



Celebrate Easter with Us!

Dates for Holy Week

APR.

2

THURS.

Maundy Thursday
Family Seder Meal,
6pm
Prayer Service in
the Garden, 7:30pm

APR.

3

FRI.

Good Friday
Ecumenical Service at
First Presbyterian and
Trinity Church (South
Orange), 12pm
Worship in the
Sanctuary, 8pm

APR.

5

SUN.

Easter Sunday
Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Easter Breakfast, 9:30am
(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)
Worship in the
Sanctuary, 10:30am

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We Are Easter People

Easter Greetings from Rev. Chris Heckert

During Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter, we remember Jesus's journey from being praised by people to being persecuted by people, as he is put on trial and executed. On the first Sunday of April, we recall that very first Easter more than two thousand years ago when Jesus rose from the dead. This is the story of our faith.

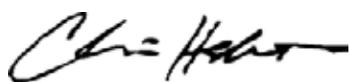
This year, though, that familiar story rings with new truth as news from around the world brings us stories of the persecution of religious and non-religious groups, including imprisonment, torture, and execution. Reading the Holy Week and Easter stories against the backdrop of global realities of the violent persecution of people in the name of God, or nationalism, is to experience our faith in a different way. We encounter the resurrection differently.

Jesus's death must have been devastating to his followers in much the same way that displaced people in our own time are trying to reimagine life after losing their homes, their families, and their way of life. The thought of resurrection, the promise of new life in spite of present circumstances, has deep and profound meaning.

It is this seemingly impossible claim that defines who we are as followers of Christ—Easter people who live in the hope that God can and does make all things new. God can and does transform death into new life, desperation into renewed hope. It may sound and feel ridiculous, but this is our claim: God raised Jesus Christ from the dead so that we may have new life and live differently in this world—here and now.

As we live into this Easter season, let us claim this resurrection for ourselves and live into its message of transformation. May we live as Easter people, always pointing toward hope, forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life in a world that at times is heavy with realities of violence, injustice, and conflict. It is in this very world that we experience the resurrection, not only on Easter morning but on every day that we follow Christ and proclaim the good news: Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed!

Grace and peace,



Rev. Chris Heckert, Senior Pastor



Looking Back on Our Lenten Journey



As we journeyed through Lent together, we made the invisible grace of God visible, both in our own lives & in the lives of those around us. We engaged in prayer, gathered in worship, reached across boundaries, and built community through acts of radical service and hospitality.

Our Wednesday night programs boasted healthy attendance & active, meaningful participation as we gathered for food & fellowship. We held 3 new classes this year: "Mindful Parenting," led by Rev. Brenda Ehlers; "Animate: Practices," led by Rev. Sharon Burniston; & "5 Songs that Changed My Life," led by church member Bill Ehlers. We also offered 3 unique prayer groups: "Praying through Imagery," led by Pastoral Intern Nadine Ilunga, "Monday Morning Prayer," led by church member Andrea Wren-Hardin, & "Prayer through the Spiritual Practice of Writing," led by church member Paula McGovern.

We extend our warmth & gratitude to all those who planned, coordinated, & participated in our Lenten programs. We extend a special thank you to our Wednesday evening dinner hosts, who filled our bellies and fueled our spirits during our long Lenten journey. As we approach the Easter season, we lift up our community in special prayer & thanksgiving!

Special Events during Holy Week

Join Us for our Family Seder Meal!



This year the Christian holy day of Maundy Thursday & the Jewish holiday of Passover fall on the same day: April 2.

Join us in solidarity with our Jewish sisters and brothers as we celebrate "this night that is different from all other nights" with a Family Seder Meal, held on April 2 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall.

The Seder recalls the Jewish community's suffering & persecution as slaves in ancient Egypt and celebrates their escape from slavery and entry into freedom. The central part of the Seder is the haggadah, the recounting of the Exodus from Egypt.

We'll learn about the history, rituals, & meaning of the Seder in a family-friendly setting. We welcome children of all ages!

Serve the Hungry on Easter Morning!



Looking for a special way to celebrate Easter this year?

We're partnering with Bridges, a local non-profit organization, to

provide meals to those in need on Easter morning.

On Holy Saturday, April 4, we'll meet in the Morrow Church kitchen at 9:30am to prepare meals.

On Easter morning, April 5, we invite you to attend Worship in the Chapel with us at 8:15am. Then we'll grab a bite to eat at the Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall before heading out to deliver the meals together.

Come for one day or both days! We welcome children of all ages! Grab a friend, bring your family, or come solo for this special Easter activity!

Email the church office at opendoors@morrowchurch.org to let us know you're coming.

Ministry News & Highlights

Finance Update

From Kathy Finch, Finance Chair, & Rev. Chris Heckert, Senior Pastor

Thank you for your continuing response to Pastor Chris's letter about our 2015 budget. At the end of February 2015, our income was \$98,300 and our expenses totaled \$113,038, which resulted in a deficit of \$14,738 for the year so far.

We are still trying to bridge a \$28,138 gap in our operating budget. Please prayerfully consider either increasing your pledge or making a one-time gift to help fund our ministries. You can find copies of the pledge letter in the church office.

To submit your gift, please contact Amy Hale, Financial Secretary, at financial-secretary@morrowchurch.org.

Thank you for your support of our mission & ministries!

Thank you, MEND!

A Note of Gratitude from OLS

Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows with food and funds during 2014.

We are so very grateful for your generosity as we continue to face growing hunger in our community. In 2014 we served 10,300 individuals, of which 3,100 were children.

Your financial donation this year helped to increase our purchasing power, allowing us to buy in greater quantities when our regular items go on sale. Saving a few cents per can or box can yield tremendous savings...

We look forward to serving our community together with you.

Warmly,

Kate and Rebecca
Kate Cahill and Rebecca Rowell
Food Pantry Coordinators

Fingerprints: Our Adult Mission Trip to Mizak, Haiti

By Dorothy Wetzel, Global & Community Outreach Chair



One of the most gratifying things about our mission trip to Haiti was witnessing how Morrow Church's ongoing support of HAPI (Haitian Artisans for Peace International) has made a difference in the lives of Haitians in Mizak.

The fingerprints of our church members are everywhere, literally & figuratively—from the rooms we painted & the quilts we made to the classes we taught, the stories we transcribed, & the fellowship we experienced.

HAPI's mission is to transform Haiti "through the empowerment and advocacy of women." The organization takes a comprehensive approach, providing economic opportunity, healthcare services, & spiritual guidance.

Our team, led by Melinda Wilkening, included Scott Shultz, Bryan Rilee, my daughter, Flora Sugarman (a college freshman), & myself. Our work built on past Morrow Church projects. For example, Scott painted the walls he put up two years ago in the new women's health clinic. Brian, in addition to painting, was quick with his drill and fixed anything that needed fixing. Melinda & Flora organized the pharmacy shelves so that nurses can find what they need quickly.

Haiti also left its fingerprints on each one of us. For my part, as I captured people's stories, I developed a more visceral empathy for those who have inadequate health care. It is one thing to read statistics about the lack of maternal health services. It is another to look into the eyes of a man who lost his wife to a preventable prenatal complication.

This April, youth from Morrow Church will have the same opportunity to touch & be touched by the people of Mizak as they journey to Haiti. They will deliver solar lamps, which we packed & transported in our suitcases on this trip, to families in the countryside surrounding the HAPI compound. They will leave behind more Morrow fingerprints, and importantly, HAPI will too, creating an indelible imprint on their hearts, minds, and souls.



Youth & Family Ministry

Travel with Us to Taizé, France this Summer!



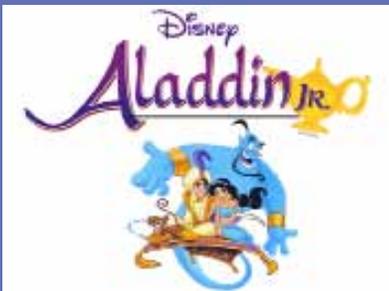
Looking for a transformational spiritual experience this summer? Interested in gathering for fellowship with other young adults from around the world? Join our Young Adult Pilgrimage to Taizé, France!

We're in the early stages of planning this year's Young Adult Pilgrimage to Taizé, France, an intentional community where each week up to 5,000 young people from around the world gather for prayer, work, and communal living.

Church members Kris and Nicole Hubert will be leading this trip. We'll hold an informational meeting to discuss options for dates, estimated costs, and other trip details. Scholarships may be available to help off-set the costs as needed. If you're between the ages of 16 and 29 and you're seeking a meaningful spiritual experience with others this summer, contact the church office to find out more details about our pilgrimage.

Join the Cast of Disney's Aladdin, Jr.!

Morrow Memorial Theatre Camp



Camp runs from August 10 through August 14, from 9am to 3pm. All performers will participate in our 3 shows on August 15 & 16. The performance proceeds will be donated to provide housing for at-risk teens.

Submit payment before April 10 for a discounted rate of \$125 per child! (Note that payment must be received before April 10.) After April 10, the camp fee is \$160 per child.

Make out your checks to "Morrow Church" with "MMTC" in the memo. Payment may be mailed or left in the MMTC mailbox in the office.

The cost of the camp only covers camp materials. This fee does not include the cost of performance tickets (suggested donation of \$10 per ticket) or the 3-hour required co-op from parents/guardians. We also ask that all campers contribute to or create their own costumes.

Join us as we create our own Arabian night!

Register for Earth Sprouts This Spring!

Outdoor Learning for Preschoolers



Earth Sprouts is a weekly enrichment program for preschoolers that meets on Fridays from 1pm-3pm. We provide hands-on opportunities for children to learn skills through nature-based inquiry, creative

arts, & outdoor exploration to create a lasting appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

A typical day includes gathering time with music and warm-up activities, harvesting from our garden, playing & learning outdoors at our learning stations, menu planning for snack time, movement & yoga, and much more!

Our spring session will run from Friday, April 10, to Friday, June 19. Tuition for the 10-week program is \$300.

To register your child, visit our website or contact the church office.

Lend a Hand for Spring Cleaning Churchwide Clean-up

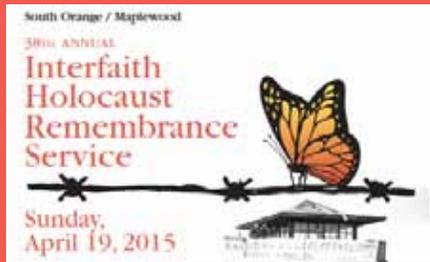


Come one, come all! On April 11, from 9am to 1pm, we'll be giving our church a makeover.

if you have a favorite space in Morrow Church that you would like to beautify, now's your chance! We'll need your muscles to haul things to the dumpster, too.

To learn more or to sign up, call Barb Illingworth, our Spring Cleaning Coordinator, at (973) 568-7174.

Attend the Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service



On Sunday, April 19, at 4pm, St. Joseph's Church (at 767 Prospect Street in Maplewood) will host the 38th Annual SO/Maplewood Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service.

The March of Remembrance starts at 3pm at the corner of Springfield & Indiana Ave. The service begins at 4pm at the church.

A Holocaust survivor will speak during the service.

Volunteer as a Visitor for First Friends Network



We are reinvigorating our support of First Friends under the leadership of Maggie Tuohy & Donna Appelgren.

First Friends Network is an organization that provides advocacy & non-legal assistance for immigrants held in detention at Delaney Hall & the Elizabeth Detention Center.

If you'd like to volunteer as a visitor, contact the church office by phone at (973) 973-7676 or email opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

Turnover Sale 2015 Dates Announced!

Thursday, July 2, 7pm-9pm

Saturday, July 11, 9am-12:30pm

Tuesday, July 7, 7pm-9pm

Tuesday, July 14, 7pm-9pm

Thursday, July 9, 7pm-9pm

Saturday, July 18, 9am-12:30pm

Tuesday, July 21, 9am-12pm

Drop off your quality donations any time between 9am and 7pm from June 20 to July 17!

Don't Miss Our Mother's Day Musical!

Join us for our annual Mother's Day Musical, held during the 10:30am worship service on May 10!

The Worship Arts and Wesley Choirs will be presenting "The Lost Boy: Young Jesus in the Temple."

While traveling from Jerusalem to Nazareth after Passover, Mary & Joseph realize that Jesus is with neither of them. They return to Jerusalem worried, search everywhere for him, & discover him preaching in the temple -- at only twelve years old!

Save the Dates!

MAY

16

SAT.

DISTRICT DAY OF LEARNING
9AM-1PM
Morrow Church

Join us for this day-long event to learn more about how we can engage our faith!

MAY

28

THURS.

GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 28-MAY 30
Wildwood Convention Center
501 Boardwalk
Wildwood, NJ 08260

April 2015

APR.

2

THURS.

Maundy Thursday
Family Seder Meal, 6pm
Prayer Service in the Garden,
7:30pm

APR.

3

FRI.

Good Friday
Ecumenical Worship Service,
12pm (at First Presbyterian
& Trinity Church in South
Orange)
Worship in the Sanctuary,
8pm

APR.

5

SUN.

Easter Sunday
Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Easter Breakfast, 9:30am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am

APR.

12

SUN.

Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am
United Methodist Women
Board Meeting, 11:45am

APR..

16

THURS.

Martha Circle, 10am

APR.

18

SAT.

Morrow Youth Fellowship
Leaves for Outreach Trips

APR.

19

SUN.

Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am

APR.

20

MON.

Morrow Memorial Preschool
Closed for Spring Break
Junior Youth Fellowship
Service Trip to Washington,
D.C.
Building & Grounds
Committee Meeting, 7:30pm

APR.

26

SUN.

Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am

APR.

27

MON.

Board of Trustees Meeting,
7:30pm

APR.

28

TUES.

Children's Musical Rehearsal,
4pm

APR.

30

THURS.

Children's Musical Rehearsal,
4pm

MAY

3

SUN.

Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am
Staff Parish Relations
Committee Meeting, 12pm
Mission/Outreach Dinner,
6pm

MAY

5

TUES.

Children's Musical Rehearsal,
4pm

MAY

6

WED.

United Methodist Women
Luncheon, 12:30pm

Check our online calendar for more event details!



MORROW
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
600 Ridgewood Rd,
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Meet the Brothers of Taizé, France!

Conversation & Prayer at Chatham UMC

On Thursday, April 16, Chatham United Methodist Church will host three brothers from the Ecumenical Community of Taizé, France. Brother Emmanuel (originally from France), Brother Emile (originally from Canada), & Brother John (originally from Philadelphia) will present "A Conversation With the Brothers of Taizé" at 7pm.

A Taizé prayer service, led by the brothers & local church musicians, will follow the event at 8pm in the sanctuary.

Chatham UMC is located at 460 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928. Event parking is available in the Chatham Middle School lot behind the church. For more information, visit the Chatham UMC website at www.chathamumc.com or email Chatham UMC Pastor Rev. Jeff Markay at revjmarkay@earthlink.net or call the church at (973) 635-7740.

Save the Date!

Farewell Reception for Pastor Chris

JUNE

14

SUN.



Join us for Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30am on Sunday, June 14, featuring special music as we bid farewell to Pastor Chris. Afterward, we'll gather at 11:45am in Fellowship Hall to celebrate Pastor Chris's time, presence, & fellowship with us over the past five years.