

May 2021 Calendar of Events

- 3 Deacons Meeting 7pm Fellowship Hall
- 9 **Mothers Day Observed**
- 10 Worship Committee 6 pm Library
- 10 Property Committee - Online
- 17 Session 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 28 **American Red Cross Blood Drive**
1-6 pm Fellowship Hall
- 31 **Memorial Day Holiday Observed (Office Closed)**



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

Adult Bible Study is not being held until further notice.

Clothes Basket will be open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 12 noon, and the 1st Saturday of every month from 10 to 12 noon, unless otherwise noted.

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



We have an active Facebook page - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA. There will be regular postings about our church and the events held or hosted there. It is important that those of you who have a Facebook page look at our page and **"like" AND "share"**. We need to get the word out there that we are live, active and moving forward. If you have any suggestions for a posting please let us know. Thank you for your support and help.



MAY 2021

CHURCH MATTERS

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

3824 Swamp Rd., P.O. Box 178, Morrisville, NY 13408
Rev. Charles Vollmer, Pastor

www.morrisvillechurch.org morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net
FB - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA

Sunday School 9:30 am Sunday Service 11:00 am
Church Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 am - noon Office: 315-684-3314
Pastor's Office: 315-684-9971 Clothes Basket: 315-684-9970





Pentecost is New Creation

The Prophet Joel (Joel 2: 28-29) spoke of a time when God’s Spirit would pour down in a great rush of wind and fire opening to all—sons, daughters, men, women, servants—a place in God’s future. With the Holy Spirit humankind would change from their old ways of greed and position to a world of generosity, kindness, and love for all. In these verses, Joel is speaking of a new creation. Pentecost is New Creation.*

The Day of Pentecost—this year celebrated on May 23—comes on the Fiftieth Day of the Easter season. The story told in Acts 2: 1- 13 tells the outcome of Joel’s prophecy of Pentecost’s new creation where God sent the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to Christ’s resurrection: The Holy Spirit came down in a rush of wind and fire. “Those gathered from the newborn church ran out into the streets to be witness to God’s mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. By the end of the story, this tiny, Spirit-filled community of faith broke from its present order and spread across the continents with incredible power to bring new things into being.” * With the Spirit all things are possible. With the Spirit the church was born. With the Spirit the church will live. With the Spirit the new creation will continue.

Prayer for Pentecost**: “Holy One, when Christ ascended into heaven to reign with you in power and glory, you sent the Spirit of truth to guide us into the way, the truth, and the life of Christ. Let your Spirit, our Advocate, guide us still— preserving us from judgment, protecting us from sin, and leading us into righteousness, so that we may testify to the good news: fullness of life and joy for all; through Jesus Christ our Savior and in the unity of the Holy Spirit.” In Jesus name we pray. Amen

On Behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter

* Based on information and excerpts from the Companion Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press 2003, p. 117-119)

** Presbyterian Church USA, Mission Agency, Prayers for Pentecost.



May Birthday

1	Peg Nodell	18	Zack Gifford
1	Barbara Sabine	20	Darlene Ballard
8	David Bartlett	22	William Carr
11	Kaaren Arrington	22	Tom Leamer, Jr.
11	David Burgess	23	Sue Bartow
11	Sandy Merkle	23	Catherine Holbert
14	Russell Buell	26	Samantha Leamer
17	Richard Loomis	29	Lynne Lemery



May Anniversary

20	David & Roberta Link
22	Budd & Katie Bracy
22	David & Lynne Lemery
26	Jeffrey & Christine Cring
29	Stanley & Esther Davis

PRAYER LIST

The Family of Gail Banks, Sandy Russo, Joan Burleigh Winkler, Marlene Miner, Gratia Burleigh, Jackie Groves, Theresa (Lisa Stopchick's sister), George Fearon, Esther & Stan Davis, Sue Droege (cousin of Karen Jacobs), Peggy Czyznikewicz, Bruce Larabee (Calla Miller's friend's Dad), Catharine Andrews, Dick Loomis, Tom Lemery, Debbie Rifenburg (Priscilla Suits' daughter), Tammy Hutchinson (Tara Truett's sister).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

May Liturgists

- 2 Tom Leamer, Jr. (Communion)
- 9 Ann Berlew
- 16 Tom Leamer, Sr.
- 23 Maxine Hunter (Pentecost)
- 20 Sylvia McKinnon

"Holy Cow": Your help is needed. As we plan our church's future ministry we are inviting all members and faithful friends to take part in an online or hard copy questionnaire/inventory tool, "Conversations (For Smaller Congregations) - Holy Cow" (CAT). A letter with details will be sent out to you shortly. Questions, ask Tom Leamer, Jr. or Maxine Hunter.

Pentecost Sunday, Sunday, May 23, 2021: Red is the color for Pentecost. The Worship Committee hopes everyone can join the celebration by wearing something red. Thanks.

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



HISTORY CORNER

By Ann Berlew

**From the 100th Anniversary Booklet of the Morrisville Baptist Church
(July 25-26, 1909)**

"The beneficent effects of the life of this church have reached beyond the limits of the village. It has sent out from its circle ministers and missionaries who have been a power for righteousness in other regions.

Among the saintly women, Emily Chubbuck stands conspicuous. As a gifted authoress, she was known as Fanny Forester. Becoming the wife of Judson, the famous missionary to Burma, she accompanied him to Asia. Her fame spread over three continents. She never lost her love for the dear church of her childhood. Writing from Boston on the eve of her departure for India she said, "There is another little church worshiping God quietly away in an obscure village and with that church, before all others, I claim my home. Oh! the church at Morrisville, the sober prayerful ones who were my first Christian guides, must let my heart have a home among them still."

The Pastor's Digital Pen

If you love the outdoors, chances are you're not so in love with rainy weather. The number of times I've been caught in the rain while cycling, walking, or camping is more than I care to think about. However... when I was in grade school riding my bicycle with my friends through the puddles to see who could get the biggest splash was the best part of the summer rains. Then there were the nearby creeks, they seemed to swell in size after a good downpour. There's just something about running water that acts like a magnet to little boys with big imaginations! Flash forward a half-a-lifetime to a mountain stream turned river daring me to cross it with the new company Land Cruiser. I'm sure glad that my missionary friend accompanying me that day had the same sense of adventure I did. We took up the challenge as the vehicle lurched forward. Funny how it reminded me of a tug-o-war as the vehicle started losing its traction and slowly began moving with the current before gaining traction again. This happened several times. In those moments, I could hear me telling my boss how our new vehicle was now in the next city a hundred miles west of there.

On a return trip to that area, I noticed the former river was now a gently babbling brook. But what I hadn't noticed before was the eroding effect the flash floods had over a period of time. The creek bed was a little wider and a little deeper.

That's the strange thing about erosion, we don't notice it at first. Little by little surfaces are worn away, crevasses form, then widen and deepen. And with the passing of time valleys form. Erosion is an apt analogy for the effect of complacency in the life of a Christian. It begins with small things. Maybe an occasional missed attendance, procrastination toward the completion of a task, or setting aside one's devotional/prayer time for some "me" time. There are so many little things that can distract us to the point that we fail to notice the opening of a valley in our relationship with Christ.

Now more than ever, in the midst of an emerging landscape that has been changed by the effects of a worldwide pandemic, it is a good time to invite the Holy Spirit to take your "spiritual temperature" and determine if spiritual erosion has crept into your life and nurtured the seeds of complacency. If it has, ask that same Holy Spirit for a fresh outpouring of His power in your life. You'll be praising the Lord you did!

See you in church soon,

Pastor Charlie



From the Property Committee

The meeting was held 4/12/21 Virtual Texted (Charlene, Ron, Sylvia, and Nate)

- Two bids were submitted and discussed for mowing. We chose the one that was for the total season and the lowest bid. Chris Brown of Kendra Landscaping was awarded the mowing bid for 2021. Kaaren prepared the acceptance and rejection letters and were mailed out on 4/8/21.
- We received the report, dated 4/2/21, on 4/6/21 from the claims adjustor of Haylor, Freyer, Coon (Utica National) for amounts that they will pay to repair the damage from the ice build-up of 3/5/21 and other items deemed needing repair (by adjustor). Members of the Property Committee have copies of the report so that it can be discussed when we meet for an actual meeting. We have 180 days from the original date to plan contractor(s), ask for bids, dates for project(s), organize billings and present all to the insurance company for approval. We also received under separate cover a check for \$28,580.06 which is the final amount that we can receive. The check is being deposited in the Building Fund and will be carefully monitored for the project and billings. Another item from HFC needs to be filled out (from OSHA) at our actual meeting.
- The fire extinguishers and bill have been received and paid.
- COVID 19 vaccinations have been successfully completed.
- Red Cross blood drive was interrupted by electrical outage but was able to gain enough to help up to 36 parties.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon, Property Chairperson



From the Food Pantry

First, I must give a big thank you to all of my volunteers who have maintained the pantry in my absence. They're the best. I was never concerned. Pat Stastny offered assistance and had been in training to run the desk on Wednesdays and do the donation entries on the spreadsheet. She ended up covering Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Also, Andy Sikes filled in on the first Saturday of the month and wherever there was a need. Now that I'm back, Pat will be in the pantry on Tuesdays and I will be in on Wednesdays, for as long as I'm able to.

I have reached out to the Hamilton and Cazenovia pantries to see if they might know of anyone who would be interested in operating a small pantry. Linda Farrone, who ran the Hamilton florist shop, and is a good friend of Suzanne Collins, who runs the Hamilton food pantry, contacted me with an interest in our pantry. Linda met with me in April and does not feel it's something she wants to take on. Our procedure manual is in draft form, thanks to Dave Andrews, and needs to be updated and put in a permanent binder.

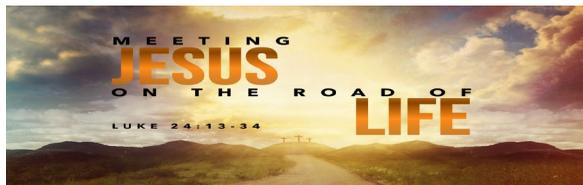
Everyone who is involved with the pantry is now required to take the Safety Training Course once a year. We are in the process of being in compliance. The Food Bank of Central New York's HPNAP Grant application for the 2021-2022 year is now available on line and has been completed and submitted.

The February and March statistics follow. The number of households coming to the pantry has been down, but I have received a couple of calls from clients indicating that with the increase in SNAP (Food Stamps) they will not find it necessary to come to the pantry and, of course, the stimulus for parents and children has made a difference.

February statistics: 22 households visited the pantry consisting of 27 children, 36 adults and 7 seniors
 1 new enrollee
 2 emergencies, after hours
 630 meals were provided
 \$1,130 monetary donations received
 56 Items of food and hygiene products received. Food weighed in at 44 pounds.

March statistics: 23 households visited the pantry consisting of 24 children, 36 adults, and 12 seniors
 2 new enrollees
 0 emergencies
 648 meals
 \$ 755 monetary donations received
 68 items of food and hygiene products received. Food weighed in at 77.8 pounds.

Sue Bartow, Coordinator



THE ROAD TO JESUS

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.

The Bible uses the “road” as an example or metaphor numerous times for many different things. In biblical times taking to the road for a trip was not like it is today. The market in the next town over may have been only a few miles away but the trip could have taken all day or even several days and every step you took was fraught with danger from bandits to poisonous creatures to loose rocks waiting to break your ankle.

Today, just like then, the hardest road and yet the easiest road to travel was the Road to Jesus and then the Road with Jesus. For now let’s just refer to it as the Road...

Let’s explore the Road to Jesus and the Road with Jesus and see what lies ahead for us...

Let’s start our journey in the Old Testament...

Deuteronomy 27:18 says “Cursed is anyone who leads the blind astray on the road.”

Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

As we open our Spiritual eyes and travel the Road we must lead others who have yet to open their eyes.

Isaiah has a few verses that will help us in our travels...

49:11 “I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up.”

51:10 “Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made a road in the depths of the sea so that the redeemed might cross over?”

57:14 “And it will be said: “Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.”

59:8 “The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks along them will know peace.”

A “road” in biblical times may have been just a long, winding path that went up and over mountains, around waters or through fields of boulders. If we are “redeemed” and “know the Way of Peace” then God will ease our travels on the Road.

In 1 Kings 13, a story of a “Man of God” who did not do as God commanded and was tricked into backtracking on the road he was traveling. He was punished by being killed by a lion. When we are on the Road we must take care not to return to our old ways.

And In 2 Kings 2:23 and 24 the prophet Elisha is jeered by some boys as he walks along the “road”. Calling on God to avenge him Elisha curses the boys in the name of the Lord and 42 of them are mauled by bears. God will always protect us while on the Road.

Let us now travel on to the New Testament road...

Let’s start with “The Narrow and Wide Gates” from Matthew 7:13 and 14. “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” This pretty much sums it up but let’s get specific...

Matthew 21:1-11 “Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King”...

These verses tell us that as Jesus and his disciples “approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives” Jesus sent two disciples ahead to the next village to get a donkey and her colt. If questioned to tell the owner that the Lord needs them. The animals were brought to Jesus without incident and Jesus rode them into town. This fulfilled the prophet Zechariah’s prophesy of how the King would come. This story of the Road tells us that if we have faith whatever we need to do God’s work will be provided for us.

Mark 9:33-34. “They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.” This passage is about two disciples in a religious disagreement. It is ok to disagree about spiritual things. But remember we are all on the “Road” together. They were chastised by Jesus for “arguing”.

In Mark 10:51 and 52 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.” Only spiritual sight is needed to follow Jesus on the Road. If we ask Jesus “to see” we will see so that we also can follow.

In Luke 9:57 through 62 “The Cost of Following Jesus” Jesus tells two men that they must let go of their past and not look back. They must plow ahead on the Road.

Luke 10:1 through 4 “Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two” tells us that being disciples on the Road can be hard and lonely. Verses 3 and 4 say “Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.”

One of my favorite scriptures is Luke 10:25-37 “The Parable of the Good Samaritan” tell us that on the Road we will meet many different “neighbors” and that we must treat them all with love and kindness if we want to “Live”

If one is looking for a lesson in humility Luke 19:36-40 is that lesson. Consider...

As He [Jesus] went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” (continued on next page)



“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”
 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”
 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

There was no need for Jesus to announce His own arrival his followers did it for Him and if not them the Earth itself would announce it. So it is with us when we are on the Road we do not need to announce to the world our good Christian deeds they will be known.

And now for one of the most famous Road stories Luke 24:13-35 “On the Road to Emmaus”

In this scripture the two men on the road do not recognize Jesus as they walk and talk with Him. They are distraught that Jesus was crucified. It is not until they break bread with Him that they recognize Him are realize He has risen.

The first lesson here is that the Word of God requires no proof only faith. The second lesson is that when we “break bread” with Jesus (i.e. participate in Communion) we should always “recognize” that Jesus is always with us on the Road.

The story of Philip and the Ethiopian from Acts 8 verses 26 through 40 Phillip is sent by an angel to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza where Phillip meets an Ethiopian who is trying to understand the Book of Isaiah.

Phillip helps his fellow man to understand God’s Word and then baptizes him at the earliest opportunity. One must never hesitate to go where the Road leads and while on the Road we must take every opportunity to teach and welcome our brothers and sisters to a Life on the Road.

Our last stop along the Road is in Acts 9 verses one through 19. One of the most miraculous passages in the Bible simply entitled “Saul’s Conversion”...

Saul was one of the most zealous and outspoken anti-Christians who ever traveled on any road.

While traveling the road to Damascus, Saul armed with letters of prosecution against any and all Christians he meets Jesus who blinds him and tells him to go into the city and wait. The Lord then sends Ananias to where Saul is staying. Ananias heels Saul’s eyes, baptizes him and Saul the Prosecutor becomes Paul the Apostle. These scriptures remind us that no matter what road we are on, even if we are on the exact “wrong” road we can through Jesus Christ have our eyes opened and we can get on and travel the Road.

Whew! That’s a lot of stuff about the road so let’s summarize it...

The Road is lonely and dangerous but God is always with us. God will ease our travels during the most arduous of times. When we meet someone on the road we must help them in their travels no matter who or what they are. It is ok to *discuss* the Road but not to *argue* about it. We must always plow ahead on the road and never look back to our former lives and selves. It is never too late for anyone no matter which road they are on to start on the Road. And lastly there is no reason to announce to the world that we are on the Road it will be known to all who encounter us. Amen.

From the Deacons

**Morrisville Community Church
 Bakeless Bake Sale**

**A bit of news we have today
 a Bakeless Bake Sale is underway.**

**In these busy days if you were to bake
 pies, cookies, or even a cake,
 you'd be surprised if you counted the cost
 of materials, heat and the time you lost.**

**Baking for sales is extra work,
 yet nobody really wants to shirk.**

**So we've thought of a plan that is really grand,
 and feel quite sure you will understand.
 In a little envelope, please put the price
 of a pie or cake or something nice.**

**Without fuss or bother you've done your part.
 We hope you'll give with a willing heart.**

**On this idea we hope you'll pounce
 and just think, you won't gain an ounce.**

**This is the end of our little tale,
 wishing success for our Bakeless Bake Sale.**

**This Bakeless Bake Sale will benefit the missions of the Deacons
 of the Morrisville Community Church**

**Please place your "Bake Sale" donation , along with the bottom portion of this paper, in the church collection basket or mail it to the church. Checks should be made payable to Morrisville Community Church. Please write "Bake Sale Donation" on your check.
 Wouldn't it be fun to include one of your favorite recipes to share.**

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Class of 2021

Lois Thurston

Class of 2022

Pathrik Olsson
Claudia Loomis
Maxine Hunter

Class of 2023

Ann Berlew
Tom Leamer, Jr.
Sheila Bartlett
Tom Leamer, Sr.

Clerk of Session

Tom Leamer, Jr.

DEACONS

Class of 2021

Calla Miller
Marlene Miner
Naydene Ames

Class of 2022

Norma Galbreath
Rachael Armstrong

Class of 2023

Tom Lemery
Ron Brodeur
Bonnie Olsson