

# Morris Memorial



MORRIS MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

JUNE 2019

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

## *Confirmation to Be Celebrated June 9*

On June 9, which is Pentecost Sunday, we will celebrate the confirmation of four youth and at least one adult. Pastor Mark has led four middle school students through a series of classes dealing with basic Christian doctrine, the history of Christianity, the history of Methodism, the meaning of the sacraments, and the plan of salvation. Along the way they have memorized the books of the bible and the Ten Commandments.

Those who are confirmed will be answering several questions, all of which they have discussed at length with Pastor Mark. The young people are prepared to profess their faith in Christ and to make certain promises to God and to the congregation. Each of them has made very specific promises to Pastor Mark regarding support of the ministries of the church through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These fine young folks are taking these commitments quite seriously. Some have committed to tithing. (What an example for the rest of us!)

It will be a joy to celebrate the confirmation of Ellie Eskew, Clark Gillispie, Will Gillispie, and Samuel Morris. These fine young people have been active in our church for several years, as have their parents. We will also be confirming Mark Miller. Mark started attending our church after he met Pastor Mark at the 2017 M.E.C. Christmas program. He has a United Methodist background, but he had never become a church member. He has served as a mentor for one of our young people in the confirmation class. Our other mentors were Steve White, Richard Justice, and Nancy Justice.



**Confirmation**

Let Pastor Mark know if you would like to become a member of Morris Memorial, either by profession of faith or by transfer from another church. If you are willing to profess your faith in Christ and make the same sorts of promises that our young people are making, we would be happy to receive you as a member, too.

# June

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

Ingrid Smith	June 7	Charlie Winter	June 12
Robert Stigall	June 7	Cynthia Fletcher	June 19
Opal Hundley	June 8	Randy Dobbins	June 25
James Terpening	June 8	Karla Boyd	June 25
Gloriann Caudill	June 9	Cathy Dobbins	June 26
Candice Anderson	June 11	Gretta Skiles	June 27
		Katie Sokolosky	June 29



Karen & Jim Smith	June 1	Debby & Rick Johnson	June 16
Debby & Rick White	June 1	Gloriann & Jim Caudill	June 16
Donna & Paul Arbogast	June 5	Sheila & Bob Wade	June 18
Mildred & Teddy Bledsoe	June 7	Linda & Chuck Yanov	June 20
Robbie & Lori Skull	June 7	David & Marie Cole	June 21
James & Carissa McBurney	June 7	Patricia & Mike Duffie	June 22
Karen & Steve White	June 10	Cynthia & Carl Fletcher	June 27
Sharon & Tim Pittman	June 11		

## *A Fine Sendoff*

*I seem to be saying "thank you" again and again. Judy and I have many reasons to thank you, the people of Morris Memorial. Our farewell luncheon on May 19 was a splendid affair. The food was delicious, and you were so kind. We are grateful for the many cards and gifts. We are especially thankful for your prayers as we prepare for ministry in a new setting. Thank you and God bless you.*



	<u>May 5</u>	<u>May 12</u>	<u>May 19</u>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>8:30 a.m. Worship</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>11:00 a.m. Worship</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>113</b>

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### To anyone interested in worship at Morris Memorial:

As Chair of the Council on Ministries, I would like to invite you to a special meeting of the Worship Team on Monday, June 10 at 6:30 PM in the library.

We are about to have a transition in our senior pastor position at Morris Memorial. We have not had regular meetings of the Worship Team in some time since that team has not had a Chair. Fortunately, many of our members have kept worship activities moving at our church by assisting in many ways. The purpose of this meeting is to get all of us together to prepare for the transition of Mark Flynn to Bob Kirby.

There are many areas that people have volunteered to keep our worship activities occurring and being smooth. There are also many "holes" which have not been filled by any of the laity. These have been covered by Mark and Judy Flynn. Part of our meeting will be spent making sure all important worship areas will have someone responsible for them when the Flynn's leave. Anyone who has an interest in helping with worship at Morris is welcome to attend.

It is vital that we have a Worship Team which is functioning as well as possible to help our new pastor settle into place. Please come to this meeting if at all possible and let us know what you are willing to contribute to the effort. If you can't attend but are interested in continuing in your current or other duties, feel free to email me at [caudillfam@gmail.com](mailto:caudillfam@gmail.com) or call me at 304-421-1350.

Sincerely,  
Jim Caudill



**ALL ARE WELCOME**

COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

May has been a busy month for many of us and now it's time to begin Summer and enjoy the slower pace that usually affords. It is often the time for vacations as well, and Common Grounds volunteers are no exception. We are going to need temporary volunteers to fill in for our regular volunteers when they are away on vacation. We'd love to have you help us out. Please seriously consider volunteering to help us then. If you are willing and can be available on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, please contact Pam Higgs (304) 342-8845 or Susan Vieweg (304) 344-2617, Morris's representatives to the Common Grounds Board. We thank you for your consideration!

In last month's article we thanked our congregation for their generous offerings of food especially during the Lenten Food Collection (but also all the time.) We told you we would report back in this article how much the food donations from Morris Memorial alone have been since the beginning of 2019. At the end of April, Morris family and friends have donated 1035 pounds of food. Imagine that! Needless to say, it's helped us immensely in filling our boxes of food. You might find it interesting that during that same period of time, we have registered 39 new families and we distributed 650 boxes of food. We are making a positive difference in our own local area.....and thanks go to you for making it possible. We are working together to feed the hungry in Eastern Kanawha County, including Kanawha City.



If you would like to help us this month, please bring **CANNED SOUP**, **CANNED FRUIT** (preferably unsweetened), **AND/OR CANNED VIENNA SAUSAGES**. Your donation(s) may be placed in the woven trunk in the Closet in the Narthex. If you would like to give a donation by check, please make the check out to **Morris Memorial United Methodist Church** and in the bottom left-hand corner write "Common Grounds." If you are supporting Common Grounds with food, with money, by volunteering, and/or by praying for this mission outreach of our church, **YOU are MAKING A DIFFERENCE** in our own neighborhood! Bless you!

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

## Contributions for Mission Trip Requested

Gloriann and I are returning to Mexico for the week of August 3-10 for an Eye Care mission trip through Medical Ministry International. Our congregation has been generous in partnering with us whenever we have had unexpected expenses, and we find ourselves needing your support again this year.

One of the areas where we have problems yearly is getting our supplies through customs. We have several companies which generously donate supplies which we need to run our clinic and especially to provide cataract surgery. Unfortunately, often the Customs agents in Mexico City will not allow us to bring in some of the supplies. We never know from year to year what supplies we will be permitted to bring in and which we won't. This makes planning for our projects quite challenging.

Our missionary in Mexico has decided that, to be sure we get our supplies into the country, we should ship them in rather than trying to carry them in ourselves. Unfortunately we have to pay an import duty if we use this approach, and we anticipate it will be a fee of about \$ 4,000.

In a way this is still a bargain, as we anticipate performing about 125 cataract surgeries and giving away several hundred pairs of glasses in our week there. But this expense is not part of the budget for the project, so we need to raise money to cover this extra expense.

Every year we have the opportunity to help people who otherwise would have no way to regain their sight. I think of several special patients: A 7 year old boy who was sent home from school because he could not see and was therefore felt to be unteachable. He had cataract surgery on both eyes and is back in school. Or the woman in her 40's who went blind from cataracts at age 12. She had married and had four children whom she had never seen. None of us who saw her reaction will forget the joy of her being able to see her husband and oldest daughter when we took her eye patch off the day after surgery. Or the older man who was ready to commit suicide because he had gone blind from cataracts. He heard about our mission trip coming to town and decided to delay his suicide until giving us a chance to help him. He now goes to church with his daughters and thanks God regularly for his miracle.



If you are willing to partner with us in this mission project by donating to the cause, please put your contribution in the offering plate with the designation "Caudill Mission Trip." Checks should be made out to Morris Memorial. Your giving will be added to your regular tithes and contributions given to the church and will be tax-deductible. Contributions will be accepted in June and July, whenever you have an opportunity to give. Thank you for your continued support.

~Jim Caudill~

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## First Friday Food and Fellowship Planned for June 7

We will have a First Friday Food and Fellowship gathering at Firehouse Subs on June 7 at 6 p.m. Come enjoy a meal with old friends and new friends. Firehouse Subs is at 5707 MacCorkle Ave. S.E., Suite 100, near the DMV and the Beef Jerky Outlet. Firehouse has a nice variety of hot subs, cold subs, and salads. They also serve chili.



## *Thank You and God Bless You*

*June 9 will be my last Sunday to preach at Morris Memorial. I will miss this congregation. I will miss the staff. I will miss others in the community.*

*It was for many reasons a great honor to be appointed as your pastor five years ago. Soon after we moved to Charleston I found that Morris Memorial had some challenges which had not been mentioned to me. I also found, however, that there were some delightful people at Morris who were kinder and more generous than I would have had a right to expect. Even when the going got tough, I looked forward to every Sunday morning. I also looked forward to every Wednesday morning. Chapel with the children of M.E.C. was always a great joy. The Wednesday morning bible study was also a blessing.*

*The most shocking news that I received upon my arrival was that for several years the church had been spending more money every year and had been receiving less in contributions every year. With the help of a very fine Finance Committee we reduced the budget by \$50,000. This reduction in spending helped us, over time, to reduce our conference apportionment. We also had a couple of successful stewardship campaigns and increased the amount of contributions.*

*Our failure to resolve some other issues caught up with us, however. Conflict over the role of the Morris Enrichment Center, misunderstanding over some financial issues, disagreement over worship styles, and a nasty gossip mill all took their toll. Attendance began to decline noticeably, especially at the 11:00 service. Our giving resumed its downward trend. I regret that I was not able to lead in solving these problems, and I feel badly that Pastor Bob is going to have so many challenges here. The last couple of years have not been easy for me or for the church.*

*I hope that you will not give up. There are issues which need to be resolved, but this church still has a lot going for it. I believe that Morris Memorial has the most visible location of any United Methodist Church in the southern half of West Virginia. We have a facility which is both beautiful and functional.*

*More importantly than this, we have great people. We have members who are extremely generous. We have members who are deeply committed to Christ and to the church. The talent which we have in this church is truly remarkable.*

*As important as all of this is, we have something more important yet. We have the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*My time as your pastor is coming to an end. I will soon be serving in another place. There will be much for me to do in Hardy County as the pastor of the Duffey Memorial and Bass Churches, but I will not forget you. I will keep you, your church, and your new pastor in my prayers.*

*Bishop Steiner Ball understands that Morris Memorial is a good church with the potential to be a great church. She understands that this congregation is important to the community and to the annual conference. She has taken Morris Memorial seriously enough that she has recruited a specially trained pastor from another conference to lead your congregation. Pastor Bob brings many gifts, but he will need your support.*



*Please understand that although I love the people of Morris Memorial my commitment to Christ and to the United Methodist connection requires that I not interfere with your new pastor's ministry. (It also requires that I give my full attention to Duffey Memorial Church, Bass Church, and the Moorefield and Bass communities.)*

*I hope to hear from you now and then. It will be good to know how you are. I will be glad to share some news from our family (especially the grandchildren). When what you need is a pastor, however, you will need to contact Pastor Bob or Pastor Steve.*

*Thank you for your kindness, your generosity, your support, and especially your prayers. God bless you.*

*Pastor Mark*

### **Annual Conference is June 13-16**

Among the many important items which will be on the agenda at this year's session of the West Virginia Annual Conference is the election of lay and clergy delegates to the General Conference of 2020. Pastor Mark is a candidate for clergy delegate, and his daughter Rachel Flynn Fulton is a delegate for lay delegate. Annual Conference will be held June 13-16. Our church's lay member of the annual conference is Robert Stigall. Please include our conference session in your prayers.

### **Support a Wonderful Ministry of Hospitality**

You can support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern West Virginia just by saving the tabs from aluminum cans. Every donated tab helps provide a home away from home for families of seriously ill children. You can bring your tabs to church. There is a container for them in the window of the volunteer office. Don't assume that your tabs can come only from pop cans. They can also come from cans of soup, pet food, or vegetables, among other things. For more information speak with Ruth Ann Stigall.



RONALD McDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES

### *Liturgist Schedule*

	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>June 2</b>	Mary Collins	Sharon Byrd
<b>June 9</b>	Michelle Stigall	David Byrd
<b>June 16</b>	Nancy Duncan	Jim Kautz
<b>June 23</b>	Carolyn Ballard	Karen Winter
<b>June 30</b>	Beth Hall	Matt Skiles

## A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE

## “Wasted Trials”

*Jesus said, “What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight;  
what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.” (Matthew 10:27)*

Our Lord Jesus regularly takes us into the dark, that He may tell us important things. He leads us, for example, into the deep darkness of bereavement, or the scary shadows of disease and illness, or the crushing darkness of confusion and disappointment. It is there that He can often get our complete attention. It is there that He tells us His secrets, great and wonderful, if we are willing to listen. It is there, in the darkness, that we can more clearly detect His voice, which is so often drowned out amidst all the numerous voices and noises of earthly life.

But such communications and revelations **always** imply a corresponding, vitally significant **responsibility**: “**speak** in the daylight.....**proclaim** from the roofs.” It is not God’s will (in most instances) for us to always linger in the dark, or stay in the closet. At a time of God’s choosing, we will be given the opportunity to return to our place in the rush of life, and when that time comes, we are to speak and proclaim what we have learned.

This certainly gives new meaning to suffering, because one of the saddest and most frustrating aspects of suffering is that it often seems to have no clear and important **purpose**. This is often revealed in such common statements as: “How useless I am at this time!” “I feel so worthless!” “How, in this condition, can I do anything for anyone?” “What a waste of precious time and opportunity this is!”

Such are the desperate laments of the sufferer. But the truth is this: God **does** have a **purpose** for it all, even if you don’t readily see it. And often it has to do with some **message** that He wants you to share with others around you who desperately need to hear it.

Were the forty days that Moses spent on Mount Sinai wasted (Ex. 24)? Or that period that Elijah spent on Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19)? Or the years that Paul spent in Arabia (Gal. 1:11-18)? Or the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by the devil (Mat. 4:1-11)? My friends, there is no shortcut to the life of faith, which is the vital condition of a holy and victorious life. Like it or not, we must have these periods of lonely meditation and desperate fellowship with God. They are as essential to our maintaining a healthy and satisfying soul life, as food is essential to our maintaining a healthy, satisfying, and productive physical life.

So, my friends, **don’t waste your trials!** Rather, **learn** from them, and **use** them, to **get closer** to Jesus, to **honor** Jesus, and to **help** some other struggling souls who are facing similar circumstances.

Then when you are standing in some terrible trial that is hammering you like raging flood waters that have risen clear up to your neck, you can look out at those who are staring at you with paralyzing fear, and you can yell to them, “**Don’t be afraid, dear hearts, for I can feel the bottom, and IT IS SOLID!!!**”



# USHERS

THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>POSITIONS</u>
June 2	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Karen & Dean Silkwood
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis
June 9	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Bob & Sheila Wade
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis
June 16	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Sue Withrow and Elizabeth Harrah
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis
June 23	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Teddi Smith and Karen Smith
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis
June 30	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Reuben & Rebecca Gillispie
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ann Davis

## New Grandchildren for the Flynns

When Judy and I came to Morris Memorial five years ago, we did not have any grandchildren. Even as recently as last November we did not have any grandchildren. A little fellow named Ocean became part of our lives two years ago, when he became our daughter Rebecca's foster child. It was not certain that he would be a permanent member of our family until the adoption process was finally completed a few days ago, however.

On December first, Rebecca gave birth to a baby girl in Billings, Montana. Our granddaughter's name is Hannah Marie Ciesielski. We got to see her when we went to Montana in January. She was born healthy, and she has remained healthy.

On May 21, Rachel's baby boy was born in Oakland, Maryland. We got to see him just a couple of hours after he was born. His name is Wesley Daniel Fulton. Rachel and Wesley are both doing well.

Just two days later, a judge finalized Chris and Rebecca's adoption of Ocean. Officially, we went from no grandchildren to three grandchildren in less than six months. We also went from no grandsons to two grandsons in three days. The last full week in May was a joyous one for our family. We are grateful for all of your prayers for our family.

*Pastor Mark*