

Morris Memorial



MORRIS MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2019

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

On Thursday, August 15 we were privileged to have two special guests visit Common Grounds. Pastor Bob and Chris Kirby came to learn about our church's mission outreach here. They were given a tour of our facility; they also learned about our history and how the three churches in Kanawha City work together to operate this outreach mission to serve our underprivileged neighbors. We also shared about Morris Memorial's specific involvement in Common Grounds throughout the year and our faithful volunteers who serve here or who work behind-the-scenes to support and/or enrich our ability to be Christ's hands and feet to those who come to us in need. Without the support of our faithful congregation our work here would be impossible. It takes us all! Wholehearted thanks to all who help in any way to make our mission to our local brothers and sisters such a success!

It's the time of year that gardens are producing the fruits of gardeners' labors. Needless to say we welcome fresh produce to share with our families. If you (or a friend, a neighbor, or a family member) have a garden and are fortunate enough to have it productive, please consider sharing extras with us. The fresh vegetables are a REAL TREAT for our people!! If you would like them picked up, please contact Susan at the phone number below and she will be glad to arrange for that.

Christ is at the center of our work and volunteers are at the heart of the operation of Common Grounds. We love volunteers of all ages. We are in need of volunteers and maybe, just maybe, God is calling you to come help us whether it be as a regular or a substitute. Please listen and if He's calling you (or He may be calling you), contact Susan at the phone number below to volunteer or to learn more about volunteering here. As a volunteer we go to bless; often we are the ones who are blessed!

If you would like to help us this month, please bring BOXED CEREAL (preferably unsweetened), CANNED SOUP, and/or BOXED MACARONI AND CHEESE. 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. As always, we appreciate any and all donations. Thanks again for sharing so faithfully in whatever way(s) you can or choose. May God bless you mightily!!

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.

♥ BY GIVING
SERVICE
TO OTHERS,
I GIVE
SERVICE
TO GOD. ♥



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

Larry White	September 1
Ruth Lancaster	September 1
John Jacobs	September 2
Jackson Anderson	September 3
Sheri Hicks	September 3
Sheila Wade	September 3
Debbie Johnson	September 4
Bob Kendall	September 5
Bob Leadbetter	September 7
Jim Kautz	September 8
Donna Jacobs	September 10

Lois Sisson	September 11
Barbara Skull	September 12
Melvin Lancaster	September 12
Carolyn Gibson	September 18
Judy Neal	September 19
Peggy Barker	September 20
Kay Brooks	September 26
Johnna Jacobs	September 26
Lynn Thompson	September 26
Bill Carpenter	September 27



Rick & Barbara Adkins	September 9
Barbara & John Skull	September 16
Gretta & Jerome Hairston	September 18

Cathy & Randy Dobbins	September 19
Chris & Terry Terpening	September 24
Debby & Mike Sokolosky	September 25

We will have flu shots available on September 29th and October 13th after both services. Please bring your insurance card and meet us in the gym!





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
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study (beginning Sept. 11)
	6:00 p.m.	Praise Band
	6:00 p.m.	JAM (beginning Sept. 11)
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study (beginning Sept. 11)
	7:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Fridays:	9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors
Sundays:	5:30 p.m.	Youth (starting Sept. 15)

September 5 – UM Men at 6:00 p.m.

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

September 10 – Council on Ministries at 6:30 p.m.

September 12 – Knit Wits at 2:00 p.m.

September 12 – Community Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

September 17 – MEC Board, 6:30 p.m.

September 24 – PPRC, 6:00 p.m.

September 26 – Knit Wits at 2:00 p.m.

September 26 – Community Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

September 29 – Flu shots available after both services

A Word From Pastor Steve

“Great Faith: Unwavering Confidence in God”

It seems to me that there are basically three stages of Christian faith. The first level of faith is when there are certain strong feelings, or perhaps a sign, like Gideon's fleece (Judges 6:36-40), accompanying and supporting it. The second level, a little stronger and more mature faith, believes God **even when** there is an **absence** of emotion or a sign. The third level is the highest, greatest, and most mature stage of faith. It **believes God and His Word EVEN WHEN** numerous voices **scream against** doing so! It believes God even when emotions, circumstances, appearances, people, and human reason all declare that trusting God in this situation would be ridiculous and disastrous!

The Apostle Paul exhibited this greatest, most mature stage of faith during the severe storm and shipwreck on his way to Rome in **Acts 27**. After many days and nights in the raging storm, nearly all 276 people on board had given up all hope of surviving. Then Paul stood up and said (vs. 23-25), “Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ So keep up your courage, men, for I **have faith in God that it will happen just as He told me.**”

This is the essence of **great faith**, of **mature faith**. It is simply **taking God at His word**. It is believing God and trusting God supremely. It is expressed clearly in that old adage, “God said it. I believe it. That settles it!” This is the level of faith lived out daily in the life of George Mueller, the renowned English evangelist and missionary who ministered in the 1800's. He had a deep love for God and a powerful prayer life that stemmed from his complete confidence in God. For example, on one occasion he was on board a ship headed for Quebec when it encountered a very dense and dangerous fog bank. It was so treacherous moving safely forward that the captain of the vessel had been on the bridge nonstop for an intense and slow twenty-four hours. It was then that George Mueller went to the captain and said, “Captain, I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec by Saturday afternoon.” The captain quickly responded, “It is impossible!” To which Mr. Mueller replied, “Very well, if your ship cannot take me, God will find some other way. I have never broken an engagement for fifty-seven years. Let us go down into the chart-room and pray.”

The captain looked at that man of God and thought to himself, “What lunatic asylum can that man have come from?!” But he finally spoke, saying, “Mr. Mueller, do you know how dense this fog is?” “No”, he replied, “**my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life.**” Then Mr. Mueller knelt down and prayed a very simple prayer. And when he had finished, the captain was going to pray, but Mr. Mueller put his hand on the captain's shoulder and told him not to pray. He then explained why, “First, you do not believe God will answer; and second, **I BELIEVE HE ALREADY HAS**, and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.” The captain just stared at him in shock until Mr. Mueller said, “Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to get audience with the King. **Get up, Captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog gone.**” So the captain got up, opened the door, and **the fog was indeed gone!** And on Saturday afternoon, George Mueller **was** in Quebec for his engagement...

(continued)

Wow!! Don't you want that kind of faith, trust, and confidence in God?! You can! We can! You can grow it and develop it **if** you genuinely, earnestly, and regularly seek to know God and get close to Him! God desires this mature level of relationship with us!

All this reminds me of another great English minister who lived in the 1800's. He was the legendary preacher widely acclaimed as "the Prince of Preachers". He was none other than Charles Haddon Spurgeon. On one occasion, he practically shouted, **"Oh brethren, be great believers! Little faith will bring your souls to Heaven. But GREAT FAITH will bring Heaven to your souls!"** WOW!! Can I get an "Amen!" for that?

So, dear friends, let's **decide** to **intensely pursue God** and **grow a GREAT FAITH**. Let's simply, but fervently **"believe God"**, no matter what. And as we do, I'm confident that **we will see great things happen!** Do you believe it??...

(PS: Maybe one of our battle cries should be: **"CONQUER THE FOG!!"** Just a thought....)

Lector Schedule

	8:30	11:00
Sept. 1	Chris Kirby	Steve White
Sept. 8	Jon Browning	Pam Higgs
Sept. 15	Beth Hall	Georgeanne Leake
Sept. 22	Robert Stigall	Matt Skiles
Sept. 29	Susan Vieweg	David Byrd

Kids and Youth Programs!

On Wednesday, September 11th our JAM (Jesus and Me) program will begin for children in grades K-4th grade. We will meet from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. and will offer bible lessons, music, crafts, hand bells, games, movies, and a light snack! This group will meet every Wednesday.

On Sunday, September 15th our Youth group for kids in 5th grade and up will meet at 5:30 p.m. Please come out and enjoy bible lessons, movies, games, music, field trips, projects, and snacks! Officers will also be elected and you will be asked to help with some of the activities! This is a great opportunity for youth and adults and we hope you will consider attending! This group will meet every Sunday.



Morris Enrichment Center

Sitting here looking out the window and wondering just how hot it is outside. This week we heard the “school bells” ring and all of the school children have gone back to school and that left an empty void in the gym. The children planted a garden, helped fix backpacks for schools and learned how to cook from the West Virginia Extension Department. They even learned to eat some new foods with strange names. I tried out some but gave up when I couldn’t pronounce the name of the food I was eating. The halls seem empty without them.

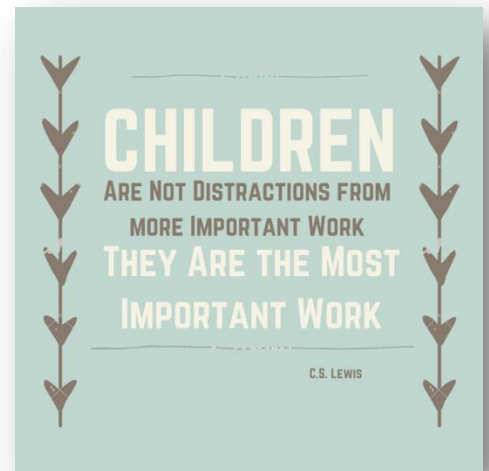
Pre-K has started and here come 39 four-year old children who are ready to learn! What a time of eagerness, crying, fighting and wanting to go home! We have had lots of fun even though the teachers looked weary and tired. They all enjoyed chapel, especially the singing, and even with some tears there has been a lot of laughter.

I thought maybe fall was in the air since school has started, but no, the temperature is still in the 90’s and it’s definitely still summer. Here I am ready for pumpkin spice for my coffee and maybe a cinnamon roll or two, but we are sticking to popsicles and trying to stay cool.

God has been good to us at the day care by sending the right people to help us at the right time. So many times, in this busy life we all lead we forget that God knows our name. He thinks about us and has plans for us and when we need Him, He is our refuge. I have been trying to stop during the day to look back at what God has done here for us at Morris because the day care is a ministry of our church, and especially what He has done in my own life. If you had told me last year my heart was ready to explode, I would have laughed at you since I was running up and down steps and working every day. I was having fun with the children and when I was told I had to have a triple by-pass, I have to admit I wasn’t ready to accept what the doctors told me. I can see that this whole time God had His hand on my life. He had protected me even when I was so blind at what He had been telling me, I needed to slow down a little. My body was getting older, but I still felt like I was 20 in a 72 year old body. I am so thankful to be back to normal and able to run and play with the children. All I can ever say when someone asks me about my surgery, is “God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!”

Please stop by for a visit, rock a baby, have a popsicle, a cookie, or just a cup of coffee the door is always open for a visit from you.

Georgeanne Leake, Director



Sunday School Contest!

On Sunday, September 8, 15, 22, and 29th we will be collecting cans of food for Common Grounds through our Sunday School classes! This is a contest between the classes and we are looking forward to a great deal of participation!

The adult chancel choir will begin on September 4th with a cover dish dinner at 6:30 followed by rehearsal at 7:30. Please bring your favorite dish. He is looking for new choir members and Larry says, **"If you can sing in the shower you can sing in our choir."** He is excited about a new year of praising the Lord in song and he has already selected the Christmas cantata.



If you are interested in helping with our Children's Moments during our 11:00 service, please contact Erin at the church office. We could always use more volunteers and your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Children's Moments Schedule

	11:00
Sept. 1	Judy Neal
Sept. 8	Sharon Byrd
Sept. 15	Georgeanne Leake
Sept. 22	Jon Browning
Sept. 29	Karen Winter

Operation Christmas Child

We have started collecting shoe box items for our packing party in November. We are in need of a great deal of items, such as: School supplies - single subject notebooks, box of 24 crayons, markers, pencil sharpeners, rulers, scissors, pencils, and erasers; Personal items - wash cloths, bar soap, toothbrushes, hair bows, hair ties, combs, and brushes; Toys - jump ropes, yo-yos, small stuffed animals, match box cars and trucks. We are preparing shoe boxes for 50 boys and 50 girls ages 5-9. Your donations are greatly appreciated! See Karen White if you have any questions!



Nurture N Action Team News

Nurture N Action has been very busy sending monthly cards to members and non-members of Morris Memorial who are unable to attend church at this time. Currently we have 30 recipients of monthly cards. In addition, if the Team learns of a need, either in the church or a friend of someone in the church, a card is sent. The aim of the team is to let the individual know someone is praying for them as well as lifting them in Christ's love. If a need arises beyond a card, it is addressed. Nurture does monthly cards in the season when appropriate - Thanksgiving, Christmas (we deliver the card with a small gift we have prepared), Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, and Father's Day. If someone on our list has not been a mother or father, we send an appropriate card for them. If there are guests in the Sunday services and they live in our area, we have a Bread Ministry as well.

Nurture N Action monthly prepares 24 bag lunches for CAMC General Emergency Department and 6 bag lunches for individuals in the community. The personnel at CAMC and Erin here at the church know if there is a need. The bag lunch consists of: chicken salad, a cup of fruit, potato chips, cheese crackers, a cookie, and a bottle of water. It is our joy, pleasure and blessing to be involved in this ministry. Nurture also has baskets ready to prepare if a need arises due to a death in our congregation family. Through the years we have continued to expand on what we offer.

Nurture N Action meets every Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the church library and all welcome to join our "little band of angels!" The team began in late 2011 or early 2012, as a result of a seminar at Blackwater Falls on church growth and programming. Pastor Steve Rhodes headed up the team, and when he left we continued to follow the path of nurturing people because we get such joy in helping others. The meeting opens and closes with prayer and a great deal of excitement occurs each Monday morning.

If you know of a need or have one yourself, you may contact any member of the Nurture N Action team:

Danny Baker:	304-925-9878	Beth Hall:	304-543-6054
Carolyn Ballard:	304-925-1866	Karen Smith:	304-925-5305
Mickie Bowles:	304-925-2889	Teddi Smith:	304-925-9894
Marie Cole:	304-205-5325		
Mary & Bill Collins:	304-925-9002		
	304-549-3737		

Love JOHN 15:12
EACH OTHER
AS I HAVE *loved* YOU

We are the hands and feet in Christ's love!

USHERS

THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>POSITIONS</u>
Sept. 1	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers -----Beth Hall and Dean Patrick Ushers -----Ann Davis
Sept. 8	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers ----- Sue & Jim Shaffer Ushers -----Ann Davis
Sept. 15	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers ----- Reuben & Rebecca Gillispie Ushers -----Ann Davis
Sept. 22	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers ----- Gael & Doris Morris Ushers -----Ann Davis
Sept. 29	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers ----- Beth Hall and Nancy Duncan Ushers -----Ann Davis

Caudill Mission Trip Report 2019

Jim and Gloriann Caudill completed their recent mission trip to southern Mexico on August 10, 2019. We appreciate the support given by the congregation for this and previous trips. The congregation gave generously to help us send donated medical supplies to Mexico, and for the first time in memory we did not have any supplies held up in customs. Most importantly we know many of you were praying for us while we were gone. We thank you so much for that.



Our project this year went very smoothly. We performed almost 120 cataract surgeries in our four days of surgery, and saw about 550 patients in our five clinic days. Most of those patients received glasses; many of them received eye drops for various eye problems such as infections and glaucoma; and several were scheduled for surgery on future projects.

One of the doctors on the project put together a 10 minute video which shows a number of pictures of us at work, and the video includes some heartfelt words of appreciation from several of our patients. I encourage you to go to You Tube and look up "San Cristobal de las Casas Charles Cohn" and you will get a taste of the impact our project had on the people we served.

Thank you again for your support!