



## Making the Invisible Visible

Our Lenten journey continues as we host our Wednesday night community dinners, classes and prayer groups, and contemplative worship services each week.

Join us as we pray, worship, reach across boundaries, and build community this Lenten season. Keep reading to find out more about upcoming events, classes & prayer groups, and service activities!

### COP Spaghetti Supper & Talent Show

**MAR.**

Join us on Sunday, March 1, at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall!

**1**

All proceeds go to support Christian Outreach Project (COP), a week-long service project to provide home repairs for local homeowners in need. (More details on page 3!)

**SUN.**

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# Cultivating Grace in the Midst of Transition

Journeying Together through the Season of Lent

It was announced this past month that, effective July 1, I will be reappointed to serve as the senior pastor of another congregation, Haddonfield United Methodist Church.

With this appointment comes excitement at many new possibilities, but it is enveloped, too, with a sense of loss and sadness. Although my time here feels all too short, the past five years have been a transformational season in the life of my family. We have given birth to both of our children here and have come to love deeply all of you, the ministries here at Morrow Church, and this larger community.



In reflecting over all that God has been doing in our midst—with the birth of new worship services and small groups; new opportunities for food and fellowship; new building and capital projects; and new members, baptisms, and weddings—I give thanks for our intensely busy and fruitful five years together. I want you to know that our ministry continues very much to be in the present, as I remain fully invested in the work God is doing in our remaining months together.

I welcome anyone who would like to be in conversation with me about our season together in ministry or about this transition. You're welcome to email me at [checkert@morrowchurch.org](mailto:checkert@morrowchurch.org) or to contact the church office to find a time to meet in person.

As we journey through this Lenten season together, I pray that the invisible grace of God will continue to be made visible in each one of us.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Chris Heckert, Senior Pastor

# Welcome, Rev. Dr. Bradford Motta!



Beginning July 1, Rev. Dr. Bradford Motta will be our new Senior Pastor at Morrow Church. He currently serves as the pastor at Mt. Fern United Methodist Church in Randolph, N.J.

Pastor Brad earned his Master of Divinity degree from Drew Theological School in 1980. He spent many years in ministry, including a brief period serving as Associate Pastor here at Morrow Church, before returning to school for his doctorate. In 2006, he earned his doctorate in Pastoral Care and Counseling with an emphasis in multicultural/multiracial congregations.

In his previous pastoral experience, he served at Trinity United Methodist Church in Ewing, NJ; Morristown United Methodist Church; and Pearl River United Methodist Church. He also worked as Executive Minister at Middle Collegiate Church in New York City.

In addition to his pastoral roles, Pastor Brad has served as the Manager of Leader and Teacher Development for the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville; as president of the Christian Educators Fellowship Board of Directors; and as the international trainer for Disciple Bible Study.

Pastor Brad has a unique passion for creating experiences in which people can grow in faith, fellowship, and understanding of each other. "Everything we do," he

says, "teaches us something, even if we do not know it."

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Brad into our congregation this summer. In the meantime, you can read more about him online at [mtfernumcnj.org/pastor](http://mtfernumcnj.org/pastor) or <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/974>.

\*Information adapted from the Mount Fern UMC and Greater New Jersey UMC websites.

## Youth & Family Ministry Events

### COP Spaghetti Supper & Talent Show

**MAR.** Gather with friends new and old for a night of entertainment by Morrow Church's finest at our annual COP Spaghetti Supper & Talent Show. We welcome your free-will donations.

**1**

**SUN.**

All proceeds go to support our youths' participation in Christian Outreach Project (COP), a week-long service project to provide home repairs for local homeowners in need.

Join us on Sunday, March 1, at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall!

### Denim Duds Festival (New Date!)

**MAR.** On Saturday, March 21, we'll host our Denim Duds Festival at 6pm in Fellowship Hall.

**21**

**SAT.** Join us for live music & dancing, chili tasting, & bidding for a good cause as we raise funds for our youth mission trips!

Younger children will love our special children's activities and fun night downstairs, supervised by our teens.

So save the date, don your denim, and come on out for food, fellowship, & fundraising! More information coming soon!

### Earth Sprouts Registration Now Open

**APR.** Earth Sprouts is a weekly enrichment program for preschoolers that meets on Friday afternoons from 1-3pm. We provide hands-on opportunities for children to learn & develop skills through nature-based inquiry, creative arts, and outdoor exploration to create a lasting appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

**10**

**FRI.** 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, or to find out more information, visit our website or contact the church office.

# Ministry News & Highlights

## Shopping for MEND

by Vicki Carter

The MEND (Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity) Grocery Cart is located just inside the Baker Street Entrance at Fellowship Hall. Please make note of the following guidelines for your shopping: We're unable to accept glass containers & opened boxes/bags of cookies, cereal, etc. Also, please check expiration dates.

You might consider donating dried pasta, boxes of macaroni & cheese, canned tuna in water, peanut butter, boxes of cereal or oatmeal, jams & jellies, canned vegetables, canned fruit in juice, canned soup (low sodium), canned meat, & canned or dried milk.

If you have other items for donation, contact Vicki Carter, Morrow Church Representative to the MEND Advisory Board, at (973) 414-0089 or [vcarter31@aol.com](mailto:vcarter31@aol.com). Thank you for helping to meet the needs of our community!

## Finance Update

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

Our income for January 2015 was \$46,453.34. Our expenses were \$52,561.38, which leaves us a deficit of \$6,108.04 for the month.

In addition, we are projecting a deficit of about \$75,000 for the coming year. If you have not pledged, please consider giving what you can. If you've already pledged & would like to increase your pledge, please contact Amy Hale, Financial Secretary, at (973) 763-7676, extension 20, or [financial-secretary@morrowchurch.org](mailto:financial-secretary@morrowchurch.org).

Without an increase in funding, we'll have to make significant cuts in our operating budget.

Please give what you can to support our mission and ministries. We invite you to contact the church office or visit our website to make your pledge or donation. Thank you.

## New Members Class



New to Morrow Church? Curious about the United Methodist tradition?

Join our New Members Class! The spring session begins Sunday, March 8.

The class will meet for 3 consecutive Sundays (March 8; March 15; & March 22) at 9:30am in the Pastor's Study.

There is no obligation to become a member after the class ends. Contact the church office to find out more information or to sign up!

## Haiti Happenings

March & April are important months for our mission work with Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI), located in Mizak, Haiti. HAPI works to build economic self-sufficiency for disadvantaged Haitians, particularly women, by supporting local artisans through direct education, scholarships, & micro-finance. Due to the extreme poverty of the Mizak community, HAPI also provides services for basic needs such as meals, maternal health, church services, & education and enrichment for children.

On March 14, 5 adult members from our congregation will leave for a week-long mission trip to the HAPI compound. They will undertake a myriad of projects, including assembling & stocking a pharmacy, leading exercise classes for pregnant women, & capturing the personal stories of women helped by HAPI for use in publicity & grant materials.

On April 18, 18 adults & youth from our congregation will depart for another week-long mission trip. Our youth will deliver solar lamps, water filters, & stoves to local families around the HAPI compound.

We invite you to support our youth mission trip to Haiti by attending our Denim Duds Festival on Saturday, March 21—a chili cook-off, auction, live music concert, & fundraiser all rolled into one! Tickets cost \$20, with all proceeds helping to fund our youth trip. You can also donate online via our GoFundMe page at [www.gofundme.org/morrowchurch](http://www.gofundme.org/morrowchurch) or via PayPal at [www.morrowchurch.org/about-us/online-giving/](http://www.morrowchurch.org/about-us/online-giving/). Thank you for your support!

## Partner Update: Sierra Leone



We recently donated much-needed children's clothing to our sisters & brothers in Freetown, an effort led by church member Shona Roebuck.

Olivia Fonnice, Youth Director of the United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, sends us this note:

"It was a great surprise when I received the two bags of children's clothing... Thank you so much. It came at the right time when we have so many Ebola orphans... We continue to pray to God for speedy end to this deadly menace. Let me on behalf of my family and my department wish you a happy and prosperous 2015."

by Dorothy Wetzel, GCO Chair



Lent 2015



# Visible

Cultivating Signs of God's Grace

Prayer - Worship - Reach - Community

## Wednesday Evenings in Lent

6pm

Community Dinner  
in Fellowship Hall

7pm

"Animate: Practices" Class  
Prayer through the Spirituality  
of Writing Prayer Group

8pm

Contemplative Worship  
in the Sanctuary

Plus:

Monday Morning Prayer, 7am

Praying through Imagery, Thursdays at 5:30pm

Mindful Parenting Class, Saturdays at 9am

"5 Songs that Saved My Life" Class,  
Sundays at 9:30am

**Saturday, March 7**  
Family Service Activity, 9:00am

**Sunday, March 8**  
New Members Class Begins, 9:30am

**Thursday, April 2**  
Maundy Thursday  
Family Seder, 6:00pm  
Prayer Service, 7:30pm

**Friday, April 3**  
Good Friday  
Worship Service, 8:00pm

**Sunday, April 5**  
Easter Sunday

Journey with us as we make the  
invisible visible this Lenten season.

Visit [www.morrowchurch.org/lent](http://www.morrowchurch.org/lent) for more details!



# Morrow Church Calendar

**MAR.**

**1**

**SUN.**

Second Sunday in Lent  
Communion Sunday  
"5 Songs that Saved My Life"  
Class, 9:30am  
Christian Outreach Project  
Spaghetti Supper & Talent  
Show, 5:30pm

**MAR.**

**2**

**MON.**

Monday Morning Prayer  
Group, 7am

**MAR.**

**4**

**WED.**

Community Dinner, 6pm  
"Animate: Practices" Class,  
7pm  
"Prayer through the Spiritual  
Practice of Writing," 7pm  
Lenten Contemplative  
Worship, 8pm

**MAR.**

**5**

**THURS.**

Caring Kids, 12:30pm  
Praying through Imagery  
Prayer Group, 5:30pm

**MAR.**

**6**

**FRI.**

Caring Kids, 12:30pm  
Earth Sprouts, 1pm

**MAR.**

**7**

**SAT.**

Mindful Parenting Class, 9am  
Family Service Activity, 9am

**MAR.**

**8**

**SUN.**

Third Sunday in Lent  
New Members Class, 9:30am  
"5 Songs that Saved My Life"  
Class, 9:30am  
UMW Board Meeting, 11:45am  
Staff Parish Relations  
Committee Meeting, 12pm

**MAR.**

**9**

**MON.**

Monday Morning Prayer  
Group, 7am

**MAR.**

**10**

**TUES.**

Church Council Meeting,  
7:30pm

**MAR.**

**11**

**WED.**

Community Dinner, 6pm  
"Animate: Practices" Class,  
7pm  
"Prayer through the Spiritual  
Practice of Writing," 7pm  
Lenten Contemplative  
Worship, 8pm

**MAR.**

**12**

**THURS.**

Praying through Imagery,  
5:30pm

**MAR.**

**13**

**FRI.**

Earth Sprouts, 1pm

**MAR.**

**14**

**SAT.**

Adult Mission Trip to Haiti  
Mindful Parenting Class, 9am  
JYF Peacemakers Retreat,  
9am

**MAR.**

**15**

**SUN.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
New Members Class, 9:30am  
"5 Songs that Saved My Life"  
Class, 9:30am

**MAR.**

**16**

**MON.**

Monday Morning Prayer  
Group, 7am

**Check our online calendar for more event details!**

# March 2015

**MAR.**  
**18**  
**WED.** Community Dinner, 6pm  
"Animate: Practices" Class,  
7pm  
"Prayer through the Spiritual  
Practice of Writing," 7pm  
Lenten Contemplative  
Worship, 8pm

**MAR.**  
**19**  
**THURS.** Martha Circle, 10am  
Praying through Imagery,  
5:30pm

**MAR.**  
**20**  
**FRI.** Earth Sprouts, 1pm

**MAR.**  
**21**  
**SAT.** Mindful Parenting Class, 9am  
Denim Duds Festival (Chili  
Cook-Off & Auction), 6pm

**MAR.**  
**22**  
**SUN.** Fifth Sunday in Lent  
New Members Class, 9:30am  
"5 Songs that Saved My Life"  
Class, 9:30am  
Staff Parish Relations  
Committee Meeting, 12pm

**MAR.**  
**23**  
**MON.** Monday Morning Prayer  
Group, 7am  
Board of Trustees Meeting,  
7:30pm

**MAR.**  
**25**  
**WED.** Community Dinner, 6pm  
"Animate: Practices" Class,  
7pm  
"Prayer through the Spiritual  
Practice of Writing," 7pm  
Lenten Contemplative  
Worship, 8pm

**MAR.**  
**26**  
**THURS.** Praying through Imagery,  
5:30pm

**MAR.**  
**27**  
**FRI.** Earth Sprouts, 1pm

**MAR.**  
**28**  
**SAT.** Mindful Parenting Class, 9am

**MAR.**  
**29**  
**SUN.** Palm Sunday

**APR.**  
**2**  
**THURS.** Maundy Thursday  
Family Seder Dinner, 6pm  
Prayer Service, 7:30pm

**APR.**  
**3**  
**FRI.** Good Friday  
SOMA Good Friday Service,  
12pm  
Worship Service, 8pm

**APR.**  
**5**  
**SUN.** Easter Sunday  
Worship in the Chapel,  
8:15am  
Easter Breakfast, 9:30am  
Worship in the Sanctuary,  
10:30am

**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



## Ashes To Go at Maplewood Train Station



This year, Pastor Chris once again joined forces with Rev. Bernie Poppe of St. George's Episcopal Church to give ashes to commuters at Maplewood Train Station.



This annual ecumenical initiative serves as a powerful witness in our local community.

To read more about the "Ashes To Go" program, visit [www.ashestogo.org](http://www.ashestogo.org).

## Save the Dates!

### Vacation Bible School

This year, Vacation Bible School will run from Monday, August 3, to Thursday, August 6.

Morrow Church will be the base camp for our Everest Summit as we look at all the ways we can conquer challenges with God's power.

We'll end with a closing celebration & picnic on Thursday evening, August 6. Stay posted!

### Morrow Memorial Theater Camp

The dates for Morrow Memorial Theater Camp have been set! The camp will run from Monday, August 10, to Friday, August 14.

The shows will be held on Saturday, August 15, & Sunday, August 16. Mark your calendars!

To submit an announcement or article for the newsletter, contact the church office with your information, including pictures if needed, by the 15th of the month for publication the following month.