



Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals who preached a love of all God's creatures, everyone is invited to bring their pets to Morrow Church for a blessing of the animals.

We'll gather on Sunday, October 12, at 10:30am on the front church steps (on Ridgewood Road). Live and/or stuffed friends are welcome! People may also choose to bring a leash, collar, blanket, toy, or other representation of their pet for a blessing.

After the blessing, children are encouraged to gather in the back of the sanctuary and process in with their stuffed animals for the worship service. Pet owners are invited to bring their pets to MacDonald Hall for a supervised wait in their crates or cages during the service.

October 5 - World Communion Sunday

8:15 am - Worship in the Chapel, New this Fall!

9:00 am - Free Community Breakfast

9:30 am - Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 am - Worship in the Sanctuary

12:00 pm - Women's Retreat: "Beyond Passing the Peace"

In This Issue

- "A Community that Bears Fruit" Pg 2
- Family Ministry Events Thank You! Pg 3
- Fall Highlights Pg 4
- Music Notes Pg 5
- Morrow Church Calendar Pg 7
- Stay Connected Pg 8

A Community that Bears Fruit

Greetings from Pastor Chris Heckert

Last year, my family and I joined the Morrow day of gleanings with America's Grow-a-Row. Our task that day was to pick up all of the apples that had fallen off the trees in a you-pick-it apple orchard.

There seemed to be every variety of apple from trees lined up in row after endless row, from Golden Delicious, to Fuji, to Macintosh. While I am sure that the farm is a successful business where families come to pick their own apples, their generosity in allowing us to pick up good apples that had fallen to the ground produced its own fruit: providing nutritious produce for Newark families who might not otherwise have had access to it.

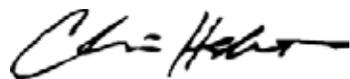
The church is God's community - a place where people from all backgrounds and varieties are grafted onto one vine, Christ.

But we don't exist for ourselves alone. The church is at its best when it is in action, bearing fruits of faith and impacting lives.

Just in this past month, Morrow Church has been bursting with fruits of raising funds to purchase an ambulance for Sierra Leone; launching a new worship service that will bring new people into our community; and beginning our children and youth programs that engage young people for mission and ministry.

As the month of October emerges, may we continue to live not as a community of comfort, or convenience, but may Morrow Church thrive as a community that produces much fruit that impacts lives - the lives of others and even our own!

Grace and peace,



Rev. Chris Heckert, Senior Pastor



**My Father is glorified by this,
that you bear much fruit and
become my disciples.**

John 15: 8

Family Ministry Events

At Morrow Church, we know how important it is for children and youth to have lots of opportunities to grow and explore their faith with friends of their own age. We also know that families are the primary place for faith growth and nurture. So Morrow Church also offers resources to support families, including: a small book group for parents and children; online devotion resources connected to the Sunday School lesson; and family events to learn and serve.



OCT. 11 Family Gleaning with America's Grow-a-Row, 9:30am - 12:30pm

Join us as we work with America's Grow-A-Row (a recent CNN Hero!) to harvest fruit and vegetables to donate to families who otherwise can't get or buy fresh produce.

We'll gather at the beautiful Long Meadow Farm in Hope, NJ, to pick apples and rescue apples that would otherwise go to waste. Contact the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.



NOV. 8 Food Pantry Visit, 10:00am - 11:30am

One of our church's major community outreach centers is CUMAC ECHO in Paterson, NJ. The center provides food and other material resources, tutoring, job search support, and many other important services.

Morrow families are invited to bring their food donations to the center and help CUMAC sort food for distribution. Contact the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

Save the Dates! (Check our online calendar for more details.)

NOV. 2 "We Are Morrow Church" Lunch, 11:45am

DEC. 6 MEND Family Service Event, 4:00-5:30pm

DEC. 22 "One Starry Night" Advent Event, 9:00am-12:00pm

Thank you!

To all who helped us celebrate the installation of our new District Superintendent, Rev. Manuel Sardinas, we extend a warm and hearty thank you!



Representing Morrow Church in the district-wide choir that sang at the installation were (l-r) Betsey Knowles and Caroline Campbell.

Fall Highlights



“I give thanks to God that we have people like you we can truly call friends. The donation of an ambulance is such wonderful nonverbal sermon that sinks deep into my heart.”

- Bishop John Yambasu, Mission Partner in Sierra Leone

Driving Faith in Sierra Leone

Over the past few weeks, Morrow Church has raised more than \$9,000 to support our brothers and sisters who are dealing with the Ebola virus crisis in Sierra Leone. These funds have gone to purchase a much-needed ambulance (Ford 6.0 Diesel) and to fill the ambulance with protective gear for healthcare workers. The ambulance and supplies are currently on their way to Sierra Leone!

A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff!



Christine Baxter
Pastoral Intern

Christine Baxter, a recent widow & the mother of two adult sons, first heard the call to ministry when she was 6 years old—then resisted it for thirty years, when she became a freshman at the University of Albany at age 36. She's passionate about reconciling ministries, intergenerational & second half of life ministries, and lay speaking & discipleship. She writes a faith-based blog, www.christinejbaxter.net. Christine will be working in intergenerational & family ministries and looks forward to becoming part of the Morrow Church family!



Nadine Ilunga
Pastoral Intern

A native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nadine Ilunga spent much of her life in Tanzania, where her father, a UMC pastor, worked. She's married to fellow United Methodist, Ilunga Nkulu. She speaks English, French, & Swahili and hopes to share her passion for diverse communities as an ordained UMC minister. At Morrow Church, Nadine will nurture existing small groups while identifying new groups and training leaders. She brings her open-minded attitude, collaboration skills, & attentive listening to her ministry work.



Paige Chant
Communications Specialist

Paige Chant earned her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Washington. With a background in teaching, editing, and creative writing, she's excited about putting her love of service, fellowship, and storytelling into action in her new role here at Morrow Church. She lives with her hubby, a doctoral student at Princeton University, in Princeton, NJ, and counts herself among the happiest of commuters.

Anne Frank Cantata with Our Very Own Holland Jancaitis



The Annelies concert is generously underwritten by The Jonah Solkoff Eskin Memorial Fund at Oheb Shalom.

On Saturday, November 8, at 8:00pm, Music Director Holland Jancaitis will sing in a special presentation of Annelies, by James Whitbourn, at Oheb Shalom (170 Scotland Road in South Orange). Annelies is the first authorized musical setting of The Diary of Anne Frank. This unique and moving concert-length work will be performed by the Harmonium Choral Society, with violin, cello, clarinet, and piano, and enhanced by multi-media.

Free admission if reservations are made in advance by October 31, 2014. Register online at www.ohebshalom.org or by phone (973) 762-7067. Tickets at the door are \$10/person.

Parking will be available at Oheb Shalom and the neighboring side streets. Additional parking will be located at Sharey Tefilo-Israel, with a shuttle bus providing round trip service to Oheb Shalom.

Outreach Concert at Winchester Gardens

Music Director Holland Jancaitis sang an outreach concert with Harmonium Choral Society at Winchester Gardens in late August. Several Morrow members were in attendance, including Jeanne Adams, Rev. Charles and Betty Sangree, and Henry and Carolyn Niemitz.



Holland Jancaitis with Carolyn and Henry Nimitz at Winchester Gardens.



Betty and Rev. Charles Sangree with Holland Jancaitis at Winchester Gardens.

Save the Date!

DEC.
14

Candlelight Carols,
4:00pm

Upcoming Events & Opportunities



Blessing of the Backpacks



Vacation Bible School

“We Are Morrow Church” Lunch

“We Are Morrow Church” Lunch is a time for everyone to come together, have lunch, get to know each other in our table groups, play some games, and share. Ultimately it is a time to be church. “Even though I’m an only child, I always felt that I had a huge family--with tons of cousins, aunts, & uncles--because I grew up at Morrow,” says Shona Roebuck, now

director of Morrow Church’s theater camp & JYF. We know that it takes a village to raise a child and it takes a whole church to nurture us all. Sharing a meal is a wonderful time to learn each other’s stories. So mark the date and plan to stay for lunch on November 2 at 11:45am. Contact the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

Morrow Community Dinner

Join us on Tuesday, October 21, at 6pm for the Morrow Community Dinner in Fellowship Hall. Fellowship in the kitchen will begin at 4pm with meal preparation, but you’re welcome to come only for the meal at 6pm if you prefer. (Childcare will be available during meal preparation.) We’ll have delicious tacos and apple pizza for dinner!

We invite you to bring a dish or dessert to share, though it’s not required. Freewill donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of ingredients, but, again, they’re not required. The most important thing to bring is yourself! For more information, contact Christine Baxter at (518) 337-8424 or christinejbaxter@gmail.com.

Online Book Study

Join us for a new online book study of acclaimed UMC Pastor Rudy Rasmus’s *Love.Period.*, led by Pastor Chris. We’ll meet in a closed Facebook group to read and discuss the book together. The course will not be conducted in real time, so people will be free to read material, share thoughts, and post questions and comments at their leisure. Contact the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org by Friday, October 10, to join the group and/or order a book.

Stewardship Campaign

Our Church Council is already at work planning for the many ways we each can make an impact and change a life in 2015! During the stewardship campaign, we’ll have the opportunity to pledge our commitment to the ministries of Morrow Church for 2015. Join us on November 23 for a noon brunch in Fellowship Hall, when we’ll celebrate the generous stewardship of our church family!

New Member Classes

We will hold three sessions for persons interested in joining Morrow Church or in learning more about membership. The classes will be held Sunday mornings on November 2, 9, and 16. New members will be welcomed into the congregation in worship on Sunday November, 23.

Needed: Planned Giving Volunteer

We invite you to join our new team in developing a Planned Giving program for Morrow Church. Over the next couple of months, we’ll plan the pilot design and implementation, followed by monitoring and expanding the program during the rest of the year. We especially welcome volunteers who are CPAs/Financial Planners with an interest in applying/developing estate planning expertise. Contact Jim George at (201) 349-7839 or jgeorge@foqus.biz.

Morrow Church Calendar

OCT.

1

The Table: Music & Communion, 8:00pm

WED.

OCT.

3

Ignite Youth Retreat (Grades 6-12) in Wildwood, NJ, 5:00pm

FRI.

OCT.

5

World Communion Sunday
Women's Retreat: "Beyond Passing the Peace," 12:00pm

SUN.

OCT.

11

Family Gleaning with America's Grow-a-Row, 9:30am

SAT.

OCT.

14

Church Conference, 8:00pm

TUES.

OCT.

19

United Methodist Women (UMW) Board Meeting, 12:00pm

SUN.

OCT.

21

Morrow Community Dinner, 6:00pm

TUES.

OCT.

31

Halloween in Maplewood, 3:30pm

FRI.

NOV.

2

"We Are Morrow Church" Lunch, 11:45am

SUN.

NOV.

5

The Table: Music & Communion, 8:00pm

WED.

NOV.

9

United Methodist Women (UMW) Board Meeting, 11:45am

SUN.

NOV.

14

Caring Kids (Grades 3-5), 12:30pm

FRI.

NOV.

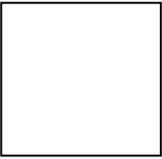
15

Progressive Dinner, 6:00pm

SAT.

Check our online calendar for more event details!

We seek to live as a diverse, multi-generational, Christian community where lives are transformed.



600 Ridgewood Rd,
Maplewood, NJ 07040

MORROW
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Stay Connected

At Morrow Church, there are many ways to stay informed and engaged with all that is happening in and through our vibrant faith community. Connect with us to find out more details of our events and stay in tune with new opportunities to grow in faith and serve others.

Morrow Church App

Our new iPhone/Android app is almost ready! You'll be able to stay connected with Morrow and access daily devotional and other faith formation resources. Stay tuned for the upcoming launch!

Facebook

Connect through the Morrow Church Facebook page and Morrow Church Facebook group.

Morrow Church News

This weekly e-blast will keep you up-to-date on all the latest Morrow Church community news and events.

Children & Youth

This weekly e-blast will keep you up-to-date on all the latest news and events for Morrow Church children and youth.

Morrow Church Website

Find more information about Morrow Church at www.morrowchurch.org. Subscribe to our calendar and more!

Grafted Newsletter

This is the second issue of a new periodic newsletter that will be distributed among the greater Morrow Church community by email and post. We will distribute the newsletter primarily through our Morrow Church News email, website and the Morrow Church App. We will make limited print copies available for those who would like to have it mailed, or picked up at the church.

Please let the church office know if you would like to receive a print copy of future Grafted newsletters. If you are not on the email list, please email opendoors@morrowchurch.org.