

OCTOBER 2026  
VOLUME 19  
ISSUE 10

# MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## THE PASTOR'S PEN



October is a scary month, so let's talk about some scary stuff. War, slumping economy, hurricanes and tornados, shootings and destroyed families. Scared yet? It's a midterm election year! – isn't that frightening? When all of these happen, people may become nervous and hopeless. They might even start talking about the End Times. "Do you know we are in the End Times?" people may ask in a loud voice. They shake and fret and flip out about what may be coming our way. You know what bugs me? All the flipping out, especially when it comes from those who supposedly believe in Christ and the resurrection. Where is the hope of the resurrection? Where is the trust in our God who will see us through every storm? If they were the disciples on the boat during that violent storm (Matthew 8:23-27), even after Jesus calmed the waves they would still be flipping out and screaming, "Do you know we are in the End Times?!"

Understand this: We have always been in the End Times since the ascension of Jesus Christ. In the Book of Acts, after he rose to his glorious throne, the disciples were caught gawking at the clouds, wondering if he might descend soon. Paul had to insert a quick word to the Thessalonians about Christ's return, because people were dying and Jesus had not returned.[1] Throughout the generations people have preached on the End Times. It didn't start sometime in the 1950s or earlier, and it didn't come about because we are concerned with our government in DC or the terrorist networks throughout the world. We have always been living in what I heard a Columbia Theological Seminary professor call the End Times "the Already/Not Yet."

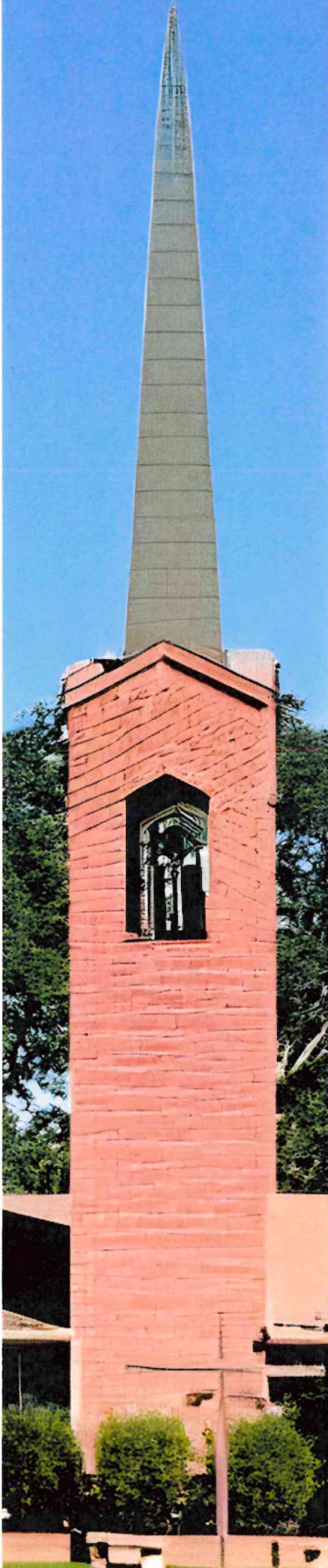
So, what are we going to do about it? Fret like those who do not believe? Too many do this, and it must stop. "You are sons and daughters of the light and of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness," Paul tells the Thessalonians.[2] Part of the message is to be prepared for Christ's coming, and the other part is to live as people who know they are saved from sin and death through Christ. Freaking out has nothing to do with Paul's message, and neither does expressing pessimism. Both belong in the darkness, while we are children of the light and day. In the light we have the "spiritual knowledge that we belong to God and are safe with God even as we live in a very destructive world" (Henri Nouwen). We are children of the resurrection, which is no dour thing to possess. We have fullness of life and great hope from our Savior. Where there is doubt, we know the One who possesses certainty. Where there is fear, we call for the One who grants blessed assurance. Where there is destruction, we count on the One who will make all things new and whole.

Do not believe what people say about the End Times, especially when they paint gloomy scenarios. We have always been in the End Times, and Christ has always been with us. What is there to fear? Look to Christ and live as children of his resurrection.

Peace in Christ, Rev. Dr. John

[1] Acts 1:4-12 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

[2] 1 Thessalonians 5:5.



# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



*I just wanted to take a minute to thank everyone for being so encouraging and positive about the new format of the newsletter. Your comments have really made this transition easier.*

Dianne Hooten



## PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS:

Family of Jack Bell (former member), Suzanne Lukat, Corey Costa, Keitha Faile (requested by Albert Coughlin), Twarna Johnson, Felix Cruz, Terry Dyche (Piedmont Atlanta), Carlous and Michael Howell (Audrey Sharpe's nephews), Corey Campbell, Kimberly & Amelia Moriles-Yi, Haywood Fordham, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Jo Calhoun, Thomas Chukwura, Bill Coleman, Betty Colwell, Davis Family, Janine Dunn, Jim & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Trudy Fincher, Jessica Giddens, Olen Grubbs, Bob & Gail Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Thuan Hong, Jun Hong, Austin John, Jessica Johnson, Sally Kamara, George & Marsha Ann Kempson, Clayton & Janie Kite, Tricia Koehler, Marty LeDuke, Norman Lillie, Bob Lukat, Mac McKinney, Jim McNaull, Angelin Rebecca Muller, Florette Njonu, Liz Parkin, Rick Peel, Truong and Tam Phan, MaryLee Powers, Linda Reece, Roxie Romine, Antonio and Luis Saavedra, David Schuler, Nadia Scott, Laraine Tinsley, Cathy Trustorf, Angela Turner, Gene Ussery, Barry Weems, and Terry Williams. Our country, Our Military, Missionaries, School/College Teachers & Students, Food Pantry Patrons. Prayer list is available in the narthex.

## BBQ Fundraiser – October 11

Our annual BBQ Food Pantry Fundraiser will be on Sunday, October 11 immediately following the worship service. Please join us for a BBQ lunch provided by our Food Pantry volunteers. We will have pork and turkey BBQ with all the fixings. We will be accepting donations to support our Food Pantry mission.



## HYMNFEST

OCTOBER 25, 6 P.M.

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MORROW.



The congregation is invited to attend this service of celebrating the hymns of the church. The MPC Canterbury Choir will participate with other area churches. It will take place at First Baptist Church of Morrow, 1647 Lak Harbin Rd, Morrow.

### *Our October Memory Scripture Verse*

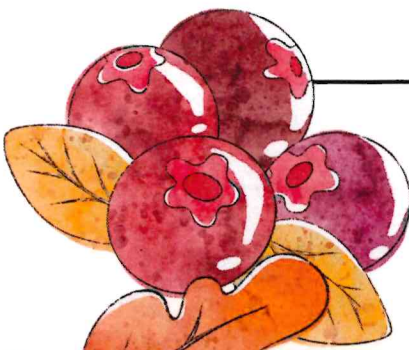
*"The Lord will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8)*

# KEVIN AND MICHELLE



*Love in Bloom*





# Presbyterian Women News



## PW General Meeting/Salad & Soup Lunch

Presbyterian Women's General Meeting/Salad & Soup Lunch, October 25, 12:15 p.m. All women are invited to the PW General Meeting on October 25 following the worship service. We will be approving the 2027 Budget and the incoming PW Officers. Please bring your favorite salad or soup to share.

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED!

## Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, October 13, at 10 a.m. in the Arnold/Bates classroom. The lesson will be presented by Linda Lillie on Lesson 2 in our new book, *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other."* Tricia will share a devotion. Project will be diapers and feminine hygiene products for the the food pantry..

## Morning Glory Circle

The Morning Glory Circle will meet on Sunday, October 18 , at 9:30 a.m. in the Arnold/Bates Classroom. We will study Lesson 2 in our new book, *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other."* Carol Campbell will lead us in our Bible study.

## Virginia Dews Circle

The Virginia Dews Circle will meet Monday, October 12 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Lei Eason will present Lesson 3, "Freedom in Christ" from our workbook, *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other."* Debbie will have the devotion. Project is diapers. Please join us!





## World Communion Sunday, October 4

**October 4.** The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

**We will have a special offering on Sunday.** World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical Christian observance emphasizing unity in Christ across cultures, languages, and denominations. Churches worldwide share Holy Communion in diverse forms—common loaves, wafers, rice cakes, wine, or juice—yet affirm one shared table.

**If possible, please bring a flag representing your home country this Sunday.**

**Join us for lunch following the worship service and communion.**

- If you have clothing that represents your heritage, please wear it.
- Please bring a dish to share at the church luncheon following the service.



## Church Work Day Thank You

**Many thanks** to all who helped before or the day of the workday to help spruce up our church building and grounds. Thanks to Augustine Agbo, Moses Ayodele, Ngozi Bivins, Shawn Butcher, Bruce & Carol Campbell, Ugo Chukwura, Ivana Follykoe, Dock & Andra Gammage, Ronnie & Kris Hooten, Twarna & Drayl Johnson, and Angela, David, and Shane Turner. Combined, the group cleaned the sanctuary, trimmed trees and bushes, cleaned up Sunday school rooms, repaired fascia board on the shed, replaced doorstops, replaced ceiling tiles, and ate a lot of pizza. Plans are still in motion to replace some wood that has rotted.



### Congratulations to Gail Hardy

Gail Hardy just completed her education and examination by the Presbytery of East Tennessee to be commissioned to serve as a Chaplain, administering the sacraments, moderating Session meetings, and preaching.



## Young at Heart Lunch

**October 7, 11:30 a.m.**  
**Olive Garden, Morrow.**

Please join the YAH group at Olive Garden in Morrow, on October 7, at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and fellowship. Let Bruce Campbell or Libby McNair if you can attend to save your seat.



Morrow Presbyterian Church

# Fall Festival

Friday, October 30, 2026  
6:00 PM

FUN  
FAMILY  
FAITH  
COMMUNITY  
ALL ARE  
WELCOME!



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are asking our congregation to support our Fall Festival in the following ways:



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need helping hands to make our Fall Festival a success! Opportunities include:

- Setting up and decorating
- Running game and activity stations
- Helping with food and refreshments
- Clean up

*Many hands make a joyful event!*



### CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!

We are collecting individually wrapped candy to give out to the children at our Fall Festival.

*Please drop off candy donations in the church office or designated collection box.*

### BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR OUR CAKE WALKS!



We are asking for homemade or store-bought baked goods to be used for our cake walks.

*Please drop off baked goods on the day of the event or as directed by the festival team.*

*Let's Make a Difference Together!*

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."  
Ephesians 2:10

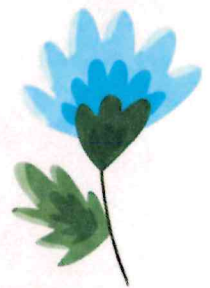
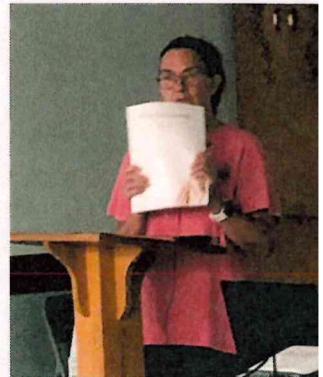
Morrow Presbyterian Church  
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FOOD  
GAMES  
CANDY  
& MORE!

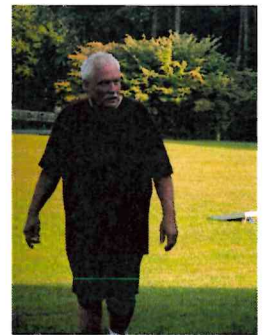
A FUN  
NIGHT  
FOR THE  
WHOLE  
FAMILY!

# Making Room for What Matters 2026

- **Surrender** – What would happen if you trusted God with this?
- **Peace** – Less striving more Jesus
- **Release** – What is God asking you to let go of?
- **Control** – Are you trusting God more than you are trying to manage everything yourself?
- **Clutter** – What is taking up space in your life right now?
- **Busyness** – Are you doing for Jesus more than you are being with Jesus?
- **Presence** – Where is God inviting you to be fully present?



# KID'S CLUB KICK-OFF



# OCTOBER 2026

## October Anniversaries

|       |   |                                         |
|-------|---|-----------------------------------------|
| 10/12 | - | Bob & Gail Hardy (53)                   |
| 10/15 | - | Wayne & Sharon Goza (59)                |
| 10/18 | - | Stephanie Venizelos & James Wallace (2) |
|       | - | James & Amanda Jones (1)                |
| 10/28 | - | Donnie & Ruth Bryant (3)                |



## October Birthdays

|       |   |                  |       |   |                |
|-------|---|------------------|-------|---|----------------|
| 10/2  | - | Mary Dyche       | 10/16 | - | James Jones    |
| 10/4  | - | Betty Colwell    | 10/18 | - | Dionne Kemokai |
| 10/5  | - | Henock Sodjavi   | 10/20 | - | Sara Gore      |
| 10/6  | - | Wayne Goza       | 10/21 | - | James Eason    |
| 10/7  | - | Nelson Ayodele   | 10/26 | - | Linda Reece    |
| 10/10 | - | Obasi Onuoha     | 10/27 | - | Rachel Boggs   |
|       | - | Marie Tuttle     | 10/29 | - | Maria Cruz     |
|       | - | Steven Green     | 10/30 | - | Be Butcher     |
| 10/13 | - | Ndiya Onuoha     | 10/31 | - | Colin Turner   |
| 10/16 | - | Mary Ann Moriles |       | - | David Weems    |

**ELDERS ON CALL** Primary: Carol Campbell Secondary: Andra Gammage  
**COUNTING TEAM** Virginia Cagle and Mary Nell Winkles  
**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH** - Morning Glory Circle

**USHERS** – Ronnie Hooten, Captain; Jo Calhoun,  
 Libby McNair, Carol McGhee, Moses Ayodele

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

|    |   |                   |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 4  | - | Pastor John       |
| 11 | - | Bruce Campbell    |
| 18 | - | Allen Grant       |
| 25 | - | Deborah Venizelos |

### LITURGIST

|    |   |                  |
|----|---|------------------|
| 4  | - | Ngozi Bivins     |
| 11 | - | James Eason      |
| 18 | - | Mary Ann Moriles |
| 25 | - | Andra Gammage    |

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

|    |   |                        |
|----|---|------------------------|
| 4  | - | Carol Campbell         |
| 11 | - | Linda Lillie           |
| 18 | - | Susie Grant            |
| 25 | - | Ronnie & Dianne Hooten |

## Financial Health—September 2026

|              |   |              |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| September 6  | - | \$ 10,453.95 |
| September 13 | - | \$ 3,655.77  |
| September 20 | - | \$ 4,467.00  |
| September 27 | - | \$ 5,234.67  |
| Online       | - | \$ 1,909.67  |

**Needed:**  
**\$ 23,350.40**

**THANK YOU!**

**Received:**  
**\$ 25,721.06**

## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE for September 2026

### IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

|              |   |    |
|--------------|---|----|
| September 6  | - | 77 |
| September 13 | - | 70 |
| September 20 | - | 71 |
| September 27 | - | 79 |

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

|              |   |    |
|--------------|---|----|
| September 6  | - | 23 |
| September 13 | - | 20 |
| September 20 | - | 22 |
| September 27 | - | 12 |

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Mon                                                | Tue                                                                                                             | Wed                                                                                                         | Thu                                                                                                               | Fri                                                                                                                                                              | Sat                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                    |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                             | <b>1</b><br><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Peacemakers<br>Life Group<br><br><b>3—6 p.m.</b><br>Community Food<br>Pantry | <b>2</b><br><br><b>Office closed</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>4</b><br><b>9:45 a.m.</b> Sunday<br>School<br><br><b>11 a.m.</b> Worship<br>In person and<br>Facebook Live –<br>World Communion<br><b>12:15 p.m.</b> World<br>Communion Covered<br>Dish Luncheon<br><b>NO.</b> Kids Club<br><b>NO</b> Youth                                                   | <b>5</b><br><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b><br>Cub Scouts     | <b>6</b><br><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b><br>Scouts                                                                      | <b>7</b><br><br><b>11:30 a.m.</b><br>YAH Lunch at<br>Olive Garden<br><br><b>6:45 p.m.</b><br>Choir Practice | <b>8</b><br><br><b>3—6 p.m.</b><br>Community Food<br>Pantry                                                       | <b>9</b><br><br><b>Office closed</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>11</b><br><b>9:45 am</b> Sunday<br>School<br><br><b>11 a.m.</b> Worship<br>In person and<br>Facebook Live—<br><b>12:15 p.m. Food</b><br><b>Pantry BBQ</b><br><b>Fundraiser</b><br><b>NO Kids Club</b><br><b>NO Youth</b>                                                                      | <b>12</b><br><br><b>6:00 p.m.</b><br>Virginia Dews | <b>13</b><br><br><b>10 a.m.</b><br>Dorcas Circle<br><br><b>7 p.m.</b> Session<br><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b><br>Scouts | <b>14</b><br><br><b>6:45 p.m.</b><br>Choir Practice                                                         | <b>15</b><br><br><b>3—6 p.m.</b><br>Community Food<br>Pantry                                                      | <b>16</b><br><br><b>Office closed</b>                                                                                                                            | <b>17</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>18</b><br><b>9:30 am</b> Morning<br>Glory Circle<br><b>9:45 am</b> Sunday<br>School<br><b>11 a.m.</b> Worship<br>In person and<br>Facebook Live<br><b>5:00 p.m.</b> Kids Club<br><b>5:00 p.m.</b> Youth                                                                                       | <b>19</b><br><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b><br>Cub Scouts    | <b>20</b><br><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b><br>Scouts                                                                     | <b>21</b><br><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Living Branch Life<br>Group<br><br><b>6:45 p.m.</b><br>Choir Practice | <b>22</b><br><br><b>3-6 p.m.</b><br>Community Food<br>Pantry                                                      | <b>23</b><br><br><div> <b>6 p.m. Fri – 3 p.m. Sat</b><br/>           Cub Scout Campout         </div><br><b>Office closed</b>                                    | <b>24</b><br><br><b>6:00 p.m.</b><br>Family of Friends<br>Life Group home of<br>Bruce & Carol<br>Campbell<br> |
| <b>25</b><br><b>9:45 am</b> Sunday<br>School<br><b>11 a.m.</b> Worship<br>In person and<br>Facebook Live<br><b>12:15 p.m. PW</b><br><b>General</b><br><b>Meeting/Salad Lunch</b><br><b>5:00 p.m.</b> Youth<br><b>5:00 p.m.</b> Kids Club<br><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Hymnfest at<br>First Baptist Morrow | <b>26</b><br><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b><br>Cub Scouts    | <b>27</b><br><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b><br>Scouts                                                                     | <b>28</b><br><br><b>6:45 p.m.</b><br>Choir Practice                                                         | <b>29</b><br><br><b>3-6 p.m.</b><br>Community Food<br>Pantry                                                      | <b>30</b><br><b>6 – 8 p.m.</b><br>Fall Festival<br><br><b>Office closed</b> | <b>31</b><br><br>        |