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MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morrow Presbyterian Herald

The Pastor's Pen



We live in the Age of Apology. When a public figure messes up, he or she issues an apology through social media. For example, a quick message could be posted on Twitter (X) or Instagram, saying, "I recognize that a comment I made could be misconstrued. I did not mean to upset anyone and I apologize." Anybody could read these posts, and those who may have been hurt could accept the apology or not.

I once read an article saying that such apologies are hardly believable.¹ They seem inauthentic. It is as though they are posted quickly to reconnect to fans and keep them as fans without interruption. Celebrities cannot lose the people who purchase their music and concert tickets. Another part of the inauthenticity comes from the fact that celebrities don't just apologize to their fans but also to their sponsors who are paying them loads of money. Lose the sponsors and lose the income, so apologize as soon as possible to keep the money rolling in.

Apologizing over social media can seem contrite or connived. People will accept such postings as they see fit. It is same in the "real world." We hurt someone's feelings and we apologize, and the person may accept it or not. Yet in the real world we can continue to show ourselves to be contrite by reconnecting with people on a personal level. We don't have smartphones or Internet to separate us. There is only the air between us and the kind words and actions with which to fill it.

Henri Nouwen is one of those spiritual gurus who was big into community. It was important to him to connect with people as often as he could. He could easily lock himself in a room and write books all day. He could separate himself from others by talking to them on a stage. What was most important, however, was connecting with people, standing next to them, sharing joys and concerns, giving and receiving care. Nouwen took this so seriously that he joined a small community near Buffalo, NY, where he cared for mentally and physically handicapped men and women, feeding them, bathing them, dressing them, talking and laughing with them.

When it comes to apologizing, for Nouwen it is all about community. He even said that forgiveness "is the cement of community life. Forgiveness holds us together through good and bad times, and it allows us to grow in mutual love." In our communities, there is a willingness to accept an apology as well as to give an apology. We know that we are not perfect and that we may mess up from time to time. In fact, we could mess up so badly as to break apart community. That's how bad our sinning could be. Yet, we understand with open hearts. We acknowledge our brokenness, and we still choose to stay together as imperfect people.

The article above admitted that apologizing over social media could smooth things over between people (even between celebrities and fans). It is not the only way we should express our regrets, though. A community cannot remain together only through smartphones and the Internet. We need to see each other. We need to be with each other. In good times and in bad times, we choose to work on our relationships and keep them growing with more love and support.

Say you're sorry, when it is needed. Accept someone's "I'm Sorry." Keep the community strong.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

¹<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20230821-why-you-rarely-believe-celebrity-apologies-on-social-media>.

Prayer Requests



PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Moses Ayodele, Austin John, Marsha Ann Kempson, Wilhelmina Bowens (friend of Mary Dyche) Emory, Ty Gammage, Rob Lukat, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Jo Calhoun, Thomas Chukwura, Bill Coleman, Betty Colwell, Felix Cruz, Keith Danser, David Dawson, Terry & Mary Dyche, James & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Peter Farwell, Anne & Haywood Fordham, Jessica Giddens, Wayne Goza, Olen Grubbs, Julie Haney, Bob & Gail Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Thuan & Jun Hong, Jessica & Patrick Johnson, George Kempson,

Braden Knebel, Tricia Koehler, Jim & Marty LeDuke, Berniece Lillegard, Bob & Suzanne Lukat, Sidney Lyell, Keith Maxey, Jim McNaull, Mary Ann Moriles, Florette Njonu, Sunny Onuoha, Rick Peel, John & Pat Randolph, Linda Reece, Roxie Romine, David Schuler, Dick Shaffer, Glenn Sharpe, Butch Stavely, David Swafford, Arrah Thomas, Cathy Trustorf, Gene Ussery, Debbie Valentine, Devon Valentine, Clay Verdell, Barry Weems, David Weems, Debbie Westover, Mark Williams, Gene Williams, and Terry Williams. Our nation, Flood Victims, Our Military, Missionaries, School/College Teachers & Students, Food Pantry Patrons. *A full prayer list is in the narthex.*

Wedding Shower for Amanda & James, 8/10, 2 p.m.



Wedding Shower for Amanda Callahan & James Jones, August 10, 2 p.m.

All women of the church are invited to a Wedding Shower for Amanda Callahan & James Jones on Sunday, August 10 at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The shower will be hosted by the Morning Glory Circle on behalf of the Presbyterian Women.

Amanda & James are registered at Amazon and Target.

Good Shepherd Fundraiser

Good Shepherd Clinic's Tomato Sandwich Party, August 2, 5-7 p.m. @ The Morrow Center

\$25 minimum donation; live entertainment; cake auction; and more. Proceeds support the clinic.



School Supplies Needed. We are collecting school supplies for Morrow Elementary - our Partner in Education school. Things like #2 pencils, permanent markers, colored pencils, crayons, glue sticks, composition books, and notebook paper. We are collecting now and throughout the year to support the school's needs.

There is a shopping cart in the narthex for the supplies.



Favorite Hymn or Worship Song? Do you have a favorite hymn or worship song you'd like to hear for the prelude or offertory? Or a special praise song from your home country? Your organist would like to know! There are request forms on the shelf behind the piano in the sanctuary.

Please fill one out and put it in the box.

YAH Lunch, August 6, 11:30 a.m.

Young at Heart Luncheon, August 6, 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join the Young at Heart for lunch on Wednesday, August 6, at 11:30 a.m. We will meet at O'Charley's in Stockbridge. Please let Bruce Campbell know if you are able to attend so that he can reserve a spot for you.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Presbyterian Women



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

PWCT will meet in the McNair/Seekers classroom on August 3 at 12:15 p.m.

Morning Glory Circle will meet on August 10 at 9:30 a.m. The Morning Glory Circle will meet on Sunday, August 10 in the Arnold/Bates classroom. All women are invited to attend. We will finish up our book, "Let Justice Roll Down."

Virginia Dews Circle will meet on Monday, August 11 at 6 p.m. at the church. Lei Eason will present the lesson. Project is bags for travelers/homeless who come to the church office.

Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 12 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Project is feminine hygiene projects for the food pantry.

Kids Club Kick-Off, Sept. 21, 5 pm

Kids Club Resumes September 21, 5-7 p.m. Kid's Club RESUMES on Sunday, September 21. They meet from 5 - 7 p.m. All kids ages 4 years-5th grade are invited to join us. There is music, Bible lessons, recreation, and food. The kids learn about God's love for us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Please contact Twarna Johnson at church or on her cell 678-683-8030.



CHOIR RESUMES!!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 7 P.M.

JOIN US! We meet in the sanctuary.



Family of Friends Life Group



Family of Friends Lake Party, August

16, 9:30 a.m. The Family of Friends Life Group will have a lake party at the lakehouse of Ronnie & Dianne Hooten on Saturday, August 16, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a picnic dish to

go with a "Ronnie" ham. Please RSVP to Ronnie or Dianne (or just show up). Address: 64 Harber Rd., Monticello. (404) 831-8312.

Prayers for Schools



On Sunday, July 27, we prayed for all of our schools - Pre-K through College during the morning worship hour. As school resumes for the 2025-2026 year (in many different forms), the congregation is asked to keep all of our students, teachers, and employees in your prayers as they work hard and deal with much different, and sometimes difficult situations. Our congregation is widely spread over several counties and our children attend many different schools. Please keep the following schools in your prayers during this next year:

Bright Generations, Clarkston Academy, Noah's Park, Cleveland Avenue Elementary School, East Lake Elementary School, Fairview Elementary School, Flippen Elementary School, Morrow Elementary School, Paine Elementary School, Pleasant Grove Elementary School, Walnut Creek Elementary School, Fulton County School Systems, Little Angels Christian Academy, Calvary Harvest Christian Academy, Babb Middle School, East Coweta Middle School, Etowah City School, MD Roberts Middle School, Putnam County Middle School, Stockbridge Middle School, Eagles Landing Christian Academy, Elite Scholars Academy, Forest Park High School, Jonesboro High School, McDonough High School, Northgate High School, Pell City High School, Union Grove High School, Albany State University, Allen University, Clayton State University, Fashion Institute of Technology, Columbus State University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State Perimeter College, Georgia State University, Gordon State College, Kennesaw State University, Savannah State University, University of Georgia, University of West Georgia, Valdosta State University, and Westwood Prep Academy—Fort Pierce.

2025

Morrow Presbyterian
Women's Retreat



"Who is behind the Mask?"

September 27th, 2025
10:00 am

RETREAT INFORMATION

- When you think of dressing comfortably, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? For me, it's my pajamas. For you, it might be a comfy pair of sweat pants or shorts and a t-shirt. This is NOT a dress up kind of retreat. Wear what you are most comfortable in and YES, I'll be in my pajamas.
- The retreat will be at MPC and will begin at 10:00 am. We **should** finish by 2:00 pm.
- Lunch will be provided - please fill out your "ticket stub" and turn it in to ensure your lunch order is correct. Please print your name and email address.
- Feel free to invite any lady you know, just make sure to turn in a ticket for them to ensure we have enough food.

August 2025

August Birthdays

8/4 - Ablavi Gnabo
 8/6 - Ogbu Onuoha
 8/8 - Norman Lillie
 8/9 - Ebere Onuoha
 8/10 - Marsha Ann Kempson
 - Inez Coke
 8/13 - Felix Cruz
 8/20 - H. R. Tuttle
 8/21 - Chinyere Onuoha
 8/25 - Bob Schrepfer
 8/26 - Journee Delaponte

**Happy
Birthday**

August Anniversaries

8/7 - H. R. & Marie Tuttle (29)
 8/12 - Haywood & Anne Fordham (58)
 8/26 - Brandon & Tori Abbott (2)



WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

ELDERS ON CALL

Primary: Mary Ann Moriles
 Secondary: Linda Lillie

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Virginia Dews Circle

USHERS

Ronnie Hooten, Captain; Jo Calhoun,
 Libby McNair, Carol McGhee, Kris Moriles

CHILDREN'S SERMON

3 - Deborah Venizelos
 10 - Dock Gammage
 17 - Pastor John
 24 - Allen Grant
 31 - Youth

LITURGIST

3 - Andra Gammage
 10 - Dock Gammage
 17 - Mary Dyche
 24 - Deborah Venizelos
 31 - Youth

COUNTING TEAM

Virginia Cagle and Mary Nell Winkles

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

July 6 - 12
 July 13 - 16
 July 20 - 13
 July 27 - 17

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

July 6 - 58
 July 13 - 61
 July 20 - 54
 July 27 - 74

Financial Health—July 2025

July 6	-	\$ 4,970.77	<u>Needed:</u>
July 13	-	\$ 5,944.72	\$ 22,976.60
July 20	-	\$ 3,651.00	
July 27	-	\$ 5,082.00	<u>Received:</u>
Online	-	\$ 3,920.60	\$ 23,569.09



Thank you!

Ways to give to Morrow Presbyterian Church:

- 1) Mail your check to the church at MPC, P. O. Box 316, Morrow, GA 30260
- 2) Set up an account online with your bank's bill pay option. When it asks for the account number, use your envelope number. Your bank will send the church a check for the amount and on the date you designate.
- 3) Scan this QR code with your camera:



August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live—Dock Gammage preaching 12:15 p.m. PWCT 5 p.m. Youth—Senior Send Off	4 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	5 6:30 p.m. Scouts	6 11:30 a.m. YAH O'Charley's 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 	7 10:00 a.m. Peacemakers Life Group 3-6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	1  8 Office closed	2  5-7 p.m. Good Shepherd Tomato Sandwich Fundraiser  9
10 9:30 am Morning Glory 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook 12:15 p.m. Coffee Fellowship 2 p.m. Callahan Shower 5 p.m. Youth NO Kids Club	11 6:00 p.m. Virginia Dews 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	12 10:00 a.m. Dorcas Circle 6:30 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Session	13 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	14 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	15 Office closed	16 9:30 a.m. Family of Friends at Lake—Hooten home 
17 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live—Communion 12 p.m. ACL—After Church Lunch 5 p.m. Youth	18 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	19 6:30 p.m. Scouts	20 10:00 a.m. Living Branch Life Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	21 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	22 Office closed	23
24 8 a.m. Staff Meeting—IHOP 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live 5 p.m. Youth	25 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	26 6:30 p.m. Scouts	27 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	28 3-6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	29 Office closed	30
31 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship in person & Facebook Live 12 p.m. Coffee Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Youth	