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MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Morrow Presbyterian Herald

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

"You're killing Christmas!"

At some point after the holidays, someone in our family will utter these words (most likely, me). One of us decides that it is time to place the Nativity scene back in storage and to take down the ornaments from the Christmas tree, and when the culprit is caught he or she might hear the words, "You're killing Christmas!" It's not time to put it all away, is it? Can't we just keep everything up until, I don't know, Easter?

You might feel the same way when you enter the first days of January. Christmas is past. The festivities are over. Saying goodbye to it all might be a sad and even an exhausting time. We have to dump the live tree somewhere ecologically sound, or we have to undo the fake tree and place it back in the box. We have ornaments that are delicate hand-me-downs from years ago, and so great care must be taken to store them. Everything is thrown away or stowed away, and we don't think much about Christmas, or even the birth of Jesus, until next year.

I think of the Jim Carey cartoon version of *A Christmas Carol* and the jovial Ghost of Christmas Present. When Ebenezer Scrooge first claps eyes on him, he is this large, red-haired, Scottish dude who cannot get a word out with laughing big and loud. The Ghost shows Scrooge everything that happens on Christmas Day with joy in his heart. He blesses all the activities of Christmas happening on the streets and in the homes. We notice, though, that throughout the journey this Ghost gets older and older. His red hair is now white. His skin is thin and pale. He eventually turns into a large skeleton sprawled across the floor, because Christmas Day is drawing to a close. However, the Ghost of Christmas Present continues to laugh and laugh. Until the bitter end, Christmas still warms his heart.

The image makes me think that we could never kill Christmas. Sure, we may say goodbye to the actual day, and we may miss it. Sure, my family and I will continue to joke about taking down decorations around the house. But Christmas itself cannot die. More to the point, the Reason for Christmas cannot die.

Frederick Buechner once said, "What keeps the wild hope of Christmas alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hopes is the haunting dream that the child who was born that day may yet be born again even in us." Jesus' birth isn't just a one-time event but an event that affects all time. We still have a Child who was born unto us and who continues to be reborn in us. We have a Savior who offered us the light of his salvation, and we who live in darkness may enter that light from now until eternity (Isaiah 9:2). Jesus never stops being the Immanuel, God-With-Us, no matter what the calendar says. Jesus never stops being the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world, no matter what the world tries to throw at us throughout the New Year.

Christmas lives on because Jesus lives on. We have a reason to laugh and celebrate. The sadness and tears may be wiped from our eyes. Christmas as a day might be finished for now, but the Reason for Christmas abides boldly and vigorously in our hearts, giving us hope and meaning and love and life.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John



## Prayer Requests

**PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS** Family of Betty Spier, Grandma Moriles, Stephanie Lozel (Encompass), Be Butcher, Youth Ski Trip, Betty Whittaker (former member - Southern Regional), New Orleans victims, Family of Jim Milhollin (requested by Gail Hardy), Jeannie Milhollin (requested by Gail Hardy), Lakendra Askew, Luke Bell, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Xander Bradley, Mary Bridges, Chris Brogan, Becca Brown, Jo Calhoun, Ugo and Thomas Chukwura, Betty Colwell, Betty Cook, Jerry Coughlin, Felix Cruz, Keith Danser, David Dawson, Terry Dyche, James & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Haywood Fordham, Anne & Evan Fournier, Chris Gaither, Jessica Giddens, Candace Glover, Robert Gore, Beth Graf, Marquis Hale, Connie Hand, Julie Haney, Bob Hardy, Vicky Hendrix, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Thuan & Jun Hong, Charlie Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Twarna Johnson, Austin John, George Kempson, Clayton & Janie Kite, Tricia Koehler, Lavender Lampl, Nancy Laster, Marty LeDuke, Berniece Lillegard, Norman Lillie, Bob Lukat, Suzanne Lukat, Sidney Lyell, Jackie Magee, Keith Maxey, Jerry McCoullough, Mac McKinney, Jim McNaull, Duyen Nguyen, Hang Nguyen, Haleigh Nunnally, Rick Peel, Doris Ragan, John & Pat Randolph, Felicia Roberts, Roxie Romine, JoAnn Schrepfer, Noah Scragg, Dick Shaffer, Glenn Sharpe, Samson Solis, Shirley Thrailkill, Cathy Trustorf, Gene Ussery, Debbie Valentine, Clay Verdell, Barry Weems, David Weems, Lenna & Noah Weems, Gene & Willie Williams, Mark Williams (MPC Friend), Terry Williams, and Ellyn Winkles. Our nation, Israel, Our Military, Missionaries, School Teachers & Students, College Students, Food Pantry Patrons.

## Christmas Tree Greetings



**Christmas Greetings to Morrow Presbyterian Church from...** Lauren (Patrus) Betzel & family, Jack & Delores Candy, Columbia Theological Seminary, Tim Covert (Dependable Computer Service), Jim & Lei Eason, Franklin & Jane Graham, Gary & Annie Johnson, Libby McNair, Elizabeth Milhovy (Thornwell), Marilyn Mitchell, The Moriles Family, Cassandra Morrow (Greater Atlanta Presbytery), Tasha Mosley (DA), John & Pat Randolph, Audrey Sharpe, and Wooden Service Company.

Currently, we have \$155 toward our Christmas card fund. Thank you!

## Congregational/Corp Meeting



### Congregational/Corporation Meeting – January 12, 2025, 12 noon.

There will be a congregational/corporation meeting following the worship service on Sunday, January 12, for the purpose of presenting the 2025 Budget and the State of the Corporation, presenting the Treasurer for 2025 (Jo Calhoun), approving Deborah Venizelos to serve on the Class of 2025 (replacing Mike Sneed), electing Trustees for Classes 2026 (Bruce Campbell) and 2027 (Allen Grant), and approving the Pastor's Terms of Call.

## Betty Spier Memorial Service—January 4

The Memorial Service for Betty Spier will be on Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 11 at Morrow Presbyterian Church. Visitation will precede the service at 10 a.m.

All are invited to attend to support George & Mark Spier and their families. If able, please bring a finger-food for the reception following the service.

Donations in memory of Betty may be made to the Morrow Presbyterian Church.

## Sanctuary Flowers



**Sanctuary Flowers.** The 2025 Flower Calendar is now available. **Every date in the first quarter is currently available.** If you would like to put flowers in the sanctuary, please see the church office. You may put the flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion.

You will be billed directly by Morrow Florist. Cost: \$48.60

## Thank You Note...

*From Dianne Hooten...* To my wonderful church family, Thank you so very much for the very generous love gift received at the Staff Recognition. I love this church and am so grateful to be a part of a loving, fun, congregation who serves a generous, loving God. You are very good at showing your appreciation year round which makes my job so pleasurable. Thank you!

**Church Office Resuming Regular Schedule January 6, 2025**

**Monday - Thursday at the Church**

**8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.**



## Presbyterian Women

**Morning Glory Circle—January 12, 9:30 a.m.** The Morning Glory Circle Bible Study is open to all women. We will meet on Sunday, January 12 at 9:30 a.m. Our Bible Study will be from our “Let Justice Roll Down” book. If you have the book, please look at Lesson Three—“Food Justice” prior to our circle meeting.

**PWCT—January 12, 12:15 p.m.** The PWCT will meet in the McNair/Seekers Classroom.

**Virginia Dews Circle, January 13, 6:00 p.m.** The Virginia Dews Circle will meet on January 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the McNair/Seekers classroom. Lei Eason will lead the lesson. Project is gift cards for the church office—\$20 Kroger or \$10 McDonalds.

**Dorcas Circle, January 14, 10 a.m.** The Dorcas Circle will meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, January 14, at 10 a.m. The project is gift cards for the church office—\$20 Kroger or \$10 McDonalds. Sharon Goza will do the devotion. Lesson on “Water Justice” from the study book.



### New Arrival

**Congratulations to Matthew & Abbey Hooten** on the birth of their son, **Milo Kenobi-Lee Hooten**, who was born as an early Christmas gift on November 29, 2024 at 9:24 p.m. Milo was 6 lbs, 10 oz and measured 20 inches long. His proud and excited grandparents are Ronnie & Dianne Hooten.

Welcome, little Milo!

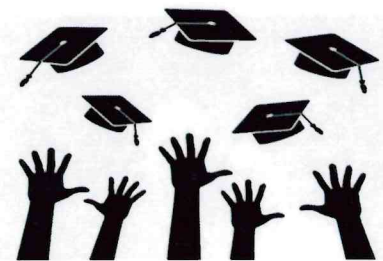


**Congratulations to Blesson Tenson** who graduated on December 12, 2024 from Kennesaw State University.

Blesson graduated with a Master of Science in Software Engineering.

Blesson is known at MPC for sharing his gift of piano playing on Sunday mornings.

Way to go, Blesson!



## 2025 Session Retreat—January 11, 9:30 a.m.—3 p.m.



**The 2025 MPC Session** will have their first meeting of the year on Saturday, January 11 from 9:30 a.m. until around 3 p.m.

The session will meet at Calvin Center in the Lodge in Conference Room #2. Calvin Center is located at 13550 Woolsey Road, Hampton, GA 30228.

Lunch will be provided. Please feel free to bring snacks and drinks.

If you are unable to attend, or will be late, please contact Clerk Andra Gammage at (770-596-6928).



**CHURCH OFFICE  
CLOSED  
JANUARY 20, 2025**



**CUB SCOUTS  
9 A.M.—4 P.M.  
JANUARY 25, 2025**



## In Memory of Betty Spier



**Betty Jane Spier**, age 95, passed away peacefully on December 29, 2024. Betty was born in Hapeville, Georgia to Bessie (Porter) and Raymond Terrell. She grew up in Hapeville and graduated from Hapeville High School where she played in the school band. She continued her love of music at Queens University of Charlotte as a music major for two years.

Betty resided in Morrow, Georgia for 53 years before moving to Marietta, Georgia in December 2023. Betty was a devoted wife and loving mother. Everyone who met her adored her.

She was an active member of the Morrow Presbyterian Church since April 1971 where she sang in the choir, helped teach Kindergarten, taught the Arnold Bates adult Sunday School class, participated in the Dorcas Women's Circle as the Bible Moderator, served as Circle Chair for different circles, served as PW Historian, was a member of the Peacemakers Life Group, and enjoyed having fun with the Young at Heart group.

Betty enjoyed her hobbies of studying the Bible and reading novels. Besides the Bible, John Grisham was her favorite author. She was known for praying daily for family and friends (as a Prayer Warrior) and that will truly be missed.

Betty is preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Joe Spier, and her brother, Raymond "RL" Terrell. She is survived by her two sons George and Mark along with their spouses Susan and Coleen, respectively. She is also survived by four grandchildren and six great grandchildren whom she loved dearly.

Donations may be given to the Morrow Presbyterian Church.



*Well done, good and faithful servant!*  
*Come and share your master's happiness!*  
*Matthew 25:21*



# JANUARY 2025



			<b>1</b> <i>Office Closed</i> 	<b>2</b>  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>3</b> <b>Office closed</b>	<b>4</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> Betty Spier Visitation  <b>11 a.m.</b> Betty Spier Service  <div>             Youth Ski Trip to Gatlinburg           </div>
<b>5</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School in person <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Facebook <b>NO</b> Youth  <div>             Youth Return           </div>	<b>6</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Cub Scouts	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b> YAH to O'Charley's in Morrow  <b>7 p.m.</b> Choir practice	<b>9</b>  <b>10 a.m.</b> Peacemakers  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>10</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>11</b>   <b>9:30 a.m.—3 p.m.</b> Session Retreat—Calvin Center
<b>12</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 <b>12 p.m.</b> Congregational/Corporation Meeting <b>12:15 p.m.</b> PWCT <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Youth	<b>13</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> VA Dews Circle  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Cub Scouts	<b>14</b>  <b>10 a.m.</b> Dorcas Circle  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts  <b>NO</b> Session Meeting	<b>15</b>  <b>10 a.m.</b> Living Branch Life Group  <b>7 p.m.</b> Choir practice	<b>16</b>  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>17</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School in person  <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook  <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Youth	<b>20</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Cub Scouts & Scouts	<b>21</b>  <b>NO</b> Scouts	<b>22</b>  <b>7 p.m.</b> Choir practice	<b>23</b>  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>24</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>25</b>   <b>9 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
<b>26</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School in person <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Youth	<b>27</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Cub Scouts	<b>28</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts	<b>29</b>  <b>7 p.m.</b> Choir practice	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



# JANUARY 2025

## January Birthdays

1/1 - Agnes Noel  
 - Jaya Robinson  
 1/6 - Laura Howard  
 1/7 - Moses Ayodele  
 1/8 - Parker Callahan  
 1/9 - Justin Cos  
 - Amari Chukwura-Nichols  
 1/10 - JoAnn Schrepfer  
 1/11 - Florette Njonu  
 1/17 - Amanda Callahan  
 - Anna Laster  
 1/22 - Bernie Pascual  
 1/24 - Ellis Johnson  
 1/26 - Robert Venizelos  
 1/27 - Onuoha Onuoha  
 - Jacob Petroziello  
 1/29 - Tori Abbott  
 - Callen Sneed  
 1/30 - Romy Moriles  
 1/31 - Reggie Howard



WE LOVE  
 OUR VOLUNTEERS

### ELDERS ON CALL

Primary:  
 Secondary:

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Morning Glory Circle

### USHERS

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

### LITURGIST

5 - James Eason  
 12 - Otis Onuoha  
 19 - Deborah Venizelos  
 26 - Dock Gammage

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

5 - Pastor John  
 12 - Dock Gammage  
 19 - Allen Grant  
 26 - Pastor John

### COUNTING TEAM

Mary Nell Winkles and Virginia Cagle

## January Anniversaries

1/4 - Thomas & Ugo Chukwura (49)  
 1/18 - Chigoziri & Ndiya Onwuchekwa (6)  
 1/24 - Romy & Mary Ann Moriles (38)  
 1/26 - Mike & Georgene Sneed (12)



## Financial Health—December, 2024

December 1	-	\$ 9,249.00	<u>Needed:</u>
December 8	-	\$ 8,813.93	\$ 30,583.35
December 15	-	\$ 3,580.85	<u>Received:</u>
December 22	-	\$ 2,930.00	\$ 30,408.93
December 29	-	\$ 4,146.25	
Online	-	\$ 1,688.90	

*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:



## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 1	-	22
December 8	-	28
December 15	-	23
December 22	-	38
December 29	-	26

### IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

December 1	-	66
December 8	-	106
December 15	-	75
December 22	-	72
December 24	-	90
December 29	-	77