

Morris Memorial



MORRIS MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

AUGUST 2019

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

Recently a lady shared with us a little about her history. Her family was large and very poor. One Christmas there was a knock at the door and when it was opened, there stood Santa Claus! Imagine the delight in each of the children's hearts!! He proceeded to give each of them a gift, and needless to say, they were overjoyed! After that, Santa gave their parents boxes of food. The parents broke out in tears, so thankful they would have food to put on the table for the Christmas season. The children were all so happy; they could not understand why their parents were crying. It wasn't till much later that they understood those were tears of joy and gratitude!!

The lady shared what an impact Santa's visit made on her then and on into her life. The time came when she could begin to experience the joy of giving to the less fortunate and now she does so as often as she can. She said, "There's a time to give back." No matter our reason-----whether it's personally giving back to those less fortunate out of our gratitude for our many blessings or because of having a first-hand experience of being the one who was in need who was blessed.....there is definitely a time to give back. The lady shared this important lesson from her heart.....as we pass this along to you. Thank you for taking time to give back!



If you would like to donate food this month, please consider Canned Meat, Canned Soup, and/or Single-portion containers of Fruit.) As you know, we are grateful for any food or money you donate. Please place the food in the woven trunk in the Narthex. If you would like to write a check, please either make the check out to Morris Memorial Church and in the bottom left-hand corner write Common Grounds and put it in the offering plate or make it out to Common Grounds and give it to Susan Vieweg for Common Grounds. As always, we truly appreciate your prayers. Thank you for your willingness to share in whatever way(s) you choose or can. May God bless you richly!

If you are interested in learning more about Common Grounds, have comments to share, or would like to volunteer here, please contact Susan Vieweg, Morris Memorial's Common Grounds Coordinator at (304) 344-2617 or (304) 549-6155.



Please remember in prayer these members of our church family on their special day

Kaitlyn Hess	August 1	Ethan Hess	August 13
Deborah Burdett	August 2	Marta Dean	August 14
Janet Parker	August 2	Ryan Anderson	August 17
Carl Fletcher	August 4	Bob Howell	August 17
Tim Pittman	August 6	Mattie Thompson	August 19
Michael Duffie	August 7	Jeanne Basford	August 20
Teddy Bledsoe	August 12	Ruby Jolliffe	August 20
Debbie Barber	August 13	Chris Terpening	August 20



Jackie & Barney Frazier	August 1	Hilda & Clyde Hedrick	August 10
David & Sharon Byrd	August 4	Shirley & Steve Jones	August 26
Bob & Chris Kirby	August 7	Joan & Jim Waggy	August 28

Lector Schedule

	8:30	11:00
August 4	Mary Collins	Karen Winter
August 11	Carolyn Ballard	Jim Kautz
August 18	Nancy Duncan	Kitty Epperly
August 25	Marie Cole	Jim Caudill

As we consider our individual roles in this world, in our churches, and in our circles of family and friends, it is important for us to realize that the only perfect person to have ever walked the earth was the Son of Man.



In thinking about my own imperfection, my own humanity, and my own sinful nature, I am humbled by the following anonymous writing of one of our own parishioners here at Morris Memorial United Methodist Church.

IMPERFECT

*"If you love imperfection,
Then, you will love me.*

I do not deceive.

I am imperfect, as imperfect can be."

We need to be reminded from time to time as we live out our Christian lives with each other.

Pastor Bob

Thank you to the generous folk at Morris Memorial, who have once again responded to a request for missions giving. As of July 21 Gloriann and I have received \$ 2330 to help pay for expenses associated with our mission trip to southern Mexico. This will cover the cost of getting our donated supplies into the country and we may have a little extra to buy some more supplies when we get there, as we always have to buy some supplies locally when we run short.

We leave August 3 and return August 10. If our flights are on time we will see you in church Sunday August 11.

---Jim and Gloriann Caudill---





UPCOMING EVENTS

Mondays:	9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors
	9:30 a.m.	Nurture in Action
Wednesdays:	6:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors
	10:00 a.m.	MEC Chapel
Fridays:	9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors

August 1– UM Men at 6:00 p.m.

August 2 – Fellowship at Harding's Restaurant at 6:00 p.m.

August 8 – Knit Wits at 2:00 p.m.

August 8 – Community Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

August 13 – Finance Team at 6:15 p.m.

August 13 – Admin. Board at 7:15 p.m.

August 22 – Knit Wits at 2:00 p.m.

August 22 – Community Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

August 27 – PPRC at 6:00 p.m.



	<u>July 7</u>	<u>July 14</u>	<u>July 21</u>
Sunday School	50	49	44
8:30 a.m. Worship	73	61	59
11:00 a.m. Worship	120	87	156

Update on the Morris Community Dinners

A big **THANK YOU** to all who responded to our request for contributions which will enable us to continue serving our community through the Morris Community Dinners. As noted in last month's newsletter, this ministry is solely sustained by donations and relies on the generosity of our congregation.

We appreciate your support.

Gloriann Caudill & Mark Miller
Morris Community Dinner Co-Coordinationators



Join the Morris Praise Band and our very own Brothers in the Cross as they perform at JesusFest! Eight other musical groups will also be performing – you don't want to miss this! The event is free and all are invited!

Word From Pastor Steve

(Note: This article arose out of a recent wedding I performed.)

“LOVE and MARRIAGE”

Our society talks a lot about love in poems, songs, and sayings, but so much of it isn't always all that accurate or helpful. **Love at its best and highest comes from God**, because love is **central and foundational** to the very nature of God. And in the Bible, God spells out clearly what **true love** is. For example, check out 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 as expressed in the Living Bible paraphrase:

“Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him or her no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him or her, always expect the best of him or her, and always stand your ground in defending him or her. All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever.”

This is **true love**. It is **God's love**. And it can be our level of love, **if** we ask Jesus to bring God's love into our hearts. Then we can experience true love and live by it.

A man and woman's affection for each other leads them to the point of marriage. **Marriage is the committing of themselves totally to each other in order to experience the full measures of love for the rest of their lives**. That being the case, I want to emphasize **four components** of true love that I consider **absolutely essential** in order for a couple to experience the very best in their life together.

1. True love is **unconditional**.

Conditional love puts qualifiers on its expression. Conditional love says, “I will love you **if**, you always make me happy,” or “I will love you **if** you never hurt me or disappoint me,” or “I will love you **if** you never burn my steak!”

Unconditional love, on the other hand, says, “**I love you, period! I love you, warts and defects and all! I love you with a love that will help both of us grow and improve.**”

God's love for us is unconditional. He doesn't ask us to change before He will love us. He loves us from the very beginning. And as we seek to love Him back, we are transformed for the better. As **1 John 4:19** says, “We love because He first loved us.”

Recently I read about a bride who was nearing the end of her wedding preparations and who made a list of three areas that still needed her attention: “aisle, altar, hymn.” Her minister happened to notice her list, but based on some of her remarks during their premarital counseling sessions, he saw a different message there. He saw, “I'll, alter, him!” It's not wise to go into a marriage with a list of changes that **must** be made in your spouse right away in order for you to be satisfied with him or her. That attitude in a marriage can lead to frustration, division, and separation. Make sure your love is unconditional...

2. True love is **forgiving**.

There is a popular saying out there that comes from a movie produced several years ago called “Love Story”. The saying goes like this: “Love means you never have to say you're sorry.” The problem with it, is that it is simply not true! True love is always ready to say, “I was wrong. I'm sorry. Please forgive me.” And it also says, “I accept your apology. I forgive you.” It's an imperfect world.

(continued)

We are imperfect people. We all fail each other from time to time. There is no other way to stay in love and harmony **except** to willingly admit our failures and say that we're sorry.

Regarding our relationship with the Lord, the Bible says in **1 John 1:9**, "If we confess our sins, He (Jesus) is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." So in that same spirit, readily forgive each other. Seek to resolve conflicts quickly. As **Ephesians 4:26-27** says, "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."

3. True love is **sacrificial**.

Sacrificial love puts the needs and desires of others above its own needs and desires. As **Philippians 2:4-5,8** says, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.....He humbled himself and became obedient to death..." Again, Jesus (God) sets the example. Jesus didn't assert His rights as God. Instead, He put our need for a Savior ahead of His own desires, (and rights!!), and willingly died on a cross in our place. Jesus sacrificed Himself so that we could be **forgiven** and **restored** to fellowship with God. "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (**Romans 5:8**)

But what does it mean to forgive? It means to **set** the other person **free** from the **consequences** of their **failures** by **absorbing the pain** of their **failures** into **yourself**. This is called **sacrificial love**. It's the love Jesus has for us. It's the love He displayed on the cross. And it's the love He wants us to have for each other, **especially in marriage**.

4. True love is founded upon a bedrock of **commitment**.

There is another common, misleading idea floating around out there that is also **not true**. It is this notion that, "love will keep your marriage alive." This statement reveals a total misconception of marriage. It is asserting that feelings/ emotion will keep your marriage strong and alive. Actually, it is the opposite that is true. From the day of your wedding forward, it is your **marriage**, that is, your **commitment**, your **vows**, your **promises**, your **willingness** to stay **faithful**, to be **forgiving**, to **sacrifice yourself**..., it is all those things that will keep your **love** strong and alive!!

And my friends, **this right here!**, is **why marriage is so very, very important and essential!** It is a **given**, that temptations and distractions and troubles and challenges **will** come against your marriage. There **will** be turbulent, difficult, **dark tunnels** that you and your spouse will have to go through. It is your **marriage vows** and **promises**, it is your **COMMITMENT** to each other, that will get you **through** the dark tunnels and out into the **light** at the end.
Mere emotion and feelings will NOT get you there!

So for the **best** in **love** and **marriage** and **life**, let **God**, who embodies true love, **have His way** in your **hearts**, and He will help you **grow** your love into something very special. And then, not only will you **rejoice**, but all those around you, who care about you and are influenced by you, will **rejoice** as well!

(Dear friends, I'm sure that you are aware that God's idea of marriage is under attack in our society. It is being ridiculed, mocked, and rejected far and wide. It is being downplayed as "old fashioned" and "just a piece of paper." Or it is being entirely redefined. But as you can see from what I have just written, it is sacred and wise and far more than just a piece of paper. It is essential to God's plan for the human race. I have felt compelled by God to write down this message. It has taken many hours to complete it. If you think it is helpful and worthwhile, please feel free to copy it and distribute it wherever you want to.....)

Morris Enrichment Center

Why do we have a day care center here at Morris Memorial United Methodist Church? In 1956 our founding fathers looked around Kanawha City and the surrounding area, and realized there was a need for a Mother's Day Out Program and so began our Enrichment Center. As time passed the church saw a greater need as both parents had to work so they decided to help families with small children have a place where they would be safe and loved and taught how much Jesus loves them. Our Mission statement is very simple "To share Christ with children and their families as we provide learning experiences that will enrich their lives in spiritual, intellectual, physical and social development." Young children are very impressionable and what we want to do is impress on them that they are loved, safe, disciplined and encouraged to develop to their full potential. I am sure that when Ms. Velma High taught here, she was not worried about hands touching the wall or hearing crying in the hall but she was concerned with the souls of these little ones. Every day as I listen to children from age one up praying over their food, I am reminded of what Jesus said to the disciples "Suffer little children to come unto me" and realize we here at Morris are fulfilling the Word of God. Thank you, church family for allowing so great a ministry to exist in the Kanawha Valley.

Children
are
A gift
★ FROM THE
Lord
THEY are
reward
from Him.
PSALMS 127:3

So many have asked how is the center doing and I can only say we are doing very well and stay full and have a waiting list that is long. We in the past few weeks have had graduation for Pre-K and celebrated Mother's Day and Father's Day making gifts to honor our parents and if you come by you will see at least one group painting or blowing bubbles for the parents love art work. Soon these children will head back to school and it will be quiet around here.

Summer is here and the sound of laughter can be heard from children who feel secure and loved. The weather has been hot and balmy but we have found a way to keep cool, because we are too young to go swimming, so we have water sprayed on us or we sit around after a hard day's play eating popsicles. We invite you to stop by for a cup of coffee, a cookie or two and we gladly share our popsicles.

Georgeanne Leake, Director

Pastor Bob and Chris would like to thank the Morris family for the overwhelming welcome! Thank you to those who repaired and prepared the parsonage, those who cleaned and prepared the Pastor's study, those who brought meals and invited us to lunch or dinner, those who have given us information on the area or shown us around, and of course those who have prayed or offered a warm greeting. Thank you for all of your encouragement and support!



Get Acquainted with Pastor Bob and Chris Kirby

As we continue to welcome Pastor Bob & Chris, plans have been made to create small gatherings of our church family. Please choose a day, date, and time to attend one of the gatherings, or to host one, and complete with your full name and best phone number.

If you choose to host a gathering, indicate the address and time as well as your best phone number. Hosts will provide light refreshments. Please keep each group to a total of six to eight persons, not six to eight couples, in order for us to have some great conversation as we get to know one another.

Please keep in mind that Pastor Bob takes every Monday off as his Sabbath day. Feel free to contact him Tuesday – Friday at the office, his cell 302-588-7878 or at drbobkirby@gmail.com.

First Friday Food and Fellowship Planned for August 2

We will have a First Friday Food and Fellowship gathering at Harding's Restaurant on August 2 at 6 p.m. If you are looking for a way to get to know your church family, this is it! All are welcome!



USHERS

THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>POSITIONS</u>
August 4	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Susan & Bill Vieweg
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis
August 11	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Karen & Dean Silkwood
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis
August 18	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Teddi Smith and Karen Smith
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis
August 25	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Elizabeth Harrah and Sue Withrow
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis

Thank you to
EVERYONE
 who helped
 with Vacation Bible School
 in any way!!
 We had a fantastic week!
 Karen White, Director

