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MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Morrow Presbyterian Herald

P. O. Box 316; 6171 Huie Drive, Morrow, GA 30260  
770-961-5444 [morrowpresbyterian.org](http://morrowpresbyterian.org)

## The Pastor's Pen



"I Started a Joke" is a song written and performed by The Bee Gees in 1968, and the Pet Shop Boys was one of the groups to cover it. This was the cover I heard while watching a certain miniseries on Prime Video, and it kept echoing in my head. It became an intriguing earworm partly because I know only a few Pet Shop Boys songs and this was not one of them, and partly because I never knew The Bee Gees wrote it in the first place.

Since I couldn't get rid of the song, I chose to look up the words to get a better feel for it. Basically, what it states is that words have meaning. They have the power to build up and tear down, and sadly many times we use words to tear down. We might not realize it – we might think we were just telling a joke - but those words might cause irreparable harm to a person. And then, we realize that we are damaged, too. The joke is turned on us and we become sad, injured people.

Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians, "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear" (4:29). The Greek word for *evil* means "corrupt" or "rotten," and it is usually applied to rotting fruit or vegetables. Imagine fruit just sitting there on the table, turning brown, smelling foul, and attracting flies. The wrong word shared could turn a relationship rotten. It could corrupt a person in such a way as to make them feel rotten. Their words, thoughts, and actions might eventually turn rotten. And then what do our rotten words do to us? What we do, think, and say might become rotten, and we are no good for anybody.

Jesus says in Matthew 7:18, "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit." If we had a bad fruit tree in our garden, obviously we would cut it down. What is the point of having it? But if a tree bears good fruit, we nurture it. We water it and fertilize it and prune it, making sure that each fruit that grows, year in and year out, is delightful and tasty. Imagine doing what we can to make sure our relationships are delightful. We do this by bearing the right words (as well as the right actions). We cultivate our relationships and keep them growing in love for many years to come. Adding Paul's words above, we care to build people up with the right kinds of words. They then feel special, unique, even blessed. Our words can do a lot of good for those who hear the wrong (kinds of) words every day.

Frederick Buechner says in *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*, "In Hebrew the term *dabar* means both 'word' and 'deed.' Thus to say something is to do something. *I love you. I hate you. I forgive you. I am afraid.* Who knows what such words do, but whatever it is, it can never be undone. Something that lay hidden in the heart is irremovably released through speech into time, is given substance and tossed like a stone into the pool of history, where the concentric rings lap out endlessly" (pg. 120-121). That brings us back to the song above that I couldn't get rid of (it is gone now, thankfully!). Even The Bee Gees and the Pet Shop Boys understood that what we say has lasting effects. Those effects could spread and multiply and either destroy many people or build them up. It is our hope that if we are to drop stones in the pool of history, they would be good ones, filled with supportive and compassionate words.

Our words have meaning. Never underestimate our words, no matter how old or young we are. What we say matters. What we post matters. What we vocalize has great power to influence many. "Words are power," Buechner says, "essentially power of creation. By my words I both discover and create who I am. By my words I elicit a word from you. Through our converse we create each other" (page 121).

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John



## Prayer Requests



**PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS** Susan Brown (Dianne Hooten's sister), Butch Stavely (Libby's nephew), Savannah Schivers (Bob & Gail Hardy's granddaughter-in-law), Jo Calhoun, Austin John, Debbie Westover (co-worker of Carol Campbell), Wayne Goza, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Xander Bradley, Ugo and Thomas Chukwura, Bill Coleman, Betty Colwell, Felix Cruz, Keith Danser, David Dawson, Jim DeCamp, Terry Dyche, James & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Peter Farwell, Anne & Haywood Fordham, Jessica Giddens, Olen Grubbs, Julie Haney, Bob & Gail Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Thuan & Jun Hong, Jessica & Patrick Johnson, George Kempson, Braden Knebel, Tricia Koehler, Lavender Lampl, Jim & Marty LeDuke, Berniece Lillegard, Norman Lillie, Bob & Suzanne Lukat, Sidney Lyell, Keith Maxey, Jim McNaul, Mary Ann Moriles, Florette Njonu, Sunny Onuoha, Rick Peel, John & Pat Randolph, Roxie Romine, Dick Shaffer, Glenn Sharpe, Carolyn Solsten, Gail Starkweather, Arrah Thomas, Cathy Trustorf, Gene Ussery, Debbie Valentine, Devon Valentine, Clay Verdell, Barry Weems, David Weems, Mark Williams, Gene Williams, and Terry Williams. Our nation, Israel, Our Military, Missionaries, School/College Teachers & Students, Food Pantry Patrons. *A full prayer list is in the narthex.*

## YAH Lunch, June 4, 11:30 a.m.

**Young At Heart Lunch, June 4, 11:30 a.m.** The Young at Heart will be meeting for lunch at Applebee's in Stockbridge on Wednesday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m. Please let Bruce or Libby know if you will be attending.

## Thank You Notes



**From Mary Ann Moriles...** Healing from a knee replacement is quite challenging and would take time. I am grateful for your prayers, cards, well wishes, and meals. It has cheered me on times when I am in pain and feeling quite down. Thank you beloved church family.

**From the Youth...** Thank you very much for your generosity at our annual Shine & Dine. We were blessed to be able to raise \$1,658.00!!

## Father's Day Breakfast

**Father's Day Breakfast, June 15, 9:45 a.m.** Join us for breakfast on Sunday, June 15 during the Sunday school hour.

The Presbyterian Women will provide the food to honor all of our men. Bring your family and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Sign up sheet in the Narthex. You may also call in with your reservation. You don't have to have a reservation to attend, but it will help with the planning of food and tables.



**Congratulations to Chase Gammage** on graduating from The University of Georgia on May 9, 2025, with a **Bachelor of Education in Sports Management**. While at school, Chase participated in Intramural Sports.

Chase plans to pursue a career in Sports Management.

Congratulations, Chase!





## **Presbyterian Women**

**Virginia Dews Circle, June 2, 6:30 p.m.** The Virginia Dews Circle will meet Monday night, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Dairy Queen in Morrow. Please join us for ice cream and fellowship. **NOTE: Change of Date, Time, and Location.**

**Morning Glory Circle—June 8, 9:30 a.m.** The Morning Glory Circle will meet on Sunday morning, June 8, during the Sunday school hour. The lesson will be Lesson Eight of our *Let Justice Roll Down* book. Carol Campbell will lead the study.

**Dorcas Circle, June 10, 10 a.m.** The Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 10, at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Anne Fordham will have the devotion and lead Lesson Nine of the study book, "Let Justice Roll Down." Project is feminine hygiene products (pads) for the Food Pantry.

**Heifer International.** There are chicks, heifers, goats, sheep, pigs, water buffalo, and so much more waiting to go to good homes. For \$120 you can gift a Dream Basket that includes a sheep, heifer, goat, rabbits and a flock of chicks, along with training and education in their care. Check out the board in the hallway near Noah's Ark and see what you can find. You may also give money to the PW. Checks to MPC Women, earmarked Heifer International.



**Wedding Shower, June 29, 2 p.m.** The Presbyterian Women, invite all ladies to a wedding shower for **Hunter & Libby Weems** on Sunday, June 29, at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

**Hunter & Libby are registered at Target.** Hunter & Libby were wed on May 17, 2025.

Please join us in celebrating this couple's marriage.

## **Welcome little Annie!**



**Congratulations to Jake & Dakota Holloway** on the birth of their daughter, **Alexandra Marie "Annie" Holloway** who was born on May 19 around 9 in the morning. Annie weighed 7 lbs, 14 oz. and measured 19 ¾ inches long.

Sharing in this exciting time are Mama & Papa G, Grayson & Morganne, Chase, and Ty. Welcome, little Annie! The Presbyterian Women presented the family with a rosebud and cradle cross.



**From Jake & Dakota...** We are so thankful for all the support from my MPC family! We know Annie was born into a community that has been praying for her! We loved the cradle cross & rose, the baby basket, and the beautiful shower we were thrown! Thank you for loving us and our new sweet girl!!



# VBS

**June 8—12, 2025**

**6:00 – 8:30 p.m. All ages – including adults**

**Road Trip—On the Go with GOD**

**Sunday is a Family Night Supper - bring your favorite dish**  
**Monday - Thursday - dinner is provided for you**

**Shirt Colors to wear: Sunday = RED Monday = BLUE**

**Tuesday = GREEN**

**Wednesday = PURPLE Thursday = ORANGE**





# PW Honorary Life Member 2025

## Linda Lillie

**Our Honorary Life Member for 2025** is known to be a Godly woman. She is strong, industrious, and hard-working, providing for her family and community. She is discerning and wise, speaking with insight and teaching others, she is kind, caring, compassionate, generous, and reaches out to the poor and needy.

Linda is an extraordinary individual who truly embodies the essence of faith and service in our community. For over 40 years, she has been an integral part of Morrow Presbyterian Church, demonstrating unwavering dedication and a profound love for her family and church family.

Throughout her time at Morrow Presbyterian Church, Linda has played a vital role on nearly every committee, showcasing her versatility and leadership skills. As an elder, she has led numerous committees with wisdom and grace. She has been an elder from 1992 until the present for over 7 terms.

In addition to her hands-on ministry work, Linda has actively led women's Bible studies both within our church and throughout her community, fostering spiritual growth and connection among participants. She has been a Co-chair for the Virginia Dews Circle. She has been on 2 mission trips both to Mexico and Mountain T.O.P. mission in Tennessee. Linda is a humble servant. She puts into practice what she preaches about the environment. Her advocacy for recycling and environmental conservation reflects her deep commitment to caring for God's creation, as she engages and educates others on practical ways to preserve our planet by recycling everyday products.

Linda demonstrates unwavering dedication and a profound love for her church family. Her commitment is particularly evident in her invaluable work with the food pantry ministry, where she has tirelessly helped provide nourishment and support to those in need. She has worked the food pantry for over 10 years.

Linda's contributions extend into the social fabric of our church as well. She has played a critical role in organizing various events, including weddings, baby showers, and bridal showers, ensuring that each occasion is memorable and meaningful. Her meticulous attention to detail is evident in projects like selecting colors for our fellowship hall's painting and remodeling, as well as shopping around Atlanta for just the right fabric to bring our fellowship hall and tablecloths to life. She also helped plan the 60th Reunion at our church.

In her earlier years, she was an enthusiastic softball player on our church softball team and now enjoys coaching a winning team at Sun City, where she instills the same passion and teamwork in her players.

Linda is a faithful wife and loving family member. She is a devoted partner and a loving mother and grandmother. She has been married to Norman for over 50 years. She moved from Cadillac Michigan her Senior year of high school and joined Morrow Presbyterian Church when she was 17 years old. She went to Georgia State and graduated with honors.

She is a mother of 2 (Ben and Kristen) and beloved grandmother to 6 grandchildren.

She worked with her father in a family business until his death, then she became the owner and operator of Veldsma & Sons for over 40 plus years!

Linda's relationship with God above all else makes her this year's PW Honorary Life Member.

Congratulations, Linda!





# Mother's Day Brunch 2025



Featured Tables:

Friendship

Music

Breathe

Pray

Gift

Faithfulness

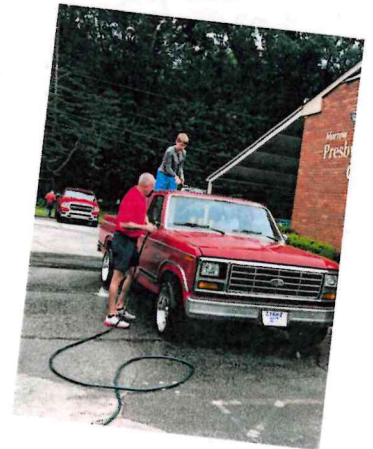


*PRAY FOR*





# Shine & Dine



Youth Fundraiser  
for Fun in the Son  
(FITS)

Total Raised  
\$1658





## Congratulations to our 2025 High School Graduates!



**MERCI AURIELLE WILLIAMS**  
Eagles Landing High School  
May 21, 2025

**Honors & Awards:** French & Healthcare Pathway Completion, 3.8 GPA

**School & Church Activities & Involvements:** Varsity Track & Field, FBLA, HOSA, School Ambassador, MPC Youth Group, VBS Actor

**Plans for the Future:** Merci plans to attend Georgia State University to major in Biology and then become a Dermatologist.



**TERRY JEROME BROOM, JR.**  
Eagles Landing High School  
May 21, 2025

**Honors & Awards:** Athletic Participation Award, Criminal Justice Pathway Completion, Orchestra Pathway Completion

**School & Church Activities & Involvements:** Orchestra, cheerleading, MPC Youth Group, VBS Actor

**Plans for the Future:** Terry plans to attend Columbus State University in Columbus, GA to study Criminal Justice and minor in forensic science.

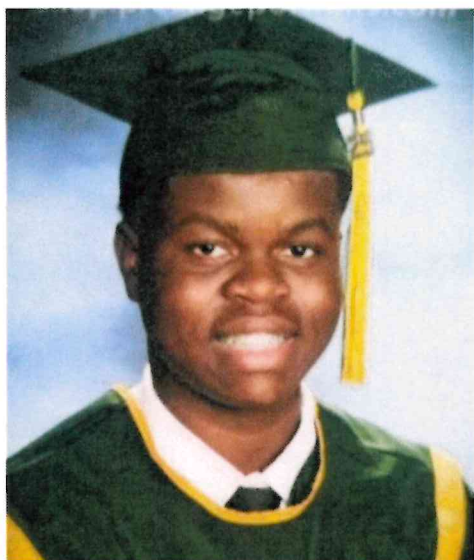


**MANUEL ENGLAND**  
Dutchtown High School  
May 22, 2025

**School & Church Activities & Involvements:** MPC Youth Group, VBS Actor

**Plans for the Future:** Manny will be working at All Points after graduation while he decides on his career path.





**EKOE IMMANUEL FOLLYKOE**

Morrow High School  
May 23, 2025

**Honors & Awards:** 4 Year All-A Honor Roll Recipient, Top 10% of Class of 2025, AP Student.

**School & Church Activities & Involvements:** Campus Kids Assistant, Food Pantry Volunteer, MPC Youth Group, VBS Actor

**Plans for the Future:** Manny plans to go into real estate while majoring in Accounting and Finance at Georgia State Perimeter.



**TY GARDINER GAMMAGE**

Union Grove High School  
May 17, 2025

**Honors & Awards:** General High School Diploma, Academic Letter, IT Specialist Certification in HTML5 Application Development

**School & Church Activities & Involvements:** Baseball, Basketball, MPC Youth Group, VBS Actor,

**Plans for the Future:** Ty will be attending Georgia Southern University to study Business.



**MCKENZZIE ROBINSON**

Booker T. Washington High School  
May 21, 2025

**Honors & Awards:** Hope Scholarship, 5 Strong Scholarship, 100 Women Black Women Coalition Scholarship, Atlanta College & Career Academy – Honor Student

**Plans for the Future:** McKenzzie will enroll in Savannah State University in the Fall 2025 to pursue a major in Criminal Justice.



*Congratulations*  
Graduates



# JUNE 2025

## June Birthdays

- 6/1 - Luis Coughlin
- 6/3 - Gail Hardy
- 6/3 - Tenson Pitchaimani
- 6/9 - Bob Hardy
- 6/10 - Shiloh McLeod
- 6/12 - Wanta Fisher
- 6/13 - Ngozi Bivins
- 6/14 - Andra Gammage
- 6/14 - Libby McNair
- 6/18 - Allen Grant
- 6/22 - Gary Robinson
- 6/25 - Aku Sodjavi
- 6/27 - Jasmin Petroziello
- 6/27 - Tray Porter
- 6/27 - Donnie Bryant

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Happy Father's Day,  
Dad!



## June Anniversaries

- 6/10 - Don & Carol McGhee (58)
- 6/11 - Frank & Shirley Bradley (58)
- 6/12 - Terry & Mary Dyche (54)
- 6/19 - Albert & Rita Coughlin (27)
- 6/21 - Bob & JoAnn Schrepfer (56)
- 6/25 - Augustine Agbo
- 6/25 - & Felix Follykoe (14)
- 6/26 - Ronnie & Dianne Hooten (32)



**WE LOVE**  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

### ELDERS ON CALL

Primary: Deborah Venizelos  
Secondary: Augustine Agbo

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Dorcas Circle

### USHERS

David Turner, Captain; Terry Broom,  
Twarna Johnson, Dock & Andra Gammage

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

- 1 - Pastor John
- 8 - Dock Gammage
- 15 - Deborah Venizelos - (Father's Day)
- 22 - Allen Grant
- 29 - Youth

### LITURGIST

- 1 - Mary Ann Moriles
- 8 - Andra Gammage
- 15 - Dock Gammage (Father's Day)
- 22 - James Eason
- 29 - Youth

### COUNTING TEAM

Virginia Cagle and Mary Nell Winkles

## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 4	-	30
May 11	-	19
May 18	-	20
May 25	-	13

### IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

May 4	-	74
May 11	-	94
May 18	-	74
May 25	-	74

## Financial Health—May 2025

May 4	-	\$ 9,565.00	<b>Needed:</b>
May 11	-	\$ 3,961.77	\$ 22,976-60
May 18	-	\$ 4,768.00	
May 25	-	\$ 7,615.00	<b>Received:</b>
Online	-	\$ 5,202.55	\$ 31,112.32

*Thank you!!*

Ways to give to Morrow Presbyterian:

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:





# June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:45 am Sun-day School <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Facebook Live <b>12:15 p.m.</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>12:15 p.m.</b> PWCT <b>2:00 p.m.</b> Shower for Stephanie & James <b>5 p.m.</b> Youth <b>NO</b> Kids Club	<b>2</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Virginia Dews @ Dairy Queen	<b>3</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts	<b>4</b>  <b>11:30 a.m.</b> YAH to Applebee's Stockbridge  <b>NO</b> Choir Practice	<b>5</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> Peacemakers Life Group  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>6</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Pentecost</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Morning Glory Circle <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School for all ages <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Facebook Live - Communion <b>12:15 p.m.</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>6 p.m.</b> Family Night Supper as VBS Begins	<b>9</b>  <b>6 p.m.</b> VBS beginning with Supper	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Dorcas Circle  <b>6 p.m.</b> VBS beginning with Supper	<b>11</b>  <b>6 p.m.</b> VBS beginning with Supper  <b>NO</b> Choir Practice	<b>12</b>  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry  <b>6 p.m.</b> VBS beginning with Supper	<b>13</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Youth at Hooten Lake House  
<b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—ON THE GO WITH GOD</b>						
<b>15</b>  <b>9:45 am</b> Father's Day Breakfast  <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Facebook Live—Father's Day—  <b>NO</b> Youth <b>NO</b> Kids Club	<b>16</b>   <b>Office closed</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts  <b>7 p.m.</b> Session	<b>18</b>  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Living Branch  <b>NO</b> Choir Practice	<b>19</b>  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>20</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School for all ages <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Facebook Live <b>NO</b> Youth <b>NO</b> Kids Club	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts	<b>25</b>  <b>NO</b> Choir Practice	<b>26</b>  <b>3-6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>27</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>FUN IN THE SON—(Epworth)—St Simons</b>						
<b>29</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School for all ages <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship in person & Facebook Live  <b>2 p.m.</b> Wedding Shower for Hunter & Libby Weems  <b>NO</b> Youth <b>NO</b> Kids Club	<b>30</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Cub Scouts					