

Volume 14 Issue 12

December 2021



MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morrow Presbyterian Herald

The Pastor's Pen



DID YOU KNOW that the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is never the same every year?

The shortest length of time was back in 2019 with only 27 days between the two holidays. This year it is a full month (30 days). The longest time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is 32 days, which will happen in 2023. Maybe you have noticed that Christmas seems to come quicker in some years than in others. Some years offer less time to purchase gifts, decorate homes, and organize parties.

Those who do not fare well during Advent and Christmas may notice the lengthening and shortening of days, since now is usually a rough time for them. They may wish to get this season over and done with as soon as possible. It could be a number of factors: loss of loved family and friends, pressures at work or school or home, lack of finances, frustration with the commercialism of Christmas, lack of sunlight due to the days diminishing, and so forth. They would like to enjoy Advent but they cannot. They would like to have some emotion other than sadness and misery, but they just cannot escape what they think and feel. "It's the most wonderful time of the year," one Christmas song says, yet some might resonate with another song that goes, "I got evenings to spare that nobody will share, I guess there ain't no Santa Claus."¹

Be more mindful of such folks this time of year. Notice when they don't seem to have the "holiday spirit," and ask how they are faring. If you know them well enough, you might be able to pull something out that is bugging them. Prepare to spend time in listening to their stories. Try to understand where they are coming from, and be there for them in any way you can. Tell them that you are around to talk to, to vent, to cry, and to do whatever it takes to help them through. Be more mindful of those who are struggling, and let them know they are not alone.

For those struggling, I found two websites, Mayo Clinic and Seattle Christian Counseling, that both suggest expressing feelings during the holidays.² If there has been a loss, acknowledge it. If something gets you down about Advent and Christmas, it is okay to feel it. Acknowledge those feelings and thoughts to yourself, and then share with people you trust. Another suggestion is to take a breather. Do something unrelated to Advent and Christmas: read the books you like, listen to the music you enjoy, take walks and detach for a moment from the holiday. One more suggestion is to reach out to others. As stated above, we are not alone in how we feel about the holidays. In our struggles we can serve others in their suffering. Go as far as volunteering at our Food Pantry or visiting a soup kitchen, or just connecting with a relative or friend whom you know is struggling like you are.

Advent and Christmas is never supposed to be a depressing time. It is a time of rebirth. It is a time when a Baby comes to live with us, a vulnerable innocent looking for our care, desiring our compassion. We welcome Jesus into our hearts, fresh and alive. We ask Him to give light to the struggles, to fill our empty spaces, to make us whole so that we can celebrate Him and Him alone. In our struggles, Jesus is with us. He has abundant life for us, so that we can make it through any holiday or normal time. Jesus is able to "rebirth" us – He does so every day – so that we may glorify God and enjoy God forever.

Peace in Christ, Rev. Dr. John

¹Songs sung by Andy Williams and Barry Manilow, respectively.

²<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/stress-management/in-depth/stress/art-20047544#:~:text=Try%20reaching%20out%20with%20a%20text%2C%20a%20call,dessert%20at%20a%20friend%27s%20home%20during%20the%20holidays> AND <https://seattlechristiancounseling.com/articles/depression-during-the-holidays-tips-from-a-christian-counselor>.

Prayer Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Family of Richard McCray (Ruth Laster's father), Mandy Chapman (Judy Chapman's daughter-in-law), Mimi England, Leo Cominquez and Marcus Hand (requested by Mary Ann Moriles, David Barrett (Dianne Hooten's brother), Albert Coughlin and family, Walter Howie, Sherry Allen, Frank Bradley, Mary Bridges, Chris Brogan, Charlie Brown, Susan Brown, Pauline Buchanan, Kendall Byrd, Jo Calhoun, Ken & Janis Campbell, Martha Campbell, Jack Candy, Lucie Cantrell, Teresa Carpenter, Marcia Cartledge, Denise Chapman, Amari Chukwura-Nichols, Thomas Chukwura, Betty Colwell, Felix Cruz, Terry Dyche, Don Flint, Christian Funderburk, Angela Funk, Betty Gammage, Wendy Garcia, Jessica Giddens, Bob Grandinetti, Susie Grant, Bob Hardy, Beth Harper, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Jean Jackson, Tom & Betty Janes, Cassandra Jerald, Autumn Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Jim Kelly, Mariam Ladores, Berniece Lillegard, Doug Lozel, Don McGhee, Peggy McKiness, Nathan McNabb, Allan Mears, Beth Nuss, Grandpa & Grandma Moriles, Florette Njonu, Debbie Noon, Judah Nunnally, Doris Ragan, Don Riffe, Charlene Speer, James & Floryne Spence, Steven Sterzik, Rafael Tatlonghari, Sharon Veldsma, Sharon Walton, Carolyn Weems, Linda Wheeler and Carey Zachos; Our nation, Missionaries in Haiti, Our Military: SGT Joseph Eason - Army—Syria; Steven Green II—Army; SGT Jonathan Johnson—Army/National Guard; TSG Richard Venizelos—Air Force, Iraq; Our Missionaries: Rev. Al Tinio & Family in the Philippines; Dan, Elizabeth, Frances, and Robert Turk in Florida;. Our College Students.

Christmas Cards



Christmas Cards. If you would like to send a Christmas card to everyone in the congregation to share your Christmas message, a good way to do that is to send one to the church to be placed in the narthex. The money you may wish to include in your card this year will go toward our new LED church sign that is currently being constructed for Lee Street. A huge "thank you" to the Grant family for our Christmas trees that are in the sanctuary and narthex.

Youth Christmas Party



Youth Christmas Party, Sunday, December 19, 5 -7 p.m. at MPC. The Youth will have their annual Christmas party in the fellowship hall at church during the regular youth fellowship time of 5 - 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 19. The Hootens will provide dinner. Youth are asked to bring a wrapped ornament for the exchange.

Christmas in the Park

Morrow City Hall

December 4, 4-8 p.m.

Thank You Note

From the Worship Ministry Team... A big "Thank You" to all who helped decorate our church for this Christmas season including Nelson Ayodele, Ngozi Bivins, Donna Boggs, Bruce, Carol, & Corey Campbell, Ugo Chukwura, Romy & Mary Ann Moriles, Libby McNair, Sharon Goza, Dianne & Ronnie Hooten, Dock, Andra, and Ty Gammage, Norman & Linda Lillie, Deborah Venizelos, and any other elves we may have missed. A special thanks to Allen & Susie Grant for the flocked trees in our sanctuary and narthex.

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.



OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be in the sanctuary this December 24 at 7 p.m. It will include scripture read by members of the congregation. Our service will also include music by various people and a message from Pastor John.

The service will conclude with communion and candle lighting.

Kids' Club Dinner/Program and Joy Gift, December 12, 6 p.m.

Hark! the Herald! Kids' Club Spaghetti Dinner Program, December 12, 6 p.m. Please join us on Sunday, December 12 at 6 p.m. for our Kids' Club Spaghetti Dinner. Their special program will follow the dinner. The Joy Gift offering and Staff Recognition will follow.



Church Office Closed

December 22-24, 29-31, 2021

The MPC Church Staff wishes everyone
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



PW Officers 2022

MORROW PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2022 SLATE OF OFFICERS



Deborah Venizelos
Moderator



Anne Fordham
Vice-Moderator



Deborah Venizelos
Moderator-in-training



Diane Hooren
Secretary



Jo Callahan
Treasurer



Libby McNair
Treasurer



Sara Gore
Church Historian



Arash Thomas
Spiritual Growth
& Enrichment



Susie Grant
Missions & Outreach



Linda Little
Search & Resources



Audrey Sharpe
Dorcas Co-Chair



Pauline Buchanan
Dorcas Co-Chair



Libby McNair
Church Historian



Rosie Harmon
Church Historian



Deborah Venizelos
Virginia Dews Circle Co-Chair



Judy Chapman
Virginia Dews Circle Co-Chair



Carol Campbell
Morning Glory Co-Chair



Diane Hooren
Morning Glory Co-Chair



Lei Eason
Virginia Dews Bible Moderator



Suzanne Likut
Dorcas Bible Moderator



Group Shared
AM Glory Bible Moderator



Group Shared
AM Glory Bible Moderator

Presbyterian Women



PWCT—December 5, 12 p.m. The PWCT December Meeting Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 5 at 12 p.m. All 2021 and 2022 members are invited to attend. Mary Ann Moriles will be providing the lunch sandwiches. Please wear your Christmas attire.

The Virginia Dews Circle—December 13, 6:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Virginia Dews Circle will be on December 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for their annual Christmas meeting. A meal will be provided and gift exchange for less than \$10.00. Wear your Christmas attire. Lei Eason will have the devotion.



The Dorcas Circle, December 14, 10 a.m. The Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, December 14 in the fellowship hall at 10 a.m. for business. Following the meeting, the group will go to O'Charleys for lunch.

Morning Glory Circle. The Morning Glory Circle will meet online on Wednesday, December 1 and will meet for lunch at Chili's in Morrow on December 12 following the worship service.

Hope Totes Packing Party, December 18, 11 a.m. Please join us for our last 2021 Hope Totes Packing Party on Saturday, December 18 at 11 a.m. If you need items picked up, Twarna Johnson will pick them up between 8 & 10 a.m.

Items needed are hats, gloves, blankets, bags, and individual food items.

Christmas Concert, Dec 5, 5 p.m.

Troubadors Men's Chorus Concert, Dec 5, 5 p.m. The congregation is invited to a concert at Three Points Church (Paul Cook's church) located at 7576 Southlake Pkwy., Jonesboro, GA.

Bruce Campbell will be singing with this Men's Chorus. Admission is free and will be about an hour in length.

Along with the Troubadors, there will be special music by Paul and Danny Cook, and a sing-a-long with some of your favorite Christmas tunes.

The concert will also be on Facebook.



Oper Christmas Blessing - Dec 19



Operation Christmas Blessing was started in 2007 as a ministry of the Uptown Congregation Church in the Philippines. We are asking your help in supporting Grandma Moriles' special ministry through your prayers and financial help. Checks to MPC, earmarked *Operation Christmas Blessing*, may be mailed in to the church office, or placed in the offering plate along with your regular contributions on December 19.

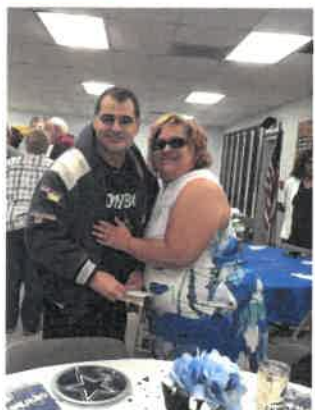
Downing of the Browns, Jan 9

Downing of the Browns – January 9, 12:15 p.m. Many volunteers are needed to help take down the church decorations. Please plan on staying after church. Your help would be greatly appreciated!



Butterfly Club Lunch, December 3, 1 p.m. The Butterfly Club will have their monthly meeting at IHOP in Morrow on December 3, at 1 p.m.

Scout Retirement Dinner for George Kempson and Felix Cruz



DECEMBER 2021

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|  | | | <p><i>1</i></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Morning Glory Google Meet Bible Study</p> | <p><i>2</i></p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p> | <p><i>3</i></p> <p>1 p.m. Butterfly Club at IHOP Morrow</p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p><i>4</i></p> |
| <p><i>5</i></p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook—2nd Sunday of Advent 12:15 p.m. PWCT 5:00 p.m. Youth 5:00 pm.KC online</p> | <p><i>6</i></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts</p> | <p><i>7</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Scouts</p> | <p><i>8</i></p> | <p><i>9</i></p> <p>11:15 a.m. Peacemakers Life Group at Sharon Goza's home</p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p> | <p><i>10</i></p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p><i>11</i></p> <p>10 a.m.-12 noon Family of Friends Life Group Brunch</p> |
| <p><i>12</i></p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Face- book—3rd Sunday of Advent 12:15 p.m. Morn- ing Glory Lunch at Chili's 5:00 p.m. Youth 6:00 pm.KC Spa- ghetti Dinner/ Program/Joy Gift</p> | <p><i>13</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. VA Dews Circle</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts</p> | <p><i>14</i></p> <p>10 a.m. Dorcas Circle</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Scouts</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Session Meeting</p> | <p><i>15</i></p> <p>10 a.m. Living Branch Life Group</p> | <p><i>16</i></p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p> | <p><i>17</i></p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p><i>18</i></p> <p>8-10 a.m. Hope Totes Pickup</p> <p>11 a.m. Hope Totes Packing Party</p> |
| <p><i>19</i></p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Face- book—4th Sunday of Advent— Operation Christmas Blessing 5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, fh Hosted by Hootens</p> | <p><i>20</i></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts</p> | <p><i>21</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Scouts</p> | <p><i>22</i></p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p><i>23</i></p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p><i>24</i></p>  <p>7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p><i>25</i></p>  |
| <p><i>26</i></p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School in person 11 a.m. Worship In person and Virtual by Facebook 5:00 p.m. NO Youth or Kids Club</p> | <p><i>27</i></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts</p> | <p><i>28</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Scouts</p> | <p><i>29</i></p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p><i>30</i></p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p> <p>Office closed</p> | <p><i>31</i></p>  <p>Office closed</p> | |

DECEMBER

December Birthdays

12/6 - Ugo Chukwura
 12/8 - Daya Tenson
 12/9 - Twarna Johnson
 12/11 - Cal Folds
 12/12 - Stephanie Lozel
 12/13 - Jaden Robinson
 12/14 - Audrey Sharpe
 - Malani Howard
 12/17 - Penny Sierra
 - Stephanie Venizelos
 12/19 - Drayl Johnson
 12/22 - Kevin Moriles
 12/23 - Kathy Prince
 12/24 - Ivana Follykoe
 12/25 - Our Lord & Savior Jesus
 12/27 - Janis Campbell
 12/28 - Immanuel Follykoe
 - Barry Weems
 12/29 - Eric Asare
 12/30 - Mark Patrus
 12/31 - Hannah Folds



December Anniversaries

12/12 - Gary & Annie Johnson (29)
 12/15 - Felix & Maria Cruz (15)
 12/17 - Dock & Andra Gammage (27)
 12/28 - John & Tamara Callahan (28)
 12/31 - David & Angela Turner (31)
 - Tenson Pitchaimani & Daya Tenson (20)



Financial Health—November, 2021

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| November 7 | - \$ 4,585.00 | Needed: |
| November 14 | - \$ 7,656.77 | \$ 22,198.08 |
| November 21 | - \$ 4,164.00 | Received: |
| November 28 | - \$ 1,746.00 | \$ 19,489.77 |
| Online | - \$ 1,338.00 | |

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

November 7 - 22
 November 14 - 19
 November 21 - 17
 November 28 - 18

IN PERSON WORSHIP

November 7 - 51
 November 14 - 66
 November 21 - 55
 November 28 - 58

ELDERS ON CALL - Primary: Twarna Johnson
 Secondary: Dianne Hooten

USHERS: - David Turner, Captain; Terry Broom,
 Twarna Johnson, Roxie Romine

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH - Dorcas Circle