

**SEPTEMBER 2026
VOLUME 19
ISSUE 9**

MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**6171 HUIE DRIVE, MORROW, GA 30260
770-961-5444
WWW.MORROWPRESBYTERIAN.ORG**

THE PASTOR'S PEN



Here's a passage from Luke 9:51-56 on which pastors don't usually preach. I know I haven't...

Jesus is thinking of his death and resurrection, so he turns his face toward Jerusalem. On the way he and his disciples must pass through the region of Samaria. He sends word ahead that he is coming to a certain village, but the denizens there don't want him. They don't want to hear what he has to offer – they don't want to accept any of his generosity. Luke says that they reject him because his face is set toward Jerusalem, which means two things: the Samaritans know he is a Jew and there is no love lost between Jews and Samaritans and, more importantly, this is just the beginning of the rejection Jesus will receive up to the cross.

James and John are the messengers sent ahead to that village, and when the rejection comes they are miffed. They want some sort of retribution against the Samaritan, so they ask Jesus, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" (Luke 9:54). Jesus rebukes them, and they all move on to another village.

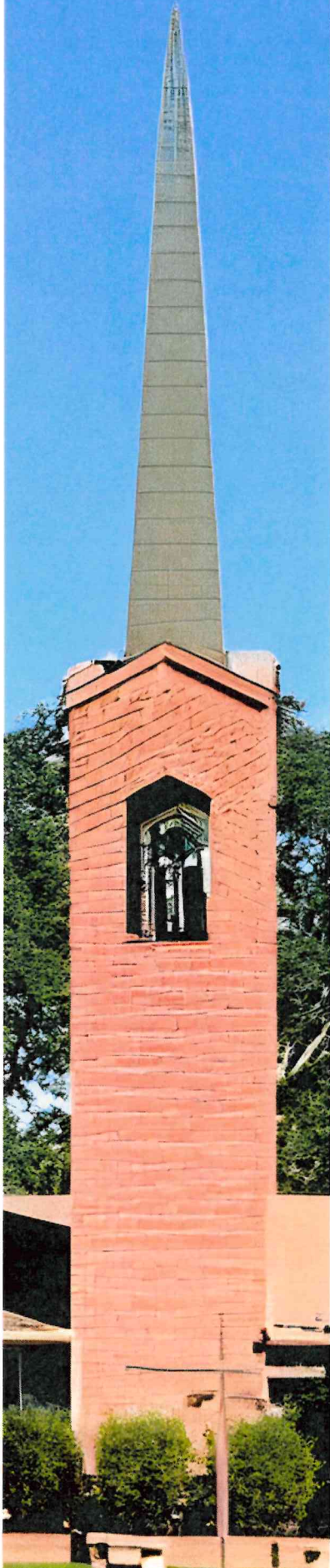
We can understand the disciples' response. One of my commentaries says that we could appreciate it.[1] They are protective of Jesus. They are overzealous for what Jesus has been doing and may do next, and they don't know how anybody would want to push him or his loving ministry aside. Yet, we can agree that they go way too far in suggesting that literal fire and brimstone should rain down upon the unwelcoming villagers. It is not the appropriate response.

Jesus gives the appropriate response: "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also... Besides, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him" (Luke 6:27-29 and John 3:16-17). The whole point of the cross was not to thump people for their sin but to wash them of it. While he was being crucified, Jesus did not call judgement down on those who divided his clothing and further rejected him, but he called on God the Father to forgive, "for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). Jesus' sacrifice would remove all the wrong we have done, thought, and said and make us righteous in God's sight.

It is easy to react when attacked. It is easy to go ballistic and think up the worst punishment for mean people doing mean things. Yet, Jesus died for them, too. Jesus wishes for them not to reject him and suffer for it. He hopes that everybody may accept him and thus receive the salvation he has in his hands. Hopefully we all will do this and live.

Peace in Christ, Rev. Dr. John

[1] Fred B. Craddock, Interpretation: Luke, cf. 143.



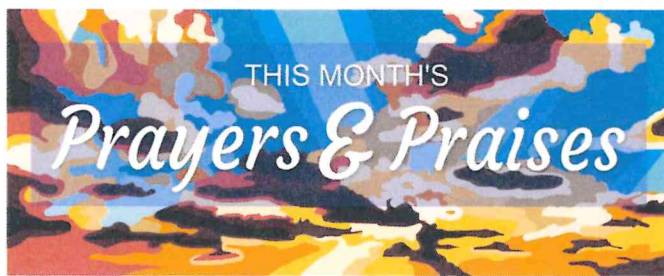
NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



This month you may notice that the newsletter looks a little different. I will be playing with it over the next few months to find the best format. For years I have used Microsoft Publisher. Beginning in October, the program is no longer available.

This is a good time to spruce it up. I have started experimenting with Canva to find some different styles. Hope you enjoy your newsletter and the new formats.

Dianne Hooten



PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS: Corey Campbell, Family of Gilbert Gonsalves (Mary Ann Moriles' cousin), Kimberly Moriles-Yi, Haywood Fordham, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Jo Calhoun Thomas Chukwura, Bill Coleman, Betty Colwell, Jerry Coughlin, Felix Cruz, Mary Dardy, Davis Family Janine Dunn, Terry Dyche, Jim & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Mary Farwell, 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, Braden Knebel, Clayton & Janie Kite, Brenda Knowles, Tricia Koehler, Marty LeDuke, Norman Lillie, Bob & Suzanne Lukat, Mac McKinney Jim McNaull, Angelin Rebecca Muller, 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, David Weems, and Terry Williams. Our country, Our Military, Missionaries, School/College Teachers & Students, Food Pantry Patrons. A full prayer list is available in the narthex.



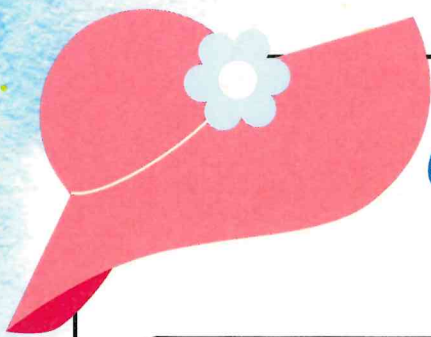
Baby Basket for Baby Moriles-Yi

A baby basket has been placed in the narthex for soon-to-be parents, **Dex Yi & Kimberly Moriles-Yi**.

Baby Moriles-Yi is expected around October 8.

Please help us fill it up with baby items that can be used by either a boy or girl baby as the gender is to be discovered at birth!





Presbyterian Women News

Well Water Project in Nicaragua

PW Project for 2026 - Water Wells. MPC Women's Mission for 2026 is to help to provide a deep rock well. A deep rock well taps into pure water sources hundreds of feet below ground, providing access to clean water even during drought and other extreme weather conditions. These sustainable wells serve communities in the most water-scarce regions of the world and are placed in areas where they can make the greatest impact and be maintained by trained community members. There is a red bucket placed in the hallway for your donations.

Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, September 8, at 10 a.m. in the Arnold/Bates classroom. The lesson will be presented by Tricia Koehler on Lesson 1 in our new book, *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other."* Project will be gift cards to Kroger (\$20) and McDonald's (\$10) for the church office.

Morning Glory Circle

The Morning Glory Circle will meet on Sunday, September 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the Arnold/Bates Classroom. We will start our new book, *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other."* Carol Campbell and Donna Boggs will be sharing the position of Bible Moderator for our new Bible study.

Virginia Dews Circle

The Virginia Dews Circle will meet Monday, September 14 at 6 p.m. in the library. Lei Eason will present Lesson 2, "Connected in Christ", I Corinthians 3-4 from our workbook, *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other."* Project is money for well water for Nicaragua.





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.

The worship committee is making plans now and wants to be sure to include everyone who worships with us and originates from a country other than the USA. The list will be displayed in the narthex (lobby) for review so that persons whose names are not on the list can add theirs.

If possible people should bring flags representing their countries on that day

Please contact Mary Ann Moriles or Florette Njonu, or the church office and let us know what country you hail from and what languages you speak.

Join us for lunch following the worship service and communion.

- If you have clothing that represents your heritage, please wear it.
- Bring a dish to share at the church luncheon following the service.
- If you speak another language, please let us know!



THE MORNING GLORY & DORCAS CIRCLES
INVITE YOU TO A WEDDING SHOWER FOR

Kevin & Michelle

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY

27

AT 2 PM

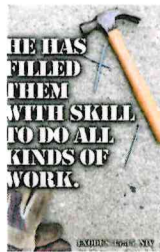
2026

MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL

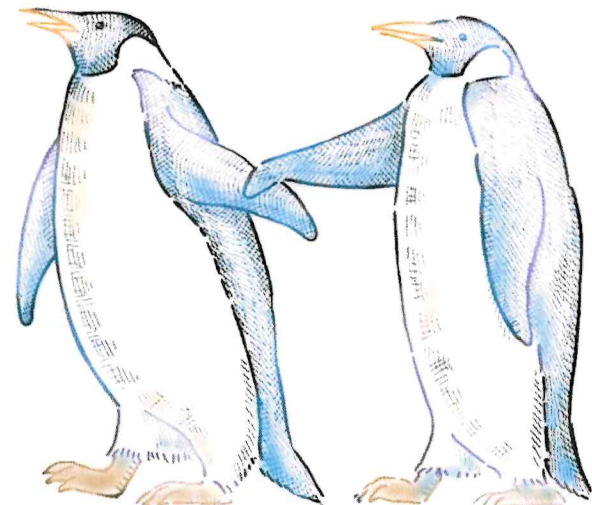
KEVIN MORILES & MICHELLE PARK
ARE REGISTERED AT ZOLA.COM
PASSWORD IS M+K



Church Work Day, September 19 9 a.m. - 12 noon



Church Work Day, September 19, 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Please join us Saturday, September 19 as we clean and repair the inside and outside of our church building. We want to spruce up the building prior to our Fall and Advent activities. If you would like to help, but are unable to come on that Saturday, please see Albert Coughlin or Colin Turner.



Bring a Friend This Sunday

KIDS CLUB KICKOFF!

FAITH • FUN • FRIENDS • GROWTH

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

AT **5:00 O'CLOCK**

WET NIGHT!
BRING YOUR BATHING SUIT AND A TOWEL!

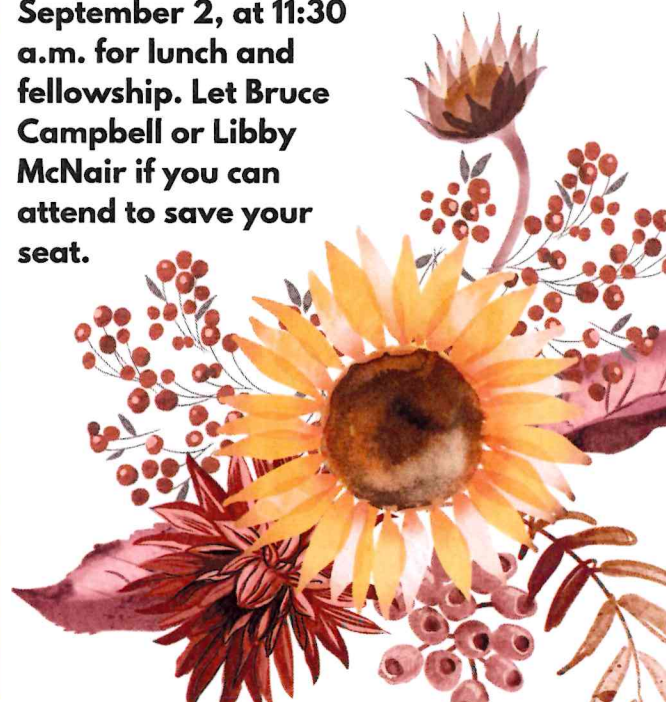
LEARN GOD'S WORD • MAKE NEW FRIENDS • HAVE AWESOME FUN!

MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6171 HUIE DR. • MORROW, GA 30260

ALL KIDS WELCOME!
DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Young at Heart

Young at Heart Luncheon, September 2, 11:30 a.m. Longhorn, Morrow. Please join the YAH group at Longhorn Steakhouse in Morrow, on September 2, at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and fellowship. Let Bruce Campbell or Libby McNair if you can attend to save your seat.





MAKING ROOM FOR *What Matters*



WOMEN'S RETREAT

A Time to Pause. A Time to Make Room.

Life is busy. Our schedules are full, our minds are cluttered, and our hearts often carry more than they were meant to hold.

Join us for a special women's retreat designed to help us pause, reflect, and intentionally make room for what matters most—our relationship with Christ.

Through Bible study, meaningful conversation, personal reflection, and fellowship, we'll explore what it means to let go of the unnecessary so we can embrace God's peace, purpose, and presence.



DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2026



TIME: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



COST: \$5.00

Save Your Spot! 

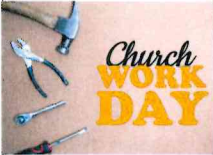
Look for the registration form in your Sunday bulletin or pick one up from the table in the Narthex.

We hope you'll join us for this special time of encouragement, connection, and spiritual renewal!



*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."* MATTHEW 11:28



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 p.m. Scouts	2 11:30 a.m. YAH Lunch at Longhorn 7 p.m. Choir Practice	3 10:00 a.m. Peacemakers Life Group 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	4 Office closed	5
6 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live NO Youth	7 <i>Office Closed for Labor Day</i>	8 10 a.m. Dorcas Circle 6:30 p.m. Scouts 7 p.m. Session	9 7 p.m. Choir Practice	10 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	11 Office closed	12
13 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live— Dock Gammage preaches 12:15 p.m. PWCT 5 p.m. Kids Club Kick-Off Family Night Supper	14 6:00 p.m. Virginia Dews 	15 6:30 p.m. Scouts	16 10:00 a.m. Living Branch Life Group 7 p.m. Choir Practice	17 3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	18 Office closed	19 9 a.m. – 12 noon  6 p.m. Family of Friends @ Gammages
20 9:30 am Morning Glory Circle 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live Communion 12:15 p.m. Worship Team Meeting 5:00 p.m. Youth	21 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	22 6:30 p.m. Scouts	23 7 p.m. Choir Practice	24 3-6 p.m. Community Food Pantry	25 Office closed	26 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Women's Retreat at MPC – "Making Room for What Matters"
27 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live 2:00 p.m. Wedding Shower for Kevin & Michelle 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 p.m. Kids Club	28 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	29 6:30 p.m. Scouts	30 7 p.m. Choir Practice			

SEPTEMBER 2026

September Anniversaries

9/16 - Jacob & Jasmin Petroziello (9)
9/27 - George & Marsha Ann Kempson (48)

September Birthdays

9/3 - Alvin Gnofammani
9/5 - Dakota Holloway
9/6 - Don McGhee
- Shanna Robinson
- Hunter McNabb
9/9 - Linda Lillie
9/16 - Felix Follykoe
9/17 - Tanya Costa
- Ashlyn McNabb
9/19 - Georgina Onuoha
9/22 - Frank Bradley
- Mack McKee
9/24 - David Turner
9/29 - Haywood Fordham



ELDERS ON CALL Primary: Augustine Agbo Secondary: Dock Gammage
COUNTING TEAM Jo Calhoun and James Eason
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH - Dorcas Circle

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

6 - Pastor John
13 - Dock Gammage
20 - Allen Grant
27 - Deborah Venizelos

LITURGIST

6 - James Eason
13 - Dock Gammage
20 - Deborah Venizelos
27 - Michael Johnson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

6 - Twarna Johnson
13 - Aku Sodjavi
20 - Susie Grant
27 - Mary Ann Moriles

Financial Health—August 2026

August 2 - \$ 6,748.00
August 9 - \$ 4,674.17
August 16 - \$ 5,701.00
August 23 - \$ 2,292.00
August 30 - \$ 3,921.00
Online - \$ 3,166.70

Needed:
\$ 26,730.52

Received:
\$ 26,502.87

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE for August 2026

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP

August 2 - 68
August 9 - 65
August 16 - 72
August 23 - 68
August 30 - 68

SUNDAY SCHOOL

August 2 - 18
August 9 - 19
August 16 - 20
August 23 - 16
August 30 - 21