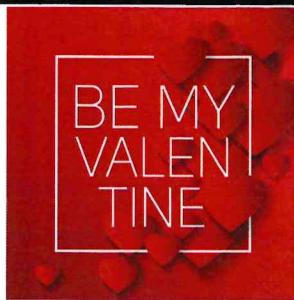


Volume 19 Issue 2
February 2026



MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morrow Presbyterian Herald

THE PASTOR'S PEN



What attracts us to people? What is it in a person that makes us want to say, "I'd like to hang out with him or her?"

We have heard the old cliché that "beauty is only skin deep," but the way a person looks may make us take notice. The way they treat us is also important. If a person treats us with respect, we will want to do the same. The person's sense of humor, insights, and wisdom are a few more qualities that attract us to people.

In the beginning of Mark's Gospel, Jesus is a relative newcomer. Jesus doesn't come on the scene through a miraculous birth, as we read in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. His message is simple: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:14-15). Is this enough to attract people to Jesus? For some, it is. They have been waiting for God's kingdom to be at hand, within grasp, because what has been within grasp is a lot of sadness and misery and pain. Jesus' simple yet powerful message is enough for them.

Yet there is more... Jesus preaches and teaches, telling people about the mysteries of God. He heals, removing people's painful burdens (see Mark 1:35-36). These are quite attractive, too. People come from all over the region to get a glimpse of him, even to feel his warm touch. There is something about Jesus that makes them want to be near him. There is something attractive that makes them want to lay down their lives and take Jesus into their hearts and live for him.

We feel the same way. We are attracted to Jesus. He may not be around in human form, but we believe the stories. We understand what Jesus is trying to say. We want to glimpse him in some way, even feel his warm touch on our hearts and minds. We turn to him and find everything we need in life. Through our faith in him, we can get through the pain and problems. We have hope amid hopelessness. We have purpose amid confusion.

This month we enter the season of Lent knowing that the attraction to Jesus never stops. Like the people in Mark 1, we are always amazed. We are always questioning, "Who is this Person," with the desire to know Jesus even better. We are captivated by his words. We are overwhelmed with his authority. Jesus comes to us with a message and a plan. We believe it. We trust it. We are transformed by it. Like metal to a magnet we are always attracted to him, brought into the presence of Christ, and made new.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

Prayer Requests



PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Family of Julie Haney (Carol Campbell's sister), Family of Carolyn Maxey (Carol Campbell's mother), Allen Grant, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Jo Calhoun, Thomas Chukwura, Bill Coleman, Betty Colwell, Kelly Conrad, Felix Cruz, Mary Dardy, Davis Family, David Dawson, James & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Peter & Mary Farwell, Trudy Fincher, Wendy Garcia, Jessica Giddens, Olen Grubbs, Bob & Gail Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Thuan & Jun Hong, Michael Howell, Austin John, Jessica & Patrick Johnson, George & Marsha Ann Kempson, Braden Knebel, Tricia Koehler, Marty LeDuke, Bob & Suzanne Lukat, Sidney Lyell, Keith Maxey, Sheila McKee, Judy McKinney, Jackie McLeod, Jim McNaull, Rebecca Muller, Florette Njonu, Rick Peel, John & Pat Randolph, Linda Reece, Roxie Romine, David Schuler, Glenn Sharpe, David Swafford, Edith Tingston, Laraine Tinsley, Cathy Trustorf, Gene Ussery, Clay Verdell, Amanda Webb, Barry Weems, David Weems, Gene Williams, and Terry Williams. Our country, Our Military, Missionaries, School/College Teachers & Students, Food Pantry Patrons.

A full prayer list is available in the narthex.

Presbyterian Women

PWCT— February 8, 12:15 p.m. The PWCT will meet in the McNair/Seekers classroom. Anne Fordham has the devotion and the refreshments.

Morning Glory Circle, February 8, 9:30 a.m. All women are welcome to join us as we continue in our study book, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." Tamara Callahan will lead us on Lesson Four as Carol will be attending the baptism of little Campbell Dwinell.

Virginia Dews Circle, February 9, 6:00 p.m. The Virginia Dews Circle will meet on Monday, February 9 at 6 p.m. in the library. Lei Eason will lead Lesson Six from "Finding Joy in Christ." Carol Francis will present the devotion. Project is \$20 gift cards (Kroger, WalMart, McDonalds) for the church office to give to those in need.

Dorcas Circle, February 10, 10 a.m. The Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Arnold/Bates classroom. Sharon Goza will present Lesson 5 "The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor" and the devotion. Project: feminine hygiene products for the food pantry.

Lent is coming

Ash Wednesday Service
February 18, 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN DEVOTION BOOKS

An assortment of devotion booklets are available in the Narthex. Please take whichever you need for you and your family.

PRAYER VIGIL ON ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18 FROM 7 A.M.—6:00 P.M.

There will be a sign-up sheet available on Sunday to choose a time slot for our annual Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil.

You may choose any available 30-minute or one-hour time slot to pray in the sanctuary, your home, or at work. Please indicate where you will be praying.

You may also call the church office (770-961-5444) to choose your time slot.

Souper Bowl, February 8

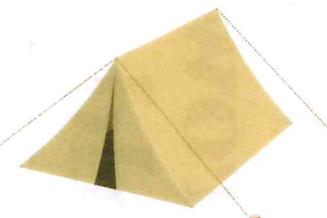
Souper Bowl of Caring – February 8. The Youth will be waiting at the doors on Super Bowl Sunday to collect dollars for the Souper Bowl of Caring. You may also mail in your offering to the church and earmark it "Souper Bowl" in the memo section.

These funds collected around the country support local charities. Ours will support our MPC Food Pantry. Thank you!



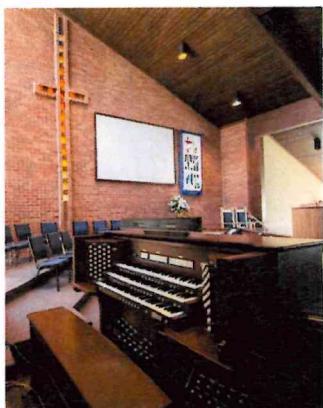
Scout Sunday, February 8

Scout Sunday – February 8. The Scouting groups of our church would like to thank the entire congregation for your continued support of their programs.



Everyone is invited to a reception in the fellowship hall immediately following the worship service on Sunday, February 8.

New Organ Dedication



New Organ Dedication January 18, 2026.

We received a new organ from Timberridge Presbyterian Church due to their unfortunate dissolution. Our cost to move it was covered by an anonymous donor.

The Session approved the organ to be dedicated in memory of Ken & Janis Campbell, longtime and faithful members of MPC.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life Luminaries—Deadline April 1

The Relay for Life of Henry, Fayette, and Clayton County is coming on May 1, 2026.

Plan ahead and order a luminary in honor or memory of a loved one. Bags have candles and are placed all around the lake at the relay.

Bags are available for different donation amounts. Torch of Hope and Knock Out Cancer roses are also available.

Order forms are available in the narthex.



Valentine's Dinner/Dance, February 14, 5 p.m.



Valentine's Dinner/Dance, February 14, 5 p.m.

EVERYONE is invited to attend our Valentine Dinner on February 14 at 5 p.m. Dinner will be prepared by David Turner family & friends. Menu: Lasagna, Chicken Parmesan, Salad, Bread, Dessert. Cost: \$15 per adult; \$5 per teenager; FREE for 12 and under. Nursery provided. Payments may be given to the church office prior to the dinner OR you may pay at the door. Come join your church family as we celebrate God's love for all of us. Sign up sheet in the narthex.



Young at Heart Lunch

February 4, 11:30 a.m.

The Young-at-Heart will join together for lunch at **Chili's in Morrow at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4**. Please come fellowship with us! Please let Bruce or Libby know if you will be attending.

Elder Ordination/Installation

On Sunday, January 11, 2026 we ordained two new elders and then installed into two classes, seven elders.

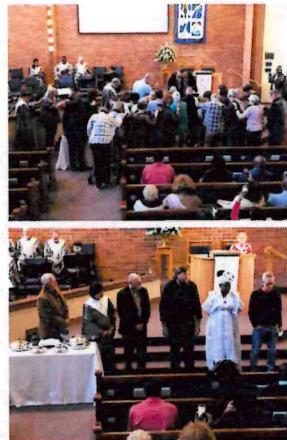
ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF ELDERS CLASS OF 2027

Florette Njonu, Colin Turner

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS CLASS OF 2026 & 2027

Allen Grant, Linda Lillie, Bruce Campbell, Carol Campbell - Class of 2026

Florette Njonu, Colin Turner, Albert Coughlin - Class of 2027



Thank You for Your Service

RECOGNITION OF ELDERS - CLASS OF 2025

Allen Grant, Linda Lillie, Albert Coughlin, Deborah Venizelos, Bruce Campbell, Carol Campbell, Ngozi Bivins

Thank you, Class of 2025, for serving MPC with your love and dedication.



Youth attend Winter Jam Concert



The Youth attended Winter Jam on January 18 at State Farm Arena. Winter Jam is a concert with many different Christian artists.

The headliners were Chris Tomlin and Matthew West.

Some of the other artists were Katy Nichole, nobigdyl., Disciple, Emerson Day, Newsong, and Zane Black.

The youth had a great and spiritual time!

Basket Auction, April 26, 12:15 pm.



Baskets and More, April 26. It's that time of year to start thinking about what you can create for the Relay for Life Baskets and More Auction. Things like baked goods, crafts, plants, quilts, woodworking items, and picnic baskets filled with delicious food ready for you to eat!

Please call, text or email Susie Grant, 404-514-9561, yuleforest@gmail.com. The proceeds from this auction go to our Relay for Life Team and will help fight cancer through the American Cancer Society. We all have been touched either having cancer ourselves or knowing someone who has dealt with this terrible disease.

Please join in to support our Team, the CrossWalkers. Also call Albert Coughlin, 404-384-0977 if you want to be part of this great team!! **Relay for Life is Friday, May 1, 6—11 p.m. at Salem Baptist Church Park.**

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”

Psalm 143:10

2026 Session Ministry Teams & Responsibilities

Clerk of Session – Andra Gammage '26

Andra- (770) 596-6928

Correspondence
Elder Training
Update of Church Rolls and Statistics
Session Minutes
Building Requests

Administration & Stewardship -

Allen Grant '26 & Linda Lillie '26

Allen- (404) 934-9356

Linda- (678) 777-2914

Budget Compilation
Corporation Registration and Business
Counting Team
Financial Records/Audit
Offering Envelopes
Personnel
Presbytery Per Capita
Stewardship Program/Education

Facilities Maintenance -

Colin Turner '27 & Albert Coughlin '27

Colin- (470) 303-5495

Albert- (404) 932-9874

Maintenance and revisions of Building
& Grounds

Discipleship - Augustine Agbo '26

& Dock Gammage '26

Augustine- (404) 980-2088

Dock- (770) 596-6927

Communicants Class
Educational programs for new members,
visitors, etc.
Library
Nursery
Spiritual Renewal
Sunday School
Vacation Bible School
Youth & Kid's Club

Fellowship & Congregational Care-

Mary Ann Moriles '26 & Florette Njonu '27

Mary Ann- (770) 853-6202

Florette- (678) 360-2596

Elder Care Groups
Family Night Suppers
Shut-ins / Inactive Members
New Member Assimilation
Purchase Kitchen Supplies
Small Groups, Bible Studies/
Spiritual Growth
Special Events (Braves Games,
Relay for Life, etc)

Mission & Community Outreach -

David Turner '26 & Shawn Butcher '26

David- (404) 561-8655

Shawn- (770) 412-2041

Denominational Benevolences
Disaster Assistance
Evangelism
Fall Festival
Special Assistance to the Needy
Publicity
Food Pantry
Special needs awareness
Special Offerings (Joy Gift, One Great Hour of
Sharing, Operation Christmas Blessing)

Worship - Bruce Campbell '26 and Carol

Campbell '26

Bruce- (404) 694-8281

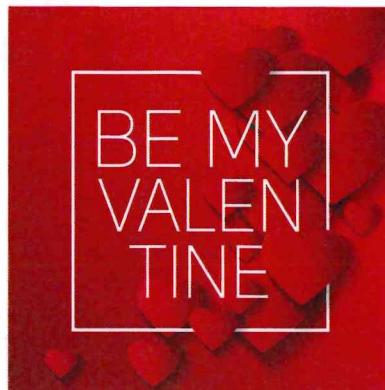
Carol- (404) 354-1145

Children's Church
Communion
Liaison with Choir Director
Liturgists
Media Ministry (Facebook)
Music Program & Sound System
Sanctuary Audio
Special decorations & Sanctuary upkeep
Special Services (i.e. School Prayer,
World Communion Sunday, etc.)
Ushers
Vestments
Wedding Coordinator

FEBRUARY 2026

February Birthdays

- 2/1 - Carol McGhee
- 2/5 - Ronnie Hooten
- 2/6 - Sheila McKee
- 2/8 - George Kempson
- 2/10 - Augustine Agbo
- 2/16 - Rita Coughlin
- 2/19 - Anne Fordham
- 2/21 - Kissia Howard
- 2/25 - Ijeoma Onuoha
- 2/26 - Angela Turner
- 2/27 - Dex Yi



February Anniversaries

- 2/8 - Marco & Penny Sierra (48)



Financial Health—January, 2026

January 4	-	\$ 5,908.00	<u>Needed:</u> \$ 23,350.40
January 11	-	\$ 6,589.13	
January 18	-	\$ 4,226.00	<u>Received:</u> \$ 19,746.54
January 25	-	\$ Online Only	
Online	-	\$ 3,023.41	

"Cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

ELDERS ON CALL

Primary: Linda Lillie
Secondary: Mary Ann Moriles

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Virginia Dews Circle

USHERS

David Turner, Captain; Twarna Johnson, Dock & Andra Gammage, Florette Njonu

LITURGIST

1 - Andra Gammage
8 - Scouts
15 - Mary Ann Moriles
22 - James Eason

CHILDREN'S SERMON

1 - Dock Gammage
8 - Scouts
15 - Deborah Venizelos
22 - Allen Grant

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

1 - Annie Johnson
8 - Susie Grant
15 - Ronnie & Dianne Hooten
22 - Twarna Johnson

COUNTING TEAM

Deborah Venizelos and Allen Grant

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 4	-	13
January 11	-	31
January 18	-	13
January 25	-	No Sunday School

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

January 4	-	64
January 11	-	107
January 18	-	71
January 25	-	54 FB Only

FEBRUARY 2026

						
1 9:30 am New Member Class 9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook—Scout Sunday 12:15 p.m. Elder Care Luncheon 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club	2  6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	3	4 11:30 a.m. YAH Lunch at Chili's 7 p.m. Choir practice	5 10:00 a.m. Peacemaker's Life Group 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	6 6:30 p.m. Scouts Office closed	7 9 a.m. Presbytery Mtg. 4—7 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
8 9:30 a.m. Morning Glory Circle 9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook—Scout Sunday 12 pm Souper Bowl Offering 12:15 p.m. Reception 12:30 p.m. PWCT 5 p.m. Kids Club 6:00 p.m. Youth at Gammages until halftime 	9 6:00 p.m. VA Dews Circle 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	10 10 a.m. Dorcas Circle 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	11 7 p.m. Choir practice	12 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	13 6:30 p.m. Scouts Office closed	14 5:00 p.m. Valentine's Dinner/Dance  Happy Valentine's Day
15 9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook 12:15 p.m. Coffee Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club	16 President's Day 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	17	18  7 a.m.—6 p.m. Prayer Vigil 10 a.m. Living Branch Life Group 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service NO Choir Practice	19 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	20 6:30 p.m. Scouts Office closed	21
22 9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook 12:15 p.m. Coffee Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club	23 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	24	25 7 p.m. Choir practice	26 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	27 6:30 p.m. Scouts Office closed	28