



CHURCH MATTERS

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

FACEBOOK - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA

Sunday Service 10:30 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 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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.

NOVEMBER 2020

November Birthday

- 2 Karen Gay
- 5 Darrell Bush
- 6 Devin Bartlett
- 6 Audrey Gower
- 7 Keith Josephs
- 7 Jerry O'Hara
- 9 Lillian Richardson
- 15 Isaac Lichoro
- 17 Claudia Loomis
- 20 Brenda Buell
- 21 Murry Ames
- 24 Clarissa Akers
- 27 Audra Mockovak
- 27 Gertrude Sindima
- 28 Katie Bracy
- 28 Lynda Smith
- 28 Safina Mbaga
- 30 Ali Gifford

November Anniversary

- 4 Ken & Peg Nodell
- 5 Harvey & Gertrude Sindima
- 6 Robert & Darlene Virgil
- 7 Dan & Tracy Akers
- 19 James & Natalie Turner

Pulpit Supply

- November 1 Rev. Ray Lighthall
- 8 Bill Porter
- 15 Pat Olsson
- 22 Bill Porter
- 29 Rev. Ray Lighthall

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

- A) Wear masks
- B) Use hand sanitizer
- C) Practice social distancing (no passing peace, no coffee hour)
- D) No singing

We will be using volunteers and ministers from our pulpit supply list.
As we move forward please keep our church in your prayers.
Thanks for your participation.

TO ALL WHO WISH TO HELP WITH CLEAN-UP

Those who wish to help clean parts of the church are asked to call Kaaren Arrington, at the office, to sign up for a date and time. The Property Committee is trying to co-ordinate building usage to limit exposures. If you need access to the church, the staff is at church Monday through Friday from 9-12.

There will be a limited # of persons allowed in the church at one time. When you arrive at church sign in at office, wear a mask and distance 6 ft. Please clean all surfaces that you have touched when finished. Sign out at office. Thank you for your help.

PRAYER LIST: Family of Henry Douglas, Ellen Davis, Peggy Czynnikewicz, Jackie Groves, Catharine Andrews, Harriet Stevens, Adrien Brodeur, Dick Loomis, Tom Lemery, Sue Rowley (Calla Miller's friend), Howard Wilkinson (Norma's brother), Jean Furner & Family (Ann Batchelor's friend and co-worker), 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), Deanna Moyes (Norma's sister), Jeanna Acosta (Norma's niece), Tammy Hutchinson (Tara Truett's sister), Shirley Ford, Sue Bristow (Hank Douglas' daughter), Fred Banks, Dave & Gerry (co-worker of Tom Lemery).

From the Worship Committee



In Remembrance



“...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3: 17--19

When I was a child, my sister and I spent many nights with my Great Aunts, Minnie and Lu. At bedtime they didn't leave us to our own devices. Well, perhaps a bit. They gave us time to gaze out the window at all the stars. But then came a time for our night time prayer. It was always the same prayer: “Now I lay me down to sleep, etc.,” ending with God Bless Momma and Daddy. But I always continued on by asking God to bless my brothers, my grandmas and grandpa, my aunts, uncles, and cousins, my friends and Spot the family dog. I had a long list and I said everyone by name. I now realize that my litany kept the aunts and my sister waiting for me to finish so we could all crawl into bed. However, even after Amen and I was tucked into bed, my mind was active. I was always concerned that I had missed someone in my prayer. Turning to the window, and gazing once again at the stars, I prayed, “I don't know their names, dear God, but please look after and bless everyone in the world.”

It is November 1, 2020, also known as All Souls Day, a day to remember in prayer past loved ones who nurtured our faith. As I did with my childhood prayer, I felt a need to expand the focus. In this year of the pandemic over 1.16 million families world-wide have lost loved ones. In the USA the number of lives lost to covid-19 is a staggering 226 thousand. Let's take to our hearts in prayer people of all places and all faiths—Christian, Muslim, Jews and others—meeting them in our prayers at the boundaries where all places and faiths meet. As Paul indicated in Ephesians 3: 17-19, the love of God is too large to be confined by measurement. There is no exclusion to who is included in the wideness of God's love and mercy. Though we don't know their names, let us lift a prayer to all souls who have been taken from us this year. Let them not be forgotten.

Prayer: Dear God, we lift our prayers in remembrance for all souls known and unknown that have died this year. May these souls be remembered by their lives well lived. In Jesus, name. Amen

On Behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter

RESULTS OF THE RECENT BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you very much for welcoming us last minute for the blood drive at Morrisville Community Church on Tuesday, September 22. At the drive we welcomed 2 first time donors and collected **14 units of life saving blood** including 2 POWER RED donations. The products from this drive can touch up to **42 lives!** Attached is a flyer to share on the community board detailing the results of this week's drive! Please let me know if you have any feedback from your drive.

We appreciate your support during these unprecedented times. I have been so fortunate to meet such wonderful people and make new connections as we all navigate this crazy year! Since COVID hit our area, Morrisville Community Church has collected 87 units which can touch up to 261 lives!

Stephanie Mahoney, Account Manager
American Red Cross Blood Services
Eastern New York Region/Northeast Division



JARS OF CLAY
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.

In Second Corinthians we are referred to as “jars of clay”.

So, I wondered, why clay? Why not gold or, at the very least, bronze?

Let us find out why we are clay. Let us see what the bible has to say about clay.

We start at the beginning...

In the New International Version clay first shows up in [Leviticus 6:28](#) "The clay pot the meat is cooked in must be broken; but if it is cooked in a bronze pot, the pot is to be scoured and rinsed with water." The ‘meat’ in this case is a “sin offering”. So the pot must be destroyed after being used to cook a sin offering. Leviticus tells us that the meat may be eaten and is holy but the pot must be broken. I think this means that we are corruptible.

Several other verses in Leviticus support the fact that clay is corruptible. So it seems we are corruptible...

And yet in [Leviticus 14:5](#) "Then the priest shall order that one of the birds be killed over fresh water in a clay pot." The clay pot is used as a vessel of purification.

And again several other verses support the notion that clay / people can be used to purify those corrupted.

So far we are corruptible and yet we can be agents of purification. Sinners and yet forgiven. Sounds about right.

Let us see what else we can learn about ourselves...

[Numbers 5:17](#) "Then he shall take some holy water in a clay jar and put some dust from the tabernacle floor into the water." The priest here is making “bitter water” to see if a woman has been cheating on her husband and if she was cause her to miscarry if she was indeed unfaithful. It seem we can root out evil and dispense justice. Again, sounds true.

[1 Kings 7:46 and 2 Chronicles 4:17](#) "The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Sukkoth and Zarethan". The clay is used to make molds that intern make precious objects and treasures. Our “clay” bodies are used to make Christians as we teach and show others what it means to be a Christian and Christians are precious treasures.

In [Job 4:19](#) "how much more those who live in houses of clay, whose foundations are in the dust, who are crushed more readily than a moth!" we learn that we are fragile and frail. [Job 13:12 echoes this frailty](#). In [Job 10:9](#) "Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again?" We learn that God molded us and can turn us back into dust. Again, we are pretty frail.

[Job 27:16](#) "Though he heaps up silver like dust and clothes like piles of clay." Reminds us that we are to be molded and not taken for granted. Clothing was scarce. Most people had only 1 or 2 robes. Clothing was not taken for granted. To heap clothes like piles of unmolded clay is to take them for granted.

[Job 33:6](#) "I am the same as you in God’s sight; I too am a piece of clay." We are all equal under God and moldable to God’s uses. [Isaiah 64:8 and Jeremiah 18:6 also tell us we are moldable by God. But Jeremiah 18:6 adds that entire nations of people are moldable. Job 38:14](#) "The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment." Talks about the entire world being moldable by God. The clay seal was used to prevent tampering with goods. The clay was placed on the lock and then imprinted with a seal and allowed to harden. The world is taking the shape of the Seal of God.

[Isaiah 29:16](#) “You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what

is formed say to the one who formed it, “You did not make me”? Can the pot say to the potter, “You know nothing”? and [Isaiah 45:9](#) “Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherds among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’ Does your work say, ‘The potter has no hands’? Both tell us that we may not know God’s plan for us but He is molding us.

[Isaiah 41:25](#) “I have stirred up one from the north, and he comes— one from the rising sun who calls on my name. He treads on rulers as if they were mortar, as if he were a potter treading the clay.” This verse uses clay to remind us that even if we are powerful people God is more powerful.

[Jeremiah 18:4](#) “But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.” [Even if we are flawed God can rework us and we can still serve.](#)

[Jeremiah 19:1](#) “This is what the LORD says: “Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests.” The jar that is bought is smashed in 19:10 to symbolize God’s strength and our frailty.

[Jeremiah 32:14](#) “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time.” This verse reminds us that as ‘jars of clay’ anything put in us, such as God’s love and purpose will be preserved.

[Jeremiah 43:9](#) “While the Jews are watching, take some large stones with you and bury them in clay in the brick pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh’s palace in Tahpanhes.” The clay in this verse binds the rocks together just like we can inspire each other to bind together unite.

[Lamentations 4:2](#) “How the precious children of Zion, once worth their weight in gold, are now considered as pots of clay, the work of a potter’s hands!” How much more are we worth when molded by God?

[Ezekiel 4:1](#) [*Siege of Jerusalem Symbolized*] “Now, son of man, take a block of clay, put it in front of you and draw the city of Jerusalem on it.” As clay when molded by God we can represent whole communities by our actions.

In Daniel 2:31 through 45 Daniel interprets a dream about a statue with iron and clay feet. When struck the feet break because clay is brittle. The statue represents a kingdom and the feet are its foundations. Though the kingdom is as strong as iron it is built on a foundation of people who are as brittle as clay.

[Nahum 3:14](#) Draw water for the siege, strengthen your defenses! Work the clay, tread the mortar, repair the brickwork!” We, the people, need to be worked and molded by God to hold our own.

And so on to the New Testament...

[Luke 8:16](#) “[*A Lamp on a Stand*] “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.” We must not keep the light of God trapped within us.

[Romans 9:21](#) “Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?” As God molds us He gives us each special talents as well as the ability to do the mundane tasks that must be done.

[2 Corinthians 4:7](#) “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” This is the verse that started it all... We are fragile ordinary people yet we all have within us the treasure of a soul full of God’s love.”

Our souls are the treasures in jars of clay but consider this... When God worked through the council of Nicaea making the Bible what He wanted what He left out can deepen our understanding. The writings that were not included in the Bible were to be destroyed but archeologists are discovering that these writings that were left out were sacred to the believers and were not destroyed as ordered but rather placed in clay jars and buried to be preserved. See [Jeremiah 32:14](#). The Dead Sea Scrolls are but one example. As we interpret these lost and preserved writings we

learn much about the early Christians and other religious groups. These scrolls are treasures. They make us think about our lives and beliefs thus bringing us ever closer to God as we explore our own innermost treasures.

One last verse

[2 Timothy 2:20](#) "In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use." Although clay articles may be used for common purposes these common purposes are just as important if not more important in day to day service of God.

So let us recap our "clay" heritage...

We are Jars of Clay so we are frail, moldable, reworkable if flawed, corruptible yet useful for purification. We are rooters of evil and dispensers of justice, dimmers of God's light if we are not careful, used as molds for precious objects (other Christians), and we can bind others together and stand united. We are common yet precious. We are molded, loved by God and under the seal of His Protection. Amen.

MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

To the Morrisville Community Church Property Committee and Congregation,

Thank you for providing your location to use as a local pop-up drive-thru Covid-19 testing site on Thursday, October 8, 2020 from 3-7pm. Your site provided a convenient and easily accessible location for 89 residents to access to Covid-19 testing. We look forward to partnering with you again on future test sites.

With kind regards,

Eric Faisst, Director of Public Health
Madison County Department of Health

RESULTS OF THE RECENT BLOOD DRIVE

I wanted to thank you very much for welcoming us again and so soon for the blood drive at Morrisville Community Church on Thursday, October 1. At the drive we surpassed our goal and collected 23 units of life saving blood including 5 POWER RED donations. The products from this drive can touch up to 69 lives!

Morrisville Community Church's next drive is Thursday, December 3 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm.

Stephanie Mahoney, Account Manager
American Red Cross Blood Services
Eastern New York Region/Northeast Division

CLOTHES BASKET NEWS

The Clothes Basket at the Morrisville Community Church, Swamp Rd., Morrisville, re-opened 1 day a week beginning on Thursday, September 17, 2020 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The reopening has gone very well and we thank all of you for willingly following our new procedures implemented to keep all of us including you safe. We are continuing to be open every Thursday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. We now are able to accept your donations and thank you for considering us. We are still charging shoppers \$3 a bag and we will supply the bags. Please do not bring your own bags. Any questions, please call 315-684-3314 (church office) any morning Monday-Friday. Come, visit, shop!

From the Food Pantry

The Pantry could use some donations for our Extra shelf. Any unexpired, unopened items: Soups, canned pastas, condiments (ketchup, mustard) coffee, puddings, sides, instant potatoes. Hygiene items: Bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, toilet paper. Thank you.

September statistics: 33 households visited the pantry made up of 29 Children, 54 adults and 14 seniors. 873 meals were provided \$30 received in monetary donations 158 pounds of food and 9 hygiene products were received

Sue Bartow, Coordinator

From the Property Committee

The Property Committee met on Monday, October 12, 2020

Present: Charlene and Ron Bush, Sylvia McKinnon
Absent: Nate Miller

- The switch to the PA system of the sanctuary has been replaced.
- Madison County Health Department held their COVID testing drive thru on Thursday, October 8 from 3:00 - 7:00 PM in our parking lot. They had 80 participants.
- So far only one person has submitted a bid for plowing for season 20-21. If no other reply is received, an acceptance will be sent to that person.
- Session will be using the Fellowship Hall for their meeting on October 19. The Presbyter of Cayuga Syracuse will be in attendance as well as our Deacons.
- Clothesbasket had a successful opening with a change of Thursday instead of Wednesday being the day of operation, 10 a.m. - 2:00 pm.
- Culligan will be delivering the salt October 16. Sylvia will ask them to leave 4 extra bags as we ran out the past time.
- Ron will be contacting Armani-Woodcock to set a date for our maintenance.
- Ron will replace the bulb at the end of the sidewalk and also contact Doug Mennig to put in bulb replacements in the lights on the back outside wall.

Sylvia McKinnon, Chairperson
Property Committee

SESSION MEETING 19 OCTOBER 2020

Highlights

1. Karen Chamis the Resource Presbyter moderated the meeting.
2. Deacon representative added to Session Meetings to facilitate better communications.
3. We are in communication with Rev. Sindima to comprise a list of new perspective members in order to ensure they are apprised of church happenings. i.e. church reopening etc.
4. We are looking in to the process of Shared Leadership with another church. The details still need to be worked out but we would share pastor with another church. It is not quite a Yoked Congregation or a Merger but something in between.
5. We desperately need people for the Finance Committee and a new Financial Secretary starting in January 2021.
6. A new Clerk of Session will also be needed starting in January 2021.
7. Due to COVID restrictions / concerns there will NOT be a Christmas Eve Service.

Caveat: All plans subject to change due to COVID 19 Virus pandemic.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Hard to think about snow and sleet and freezing rain, but...**when the school is closed, so is the Church Office, the Clothes Basket, and the Food Pantry.** Local radio and TV may say, but the District Website at www.mecs.org will also have the information. The school district phone is 315-684-9300.

TV Channels with school closings are:

WSTM Channel 3 WTVH Channel 5 WSYR Channel 9 YNN Channel 10

Radio Stations are:

WSYR 570 AM 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 WKLL 94.9FM