

Morris Memorial



MORRIS MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

MAY 2019

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE

“Continuing On”

As we continue to trudge our way through these days of transition and uneasiness, primarily within our denomination, but also somewhat in our local church as well, a word of hope, encouragement, and direction would be mighty helpful, don't you agree? And as usual, I continue to find such help in Scripture. One particular lesson of note is found in Joshua 3. This is the time when Joshua has replaced Moses as the leader of Israel, (a BIG change for sure!!), and Joshua is now preparing the people to re-enter their homeland, which is often referred to as the Promised Land. They have been away from there for many, many years, and they are both excited and scared at the prospect of going back there. Part of their uneasiness is the fact that between them and their desired goal is a major **obstacle**, an obstacle known as the Jordan River, and it is at **FLOODSTAGE!** However, God directs Joshua to instruct the people to get up and move **toward** the river, while trusting God to actually provide a way forward **through** this very scary obstacle.

Now notice the specific instructions in verse 13: “As soon as the priests set foot in the Jordan, it's waters will be cut off....” Did you see it? The people were not to wait in their camps until the way was opened; they were to walk by faith. They were to break camp, pack up their goods, form in line to march, and move down to the very banks before the river would be opened. They must take **one step into the raging floodwater**, (thereby acting out their total confidence in God's promise to take them through it!), **before** the river would be cut off. And that's exactly what happened!

My friends, we **must** learn to take God at His Word and go straight on in duty and obedience, even though we can see no way in which we can go forward. We must **continue** to do what we know He wants us to do, regardless of the circumstances and obstacles. We must **continue** to proclaim forgiveness, deliverance, healing, and LIFE through personal faith in Jesus Christ! And we must **continue** to provide help for people's material and emotional needs! This is not a time to back off and become inactive! Nor to “wait and see what will happen”! The reason we are so often defeated by difficulties is that we expect to see them removed before we try to pass through them. But that is not God's way!! God calls us to first, “step into the water.” So this time, let us not be found standing still, waiting for the obstacles to be removed. Rather, let us move forward every way possible, trusting God, as if there were no obstacles at all!

I invite you to join me in recommitting to:

Go where God tells us to go,

Do what God tells us to do, and

Be the people of faith that God calls us to be.

And be assured, dear hearts, there will be a great life awaiting us on the other side of all these obstacles, uncertainties, and changes! **God promised!....**



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

Felicia Dobbins	May 1		
Josh Terpening	May 1		
Judy Darr	May 2	Greg Eads	May 18
Jennifer Hicks	May 3	Shirley Daniels	May 24
Mary Jo Nichols	May 4	Rick Johnson	May 24
Becca Slack	May 6	Robert Wade	May 24
Phyllis Howell	May 8	Donna Stover	May 27
Makenzie Kresch	May 9	Debby White	May 27
Teresa Samms	May 9	Terry Terpening	May 27
Robert Legg	May 10	Doris Morris	May 28
B.A. Miskowiec	May 12	Donna Arbogast	May 31
Kitty Epperly	May 17	Ricky Turley	May 31



Phyllis & Bob Howell	May 10
Tony & Kimberly Hess	May 15
Bruce & Judy Reed	May 19
Amanda & Steven Schoenberger	May 24
Georgeanne & David Leake	May 26
Carolyn & Jerry Ballard	May 27
Julie & Kent Williams	May 28



	<u>April 7</u>	<u>April 14</u>	<u>April 21</u>
Sunday School	53	39	40
8:30 a.m. Worship	54	53	59
11:00 a.m. Worship	102	78	171

A WORD OF GENUINE THANKS

Our Good Friday Service here at Morris Memorial entitled “Dramatic Reflections on the Cross” was truly one of the most meaningful ever! Scriptures set the scene for each dramatist (each one was outstanding and so believable) followed by beautiful, timely music presented by soloists and instrumentalists. It was professional and so very moving. Many thanks to all of you who took part in presenting this service. Your time, talent, and hard work gave us an experience in which we were transported back to Jesus’ time. We were caught up in primary characters in Jesus’ life and how they experienced their relationship with Him. We in the audience grew in our understanding of those relationships with Jesus and ultimately in our own relationship with Jesus and what He did for us on the cross----a gift beyond measure. Hopefully we will be able to participate in this Good Friday Service again next year. If we are given the opportunity, mark your calendar and plan to attend. You can be assured that it will be time well-spent. Don’t miss it!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HAS BEEN
SET FOR JULY 14-18! PLEASE
SAVE THE DATE AND BE
SURE TO JOIN US!

COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

As of this writing, Morris Memorial has just completed the Lenten Food Collection for Heart and Hand as well as for Common Grounds. We have Judy Flynn to thank for all the organization and operation of this weekly event during the last four weeks of Lent. What a committed servant she has been! The families of the two mission outreaches are the beneficiaries of her hard work. Thank you, thank you Judy for giving our church members the opportunity to support these missions with this food donation project at this special time of year. It has been a great boost to us and our food stores. Thanks to one and all of you who were so generous as you shared of your resources to feed our local underprivileged. We are so grateful for each of you! (Note: Next month we will report back to you how much food

Morris Memorial has donated to Common Grounds so far since January 1, 2019. The last Lenten food donations will arrive at Common Grounds after this article is completed and we want to include those in the total.)

Not long ago we had a couple come into Common Grounds. They shared that they had had a house fire four days before and lost everything. The American Red Cross had “put them up” in a motel and would continue to do so for five more days. We were able to help them with food that they could cook and eat in their motel room, clothing, and even books to read. They were so grateful and we were pleased to be able to meet some of their most pressing needs.

As we shared with you earlier, the building in which Common Grounds is operating was up for sale. The beginning of the year the building was sold. The new owner has assured us that we can continue our operations as he has no other plans for the space. For now, we are pleased to be continuing “as usual” as we have for eleven years in that space.

If you would like to help us this month, please bring **BOXED CEREAL** (preferably unsweetened), **CANNED VEGETABLES**, AND/OR **TOMATO JUICE**. 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 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.....guaranteed! 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.



Items Needed for Mission Project

Morris Memorial will host the Midland South District Celebration of Mission Event, in conjunction with District Conference, on May 5 at 3 p.m. We are collecting items for use by the Heart and Hand House of Barbour County in their ministry with needy persons in their area. Heart and Hand of Barbour County and Heart and Hand of South Charleston were both mission projects of the West Virginia Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church before the merger of 1968, which brought the E.U.B. Church and the Methodist Church together in the United Methodist Church.



Heart and Hand of Barbour County is in need of the following items for families who are expecting babies: diapers, crib linens, receiving blankets, clothing, towels, washcloths, baby powder, lotion, shampoo, bibs, and bottles. We are also asking for the following hygiene items for needy adults: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shaving cream, razors, brushes, combs, Band-Aids, and toilet paper. Monetary donations would also be welcomed. Be sure to put C.O.M.E. on your check or your envelope. Please

bring your items or your monetary gift to the church no later than May 5.

Study to Prepare for Upcoming Worship Services

On Mother's Day, May 12, we will be thinking not just about the importance of the family but also about the importance of the church family. Pastor Mark will preach a sermon titled "Belong and Believe." In order to prepare for worship on that day you are invited to read Psalm 23, John 10:22-30, and Romans 12:3-5.

On May 19, we will learn that it is a mistake to identify only with those believers who seem to be the most like us. Pastor Mark's sermon will be titled "Us and Them." Our primary preaching text will be Acts 11:1-18. We will also be looking at John 13:31-35.

Then, on May 26, we will be looking at the biblical basis for mission. In order to prepare for worship on that day you are invited to read Acts 16:9-15 and John 14:25-29.

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®**

Knit-Wits Etc. Knit and Crochet for Fellowship and Mission

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, or if you would like to learn to knit or crochet, you are invited to be part of Knit-Wits Etc. These folks get together on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00 to knit or crochet and fellowship.

You are welcome to work on any project of your choosing, but you are also invited to work on dishcloths for mission. For more information, speak with Ruth Stigall, Marie Cole, or Judy Flynn.



Graduation Sunday



Join us on May 19th during the 11:00 service as we recognize our 2019 graduates. If you, or a family member, are graduating from high school or college this spring we would love to acknowledge you! Please submit this form to the church office, drop it in the offering plate, or send it to Erin at eborchers@morrismemorial.org. In addition, we would like to have a picture of each graduate, which will be returned. You can also submit the picture electronically to the above email as well. All information must be received by May 12th. Thank you!

Full Name: _____

School of graduation: _____

Degree: _____

Family members: _____

Future plans: _____

Interests and recognitions: _____

A Mother's Day Prayer

- Daniel Darling

Dear Father, we approach your throne on behalf of the mothers whom you have entrusted with the care of your most precious little ones. We thank you for creating each mom with a unique combination of gifts and talents. We thank you for the sacrifice of self each mom gives for her children. For the late nights spent rocking a colicky infant. For the hands calloused from washing, wiping, scrubbing, mixing, backing, stirring, hugging, patting, disciplining, holding, writing, erasing, painting, and pouring.

We thank you for the gift of time moms give for their kids, whether it's stay-at-home moms, working moms, and moms who have some combination of the two. We thank you for the flexibility of moms, for their tirelessness, their perseverance, and their devotion.

We pray you give each mom strength. Help her to see in every mundane task the eternal, cosmic significance that you place on motherhood. Help her to understand that the most radical, world-changing events may be happening anonymously in her home. Help her to forgive those who undermine her significance.

We especially pray for single moms, who must lean solely on you for the fathering of their children. We thank you that your big arms surround children who may never know their earthly father. We also pray for the women who never had the honor of bearing children, but whose nurturing extends to the many who cross the threshold of their lives.

We ask you to be the daily bread of tired mothers. We ask you to be their living water. We ask you to be their source of spiritual and physical strength. We pray that the same grace that flowed from Father to Son to us in salvation will flow from mothers to their children.

We pray that each mother rejects perfectionism and instead embraces the goodness of the gospel. We pray the rhythms of repentance and forgiveness shape every home.

Lord, give each mother a worshipful reverence of you, the Creator and Sustainer of life. Help each mother to rest in the knowledge that they are but stewards of your children and that only your Spirit can produce change into the hearts of each boy and girl. May each mother find rest in you. Most of all, Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb.



First Friday Food and Fellowship Planned for May 3



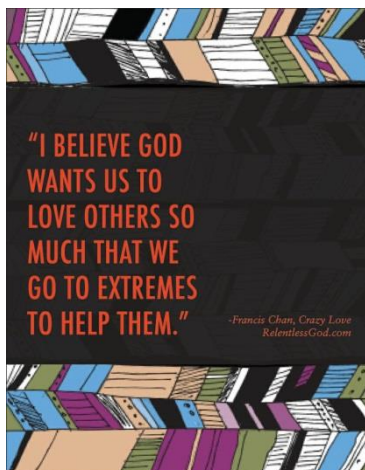
Our Friday Night Fellowship started back in April, on a monthly basis. Our next Friday night gathering at Firehouse Subs will be May 3 at 6 p.m. Come enjoy a meal with old friends and new friends. Firehouse Subs is at 5707 MacCorkle Ave. S.E., Suite 100, near the DMV and the Beef Jerky Outlet. Firehouse has a nice variety of hot subs, cold subs, and salads. They also serve chili.

Parsonage Issues Being Addressed

Our trustees have been busy with issues at the parsonage. Two circuits have been rewired. One light fixture has been replaced. The electrician will be returning to replace another light fixture and to address issues with the breaker box. A plumber corrected problems with toilets, replaced a gas line, and repaired a leaky drain.

The roofer who put on the new roof last June will be returning to eliminate the continuing roof leak. Two contractors have looked at our drainage problems and our structural problems. Once we have the house stabilized there will be sheetrock to replace, cracks to fill, and painting to be done.

In April the Administrative Board authorized \$12,000 for the parsonage in addition to the \$5,000 which is in the budget. We do not expect this to be enough for all of the work which is needed, however. We have some savings which we can use, but we hope that members will give special gifts for parsonage needs so that we will not have to use very much from our savings. If you would like to make such a gift, please write "parsonage" on your check or your envelope.



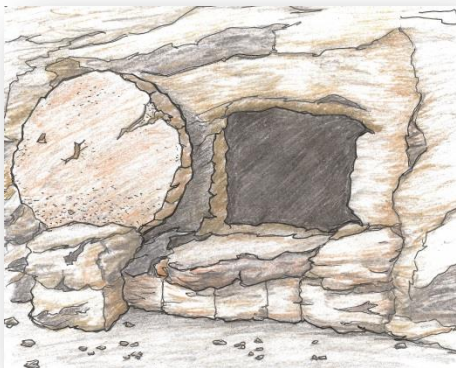
*If you know of someone in our church family
who is in need of pastoral care,
or someone with no church home who
is in need of pastoral care,
please call the church at 304-925-1413
or call one of the pastors.*

May Ushers and Liturgists

<u>DATE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>POSITIONS</u>
May 5	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Teddi Smith and Karen Smith Liturgist----- Marie Cole
May 12	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Gael & Doris Morris Liturgist----- Jon Browning
May 19	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Ted & Mildred Bledsoe Liturgist----- Bob Wade
May 26	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Nancy Duncan and Beth Hall Liturgist----- Carolyn Ballard

Easter Is Not Over!

You may think that Easter is over, but it is not. Easter will last into the month of June. Easter for Christians is not just one day, but seven weeks. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, does not end until Pentecost, the day when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).



You may remember that the Christian celebration of Christmas is not just one day but twelve. As Pastor Mark says, the birth of our Savior is too important to celebrate for just one day. The resurrection of our Savior is also too important to celebrate for just one day. The resurrection of Jesus makes all of the difference for us. It is worth celebrating for at least seven weeks.

Not only do we celebrate the resurrection for seven weeks out of the year, but we celebrate one day out of every week. Christians meet for worship on Sunday instead of Saturday (which is the Jewish Sabbath) because it was on a Sunday that Jesus rose from the dead. So, we celebrate the resurrection every Sunday.