

Volume 19 Issue 2

February 2026

BE MY  
VALEN  
TINE

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 Tington, Laraine Tinsley, Cathy Trustorf, Gene Ussery, Clay Verdell, Amanda Webb, Barry Weems, 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 Dwinnell.

**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.

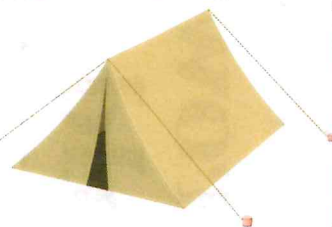
These funds collected around the country support local charities. Ours will support our MPC Food Pantry. Thank you!



## 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.



## Elder Ordination/Installation

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

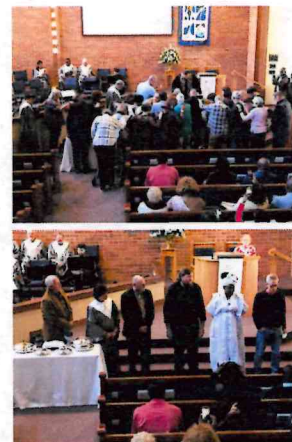
### **ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF ELDERS CLASS OF 2027**

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.

## 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**

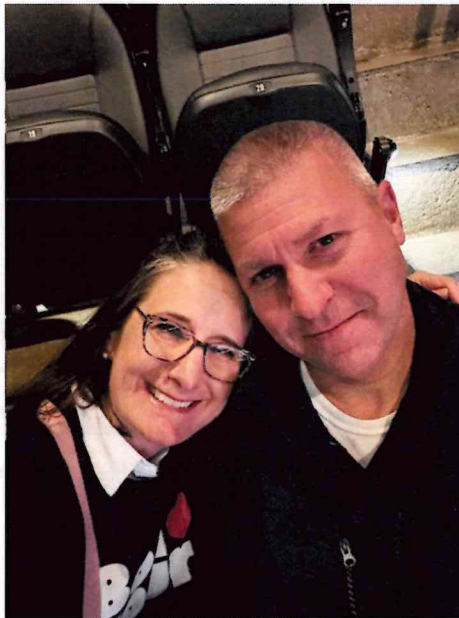
**February 4, 11:30 a.m.**

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.





## 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, New-song, 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](mailto: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*

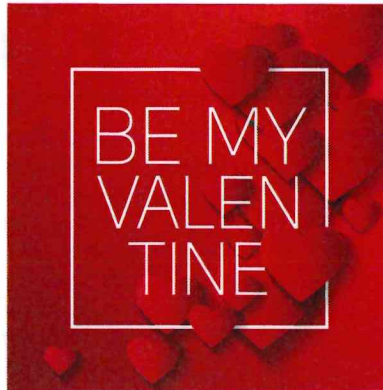
Children's Church  
Communion  
Liaison with Choir Director  
Liturgists  
Media Ministry (Facebook)  
Music Program & Sound System  
Sanctuary Audio  
Special decorations & Sanctuary upkeep  
Special Services (i.e. School Prayer,  
World Communion Sunday, etc.)  
Ushers  
Vestments  
Wedding Coordinator



# 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 - Kissa Howard  
 2/25 - Ijeoma Onuoha  
 2/26 - Angela Turner  
 2/27 - Dex Yi



## February Anniversaries

2/8 - Marco & Penny Sierra (48)

**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

## Financial Health—January, 2026

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

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

## 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

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