



## Welcome, Confirmands!

On Sunday, October 19, we celebrated the confirmation of Gracie Jo Benn, Ben Blais, Caroline Cerny, Harry Ehlers, Jessie Claire Gonon, Noelle Heriveaux, Sophia Heriveaux, Natalie Grace Kleppe, Nina Martin, Linnea Mumma, Hannah Tuohy, Pieter van Zeijts, and Isabelle Victoria Wendt.

Congratulations to the newest members of our Morrow Church family!

### November 9

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

## In This Issue

- "Finding God in All Things" Pg 2
- Family Ministry Events  
Candlelight Vigil Pg 3
- Fall Highlights Pg 4
- Advent Events & CGO Pg 5
- Morrow Church Calendar Pg 7
- Morrow Church App Pg 8

# Finding God in All Things

Greetings from Pastor Chris Heckert

Where have you seen God?

Often I have found God revealed in the passing moments of life: in love understood, in forgiveness extended, in second chances granted, in the faces of grace-giving people. But just as often, I have struggled to see God. Sometimes when we look for God we come up feeling empty-handed. But God is there, even in times of immense struggle, sadness, or distraction.

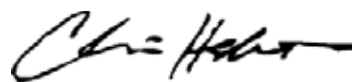
This art piece, "Beatitudes," was featured some time ago on one of our bulletin covers, but I think it merits another exhibition here because it represents God's way in the world--and perhaps our own.



I first wrote the words of Matthew 5 in bold print on a blank, white background. Then I covered them with rich, heavy, opulent colors--red, green, blue, purple, silver, and gold. Blended together, the colors shone with rich texture. Then, using a paint knife, I scratched away at the heavy layers and re-discovered the words of Jesus hidden there. "Blessed are..." This is God's economy: under the surface of our lives--which are full, rich, busy, productive, hectic--God's presence and blessings are revealed subtly and gently.

May we find ways to peel back the layers of business in our own lives and encounter the real, living grace of God that can bless us when we least expect it.

Grace and peace,



Rev. Chris Heckert, Senior Pastor

# 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.



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

One of our church's major community outreach centers is CUMAC 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](mailto:opendoors@morrowchurch.org).

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

Join in supporting one of Morrow Church's outreach ministries, Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity (MEND). MEND is an interfaith organization that seeks to meet the emergency needs of the disadvantaged of Essex County.

We will meet in the kitchen to prepare food together for those in need. Contact the church office at (973) 763-7676 or [opendoors@morrowchurch.org](mailto:opendoors@morrowchurch.org).

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

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



**Children First and Foremost:**  
ending child and family detention

**NOV.**  
**20** Candlelight Vigil, 5:00-6:00pm  
Panel Event & Reception, 6:00-8:00pm

The United Nations are meeting on November 20 in New York to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child which monitors implementation of the treaty has called for an end to child and family detention.

Join us at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (corner of 1st Ave. & 47th St.) in New York City for a candlelight vigil (5-6pm) followed by a panel event & reception (6-8pm).

For more information and RSVP, contact Sophony Lamour 212-682-3633x3111 or [slamour@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:slamour@unitedmethodistwomen.org).

# Fall Highlights



“This explains why I am so thankful for all the friendship and partnership we have in Morrow... The plan is to dedicate the ambulance when it arrives...”  
- Bishop John Yambasu, Mission Partner in Sierra Leone

## Joining the Fight Against Ebola in Sierra Leone

The ambulance we raised money for is on the way to Freetown, Sierra Leone! (In the picture, the ambulance is being pushed not because it does not work, but because the batteries had to be disconnected due to transportation regulations.)

We also sent protective equipment for health workers--in fact, we were able to send so much that we could not fit it all in the ambulance! (We sent the supplies in a separate container.) We arranged for a donation of \$1,500 to fill the vehicle with Ebola supplies. We were able to purchase 4 pallets of supplies, including 27,000 face masks; 9,600 respirator masks; 8,610 respirator and surgical masks; 2,400 chemical splash vent caps; and 2,960 pairs of exam gloves.

Bishop Yambasu knows the ambulance and supplies are heading his way. "As you well know," he said, "the Ebola situation in Sierra Leone is far from being contained. Life as a whole continues to be hard and difficult, especially in a country where the rest of the masses live on less than \$2 a day. This explains why I am so thankful for all the friendship and partnership we have in Morrow. I will keep you posted when the container eventually arrives in Sierra Leone. The plan is to dedicate the ambulance when it arrives before putting it to work."



## Candlelight Carols



This year, Morrow Church's beloved Candlelight Carols service will be held on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00pm.

This special service tells the Christmas story through selected readings and carols. It will feature the Morrow Chancel Choir and the Lyrica Chamber Orchestra Brass presenting John Rutter's "Gloria."

Also playing and singing will be Morrow Church's Youth and Worship Arts Choirs as well as the Children's and Adult Bell Choirs.

We invite everyone to join us for the Advent Dinner immediately following the performance.

Admission is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken to support the pastor's discretionary fund.

## Advent By Candlelight



Advent is a season of preparation, anticipation, and excitement. Our preparations often become the focus of the season, with many of these tasks falling to women.

Advent By Candlelight is an evening for women, by women—for the preparers, by the preparers—to help women focus on the anticipation, excitement, & joy of what it means to welcome Christ into our lives again and again, to make space for God with us. It is a time for women to gather at the beginning of Advent to be inspired, cared for, and fulfilled.

Join us for "Love Came Down at Christmas," an evening of food, music, story, & poetry on Tuesday, December 2, at 7pm in Fellowship Hall.



## Preschool Open House

Morrow Memorial Preschool will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, November 22, from 9:00 - 11:00am. Join us for coffee, take a tour of the preschool, and learn more about enrollment. Children are always welcome!

We invite you to spread the word to any friends or neighbors who may be interested in the preschool. You can also visit our website at [www.MorrowPreschool.org](http://www.MorrowPreschool.org) for more information.

We look forward to seeing you!

## Community & Global Outreach: Haiti

UMC initiatives for Community & Global Outreach include Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI), which aims to build economic self-sufficiency for disadvantaged Haitians, particularly women. HAPI supports local artisans through direct education, scholarships, & micro-finance. HAPI also provides services for basic needs such as maternal health, meals, church services, & education/enrichment for children.

HAPI offers Morrow Church members a transformative mission position of helping disadvantaged people build a better future through education, thus helping to ensure a significant impact on the lives of Haitians living in the Mizak community. To date, we have participated in 4 mission trips, held a variety of fundraisers, & donated much-needed funds. Later this month, we will also begin hosting Pastor Paul Prevost, the co-coordinator of HAPI, on his trip here from Haiti.

We invite you to consider supporting our CGO efforts by participating in fundraising; buying a HAPI craft; creating an educational seminar; accompanying a youth mission trip; and/or participating in our 2015 adult mission trip.

# Upcoming Events & Opportunities



## Progressive Dinner, November 15

Join us for food and fellowship with our Progressive Dinner on Saturday, November 15, at 6:00pm. Pastor Paul Prevost from HAPI (Haitian Artisans for Peace International) will be our special guest for the evening. We need dinner hosts and dinner guests alike!

If you'd like to host an intimate main course at your home (no cooking required, we do the food preparation for you!), please contact the church

office or Melinda Wilkening at 973-762-8817 or [mwilkening@verizon.net](mailto:mwilkening@verizon.net).

We invite you to enjoy the evening as a dinner guest for \$20 (with the proceeds going to HAPI). Please RSVP through the Evite, through the online form, or through the church office. Be sure to indicate your meal preference (chicken or vegetarian) and whether you would like to contribute an appetizer, a dinner salad, or a dessert. We also can provide the names of babysitters and arrange transportation if needed. We look forward to seeing you!

## Pledge Your Support for Morrow Church!

Do you feel what we feel here at Morrow Church? A renewed spirit is bubbling within our church family! While our pastors, staff, & ministry teams are hard at work refining our ministry plan for 2015, we can do our part by building the financial support for this exciting new year at Morrow Church.

Please prayerfully consider pledging your support for our mission and ministries. Pledge online at our website or mail in your pledge card today!

We also invite you to join us for our Stewardship Brunch to celebrate the year ahead for Morrow Church. Join us on Sunday, November 23, at 12pm in Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to be part of preparing this scrumptious brunch for our Morrow Church family, please contact Margaret Prentice at 973-477-9278 or [prentice.margaret@gmail.com](mailto:prentice.margaret@gmail.com).



## Donate a Turkey!

The food pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows is in need of turkeys for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. The turkeys will be distributed on Saturday, November 22. If you know of a cheap source for purchase, or if you or your organization are able to donate a turkey, please contact Vicki Carter at 973-414-0089 or [vcarter31@aol.com](mailto:vcarter31@aol.com).

## Help a Family at Christmas

Morrow Church has a long history of supporting families in need during the Christmas season. If you'd like to help a family by donating grocery store gift cards and other gifts, please contact Vicki Carter at 973-414-0089 or [vcarter31@aol.com](mailto:vcarter31@aol.com) with the size of family and/or number of individuals you would like to support.

## Volunteer for MEND

Since January, Morrow Church has delivered 275 casseroles, 12 gallons of Danish Beef Stew, & 120 servings of Black Bean Confetti Chili to the Bessie Green Center. Often our grocery cart is filled with non-perishable foods for local food pantries, and we have raised \$2,500.00 for MEND. Let's continue our good work by donating our food, money, and time for families in need this holiday season! Please contact Vicki Carter at 973-414-0089 or [vcarter31@aol.com](mailto:vcarter31@aol.com).

## Help Wanted: Front Desk Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers available during weekday office hours to sit at the front desk to answer phones, take messages, receive mail, and greet visitors. Morning or afternoon shifts are typically 3-4 hours (e.g., 9am-12pm or 1pm-5pm). Please contact the church office to sign up.

# Morrow Church Calendar

NOV.

8

SAT.

CUMAC Family Service Day,  
9:30am

NOV.

9

SUN.

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

NOV.

11

TUES.

Church Council Meeting,  
7:30pm

NOV.

15

SAT.

Progressive Dinner, 6:00pm

NOV.

16

SUN.

Chancel Choir: Rutter Gloria  
Rehearsal, 1:00pm

NOV.

23

SUN.

Stewardship Brunch, 12:00pm

NOV.

30

SUN.

First Sunday of Advent

DEC.

2

TUES.

Advent By Candlelight,  
7:00pm

DEC.

3

WED.

United Methodist Women  
(UMW) Luncheon, 12:00pm  
The Table: Music &  
Communion, 8:00pm

DEC.

6

WED.

MEND Family Service Event,  
4:00pm

DEC.

7

SUN.

Parsonage Open House,  
3:00pm

DEC.

13

SAT.

Candlelight Carols Choir  
Rehearsal, 10:00am

DEC.

14

SUN.

Candlelight Carols Choir  
Rehearsal, 12:00pm  
Candlelight Carols, 4:00pm  
Advent Dinner, 5:30pm

**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



## New Morrow Church App!



The app is available for free download on iPhone & Android devices.

To download the app, simply search for "Morrow Church" or "Morrow Memorial UMC" in your device's app store.

You can use the app to access daily devotions for adults and children, pastors' blogs, past sermons, a calendar of events, and much more!

## Thank you!

We would like to thank all those who participated in our church conference this past month.

As a result of everyone's time and hard work, we produced three important documents that offer a glimpse into the life of our church over the past year: the Church Conference Packet, the Annual Report, and the Narrative Budget.

Copies are available at the church office upon request. You may also access the Annual Report online at our website.

### DEC. Parsonage Open House

7

Join us for a time of fellowship from 3:00-5:00pm at the Roosevelt Road parsonage.

SUN.

All are welcome!