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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



“If you build it, they will come” is a common theme in the 1989 movie *Field of Dreams*. Iowa corn farmer Ray Kinsella, played by Kevin Costner, hears voices telling him to turn part of his field into a major-league baseball diamond. When he does, legendary players from the Chicago White Sox arrive.

It is a common theme that a church might take as its own. If we plan a church event, people will automatically come, we might think. If we have a Sunday School class or Life Group, youth and adults will just show up. If we want volunteers for VBS or Kids’ Club, all we need to do is make a general announcement and expect them to be there. Although the phrase “if you build it, they will come” worked in one movie, it does not necessarily work in the church. To assume that people will come to an event when the church plans one, and to assume that people will volunteer without having to be asked, is not only a misguided idea but also an unbiblical one.

We need to ask people to come and/or help. If we want people to join us in ministry, we have to go to them personally. We approach them with an invitation that they can either accept or reject. Many of us love to have people ask for our help or to join them in an event. When they do, we feel like they care about us. Their invitations tell us that they appreciate our talents and time. That person thought of us personally and is addressing us directly. It is hard to reject such kindness. General announcements might be easier, but they give us more permission to say no. We feel more compelled to let someone else show up.

What would have happened if Jesus assumed he was going to have twelve disciples? Consider Jesus just making a general announcement one day: “Hey y’all, I got ministry for anybody, if you’re interested.” Would anybody have shown up? Would anybody have cared about what Jesus had to offer, if he just sat in one place and waited for disciples to arrive? Instead, Jesus asked 12 men to follow him. He personally invited them into ministry. He went in search for them; he didn’t expect them to find him. Upon being called, they dropped everything and followed (see Matthew 4:18-22).

Jesus did the same thing with those whom he healed and taught. He didn’t stay in a synagogue or a house all day and expect people to appear. He visited their towns and homes. He visited them on the road, in foreign lands, and amid tombstones in order to give them his message of hope and life (see Mark 1:21-28, Mark 5:1-20, and John 4:1-42). Jesus never stayed put for too long – neither did Paul or the other disciples, for that matter – because he didn’t assume that being the Savior would attract people to him. He went out and revealed his grace and power, and lives were transformed.

Let us follow Christ’s example. Let us not be stationary bullhorns calling out to people – let us go directly to them and invite them to participate in ministry. Do not hesitate. The person we speak with may accept us or reject us. Either way, we made the effort to connect with that person personally and let him or her know how important he or she is. Ask and see what happens. By doing so, we may encounter more volunteers and more friends, with whom we may share more experiences.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John



# Prayer Requests



**PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS** Anne Fordham, Mary Ann Moriles, David Turner, Arrah Thomas, Sunny Onuoha, Olen Grubbs (friend of Sharon Goza), Frank & Shirley Bradley, Xander Bradley, Becca Brown, Jo Calhoun, Mandy Chapman, 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, Haywood Fordham, Jessica Giddens, Nam Gloor, Julie Haney, Bob & Gail Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Thuan & Jun Hong, Jessica & Patrick Johnson, Austin John, George Kempson, Braden Knebel, Tricia Koehler, Lavender Lampl, Jim & Marty LeDuke, Berniece Lillegard, Norman Lillie, Bob & Suzanne Lukat, Sidney Lyell, Keith Maxey, Jim McNaull, Haleigh Nunnally, Rick Peel, John & Pat Randolph, Roxie Romine, Dick Shaffer, Glenn Sharpe, Carolyn Solsten, Gail Starkweather, 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.*

## Mother's Day Brunch, May 10, 11 a.m.

**Mother's Day Brunch, May 10, 11 a.m.** The theme for our Mother's Day Brunch this year is "Prayer."

All ladies of any age are invited to attend and eat and fellowship with us. David Turner will be providing the meal.

If you would like to provide a table for the brunch based on a favorite prayer, please let Susie Grant know.

**Cost: \$15 per adult ticket; \$8 for 12 & under. A nursery will be provided.**

Sign up sheet in narthex or you may call the church office at 770-961-5444.



## Welcome New Members



### New Members Joined April 20.

A warm, MPC welcome to...

**Aku Sodjavi**, whose husband is **Xavier**, son is **Henock**, and daughter **Eliana**. Aku enjoys singing.

**Ablavi Gnavo**, whose husband is **Okate**, daughters **Oupidja** and **Tidjimbe**, and son **Ougadja**. Ablavi enjoys singing and sports.

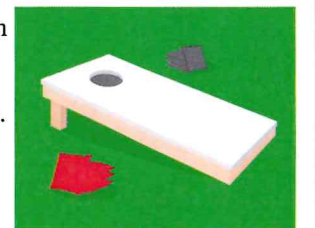


## Family Night Supper Spring Fling, Sunday, May 4, 5 p.m.

**Spring Fling Picnic & Games on the Grounds, Sunday, May 4, 5 p.m.** Please join your church family this Sunday for games and a picnic.

**5 p.m.** - Corn hole, 9-Square, and other games. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the evening and fellowship.

**6 p.m.** - Share your favorite dish. Tables will be set up on the patio for an outdoor meal (weather permitting.)



## Graduation News

**High School Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m.** Join us as we celebrate and recognize our high school graduates. This year we have six high school graduates— Terry Broom, Manny England, Immanuel Follykoe, Ty Gammage, McKenzie Robinson, and Merci Williams. Congratulations, Graduates!



**College Graduate?** If you are graduating soon or have graduated recently from college, please share your pictures and information with the church office so that your church family may celebrate with you . You will be featured in the next newsletter.



## Presbyterian Women



**Virginia Dews Circle, May 12, 6:00 p.m.** The Virginia Dews Circle will meet Monday night, May 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the library. Lei Eason will continue our study on the Holy Spirit. Project is \$20 Kroger cards for the church office.

**Dorcas Circle, May 13, 10 a.m.** The Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 13, at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Sharon Goza will do the devotion. The lesson will be from our workbook, Chapter 8, Intergenerational Justice. Project is hygiene products for women for the food pantry.

**Morning Glory Circle—May 4, 9:30 a.m.** The Morning Glory Circle will meet on the first Sunday this month due to Mother's Day being on the second Sunday. We will be on Lesson 7 of "Let Justice Roll Down" Carol Campbell will lead the Bible study.



**PW Project for 2025 - Heifer International.** The Presbyterian Women have chosen to help Heifer International this year. "Heifer International is on a mission to end hunger and poverty by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities." 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.



**Shine & Dine, May 25, 12:15 p.m.** The Youth's annual fundraiser, Shine & Dine, will be on Sunday, May 25 following the worship service. Save your vehicle to get it's bath on the 25th. The Youth will wash your vehicle while you eat lunch in the fellowship hall. All money raised will go to support each youth that will be attending Fun in the Sun this year, a Christian Summer Program for High School students.



**Come one, come all!**

**June 8—12, 2025**

**6:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**All ages – including adults**

**Road Trip—On the Go with GOD**

**GOD IS WITH US...**

**\* On the Journey \* When we go off course \* When we're Joyful  
\* When We're Lonely \* Near & Far**

### Volunteers Needed

**Science – Would you like to volunteer in the science lab showing the kids exciting experiments?**

**Recreation – Let's have some fun with the kids outside!**

**Crafts – Do you have a smidge of creative spark in you that you would like to share with the kids helping them with their art?**

**Storytelling (actors) – No memorization necessary! Have fun while helping the storyteller bring scripture to life!**

**Set up and clean up – Many hands make light work!**

Talk with Deborah Venizelos or Dianne Hooten to volunteer to help this year with VBS. You don't have to wait for them to come to you!! You may pre-register for classes by going to [www.morrowpresbyterian.org](http://www.morrowpresbyterian.org) and clicking on the VBS tab at the top of the page.





## Welcome, Campbell Jack Dwinnell

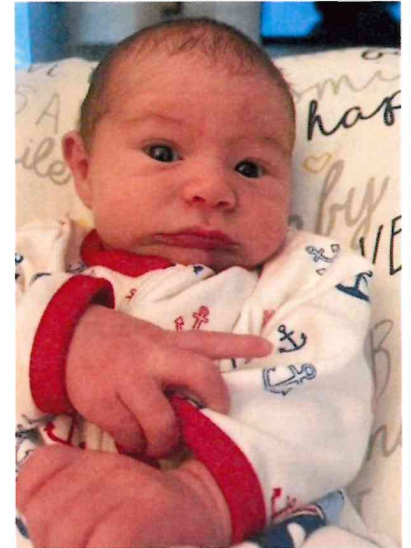


**Congratulations to Mason & Kelsey Dwinnell on the birth of their baby boy, Campbell Jack Dwinnell** born on April 18, 2025.

Campbell was 6 pounds, 15 ounces and 19.5 inches.

The proud grandparents are Bruce & Carol Campbell. The new uncles are Chris and Corey Campbell.

Welcome, Campbell!



## Welcome, Ines!

**Congratulations, Ines Lucia Follykoe, our 2025 Communicant!**

Ines Follykoe joined MPC on April 13, 2025 after completing a six-week Communicant Class with Pastor John.

Ines has been a baptized member of MPC since her parents (Felix and Augustine) joined in 2017. Her siblings (Ivana & Immanuel) joined in 2018. She joins now as a full-fledged member.



## Little Angels Christian Academy Joins Us



**Welcome Little Angels!** The session has approved Little Angels Christian Academy to rent some of our church space during the week. They will be using the three Nursery/Toddler/Preschool classrooms Monday—Friday, 6 a.m.—6 p.m.

From Little Angels: *"In 2021 Dadrean Lakes opened Little Angels Christian Academy, LLC in Forest Park and has since grown her business to include five to six employees and an average of 25 children during the school year and around 35 during summer break. We are licensed by Bright from the Start and Quality Rated to operate in the state of Georgia.*

*In August of 2024 we were informed by the owner of the building we occupied that he intended to lease the entire property to someone else and we would need to vacate the building. We thought we had found the perfect place to relocate to, but unfortunately that was not the case, and we found ourselves without a home for the business and the children and parents that rely on us.*

*God has now blessed us with the opportunity to re-open the center at MPC and we are so excited to see what the future brings for the business as well as the children and families that we serve."*





# Relay for Life



# 2025 Basket Auction for American Cancer Society



# I am A



## Discovering A Life of Obedience



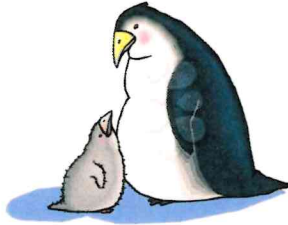
# Kids 2025 Club



# MAY 2025

## May Birthdays

5/3 - Ines Follykoe  
 5/9 - Joseph Thomas  
 5/10 - Rebekah Venizelos-Taylor  
 5/11 - Lei Eason  
       - Dianne Hooten  
 5/18 - Mary Nell Winkles  
 5/20 - Arrah Thomas  
       - Marty LeDuke  
 5/23 - Kathlyn Moriles  
       - Mike Sneed  
 5/24 - Carol Keene  
 5/25 - Marco Sierra  
       - Alyssa Tuttle  
 5/26 - Shawn Butcher  
 5/27 - Jake Holloway  
 5/30 - Margaret Cofie  
       - Ty Gammage  
       - Jeannell McElrath



WE LOVE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

### ELDERS ON CALL

Primary: Shawn Butcher  
 Secondary: Ngozi Bivins

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Virginia Dews Circle

### USHERS

Donna Boggs, Captain, Ngozi Bivins, Ugo Chukwura, Tricia Koehler, Deborah Venizelos, Moses Ayodele

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

4 - Pastor John  
 11 - Dock Gammage (Mother's Day)  
 18 - Deborah Venizelos  
 25 - Allen Grant

### LITURGIST

4 - Otis Onuoha  
 11 - Deborah Venizelos (Mother's Day)  
 18 - Andra Gammage  
 25 - Mary Dyche

### COUNTING TEAM

Allen Grant and Deborah Venizelos

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

4 - Carol Campbell  
 11 - Ivana Follykoe & Ngozi Bivins  
 18 - Deborah Venizelos  
 25 - Dianne Hooten

## May Anniversaries

5/13 - Joseph & Arrah Thomas (8)  
 5/28 - David & Stacy Weems (26)

## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL		IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP	
April 6	- 25	April 6	- 71
April 13	- 25	April 13	- 75
April 20	- 21	April 20	- 89
April 27	- 18	April 27	- 70



## Financial Health—April 2025

April 6	- \$ 9,815.00	<b>Needed:</b>
April 13	- \$ 4,330.00	\$ 22,976.60
April 20	- \$ 5,130.63	
April 27	- \$ 4,272.13	<b>Received:</b>
Online	- \$ 1,188.00	\$ 24,735.76








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:



# May 2025

				<b>1</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Peacemakers Life Group "3 Dollar Café"  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>2</b>  <b>6 p.m.—11 p.m</b> <b>Relay for Life</b> Salem Baptist Church Park  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>8 a.m.</b> Church Staff Mtg— IHOP Morrow <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Morning Glory Circle <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Facebook Live <b>12:15 p.m.</b> PWCT <b>5 p.m.</b> Youth <b>5 p.m. Spring Fling                  Games</b> <b>6 p.m. Family Night                  Supper</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Cub Scouts	<b>6</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Session	<b>7</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b> YAH Lunch @ Fried Tomato Buffet, McDonough   Choir <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Choir Practice	<b>8</b>  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>9</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>11 a.m.</b> Mother's Day Brunch—Prayer
<b>11</b>  <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Facebook Live— Mother's Day— Communion NO Youth NO Kids Club	<b>12</b>  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Virginia Dews  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Cub Scouts	<b>13</b> <b>9 a.m.</b> Presbytery Mtg Smyrna PC  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Dorcas Circle <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts	<b>14</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Choir Practice	<b>15</b>  <b>3—6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>16</b>  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship In person and Facebook Live <b>Graduation Sun-                  day</b> —Dock Gam- mage preaches <b>12:15 p.m.</b> Graduate Reception NO Youth NO Kids Club	<b>19</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Cub Scouts	<b>20</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts	<b>21</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Choir Practice	<b>22</b>  <b>3-6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>2-4 p.m.</b> Fellowship Hall in use
<b>25</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship in person & Facebook Live— <b>12:15 p.m. Shine &amp;                  Dine Youth Fund-                  raiser Lunch/Car                  Wash</b> NO Youth NO Kids Club	<b>26</b> <b>Office                  Closed</b>  	<b>27</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Scouts	<b>28</b>   Choir <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Choir Practice	<b>29</b>  <b>3-6 p.m.</b> Community Food Pantry  <b>Office closed</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Office OPEN</b>	<b>31</b>