiving junk mail. We decided Christmas Cards would be gratefully received. We don't address the cards, We simply write "to a friend" on the envelope and sign the card "from a friend". The cards will be sent in a package to the director of Unity Acres. We have been told the men receive them at the dinner table on Christmas, and it helps make their holiday a little brighter.

From the Worship Committee

Advent: Preparation and Anticipation

"Shout and be glad...for I am coming and I will live among you," declares the Lord." Zechariah 2:10

How needed and beautiful is the Advent season. It is a season of waiting, expecting and hoping. It is the season that helps us prepare for the advent of the Christ Child at Christmas. It is the time of the telling and the re-telling of the story of why God incarnate—"Emmanuel, God with us"— came into the world to walk among us, as well as a time when we look forward in anticipation to his coming again. The story as foretold in Isaiah 11:1a—"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse..."— to the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:11—"unto you is born this day..."— to God returning to be among us, Luke 21:31—"Even when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near"— has been enhanced over the millennia by many poems and hymns adding beauty and joy to our understanding and worship. One such poem, *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*, written in 1872 by Christina Rossetti (and later put to music by

Gustav Theodor Holst in 1906) is one of my favorites. Enjoy the imagery! Rejoice in the message!

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth
sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he
comes to reign:

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

Prayer: Dear God, although our winters are often bleak with "snow on snow", we know that under the snow life is renewed. Be with us as we seek the advent of Jesus in our lives. We know His light has come and is coming. Open our hearts and renew our souls so that Jesus' light will shine in us and through us now and forever. Amen

On behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter

GRATITUDE

Last year Rev. Sindima encouraged us to think of our blessings, specifically, and encouraged us to reach out. We should, of course, continue to do this. This year, as we begin the advent season, I would like to encourage us to keep a gratitude journal and write something every day. With this world in turmoil and the media supplying us with data that is not encouraging we sometimes feel overwhelmed by events. Some of us have been facing or have faced some challenges in our lives that can cloud the positive "little things". Many of us are grateful everyday and may whisper a little prayer "Thank you, God". But as the day wears on we sometimes forget those things that we were grateful earlier in the day or the day before. When we write things down that we

can look at or refer back to it reinforces all the things, big or small, that we can be grateful for. Let's try this, during this advent season, and see if we can lighten our worries as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clear Path for Veterans sent a letter thanking Morrisville Community Church for the generous gift of \$201.00 received as a "free-will" offering during the special Veterans Day Service, on November 8, honoring our veterans in the community.

Great Commission Fund

Elder Sylvia McKinnon, representing Morrisville Community Church, stated that **Presbytery** has made the decision to distribute the Great Commission Fund (\$350,000) equally to all churches of the Presbytery. Our share will be about \$11,000 and will be received sometime this month. The "Great Commission" means to go out and be disciples.

Statistics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Nov 1	44	\$3275.00	\$ 435.00
Nov 8	55	\$ 979.00	\$ 65.00
Nov 15	30	\$ 773.00	\$ 65.00
Nov 22	48	\$ 957.00	\$ 765.00
Nov 29	48	\$ 1270.00	\$ 325.00

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Hard to think about snow and sleet and freezing rain, but...**when the school is closed, so is the Church Office and the Clothes Basket.** Local radio and TV may say, but the District Website at www.mecs.org will also have the information. The school district phone is 684-9300.

TV Channels with school closings are:
WSTM Channel 3 WTVH Channel 5
WSYR Channel 9 YNN Channel 10

Radio Stations are:
WKLL 94.9FM WMCR 1600AM
WMCR 106.3FM WFRG 104.3FM
WODZ 96.1 WLZW 98.7FM
WIBX 950AM WOUR 96.9FM
WOMX 102.5FM WOKR 93.1FM
WTLB 1310AM