



**MORROW
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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Sunday Schedule

Virtual Sunday School—10 a.m.
(See inside for details.)
Worship—11 a.m. Facebook Live

Food Pantry: Thursdays 2-6 p.m.
Church Office By Phone Only

"Reflecting Christ Together"

Renovations Taking Place

The fellowship hall, toddler room, and nursery floors have been redone! They are looking great and waiting for the time when the church building is filled again.



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MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Morrow Presbyterian
Herald**

THE PASTOR'S PEN



Do you remember me preaching about Job a few weeks ago? What a pathetic character to look at during these strange and interesting times. Well, here's another pathetic character to consider, Jonah. What is it with you and these miserable creatures we have to think about while we're miserable, Pastor John?!? I have a reason.

Jonah was given a time-out (Jonah 1:17-2:9) He was an unruly child and like a parent God placed him in a corner, so to speak, to help him reconsider his actions. Jonah languished in the belly of a large fish. For three days he imagined himself in the belly of Sheol, the Grave, the Place of the Dead, and he thought he was lost forever. The deep waters enveloped him, life was draining from his body, and the temple of God, God's holy presence, was light-years away. He cried out to God for help, and God answered. God put him in the belly of a large fish, and so at the right time God would pull him from that gastronomic prison, and Jonah would be exactly where he was supposed to be. "Salvation belongs to the Lord," Jonah would proclaim. It is in God's power to save us, even from intolerable situations in which we may be encased.

I mention Jonah because all this "social distancing" has become a sort of prison to us. Staying at home isn't all it is cracked up to be. It isn't the belly of a large fish, but over the weeks it feels as though we have been placed in a time-out. We have lived in a sort of confinement that is not natural to the way we are used to living. We feel we have languished for too long. We are tired of all the limitations, and we wonder if God has been far away all this time.

At some point we are going to be "spat out." The restrictions will be lifted, and we will find ourselves on new dry ground. When the time comes, can we say that our time of "social distancing" was a productive time? In our languishing have we only stayed bored and miserable - did we think we were lost forever - or can we say we maintained hope and learned much about ourselves and God? Even in the belly of a large fish Jonah used the time for reflection and worship. We should do no less.

In this belly of isolation, we may have learned what true trust and faith in God are, clinging to God for dear life and wholeheartedly believing God gets us through. We may have learned how to worship God in different ways, realizing that even in our quiet spaces God is adored. We may have found ways to connect with others, that even as we stand apart we may still reach out to others and let them know we love them. We may have discovered that we don't have to sink under the cool, deep waters of bad news or be throttled by the strong, copious weeds of disinformation. In the belly of isolation, we may be able to say that we became different people, who feel closer to our God. We feel the pull to be better children who will obey and submit our will to our Father's will unconditionally.

Hopefully our time has been a time of growth. Hopefully our time will continue to be a time of expanding faith and love and hope. When it is all said and done, let us not forget what God did with us in March and April. Let us not forget how God transformed us even in the belly of something we hope never to encounter again. With God's help we will be exactly where we are supposed to be, different people than when it all first began.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

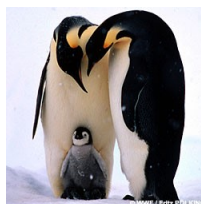
Prayer Requests

PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS End of COVID-19, Family of Charles Campbell (Ken's brother), Family of Janice Lee (Lacita Robinson's mother), Family of Lila Haney (friend of Hootens and Warlicks), Peggy Hamilton (friend of Libby McNair), Justin Cos, Carol Bevil, Mary Bridges, Allene Brown, Ken Campbell, Bill & Lucie Cantrell, Marcia Cartledge, Judy Chapman, Stacy Clanton, Betty Colwell, Felix Cruz, Jamzia Davis, Lei Eason, Jessica Giddens, Susie Grant, Julie Haney, Robb Haney, Bob Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Betty Janes, Drayl Johnson, Chrissy Kilgore, Berniece Lillegard, Kendra Lomax, Doug & Stephanie Lozel, Grandma & Grandpa Moriles, Judah Nunnally, Virginia Oswalt, Jean Palfrey, Doris Ragan, Charlene Speer, Emily Starr (Golden Crest), Lerna Tatlonghari, Craig Thorn, David Turner Sr., Sharon Veldsma, Stacy Weems, Beth Wheeler, Eddy Wheeler, Terry & Margie Williams, and Susan Wolpin. **OUR MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Al Tinio & family in the Philippines; Dan & Elizabeth Turk – Florida. **OUR MILITARY:** Steven Green – Army; Jonathan Johnson, Army, Georgia; Richard Venizelos – South Korea; Jeremy Butler – Marines; PFC Najee Hall, Army, CA; Kevin Krebs, AK. Our K-12 and College Students who are now learning from home—and their teachers.

A full prayer list will be emailed weekly to the congregation while we are not meeting.

May Birthdays

5/2	-	Marissa Buck
5/3	-	Ines Follykoe
5/6	-	Betty Janes
	-	Ndiya Onuoha
5/9	-	Jesus Delgado
	-	Joseph Thomas
5/10	-	Rebekah Venizelos-Taylor
5/11	-	Lei Eason
	-	Dianne Hooten
5/15	-	Kim Patrus
	-	Hanna Warlick
5/18	-	Mary Nell Winkles
5/20	-	Arrah Thomas
	-	Marty LeDuke
	-	Earl Stewart
5/23	-	Kathlyn Moriles
	-	Mike Sneed
5/24	-	Carol Oswalt
5/25	-	Marco Sierra
	-	Alyssa Tuttle
5/29	-	Steve McLeod
5/30	-	Margaret Cofie
	-	Ty Gammage
	-	Jeannell McElrath



Office News

The Church Office is Closed until further notice.

You may still call the church number (770-961-5444) to reach Dianne Hooten at home.

You may also reach Pastor John or Dianne by sending us an email:

mpcpastor@bellsouth.net

mpcsecretary@bellsouth.net

May Anniversaries

5/13	-	Joseph & Arrah Thomas (3)
5/20	-	Bill & Lucie Cantrell (59)
5/25	-	Otis & Nnenna Onuoha (24)
5/28	-	David & Stacy Weems (21)

Financial Health—April 2020

April 5	-	\$ 6,829.00	Needed:
April 12	-	\$ 9,321.00	\$23,434.60
April 19	-	\$ 1,679.00	Received:
April 26	-	\$ 3,262.00	\$21,091.00



Ways to give to Morrow Presbyterian while we are not meeting:

- 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.



Over 40 days alone in my house with more isolation to come. Oh, woe is me...but wait...I have so many blessings...a comfortable home, with electricity and indoor plumbing(!), plenty of food, and basically, everything I need along with so many extras. What are those extras? A precious couple surprising me with a delicious homemade meal, phone calls from so many friends "just checking in," handmade Easter cards from a 2 neighbor children, yummy cookies dropped off by a friend, a handful of beautiful flowers dropped off from a neighbor's bush, and a neighbor that I've only waved to leaving her number in my mailbox saying she will do my shopping. Then there is seeing and hearing the grandboys play the piano and other instruments and my 15-year-old grandgirl having (and taking) the time to call a couple of times a week. My church family showing such care and digital mastery that I am connected to our wonderful services. MPC, you've really stepped up and reminded us how God is surrounding us with His love and protection. Yes, this is a serious and disturbing time for all of us. Although it is frightening, God will carry us through the hard times and show us the beauty that we might have overlooked before. God's word is alive and active in me...because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Tricia Koehler

Did you know that one of our members (possibly more of you out there) prays for each member of our congregation three times per day at 7 a.m., 12 noon, and 7 p.m? Been feeling the love and support?

Sunday School is still happening! Did you know that you can join a virtual Sunday School class? **Allen Grant & Romy Moriles** are alternating teaching the McNair/Seekers Adult SS class. If you would like to join them on Sundays at 10 a.m., email Andra Gammage at 33gammage@gmail.com. **Dock Gammage** is leading the Young Adult (with no age limit) Sunday School class. To join his class, email Dock at Dock.Gammage@gmail.com. The Middle School Class is still meeting virtually with their teacher, Mary Ann Moriles. If you are in Middle School, contact Mrs. Moriles at mmoriles@aol.com.

We have 2 Graduates!



HIGH SCHOOL

Chase Alexander Gammage will graduate with the Class of 2020 from Union Grove High School. The date of graduation will be June 25 (or July 23 depending on social distancing), but his last day of school is May 8.

Honors & Awards: Academic Letter, A/B Honor Roll, Wolverine Basketball Award, Wolverine Athletic Leadership Council.

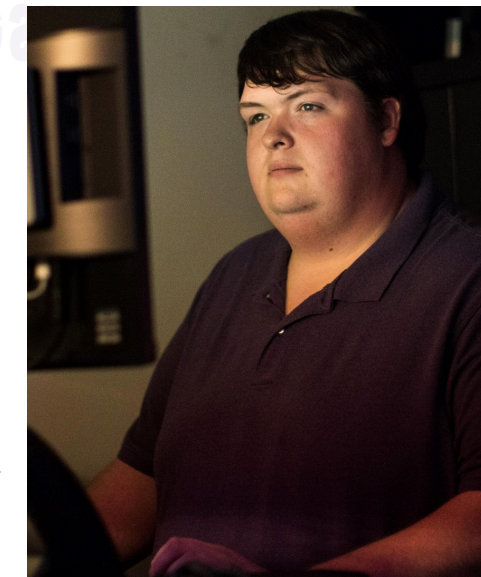
School & Church Activities: MPC Youth Group, UGHS Baseball Team, UGHS Basketball Team (Captain)

Plans for the Future: Chase will be attending Georgia Southern this fall to study Sports Management.

COLLEGE

Ian Shon Turner graduated on April 1, 2020 from Western Governors University. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Cyber Security and Information Assurance.

Ian continues to work for Georgia Tech Research Institute as an Information Technology Support Lead.



Congratulations
Chase & Ian!

