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MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morrow Presbyterian Herald

The Pastor's Pen



"How can we live a truly grateful life?" Henri Nouwen asks this question in his devotional book, *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit*. He looks at his past and reflects on those times when everything was going his way and when everything was falling apart.

We usually separate them into categories. "We easily divide our lives into good things to be grateful for and bad things to forget," Nouwen says. We want to remember only the good things that happened. We relish such blessings, believing that God was right there with us through it all. Does that mean God wasn't with us during the bad times? Was God not present during those moments we want to forget? If God was with us during those moments we want to forget, will we not also forget God?

Nouwen suggests that we should remember both good and bad times. He even says to embrace them: "True spiritual gratitude embraces all of our past, the good as well as the bad event, the joyful as well as the sorrowful moments." Why should we do this? "From the place where we stand, everything that took place brought us to this place, and we want to remember all of it as part of God's guidance. That does not mean that all that happened in the past was good, but it does mean that even the bad didn't happen outside the loving presence of God."

A truly grateful life thanks God for giving us a good time. When all our plans came together, and we accomplished everything we wanted to accomplish; when we gathered together with others and had a ball; when we got the job or the diploma and could celebrate with great cheer: it is easy to praise God for granting us such wonderful moments.

A truly grateful life also thanks God for getting us through the bad times. When our plans fell apart, and we got upset and frustrated, but we knew we could make new plans and carry them out: we thank God for giving us the minds and ambition to try again. When we got the bad news about our health, and the doctors worked with us to find the best cures: we thank God for supporting us during such difficult times. God did not let us go when the going got tough. God gave us all the love and encouragement and hope we needed to make it through. A truly grateful life lifts up those moments and still gives praise to God who is always mindful of us.

Nouwen acknowledges that it is difficult to be grateful when bad things happen. He says there are "many things about which we feel guilt and shame, so many things we simply wish had never happened." And so it takes courage and practice to face "the all of it," as Nouwen puts it. Every flop and failure along with every trophy and triumph. We face all that makes up our pasts, and then we imagine what it looks like from God's perspective. God blessing and not judging. God supporting and not blaming. God loving and not hating.

As we boldly and repeatedly face "the all of it" and place God in the middle of it, Nouwen says that "our guilt becomes a happy guilt and our shame a happy shame because they have brought us to a deeper recognition of God's mercy, a stronger conviction of God's guidance, and a more radical commitment to a life in God's service."

We then can live a freer life today. We are free to go into the world to proclaim good news to others. We become messengers of hope for those who want to forget their pasts. We are messengers of hope for those who are not grateful but guilty and ashamed. We can let them know that God may transform them through the good and bad. God may use it all to build them up and get them closer to God. We can be truly grateful for that.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

Prayer Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Moses Ayodele, Antonio Crucero (requested by Mary Ann Moriles), Abbey Hooten, Georgene Sneed, Samson Solis (requested by Mary Ann Moriles), Augustine Agbo, Nancy Allred, Susan Apostolero, David Barrett, Jeff Beamer, Wilhemenia Bowens, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Juanita Brandon, Mary Bridges, Chris Brogan, Laura Burke-Knight, Jo Calhoun, Ken & Janis Campbell, Teresa Carpenter, Marcia Cartledge, Mike Champions, Judy Chapman, Thomas Chukwura, Ugo Chukwura, Betty Colwell, Felix Cruz, Maria Cruz, Lei Eason, Virginia Ellett, Jonathan Emerson, Mary Farwell, Evan Fournier, Christian Funderburk, Angela Funk, Jessica Giddens, Raymond Goza, Ronald Goza, Russell Goza, Connie Hand, Bob Hardy, Gail Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Igou Jackson, Twarna Johnson, Lavender Lampl, Berniece Lillegard, Bruce Lillegard, Doug Lozel, Stephanie Lozel, Bob Lukat, Suzanne Lukat, Chris Lukat, Ralph Middleton, Karen Miller, Mark Mitchell, Grandma Moriles, Beth Newman, Rick Peel, Doris Ragan, Jean Rathbun, Jeff Ragan, Gregory Ramsey, Ron Smith, Charlene Speer, James & Floryne Spence, Earl & Lucy Stewart, Laraine Tinsley, Carol Trustorf, Gene Ussery, John Veldsma, Sharon Veldsma, Frank Warlick, Carolyn Weems, Lillie Westmoreland, Terry Williams, and Willie Williams. Our nation, Our Military, Our Missionaries; Our School Teachers & Students, Our College Students. Our Food Pantry Patrons: Duyen Nguyen and Jimmy Lee Bridges. *A full prayer list is available in the narthex or by asking the church office.*



Pastor Appreciation, October 8

Please help us show our appreciation to Pastor John on Sunday, October 8.

We will have cupcakes in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

Please join us.



Presbyterian Women

NO PWCT meeting in October.

Presbyterian Women's General Meeting/Salad/Soup Lunch, October 15, 12:15 p.m.

All women are invited to the PW General Meeting on October 15 following the worship service. We will be approving the 2024 Budget and the incoming PW Officers. Please bring your favorite salad or soup to share. **ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED!**

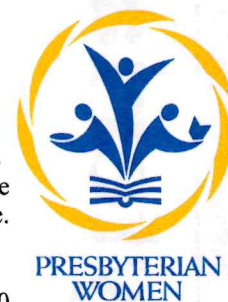
Virginia Dews Circle, October 9, 6:30 p.m. Virginia Dews Circle will meet on October 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the McNair/Seekers classroom. Lei Eason will lead the Bible Study from "Sacred Encounters."

Dorcas Circle, October 10, 10 a.m. The Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, October 10, at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Tricia Koehler will lead the Bible Study on Lesson 2 of "Sacred Encounters" Marilyn Mitchell has the devotion. Project: Gift cards from Kroger (\$20) or McDonald's (\$10) for the church office.

Morning Glory Circle, October 22, 9:30 a.m. The Morning Glory Circle will meet on October 22 at 9:30 a.m. in the Arnold/Bates classroom. Carol Campbell will lead Lesson Two in *Sacred Encounters*. **All women are invited to attend our meetings.**

Toys for Tots. The Presbyterian Women are collecting for Toys for Tots again this year. Please bring new, unwrapped toys to the church by December 5 and place them in the sleigh outside of the library.

Upcoming PW Installation, November 19, 11 a.m. The 2024 Presbyterian Women Officers will be installed during the worship service on Sunday, November 19.



Thank you Note & Request

From The Food Pantry... We want to thank the congregation for their continuing support of our Food Pantry. Unfortunately the need is still there for the local community. We are also in need of more volunteers to help out with our ministry here. We could use some folks to help out with our food delivery on Wednesdays and also on Thursday afternoon. We have other tasks like bagging food that can be done at any time, and we are very flexible. Even one day a month would be helpful. Please see David Turner if you are interested in helping out.

We LOVE Our Church

Stewardship Sundays October 8, 15, 22, & 29

WE LOVE OUR CHURCH!

The Stewardship Campaign for Morrow Presbyterian Church starts on October 8. We want everyone to think about how they love their church.

Consider these questions, if you would:

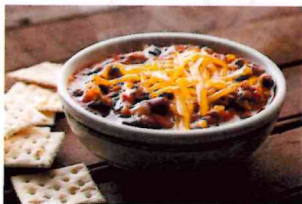
- ♦ What does giving mean to you?
- ♦ How does your giving express your love to Morrow Church, allowing the church to grow spiritually?
- ♦ How does it show your faith in Jesus Christ, allowing you to stay connected to him through faith?
- ♦ How does it say to others that you are a servant, allowing the Holy Spirit to place you where you should be?

Our giving is energized by Faith, prompted by Love, and inspired by Hope.

During the month of October, show your Morrow Church brothers and sisters how much you love them.

Stewardship Luncheon/Soup & Chili

October 29, 12:15 p.m.



Join us for lunch on Sunday, October 29 following the worship service.

The Administration/Stewardship Ministry Team will be showing their love by providing soup and chili for your enjoyment and nourishment.



**I ♥ MY CHURCH
Morrow Presbyterian**



Veteran's Appreciation Dinner Saturday, November 4, 4:00 pm

Our Scouts BSA Troop and our Cub Scout Pack are hosting our annual Veterans' Appreciation Dinner here at the church on Saturday, November 4th at 4:00pm. We are asking the entire congregation to help us in inviting the special veterans in your life to join us for an evening to honor all those who have served our country. This is for

all veterans and active military. This year we are also doing a photo wall and a slide show, so if you have photos that you would like to share, please let us know. Even if you are not able to attend, please share any photos of your favorite veteran with us, so we can honor them as well.

Please RSVP to David Turner 404-561-8655 or troop919@comcast.net.

Volunteers Needed

Where can you show love to your church?

Ushers. Currently, we have three Usher Captains—and looking for more! Each captain has a team to help with ushering duties. What are those duties? They include handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, greeting people, counting attendance, picking up fellowship pad sheets, checking doors, and turning off lights following the service. Ushers serve a month at a time.

Liturgists. Helping the pastor by leading parts of the worship service. Liturgists are given great direction to make leading the congregation almost effortless. If you have a strong voice and a willing heart, please consider sharing your gift. Liturgists rotate throughout the year. Your Sunday would depend on the number of volunteers.

Greeters/Coffee Fellowship. Can you smile and welcome people into our church? We are wanting to restart our Greeter/Coffee Fellowship program. Greeters are asked to stand at the door for around 30 minutes to be the welcoming party for visitors and members. Following the worship service, they are asked to pour coffee and juice in the fellowship hall.

Nursery Workers. Our nursery is blessed to have many new babies and toddlers. Many hands are needed to love on these precious children. Can you volunteer to help for a Sunday here and there? The nursery is for babies up to 18 months. The toddler room is for 19 months to 3 years of age.

Sometimes we feel a call to volunteer at our church, but instead we wait for someone to ask us. If you feel that God is leading you to serve His and your church, we have different opportunities available for your different skills.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve. 770-961-5444 or mpcsecretary@bellsouth.net



Young at Heart News

Young at Heart Lunch

October 4, 11:30 a.m.

O'Charleys (Stockbridge)

The Young at Heart will be going to O'Charleys in Stockbridge on Wednesday, October 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us.

It's free pie with entrée day!



STOVE

If you have ever been in our church kitchen, you know that our current stove has always been there. In fact, it's over 50 years old! You may know that there are some issues with the stove that cannot be repaired.

The session has decided it's definitely time to replace our stove.

Your help is needed as this is an additional expense to our 2023 Budget.

The cost of a new stove is \$6,465.

To help with the cost of this new stove, we are asking you to give money in addition to your regular giving to help replace it as soon as possible.

You may make your gifts payable to MPC and earmark as STOVE.

An update on giving will be placed in the bulletin and narthex each week.

OCTOBER

October Birthdays

10/2 - Mary Dyche
 10/4 - Betty Colwell
 10/6 - Wayne Goza
 10/7 - Nelson Ayodele
 10/10 - Obasi Onuoha
 - Marie Tuttle
 - Steven Green
 10/13 - Angelica Delgado
 - Ndiya Onuoha
 10/14 - Tristen Offord (1)
 10/16 - Mary Ann Moriles
 10/18 - Dionne Kemokai
 10/20 - Sara Gore
 - Jesus Delgado, Jr.
 10/21 - James Eason
 10/23 - Linda Morgan
 10/26 - Ruth Laster
 10/27 - Corey Costa
 - Rachel Boggs
 10/29 - Maria Cruz
 - Nnenna Onuoha
 10/31 - Colin Turner
 - David Weems



October Anniversaries

10/12 - Bob & Gail Hardy (50)
 10/15 - Wayne & Sharon Goza (56)



WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

ELDERS ON CALL

Primary: Donna Boggs
 Secondary: Andra Gammage

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Morning Glory Circle

USHERS

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

1 - Mike Sneed
 8 - Mary Dyche
 15 - Dock Gammage
 22 - Pastor John
 29 - Mike Sneed

LITURGIST

1 - Dock Gammage
 8 - Deborah Venizelos
 15 - James Eason
 22 - Mary Dyche
 29 - Otis Onuoha

COUNTING TEAM

Virginia Cagle and Mary Nell Winkles

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

September 3 - 26
 September 10 - 26
 September 17 - 19
 September 24 - 24

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

September 3 - 67
 September 10 - 69
 September 17 - 57
 September 24 - 73



Financial Health—September 2023

| | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|---------------------|
| September 3 | - | \$ 10,197.40 | <u>Needed:</u> |
| September 10 | - | \$ 4,557.00 | \$ 23,985.84 |
| September 17 | - | \$ 2,998.77 | |
| September 24 | - | \$ 4,879.00 | Received: |
| | | | \$ 23,309.97 |
| Online | - | \$ 677.80 | |

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) Go to our website www.morrowpresbyterian.org and click on the Giving tab at the top.
- 4) Text MORROWPRES & AMOUNT to 73256.

OCTOBER 2023

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook - World Communion Sunday 5 p.m. Youth & Kids Club at Pumpkin Patch | 2 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts | 3 | 4 11:30 a.m. YAH to O'Charleys  6:45 p.m. Choir Practice | 5 10:00 a.m. Peacemakers Life Group 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live - Stewardship Campaign Begins 12:15 p.m. Pastor Appreciation Reception 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club | 9 6:30 p.m. Virginia Dews | 10 10 a.m. Dorcas Circle 7 p.m. Session | 11  6:45 p.m. Choir Practice | 12 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry | 13 Office closed | 14 |
| 15 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live 12:15 PW General Meeting Soup & Salad Luncheon 2 p.m. Wedding Shower for Garrett Johnson & Sara Wilson 5 p.m. Youth 5 p.m. Kids Club | 16 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts | 17 6:30 p.m. Scouts | 18 10:00 a.m. Living Branch Life Group  6:45 p.m. Choir Practice | 19 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry | 20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> 6 p.m. — Saturday 3 p.m. Cub Scout CampOut Church Grounds </div> | 21 Office closed |
| 22 9:30 a.m. Morning Glory Circle 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club | 23 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts | 24 6:30 p.m. Scouts | 25  6:45 p.m. Choir Practice | 26 3-6 p.m. Community Food Pantry | 27 Office closed | 28 |
| 29 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live—Youth Sunday 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club 12:15 Stewardship Luncheon 5:00 p.m. Fall Festival | 30 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts | 31  |  | Fall Festival October 29 5:00—7:00 p.m. Candy, Games, Cake Walk Children & Volunteers needed! Please bring in candy and place in the container provided in the narthex. | | |

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 2023

LOOK AT THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE REPRESENTED IN OUR CONGREGATION!



ON ONE DAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023, THE WORLD COMMUNES TOGETHER THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. WHETHER WE ARE IN ONE PLACE OR MANY, THIS SACRAMENT UNITES US WITH OTHERS AND GOD. World Communion Sunday has its roots in the early 20th century when there was a growing desire among Christians to promote unity and cooperation among different denominations and cultures. It was initially proposed by Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr, a Presbyterian minister from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The first World Communion Sunday was observed on October 1, 1933, in Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Dr. Kerr's idea was to encourage Christians worldwide to partake in the Eucharist on the same day as a **symbol of their common faith in Jesus Christ, transcending denominational and geographical boundaries.** Over the years, the observance gained popularity and was gradually adopted by various Christian denominations across the world. It provided an opportunity for Christians to reflect on their shared beliefs and the importance of unity in the midst of a diverse global Christian community.