



CHURCH MATTERS

MORRISVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

www.morrisvillechurch.org morrisvillechurch@frontiernet.net

FB - Morrisville Community Church, PCUSA

MARCH 2020

Sunday School 9:30 am

Sunday Service 10:30 am

Church Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 am - noon Office: 315-684-3314

Pastor's Office: 315-684-9971 Clothes Basket: 315-684-9970

Saturday of every month from 10 to 12 noon,
unless otherwise noted.

March 2020 Calendar of Events

- 2 Deacons 6:30 pm Library
- 3 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 8 **Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- 9 Worship Committee 6 pm Library
- 9 Property Committee 7 pm Fellowship Hall
- 10 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 10 Rebekahs 2pm Fellowship Hall
- 12 Finance Committee 7 pm Library
- 16 Session Mtg. 7pm Library
- 17 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 17 **Saint Patrick's Day (Observed)**
- 19 **First Day of Spring (Observed)**
- 22 **"Gifts of Women" Church Service**
10:30a.m.
- 24 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library
- 24 Rebekahs 2pm Fellowship Hall
- 25 WIC 9:30-3:00pm Fellowship Hall
- 26 Book Club "Still Life" by Louise Penny
noon Library
- 31 Ethel's Needlers 10 - 11:30 am Library



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.

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

Adult Bible Study will be held every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Library during the school year.

Clothes Basket will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10 to 2 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Food Pantry will be open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 to 12 noon and the 1st



welcome spring!



From the Worship Committee



Wilderness: A Place Between

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit...was led by the Spirit in the desert...” Luke 4: 1

The desert was the wilderness where Jesus spent 40 days in prayer and contemplation. This is where Jesus faced and rebuked the devils three temptations: to make food from stone; to worship the devil to gain power; to test God’s power by throwing himself off the temple. Finally, the devil finished his tempting, and Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee to begin his ministry in earnest. (Luke 4-13; Matthew 4: 1-11)

The Lenten Season is the time when we Christians journey with Jesus into the wilderness. Our wilderness may not be as barren and dangerous as the one Jesus confronted, but our lives have distractions, challenges and temptations that weaken our faith. As we journey with Jesus into the wilderness, we should find our own wilderness space and think of it as a place to slow down and make more time for Jesus in our lives. It is a time we set aside to reflect and focus on our faith. It is a time for intentional prayer where we can strengthen our relationship with God. The words of Jenny Philips best capture the essence of this experience: “wilderness is an in between place, where ordinary life is suspended, identity shifts, and new possibilities emerge.”

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

On Behalf of the Worship Committee,
Maxine G. Hunter



March Birthdays

2	Maria Josephs	21	Emily Marshall
4	Cindy Monaghan	25	Sylvia McKinnon
6	Heather Gorton	26	Julie Vair
10	Rev. Harvey Sindima	26	Dick Richardson
12	Kenneth Nodell	26	Nick Suarez
13	Alex Charlton	27	Freda Josephs
16	Jeffrey Gay	27	Bonnie Olney
16	Tracy Akers	29	Sam Tucci
17	Bill Batchelor	29	James Turner

No March Anniversaries

PRAYER LIST

Savannah (Calla Miller's co-workers daughter), Ruth (friend of Malinda Tucci), Isabella (Ann Batchelor's daughter's best friend's daughter), Christine Treece (Rachael's niece), Brad Babcock, LaVia Wedge (Calla's sister), Ron Stanley(Sam & Karen Tucci's friend), Debbie Rifenburg (Priscilla Suits' daughter), Henry & Nancy Douglas, Sharon Townsend (Ron Brodeur's sister-in-law), Jim & Linda Taylor (requested by Sam & Karen Tucci), Robin Suarez's mom, Martha Tyre (Maxine's friend), Deanna Moyes (Norma's sister), Jeanna Acosta (Norma's niece), Pat Parker, Tammy Hutchinson (Tara Truett's sister), Shirley Ford, Eleanor Horton (Claudia's sister), Sue Bristow (Hank & Nancy's daughter), Fred & Gail Banks, Dave & Gerry (co-worker of Tom Lemery), Paul Mockovak, and Service men and women

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pulpit Supply for upcoming weeks are as follows:

March 1	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima - Communion
8	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima
15	Rev. Dr. Clarice Martin
22	"Gifts of Women" Sunday
29	Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima

Per Capita for each member in **2019** is \$38.50.

Statistics for February 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
2	34	\$ 2,488.50	0
9	34	\$ 757.00	0
16	42	\$ 664.00	\$ 500.00
23	43	\$ 953.00	\$ 400.00



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

From the Property Committee

The Property Committee met on Monday, February 10, 2020. Present: Charlene & Ron Bush, Sylvia McKinnon, Nate Miller.



- Bids for mowing 2020 will be discussed and sent out next month.
- Culligan (water softener) did a year PM and the regular salt delivery.
- ThyssenKrupp (elevator) rep. came to Morrisville to go over the new contract. It will start on 2/2/2020 and be for 60 months. The cost will be paid every

February of the five years \$1621.92. The PM's will be four times a year. Sylvia signed the agreement 1/31/2020. If one quarter of the year goes by without a check up, the rep. will be called to ask for one.

- Our lease with Usherwood (copier) will be up on 4/10/2020. After talking with our rep. Scott Meriwether, a letter was sent to the leasing company to terminate the lease on our expiration date. This will eliminate the possibility of it rolling over. Scott has suggested that we do the same thing we did four years ago - lease a new copier. The life of a copier is about five years. He will set up a date with us to proceed. Charlene will attend.
- We have a balance of \$400 in the equipment billing with Frontier. It will be used for future maintenance coverage.
- A new pledge for the Building Fund Drive will be this month with the usage of it being for maintenance of the building.
- The building usage fee for the Pearsall funeral has been waived.
- Ron will need to contact Doug Mennig to finish the replacement of the batteries in the building. Ron can't do (code officer needs to inspect).

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia McKinnon

From the Deacons

The Deacons had a 100% attendance at their February 3 meeting. Officers for 2020 were approved as follows: Tom Lemery and Calla Miller as co-chairpersons and Naydene Ames as secretary. Karen Jacobs will continue as our treasurer. Thank you very much Karen!

The date of December 19, 2020 was chosen for our Christmas Food Basket distribution date, pending building usage form approval. The Deacon Caring List was reviewed and new names continue to be added. A copy of this list will be included in the church directory. Your Deacon will be reaching out to you often, however, please feel free to contact a deacon any time you need assistance or know of someone who does. We are here to serve our church family.

Deacons are:

Class of 2020: Ron Brodeur, George Fearon, Tom Lemery

Class of 2021: Naydene Ames, Calla Miller, Marlene Miner

Class of 2022: Rachael Armstrong, Norma Galbreath, Tom Leamer, Jr.

The next Deacon meeting will be Monday, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the church library.

Respectfully submitted by Naydene Ames,
Secretary

Valentines Delivered

One of the best parts of the Valentine Express event is the handing out of the Valentines to Crouse Community Center residents. Five of us—Marlene Miner, Sandy Merkle, Sylvia McKinnon, Norma Galbreath and myself (Maxine Hunter)—gathered on February 13, 2020 to do just that. The smiles, comments, and even the bits of conversations we have with residents, is special. Sometimes when a resident hears, “HI, I have a valentine for you,” we receive a surprised looked, and then a smile forms, followed by comments such as “Oh, this is simply beautiful”; “For me?”; and “Oh, aren’t these three little kitties cute.” Sometimes they simply hold the card just looking and smiling. One gentleman I spoke with, slowly looked at his card and then started to laugh. His card was a picture of a cat jumping and twisting in the air with the caption,

“Kiai! Karate Kittie wishes you a Happy Valentine’s Day.” Another gentleman was so thrilled, he wanted to share from his gift box of Valentine candy—a present received is a present to share was his thought. It was, indeed, a pleasant day for all.

(Submitted by Maxine Hunter)

The Service of Diminishing Lights

Lent offers us a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God. In our busy world, Lent provides us with a time to reflect upon our daily life, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have done or failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

During the Sundays in Lent we will share in The Service of Diminishing Lights. We begin Lent with seven candles inserted into a crown of thorns. The candles symbolize Jesus' journey to the cross and the events that led him there. According to three of the Gospels a woven crown of thorns was placed on the head of Jesus during the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. It was one of the instruments of the Passion, employed by Jesus' captors both to cause him pain and to mock his claim of authority. It is mentioned in the gospels of Matthew (27:29), Mark (15:17), and John (19:2,5) and is often alluded to by early Church Fathers.

We begin with all of the candles lit and on each successive Sunday in Lent, one of the candles is extinguished. The circle of gathering darkness and the crown of thorns serves as a constant reminder of the role of human sin in bringing about the crucifixion and the need for Resurrection.

We will remember that Jesus came to bring hope and light to the world, but at every step there were those who willingly tried to put out that light.

On Easter Sunday all the candles will again be lit symbolizing the hope and light of Jesus Christ.

(Submitted by Ellen Davis)

OUR FLAWED PATH TO GOD

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 1:27 says "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them".

But If I was created in God's own image and God is perfect then why am I so flawed?

And so Matthew 5:48 tells me to "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

But I can't be perfect like God because I am flawed.

If I try to tell myself I am not flawed...

Jeremiah 17:9 says that...

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

Who can understand my heart?

God.

God understands my heart and yet still loves me despite my flaws.

Romans 5:8.

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

And Jeremiah 31:34.

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Our flaws were given to us so that we have a reason to seek God's forgiveness.

Without our flaws we would never know the joy of finding God because we would never seek His Forgiveness.

Amen.

From the Food Pantry

January was a busy month. We usually order one shipment a month from the Food Bank to restock our shelves. It was necessary to order another shipment during the month. Heather Brubaker, from the Food Bank visited the Pantry on January 7, to see if we wanted to implement the Food Bank's Health Pantry Initiative by stocking low salt and sugar items and promoting healthier food selections. Heather would also provide us with attractive and colorful signage of the five different food groups along with recipes to keep visual images of healthy selections of food. We would have to write up a Healthy Pantry Initiative Statement. A selected body or

someone would have to be responsible for the oversight and implementation of our nutrition policy.

January statistics: 56 families visited the pantry (largest number we've had)

2 Emergencies after hours

5 New Enrollees

\$36 Monetary donations

48 food products received

A luncheon was held on January 30, at The Fort in Morrisville, to honor Henry Douglas, Co-Coordinator, who found it necessary to resign last year and Mark Shepard, Assistant Coordinator, who along with Connie, is

relocating to Maryland. Henry and Mark were recognized for their dedication and many contributions in helping to keep the Pantry a local resource available to those in need of food assistance in the Morrisville-Eaton Central School and StockbridgeValley School Districts. Their energy and expertise will be truly missed. All of the pantry volunteers that were able to attend were present.

Sue Bartow,
Coordinator



Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team

PW present at this meeting were Naydene Ames, Karen Jacobs, Maxine Hunter and Sylvia McKinnon. Karen Jacobs reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made and approved to increase our pledge to the Morrisville Community Church Building Fund to \$2,000. Thank you notes were received from the Morrisville-Eaton G.A.A., Judy Parker's Christmas Program and Vanderkamp for our donation to their organizations. In addition, we received The Thea Bowman Newsletter and a nice thank you from Unity Acres, which are posted on the PW bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Thank you for those who addressed a Christmas card to the men at Unity Acres.



CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Class of 2020

Sylvia McKinnon
Tom Leamer, Sr.
Sheila Bartlett
Ellen Davis

Class of 2021

Lois Thurston

Class of 2022

Pathrik Olsson
Claudia Loomis
Maxine Hunter

DEACONS

Class of 2020

George Fearon
Tom Lemery
Ron Brodeur

Class of 2021

Calla Miller
Marlene Miner
Naydene Ames

Class of 2022

Norma Galbreath
Rachael Armstrong
Tom Leamer, Jr.

Karen reported that ten families were able to shop at the Clothes Basket as invited participants in the Annual Children's Christmas Shopping Program. Thank you to those who helped with this meaningful program.

Thirteen ladies attended the Valentine Express workshop held January 21 and some beautiful valentines were made and Maxine had a nice article in our church newsletter last month and also in The Lighthouse Newsletter of the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast. Thank you to Sylvia, Marlene, Sandy, Norma and Maxine for delivering the valentines to the residents of Crouse Community Center on February 13. As always, they were well received.

The Gifts of Women church service will take place on Sunday, March 22. Ellen Davis is planning the service.

PW will not be meeting in March. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9 and all you ladies are welcome to attend.

Submitted by Naydene Ames
PW Secretary