



CHURCH MATTERS

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH Rev. Charles Vollmer

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

FACEBOOK - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA

Sunday Service 11 a.m. Church Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - noon

Office: 315-684-3314 Pastor's Office: 315-684-9971

Clothes Basket: 315-684-9970 Thursdays & 1st Saturday -- 10 a.m. – Noon

Food Pantry will be open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 to 12 noon
1st Saturday of every month from 10 to 12 noon, unless otherwise noted.

Chapel at Morrisville Community Church is open for your use of prayer and reflection 24-7 everyday, Monday thru Sunday.

March 2021

March Birthday

- 2 Maria Josephs
- 4 Cindy Monaghan
- 6 Heather Gorton
- 10 Harvey Sindima
- 10 Cecilia Mbagu
- 12 Ken Nodell
- 14 Gia Downer
- 16 Jeff Gay
- 16 Tracy Akers
- 17 Bill Batchelor
- 21 Emily Marshall
- 25 Sylvia McKinnon
- 26 Julie Vair
- 26 Darce` Vollmer
- 26 Dick Richardson
- 26 Nick Suarez
- 27 Freda Josephs
- 27 Bonnie Olsson
- 29 Sam Tucci
- 29 James Turner
- 29 Matthew Mbagu

We have opened, if you attend services please follow these conditions:

Wear masks - Use hand sanitizer - No singing

Practice social distancing (no passing peace, no coffee hour)

March 2021 Calendar of Events

- 1 Deacons Meeting 7pm Fellowship Hall
- 8 Worship Committee 6 pm Library
- 8 Property Committee - Online
- 14 Daylight Savings Time - Spring Ahead**
- 15 Session 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Observed**
- 20 First Day of Spring**
- 26 American Red Cross Blood Drive**
1 - 6pm Fellowship Hall
- 28 Palm Sunday Observed**

Important Time Change: Worship Service is 11 a.m.

PRAYER LIST:

Margaret Kenyon, (Sue Bartow's mom), Kurt Virkaitis (son-in-law of Karen and Sam Tucci), Jill Dougherty (Linda Dougherty's daughter), Jenna Weinschreider (Charlotte Hill's granddaughter), Dianna Zatto (Sue Bartow's cousin), Ellen Davis, Jackie Groves, Andrea Loson (Calla Miller's friend), Lisa Stopchick, Theresa (Lisa Stopchick's sister), George Fearon, Esther & Stan Davis, Sue Droege (cousin of Karen Jacobs), Peggy Czyznikewicz, Calla and her family, Bruce Larabee (Calla Miller's friend's Dad), Terry Moore (Calla Miller's friend), Catharine Andrews, Adrien Brodeur, Dick Loomis, Tom Lemery, Sue Rowley (Calla Miller's friend), Howard Wilkinson (Norma's brother), Gratia Burleigh's daughter, Joan Winkler and family, Savannah (Calla Miller's co-workers daughter), Debbie Rifenburg (Priscilla Suits' daughter), Martha Tyre (Maxine's friend), Jeanna Acosta (Norma's niece), Tammy Hutchinson (Tara Truett's sister), Fred Banks, Dave & Gerry (co-worker of Tom Lemery).

From the Worship Committee



The Peace That Is Meant to Be

Every Sunday after the Benediction, the song “Let There Be Peace on Earth” is played. On the first Sunday of Lent, as I stood listening, and following the words printed on the back of the bulletin, one phrase in the song stood out. In fact, I circled it: “The peace that was meant to be.”

We know that God’s peace encompasses more than just the absent of conflict or troubles. In the Old Testament the word “shalom” is the Hebrew word for peace. It is defined as one of the many blessing that “flow from a right relation with God”. It conveys spiritual, social and physical flourishing that comes from God. Basically, shalom is a term that includes all that makes life worthwhile. It is a peace within, without—and extended to all creation. The scholar, Cornelius Plantinga, explained it best: the Hebrew prophets defined shalom as “the webbing together of God, humans and all creation in justice, fulfillment and delight.”

The Hebrew prophets pointed to the future when a Messiah would come. As Christians, we know that God did send a Messiah, his son Jesus Christ, to reconcile humankind and all creation to God the Father. This reconciliation is the Peace of God, which is not just for us as individuals, but a peace to pass on to others and all the earth. The Apostle Paul described this reconciliation, and the price of it, in a letter he sent to the church in Colossae: “...all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the Cross.”(Colossians 1: 19-20; MSG) This is the peace of shalom brought to us by Jesus. It is the peace that is meant to be.

Dear God, may our journey through Lent be a journey to the peace of shalom—a blessing from God for the all creation. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

On Behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter



Photo by Nick Hunter

“Frozen”

A Moment in Winter

*Sometimes in winter something
wonderful happens.
The frozen world becomes a world of
sparkling diamonds.
It does not last, but it is a dazzling moment
filled with wonder.
It is a moment in winter when
I can say to one and all,
without receiving groans and complaints,
“Enjoy this Day!”*

~Maxine G. Hunter~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Time Change: Beginning on Sunday, March 7, 2021, the new time for our **Worship Service is 11 a.m.**

REMINDER - Important Time Change:

The new Worship Service time is **11:00 a.m.**

March Liturgist

- 7 Ann Berlew (Communion)
- 14 Sylvia McKinnon
- 21 Marlene Miner
- 28 Maxine Hunter (Palm Sunday)

April Liturgist

- 4 Tom Leamer, Sr. (Communion/Easter Sunday)

Morrisville Community Church Blood Drive Results

We had an excellent turnout for the drive on January 28, 2021. We surpassed the goal of 19 units, collecting **24 units of life saving blood**, including 3 POWER RED donations. The products from this drive can touch up to 99 lives. We also welcomed 4 first time donors which is above average!

Per Capita for each member in **2021** is \$38.50.

From P.C.'s Digital Pen

Here we are in the season of Lent--a penitential time of self-reflection and added spiritual disciplines for many people who embrace the traditions of the larger church. But for us living here in Central New York where some of our harshest snowstorms have occurred in March, it can seem more like a time of desperation that screams, "Please God take me home now or at least transport me to the pristine beaches of Hawaii." Have you ever noticed no one, not even your pastor says, "Have a happy Lent!"

Yet, if we take such an escapist approach to a tradition that has served the people of the church well, we might miss out on an unprecedented time of spiritual growth. Sure, we can be like some who observe rigorous forms of self-denial for the sake of tradition, or we can embrace the opportunity to draw nearer to God through a sustained focus upon him through prayer, Bible reading, and Christian meditation.

I know from personal experience how this time of preparation for Resurrection Sunday can draw us toward a deeper understanding of the love of God for his children. Through small acts of self-denial, I was able to refocus on Jesus' setting aside his glory (see Philippians 2:5-11) for our benefit. I'm reminded of the Apostle Paul's experience when Ananias healed him of his blindness—it was like scales falling from my eyes giving me a clearer picture of just how much God loves us.

The bottom line is, Lent doesn't have to be or feel like one long season filled with pangs of hunger, long confessions, and self-flagellation; rather, it can be hallelujah I was blind but now I see! May the remainder of Lent bring new light and life to your

spiritual journey as you seek to draw nearer to God.

In Christ's love,
P.C.

"Every opportunity has a shelf life. Will you seize it before it expires?"

Anonymous

From the Property Committee

Ron & Charlene Bush, Sylvia McKinnon and Nate Miller participated in our meeting of February 8, 2021 by texting.

- The Red Cross had a very successful blood drive in the Fellowship Hall on 1/28/21 with a grand total of 24 units of blood collected.
- Dougherty Pharmacy held a COVID-19 vaccination on Friday, 2/5/21 in the Fellowship Hall with over 200 participants. The second dose will be held on 3/5/21.
- ABC FIRE, of Utica, held our yearly maintenance on 1/26/21. All extinguishers were inspected and a new one was placed in the sanctuary. One half of the extinguishers were required a six year inspection with the other half being done next year.
- The kitchen tank was evaluated.
- The sprinkler system will have its yearly maintenance check on Friday, 2/12/21.
- Culligan will be doing their yearly maintenance on 2/10/21.
- We experienced a leak in the Vestibule on Friday afternoon 2/5/21. It was found that we had accumulated more ice on the roof under the snow than we thought. Morse Construction was contacted. They were able to come and do removal the next morning (Saturday, 2/6/21). All (but the area over the sanctuary) was cleared. Ron spent a good part of Saturday clearing all that they removed (by tractor). We will be calling HFC (ins.) to see if any damage is covered.
- We are waiting for: boiler proposal, bulbs replaced outside. Do mowing letter next month.
- Our church service will be changing to 11:00AM on Sunday, 3/7/21. Our Pastor has internet service available every Sunday and a three minute quote on Wednesdays.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon, Chairperson

From the Deacons

The Deacons wish everyone who will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary in March, that you have a wonderful day.

We welcome Bonnie Olsson to our group. Your Deacons for this year are Naydene Ames, Rachael Armstrong, Ron Brodeur, Norma Galbreath, Tom Lemery, Calla Miller, Marlene Miner and Bonnie Olsson. Calla is our Chairperson and Naydene remains as Secretary for 2021.

We reviewed the Deacon Caring List and the following changes were made: Bonnie will be Deacon to Ron and Charlene Bush, Dick and Claudia Loomis, Lois Thurston and Marcia and Julie Vair. Rachael will be Tom Lemery's Deacon. Marlene will be Sylvia McKinnon's Deacon. Calla will be Bonnie and Pat Olsson's Deacon. (You might want to note these changes in your copy of the Church Directory.)

We continue to have a Deacon attend the Session Meetings to keep communications open. The Deacons will continue to meet the first Monday of the month in the fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m.

We hope those who attended church on Valentine's Day enjoyed their special treat.

Respectfully Submitted,
Naydene Ames, Secretary

From the Food Pantry

The new year started out quiet at the Pantry. We are not seeing an increase in households coming for assistance, and we did not have any weather-related closures for the month.

January Statistics: 22 households visited the pantry consisting of 19 children, 34 adults and
7 seniors
0 new enrollees
1 emergency, after hours
549 meals were provided
\$1,473 monetary donations
97 food and other products donated

Sue Bartow, Coordinator

2021 Valentine Express: Success

This is the 9th year of our Presbyterian Women's Valentine Express outreach to the residents of Crouse Community Center. Because of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we knew we could not hold our normal valentine-making-workshop. But there was nothing to stop us from making valentines at home. In early January, a supply kit of valentine making supplies was provided to anyone that wanted to participate. Thirteen heeded the call. By January 31, over 100 valentine creations were turned in.

On February 9, the valentines were delivered to the Crouse Community Center.

To paraphrase St. Francis of Assisi: when work is done with our hands, head and heart, artistry happens. My heartfelt thanks to all who participated.

Maxine Hunter



GOD IN THE THIRD
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.

Genesis 9:12-16

¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:

¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds,

¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between Me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

This is the account of God's Rainbow...

If verses 12 through 16 are God speaking why does He, in verse 16, refer to Himself in the third person? "...covenant between God and all living creatures..."

Maybe God refers to Himself as in the third person in verse 16 because He is stressing the fact that the covenant is between *God* and creation and a covenant with God is a promise. And a promise from God is a promise kept.

Or maybe the "quotes" are misplaced and verse 16 is us talking to ourselves and reminding ourselves that there is a covenant between God and His Creation... And maybe we should remind ourselves of this covenant whenever the "rains flood our lives" ...

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Class of 2021

Lois Thurston

Marlene Miner

Naydene Ames

Class of 2022

Pathrik Olsson

Claudia Loomis

Maxine Hunter

Class of 2023

Ann Berlew

Tom Leamer, Jr.

Sheila Bartlett

Tom Leamer, Sr.

DEACONS

Class of 2021

Calla Miller

Class of 2022

Norma Galbreath

Rachael Armstrong

Class of 2023

Tom Lemery

Ron Brodeur

Bonnie Olsson

Clerk of Session

Tom Leamer, Jr.