



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 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 & 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.

FEBRUARY 2021

February Birthday

- 2 Ashley Kent
- 3 Barbara Manley
- 5 David Lemery
- 8 Nathan Miller
- 9 Dan Akers
- 11 C J Suarez
- 13 Quinn Graves
- 18 Louisa Bartlett
- 18 Marcia Vair
- 24 Tom Leamer, Sr.
- 28 Connie Shepard

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)

February 2021 Calendar of Events

- 1 Deacons Meeting 7pm Fellowship Hall
- 2 **Groundhog Day**
- 8 Worship Committee 6 pm Library
- 8 Property Committee - Online
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 15 Session 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 15 **Presidents Day Holiday (Office Closed)**
- 17 **Ash Wednesday**

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

PRAYER LIST:

Margaret Kenyon, (Sue Bartow's mom), Kurt Virkaitis (son-in-law of Karen and Sam Tucci), Florence Marsala (Rachael's sister), 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

A Prayer from the Past

“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.” Isaiah 40:11

It was December, 2001. It was four months since what is now known as 9/11. My Senior High Sunday School class had the responsibility of planning the basic part of the Children’s Christmas Service for December 21, 2001. As always, the “kids” brain stormed what they wanted in the service—scriptures, call to worship, and the Pastoral Prayer. (In fact, I can hear one young lady tell us— “No fancy words! And the prayer must start with, “Dear God”.) Although this was a Christmas Prayer of Thanks, influenced by 9/11, the 23rd Psalm and Isaiah 40:11, it is appropriate for our time. I am sure the “kids”, who are now moms and dads in their own right, wouldn’t mind if you changed or added some of your own words. But if you do, just remember: Start the prayer with Dear God! Here is the prayer as written. Let us pray:

Dear God, maker of heaven and earth, we give you thanks for Christmas time. In this season of winter, when the days are filled with long hours of darkness, we will remember your Son of Light, our Lord Jesus. For this we give you thanks. (pause)

Although we’ve witnessed a heart-breaking tragedy (9/11) for our country, and many of us have been scared, we know you are there to guide and protect us. Through you our fears have been calmed and you have given us the strength of understanding and of compassion. For this we give you thanks. (pause)

Thank you for the many blessing you have given us this year: warm homes, good food, nice clothes. Thank you for our families: brothers, sisters, moms, dads and grandparents—all who help make the world a nice place to be. (pause)

Thank you for all our friends that make doing things a lot more fun. (pause)

Be with our President, and all our leaders. Give them wisdom and courage. (pause)

We pray that you will be with those less fortunate than us, both here in Morrisville and around the world. Their needs are many...food, clothing, shelter. Please help us help them. Besides these practical needs, please return joy, love and peace into their lives. (pause)

Remember those who aren’t feeling well. Be with them and their families. Please touch them with your healing

hand. It is our prayer that your presence will bring them comfort and hope. (pause)

Lastly, we give you thanks for a world filled with music. We’ve witnessed that where music is forbidden, harshness and oppression seem to rule. As the song of the sparrow says, “We sing because we’re happy. We sing because we’re free.” In Jesus name we pray. Amen

On behalf of my Senior High Sunday School Class of 2001, and the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Letter from Unity Acres Community

January 5, 2021

Dear Good People of Morrisville Community Church,

This is to acknowledge your Friend Christmas Cards to our men. You folks have been so faithful through many years and we are most grateful for your care and support. This year has been a difficult one with COVID-19 hanging heavily over our heads as it was for many. But in spite of the pandemic and all that goes with it, we are most grateful for our community and so many blessings received and we want to thank you for your generosity. The men had a lovely Christmas which began Christmas Eve first with the reading from Luke in front of the Christmas Manger. A traditional spaghetti and meatball dinner was then served, calling up one man at a time and in shifts so that the dining room had a limited number of us at one time. The men received their Christmas gifts with strains of Christmas music playing in the background as they enjoyed chocolate sundaes topped with whipped cream and a cherry! Christmas morning began with an eleven o'clock Liturgy in our Sacred Heart Chapel, followed by a beautiful turkey/ham dinner with all the trimmings including apple and pumpkin pie.

May you and yours have a Happy, Holy & Healthy New Year. God Bless You.

Most Sincerely,

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

by Ann Berlew

From P.C.'s Digital Pen

Warm greetings to all our members and friends of Morrisville Community Church.

What an honor it is for me to be invited into your wonderful, vibrant faith community! The first couple of months of a new pastorate is always exciting—so many new people to meet, so many possibilities before us, and “great expectations.” I look forward to meeting and hearing from each one of you reading this newsletter. My door is always open!

So what makes our new pastor tick, some of you may be wondering? Simply stated, “God’s word.” Of course, answers like that sound pious and lack specificity. Therefore, I’ll expand upon that just a wee bit. I like the **challenge** of God’s word; especially when He says things like “...be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).

Or how about this one, “...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God...” (Rom. 12:1). And if those two commands aren’t challenging enough, how about that one that says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mat. 22:37, 39).

I’m hoping that in our time together, we can take up the lifelong challenge of God’s word by daily looking to God in humble adoration and surrender so we can meet the challenge. Are you up to it?

In Christ’s love,
P.C.

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You don’t become like Christ by beholding TV all week. And you don’t become like Christ by beholding the Internet all week. You don’t become like Christ when you fill your life with things of this world. You become like Christ when you behold the glory of Christ, and you expose your life, moment by moment, to his glory

--David Platt, Pastor, McClean Bible Church

This church has a "treasure trove" of Morrisville's history in our archives. Our church's name is well chosen; its roots go back to June 1805, when the Congregational Church was formed by 15 people. Among its charter members were Col. Joshua Leland and his wife, Waitstill. It is said on their journey from Connecticut by oxcart, they became mired in the mud by the pond that now bears Leland's name. A historical marker indicates this site near where they built a permanent home. The Leland's and their fellow parishioners held their first church service in a log schoolhouse. They erected their first church building in 1817 for \$1680. In 1805, the Congregational Church was admitted in the Oneida Association of that denomination. However, in 1819 they severed their relationship with the Congregation Assoc. and united with Oneida Presbytery in 1819. Unhappy with this change, they returned two years later to the Congregational denomination. In 1859 and 1897 the church experienced great revivals and large numbers of people were added to membership. Early records show church trials in which members were "excommunicated" for failure to attend communion, intoxication, or working on Sunday, among other things. At one of the trials, Gerrit Smith was asked to serve as counsel. In 1842, the church voted against the institution of slavery and during the pre-Civil War gave financial aid to the cause of abolition.

The Baptist Church of Morrisville had its origin in 1809. The church met in the school house for worship, but later in 1809 the first meeting house was built. In 1826 they built a new site and in 1849 another new site was chosen and a third building constructed. This became the home of the United Church. The anti-slavery agitation caused a serious split in the church membership and a large number left the church as a result.

In 1925 the First Congregation Church and the Baptist Church signed an agreement to have a trial union for one year. The first meeting of this merger was in October 1925, and in January 1926 they welcomed the first pastor. It was not until 1934 that the church undertook its own separate

incorporation. In 1938 they leased the former Congregational Church to the Roman Catholic diocese for use at St. Theresa's parish in Morrisville. The United Church now made the former Baptist Church its home.

The Morrisville Methodist Episcopal Church began on February 24, 1834, with services held in the Old Court House. In 1835 construction of a permanent place of worship began and the first permanent pastor began his ministry. In 1859 records show

Morrisville and Peterboro shared a pastor. Later, in 1876, records show Morrisville and Eaton were served by a single pastor. During this period the Methodists held yearly camp meetings at a farm near town.

Officials of the United Church of Morrisville and the First Methodist Church met to study merging and plans were approved by both congregations. The merger was consummated in 1968 and The Community Church of Morrisville, NY was born.

The history of these churches came from an overview of the records of these five churches as inventoried by Syracuse University in 1970, and now stored in our church building, having survived the fire in 1995 at the other church building on Route 20.

These old archives include church record books, minutes, legal papers, souvenirs, program brochures, Covenants, newspaper articles, Sunday School rolls, Ladies Aid and Young People's Society minutes, and the like. Some are scorched, but all are treasures. Whatever photos were in the mix have been stored in the office.

SIGNS OF GOD'S PROTECTION

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 Biblical meaning of the rainbow is well known to Christians. In Genesis 9 verses 14 and 15 God says "Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 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."

The other night it occurred to me that there are also some other colorful and magnificent signs of God's love for us and His promise to protect us. Job 11 verse 18 states "You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety."

So, let us take a look around at a couple of colorful and magnificent signs of God's love and protection...

The first Jupiter. If you have ever seen images or video of Jupiter it is truly magnificent and colorful...

And it is our protector.

Jupiter's strong gravitational field serves as a deflector the numerous comets and meteors that each year enter our Solar System. Jupiter's gravity sling shots them out of the Earth's path.

Thank God for Jupiter.

Another sign, much closer to home, is the Aura Borealis, the Northern Lights. Again magnificent. The Northern Lights are caused by the "Solar Wind", a stream of charged particles leaving the sun, interacting with Earth's magnetic field. Without our magnetic field the solar wind would strip off our atmosphere just like it did to Mars when its magnetic field died.

The solar wind, for all intents and purposes, killed Mars.

When I see images of the Aura Borealis, I remember that God gave us the Earth's "magnetic field" to protect us from the solar wind and thereby saving us.

Just two more signs of God's Covenant with man. Amen

From the Property Committee

Present: Charlene & Ron Bush, Sylvia McKinnon,
Nate Miller

- A request has been made to have the portico door open for entrance on Tuesdays for the remainder of winter as the driveways are too icy to walk down to lower door. Granted!
- Both boilers are up and running. Armani-Woodcock will be preparing a proposal for a boiler replacement.
- The tractor needed a part to be replaced. The cost was \$255.00. Ron went to Cazenovia to pick it up and then installed it.
- The emergency light for the elevator was installed by ThyssenKrupp.
- It was suggested that we check with Food Pantry and Clothesbasket to see if guidelines are in place (COVID-19).
- When Judy Parker completed the Christmas Project this year she mentioned the fact that a number of the tables needed fixing or replacing. Property Committee had a short discussion and decided that due to the condition of the tables fixing is not a good plan. Financially, replacing the tables is not in our budget this year.
- Our next Red Cross Blood Mobile is Thursday January 28.
- Appointments need to be made for: Culligan yearly inspection, hood inspection, Rear church building lights, Fire extinguishers inspection.
- Sylvia will e-mail monthly minutes to Session members as she is not on Session this year. If necessary, she will request to attend.
- Our Committee has decided to hold our meetings by text/e-mail for the near future. Confirmations will be by e-mails.
- Question came up as to how Pastor Charlie handles Chittenango's church services? What type of equipment does he have or use to send his service to Chittenango's congregation? Could we do something like this to accommodate our "home" people? Is there anything we need to do to help Pastor Charlie?

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon, Chairperson

Wilderness: A Place Between

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit...was led by the Spirit in the desert... (And after 40 days of prayer, deprivation, and temptations), Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit..." Luke 4:1& 14

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. I have thought about this approaching season, wondering what one can say about a journey into the wilderness during the time of Covid-19. After much thought, I came to a rather ordinary conclusion: Lent will happen regardless of the circumstances. It is the time when we Christians journey with Jesus into the wilderness. As we journey, we find a wilderness space in our own minds and hearts. It is a place where we set aside time to reflect and focus on our faith. It is a time for intentional prayer where we strengthen our relationship with God. And, like Jesus, we will emerge from this wilderness, for "wilderness is only an in-between place, where ordinary life is suspended, identity shifts, and new possibilities emerge." (Quote by writer, Jenny Philips)

Prayer: Gracious God, you are our way in the wilderness. In our time of testing, be our spiritual nourishment. Fill our journey with transformative moments enabling us to emerge, as Jesus emerged, with joy and energy, so we can continue as your bright light in our very troubled world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

God Bless,
Maxine G. Hunter

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.