

Volume 19, Issue 1
January 2026

THE PASTOR'S PEN

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder” (Isaiah 9:2-3).

People have been busy these few days. Christmas has come and gone, and so folks are rapidly “taking down Christmas” to be stored away for next December. In our church, we jokingly call it “taking down the browns” with the idea that our fresh green decorations have somehow decayed. We see crews unstringing lampposts in public parks and at the entrances of neighborhood associations. Husbands stand atop tall ladders to remove lights from roofs, while wives holding those ladders demand that their husbands be careful. Garlands and decorations are coming off the walls and doorways. Artificial trees are disassembled, and live trees are pitched and burned. Christmas will soon become a fleeting memory.

No matter what we take down, there is yet one Light that will never be taken down. We should still be able to see the one Light and, in fact, this Light is the only one we really need to see. He is Christ himself. His brilliance still shines on us in January and throughout the year. His love and compassion envelopes us like a warm, familiar blanket.

The Reason for the Season hasn’t gone away just because the decorations and lights are gone. His everlasting life and unfailing authority don’t shatter, even though some of the toys children have received are already broken or misplaced. Christ is still Emmanuel, God with us, in a world that is looking for gleaming hope amid the thick darkness.

Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). The Light of the world illuminates our lives, so that we may become lights to the people around us. They may have some brightness in their gray lives by the beams of love and compassion radiated from our actions and words. People are filled with brilliance like they haven’t been before - they don’t miss the lights of Christmas because we are all lights to each other. And, of course, the one true Light still remains in and around us.

Celebrate Jesus as our Light. He glows brightly. He invites us eagerly to receive him. He walks with us from season to season, ever increasing our brilliant joy.

Peace in Christ,



Rev. Dr. John

Morrow Presbyterian
Herald

MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Happy
New Year!
2026

Prayer Requests



PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Trudy Fincher (Abbey Hooten's Great-Grandmother), Family of Jim LeDuke, Family of Patricia Stapp (Sheila McKee's mother), Family of Debbie Westover (co-worker of Carol Campbell), Betty Luong (Lisa Johnson's mother), J. Angelin Rebecca, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Jo Calhoun, Thomas Chukwura, Bill Coleman, Betty Colwell, Kelly Conrad, Felix Cruz, Keith Danser, Mary Dardy, Davis Family, David Dawson, James & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Peter & Mary Farwell, Haywood Fordham, Jessica Giddens, Julie Haney, 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, Carolyn Maxey, Keith Maxey, Sheila McKee, Judy McKinney, Jackie McLeod, Jim McNaull, Florette Njonu, Rick Peel, John & Pat Randolph, Linda Reece, Roxie Romine, Butch Stavely, Arrah Thomas, Edith Tingston, Laraine Tinsley, Cathy Trustorf, Marie Tuttle, Gene Ussery, Deborah Venizelos, Rebekah Venizelos, Barry Weems, David Weems, Gene Williams, and Terry Williams. Our country, Our Military, Missionaries, School/College Teachers & Students, Food Pantry Patrons.

A complete prayer list is available in the narthex.

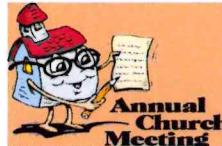
Christmas Tree Greetings

Christmas Greetings to Morrow Presbyterian Church from...

Lauren (Patrus) Betzel & family, Columbia Theological Seminary, Tim Covert (Dependable Computer Service), Haywood & Anne Fordham, Franklin & Jane Graham, The Grant/Sneed/Thomas Families, Libby McNair, Wayne Routzhan (Globe Chemicals), Thornwell Home, Marilyn Mitchell, The Moriles Family, Audrey Sharpe, and Wooden Service Company.



Congregational/Corp Meeting



Congregational/Corporation Meeting – January 4, 2026, 12 noon. There will be a congregational/corporation meeting following the worship service on Sunday, January 4, for the purpose of presenting the 2026 Budget and the State of the Corporation, presenting the Treasurer for 2026 (Jo Calhoun), electing a Trustee for Class of 2028 (Libby McNair), and approving the Pastor's Terms of Call.

Sanctuary Flowers



Sanctuary Flowers. The 2026 Flower Calendar is now available on the library window. 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.

2026 Session Retreat—January 10, 9:30 a.m.—3 p.m.

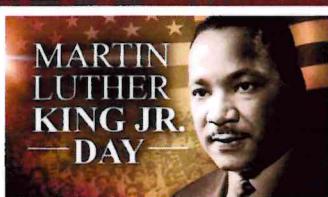


The 2026 MPC Session will have their first meeting of the year on Saturday, January 10 from 9:30 a.m. until around 3 p.m.

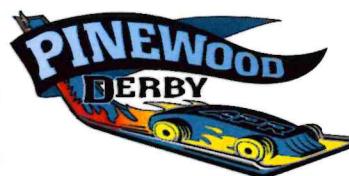
The session will meet at Calvin Center in the Lodge in Conference Room #2. Calvin Center is located at 13550 Woolsey Road, Hampton, GA 30228.

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 19, 2026



CUB SCOUTS
9 A.M.—2 P.M.
JANUARY 31, 2026

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Presbyterian Women

Morning Glory Circle—January 11, 9:30 a.m. The Morning Glory Circle Bible Study is open to all women. We will meet on Sunday, January 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Arnold/Bates classroom. Our Bible Study will be from our “*Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*” book. If you have the book, please look at Lesson Three — “*Jesus Is Tested*” prior to our circle meeting.

Virginia Dews Circle, January 12, 6:00 p.m. The Virginia Dews Circle will meet on January 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the library. Lei Eason will lead the discussion on Lesson 4 of our Bible Study.

Dorcas Circle, January 13, 10 a.m. The Dorcas Circle will meet in the Arnold/Bates classroom on Tuesday, January 13, at 10 a.m. Sara Gore will lead Lesson 4. Tricia Koehler has the devotion. Please join us.

PWCT—January 18, 12:15 p.m. The PWCT will meet in the McNair/Seekers Classroom.

Thank You Note...

From MPC Church Staff... To our wonderful church family, Thank you so very much for the very generous love gifts received at the Staff Recognition. We love this church and are grateful to be a part of a loving, generous congregation. You are very good at showing your appreciation. Thank you!



Kid's Club



Kid's Club Volunteers Needed. We are currently looking for volunteers to help work with the children's ministry ages 4 to 5th grade. This is a meaningful way to serve and support the next generation. If you're interested, please contact Twarna Johnson @ 678-683-8030. We would love to have you join the team!

Ordination/Birthday Celebration

Ordination/Birthday Reception, January 11, 12:15 p.m. Florette Njonu would like to invite the congregation to a reception following the worship service next Sunday, January 11, in celebration of her ordination and her birthday. Please join her and her family in the fellowship hall following the service.

Downing of the Browns, January 4, 12:15



Downing of the Browns, January 4, 12:15 p.m.

If you are able, please stay after worship and the congregational meeting Sunday to help undecorate the church and put things back in storage for another year. Hopefully, you have enjoyed the beautiful decorations and can help put the church building back in its regular order.

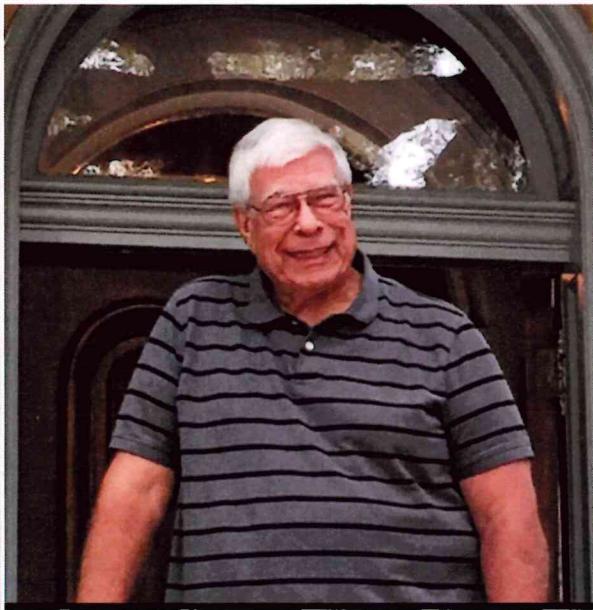
Giving Envelopes

2026 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available near the library.

See Dianne Hooten if you don't see your envelopes.

In Memory of Jim LeDuke



James Neville LeDuke, Jr. (Jim, or Jimmy, to the many who loved him), age 82, of Ellenwood, Georgia, passed away on December 21, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Catherine Frazier Patty LeDuke and James Neville LeDuke, Sr., and by his sister, Cathie LeDuke.

He is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Marty LeDuke; his daughters, Jennifer Lott (Dan), Amanda LeDuke (David), and Denise Chapman (John); his son, H.R. Tuttle (Marie); his brother, Richard LeDuke; his "sister" Sue Hurst; his grandchildren, Bethany Singleton, Emily Chapman, Ashlyn McNabb, Alyssa Tuttle, Henry Lott, and Kate Lott; his great-grandchildren, Andy, Jonathan, and Waylon, as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews from the family he held so dear.

Born in Tiptonville, Tennessee in 1943, he had a childhood he often compared to Andy Griffith's "Mayberry." His childhood friends became lifelong friends, evidenced in part by how

much he looked forward to the regular Tiptonville High School Class of '61 reunions. He went on to graduate from the University of Tennessee, where he met his first wife Katherine Roach LeDuke, and continued his pattern of securing lasting friendships. He spent time in the Army, and then in Philadelphia, before settling down in Atlanta in 1972, first as a manager at Stouffer's Top of the Mart, then at Herren's Restaurant, and eventually owning a business fixing and selling restaurant equipment.

Jim, along with his wife Marty, joined Morrow Presbyterian church on March 27, 1994. Jim became ordained as an elder on January 14, 1996 and served two separate terms during the years.

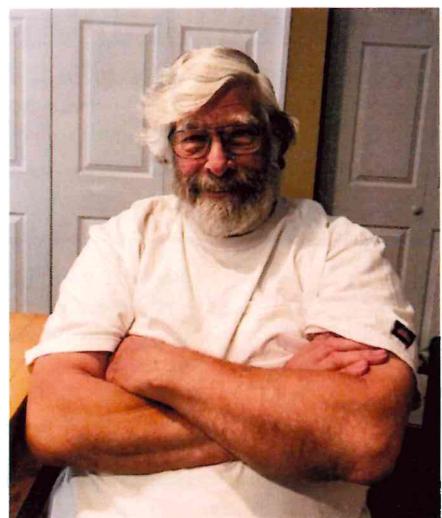
Though always humble, he was truly a man of many talents and constant hobbies; he could hold his own in a poker game, knew his way around a fishing hole, was able to reimagine uses of any number of random items (treasures) he would find at local auctions or thrift stores. He built decks and bookcases and porch swings and birdhouses and much of the house he called home for many years. He could make the shortest story long. He was an enthusiastic solver of crossword puzzles and Sudoku. He loved to read and, especially, to write, whether it was his blog about growing up in Tiptonville or his occasional meandering notes jotted off to family or friends. He was especially proud of the two books he wrote with his daughter Amanda about the great love story of his parents, Catherine and "Duke." The number of dollars in his pocket was completely unrelated to his generosity and his big heart whenever he met someone in need. He was many things to many people, and almost everyone you meet would be able to tell you a "Jimmy story" that would make you laugh.

A celebration of his life will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Morrow Presbyterian Church Food Pantry in his honor.

The family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff of Emory Decatur Hospital and Longleaf Hospice for their compassion and care.

Jim, you will be missed.



Reading the Psalms Weekly Challenge

January 1 – December 31, 2026

January 1	<i>Psalms 1, 2, 3</i>	June 28	<i>Psalms 75, 76, 77</i>
January 4	<i>Psalms 4, 5, 6</i>	July 5	<i>Psalms 78, 79</i>
January 11	<i>Psalms 7, 8, 9</i>	July 12	<i>Psalms 80, 81, 82</i>
January 18	<i>Psalms 10, 11, 12</i>	July 19	<i>Psalms 83, 84, 85</i>
January 25	<i>Psalms 13, 14, 15</i>	July 26	<i>Psalms 86, 87, 88</i>
February 1	<i>Psalms 16, 17</i>	August 2	<i>Psalms 89, 90, 91</i>
February 8	<i>Psalms 18, 19</i>	August 9	<i>Psalms 92, 93, 94</i>
February 15	<i>Psalms 20, 21, 22</i>	August 16	<i>Psalms 95, 96, 97</i>
February 22	<i>Psalms 23, 24, 25</i>	August 23	<i>Psalms 98, 99, 100</i>
March 1	<i>Psalms 26, 27, 28</i>	August 30	<i>Psalms 101, 102, 103</i>
March 8	<i>Psalms 29, 30, 31</i>	September 6	<i>Psalms 104, 105, 106</i>
March 15	<i>Psalms 32, 33, 34</i>	September 13	<i>Psalms 107, 108, 109</i>
March 22	<i>Psalms 35, 36</i>	September 20	<i>Psalms 110, 111, 112</i>
March 29	<i>Psalms 37, 38, 39</i>	September 27	<i>Psalms 113, 114, 115</i>
April 5	<i>Psalms 40, 41</i>	October 4	<i>Psalms 116, 117, 118</i>
April 12	<i>Psalms 42, 43, 44</i>	October 11	<i>Psalms 119</i>
April 19	<i>Psalms 45, 46, 47</i>	October 18	<i>Psalms 120, 121, 122</i>
April 26	<i>Psalms 48, 49, 50</i>	October 25	<i>Psalms 123, 124, 125</i>
May 3	<i>Psalms 51, 52, 53</i>	November 1	<i>Psalms 126, 127, 128</i>
May 10	<i>Psalms 54, 55, 56</i>	November 8	<i>Psalms 129, 130, 131</i>
May 17	<i>Psalms 57, 58, 59</i>	November 15	<i>Psalms 132, 133, 134</i>
May 24	<i>Psalms 60, 61, 62</i>	November 22	<i>Psalms 135, 136, 137</i>
May 31	<i>Psalms 63, 64, 65</i>	November 29	<i>Psalms 138, 139, 140</i>
June 7	<i>Psalms 66, 67, 68</i>	December 6	<i>Psalms 141, 142, 143</i>
June 14	<i>Psalms 69, 70, 71</i>	December 13	<i>Psalms 144, 145, 146</i>
June 21	<i>Psalms 72, 73, 74</i>	December 20	<i>Psalms 147, 148, 149</i>
		December 27	<i>Psalm 150</i>

Christmas around MPC



Christmas At MPC 2025



MPC Session



Young at Heart



Virginia Dews Circle



Dorcas Circle



Peacemakers Life Group



Food Pantry Volunteers



PWCT



Scout Troop 919



Youth



First Sunday of Advent—Frank Pajaro & Shane Turner



2nd Sunday of Advent—Ambrose & Rebecca Muller



Third Sunday of Advent—Carol Francis & Mark Williams



Fourth Sunday of Advent—James & Amanda Jones



Christmas Eve—Kris Moriles & Josh White

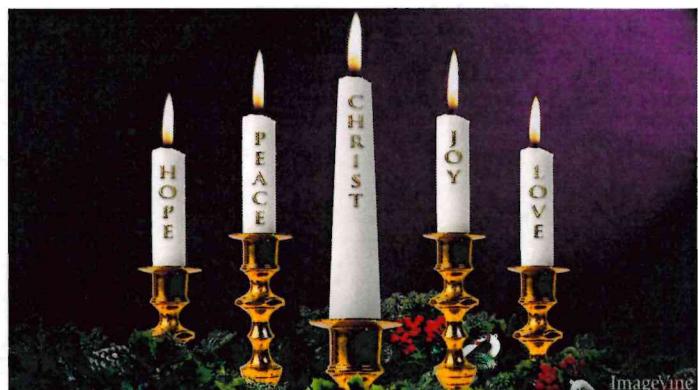


Image by [Image by](#)



Cantata—Canterbury Choir



Cantata Narrators



Fire Pit Gathering

JANUARY 2026

January Birthdays

1/1	-	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 Jones
	-	Anna Laster
1/22	-	Bernie Pascual
1/24	-	Ellis Johnson
1/26	-	Robert Venizelos
1/27	-	Onuoha Onuoha
	-	Jacob Petroziello
1/29	-	Tori Abbott
1/30	-	Romy Moriles
1/31	-	Reggie Howard



January Anniversaries

1/4	-	Thomas & Ugo Chukwura (50)
1/24	-	Romy & Mary Ann Moriles (39)



Financial Health—December 2025

December 7	-	\$ 10,628.00	Needed:
December 14	-	\$ 11,914.77	\$ 22,976.60
December 21	-	\$ 1,529.00	Received:
December 28	-	\$ 22,245.00	\$ 50,777.87
Online	-	\$ 4,461.00	



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 7	-	15
December 14	-	8
December 21	-	18
December 28	-	19

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

December 7	-	53
December 14	-	76
December 21	-	87
December 28	-	67
Christmas Eve	-	69



JANUARY 2026



				1 <i>Office Closed</i> 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	2 Office closed	3
4 9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook 12 p.m. Congregational/Corporation Meeting 12:15 p.m. Coffee Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Downing of the Browns NO Youth or KC	5 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	6	7 11:30 a.m. YAH to Long-horn in Morrow 7 p.m. Choir practice	8 10 a.m. Peacemakers Life Group 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	9 Office closed	10 9:00 a.m.— 2 p.m. Session Retreat—Calvin Center
11 9:30 a.m. Morning Glory Circle 9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook—Elder Installation/Ordination / Communion 12:15 p.m. Reception 4:00 p.m. KC Mtg. 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club	12 6:30 p.m. VA Dews Circle 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	13 10 a.m. Dorcas Circle 6:30 p.m. Scouts NO Session Meeting	14 7 p.m. Choir practice	15 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	16 Office closed	17
18 9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook 12:10 p.m. Worship Ministry Team Mtg 12:15 p.m. PWCT 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club	19 <i>Office Closed</i> for Martin Luther King Birthday 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts & Scouts	20 NO Scouts	21 10 a.m. Living Branch Life Group 7 p.m. Choir practice	22 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	23 Office closed	24
25 9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook 12:15 p.m. Elder Care Group Luncheon 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club	26 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	27 6:30 p.m. Scouts	28 7 p.m. Choir practice	29 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	30 Office closed	31 9 a.m.—2 p.m. Cub Scout Pinewood Derby