

grafted

May 2015

MORROW
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church Newsletter



Don't Miss Morrow Memorial Theatre Camp!

Join us as we create our own Arabian night! Morrow Memorial Theatre Camp runs from August 10 through August 14, from 9am to 3pm. Mark your calendars for this year's performance of "Aladdin, Jr." on August 15 & 16! Performance proceeds will be donated to provide housing for at-risk teens. Visit the church website for more information!

Save the Dates

Turn to page 3 for more information about these upcoming events! Plus, mark your calendars for Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30am on Sunday, May 10--featuring our Mother's Day Musical "The Lost Boy: Young Jesus in the Temple"!

MAY DISTRICT DAY OF LEARNING
8:30AM-1:00PM
Morrow Church
Join us for this day-long event to learn more about how we can engage our faith!

16
SAT.

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

28
THURS.

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Breaking Down Our Boxes

Thoughts on Faith from Rev. Chris Heckert

With an impending move, Kimberly and I are beginning to collect boxes of all sizes - boxes for books, clothes, dishes, & more. For the purpose of transporting items, boxes are essential to keep things in order and protect them from being damaged.

But boxes have their time, purpose, and inherent limitations. There are many items, for instance, that will not be moved in boxes - hanging clothes, works of art, guitars, etc. Also, soon after we complete our move, the boxes will go away. No one wants to live surrounded by cardboard containers. They create a mess--and a hindrance to living. So it goes when people or groups are placed into boxes of the metaphorical variety, with set expectations of who they are, what they believe, and how they act.



Lately it seems that the media has boxed Christianity and Christian faith into some common characterizations and mischaracterizations, particularly during difficult yet important national conversations around religious liberty, racial justice, and gender equality. I shudder when I read articles, blogs, and online posts that assume people who bear the name "Christian" support exclusion or perpetuate interreligious conflict and racial disparity. These are the boxes that not only can we live without but we as people of faith should actively and lovingly deconstruct.

Many Christians are doing just that, thinking, serving, and living outside the boxes that others--even people of their own faith--sometimes place them in. Our church believes in the rights of workers, the sacred worth of immigrants, and the call to seek justice and peace for all people any chance we get. I am passionate about ministering with a church that affirms scientific knowledge and the need to preserve and care for creation and natural resources. Many Christians affirm people of all sexual orientations and live by the obligation of the faithful to love, serve, and forgive even those with whom they may disagree. The rich diversity of our church, borne out in individual lives of faith and supported by an inclusive church community, strengthens us as the Body of Christ.

So I encourage us to actively resist the boxes that others seek to place Christianity in based on some limited, albeit loud, voices around current social issues. We are all part of the body of Christ, a living embodiment of Jesus whose radical love changed and changes the world.

May we seek to love all people. May we care for and empower the marginalized. And may we not be silent when others seek to box us in by preconceived notions.

Grace and peace,

Handwritten signature of Chris Heckert.

Rev. Chris Heckert, Senior Pastor

Come to the District Day of Learning!

Saturday, May 16, from 8:30am to 1:00pm

This year Morrow Church will host the Gateway North District Day of Learning on Saturday, May 16, from 8:30am to 1:00pm. We invite you to join us for a day of learning & fellowship as we deepen our faith and strengthen our church community. Check out the schedule below!

8:30am	Registration Begins (with Continental Breakfast & Coffee)
9:00am-10:00am	Praise & Worship
10:15am-11:30am	Workshop Session A
11:30am-11:45am	Break
11:45am-1:00pm	Workshop Session B
1:00pm	Day of Learning Ends (No Lunch Offered)

For more information, including workshop descriptions, visit <http://www.gnjumc.org/events/detail/4157>

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

Thursday, May 28 - Saturday, May 30 in Wildwood, NJ



May 28 - 30, 2015

The Wildwood Convention Center

501 Boardwalk

Wildwood, NJ 08260

Interested in becoming more involved in the United Methodist Church? Looking for a way to strengthen your church leadership skills? Join us for a weekend of praise and fellowship, leadership development, legislation review, and education at the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

Registration opens on Thursday, May 28, at 8:30am. Workshops cover topics like time management for church leaders; communications, storytelling, and faith in the age of technology; worship planning as a form of hospitality; innovative ideas for stewardship and membership growth; and strategies for urban missions.

For more information, visit <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/964>

Ministry News & Highlights

Thank You for Your Support!

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.

As of March 2015, our receipts totaled \$186,140.27. Our expenses were \$194,576.99, resulting in a current deficit of \$8,436.72.

We still face an anticipated deficit of \$17,000 for the coming year. We welcome additional gifts to ease the shortfall. 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, & community at Morrow Church!

New Adult Ed Class Begins Sunday, 4/26!

On Technology, Wellbeing & Spirituality, led by TEDx speaker John C. Havens

They say you can't stop progress—but we can redefine it. In modern society, technology has taken on an almost spiritual role in our lives, usurping time from loved ones & potential opportunities for introspection & spirituality. In this 3-week, interactive series, John C. Havens, author & TEDx speaker, will provide a portrait of how emerging technology can be used to increase wellbeing in our lives or potentially distract us from healthy emotional & spiritual growth.

"The Artificial & the Divine" meets for 3 consecutive weeks on **April 26, May 3, & May 10, at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall**. The goal of the series is to provide a background on issues such as personal data, quantified self, wearable sensors, augmented reality, artificial intelligence, transhumanism, & positive psychology in a supportive & edifying atmosphere of thoughtful, questioning, & introspective seekers.

Join Us for Our Mother's Day Musical!

During Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30am on Sunday, May 10

Our 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!

The performance is free of charge.

Don't miss this spectacular show on Mother's Day!

Celebrate Spring with the United Methodist Women!

UMW Spring Luncheon, Held in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 6

On May 6, the United Methodist Women welcome all who enjoy pleasant company & a delicious assortment of pot luck to our luncheon at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

If you can't bring a dish, we kindly request a \$5 donation to add to our mission work. We'll also have a memorial service with time to remember our members who are gone but not forgotten.

Some leadership positions will be available. If you're interested, contact Betsey Knowles, UMW President, & the UMW Nominating Committee at opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

Youth & Family Ministry

Conquering Challenges Morrow Youth Fellowship Retreat



MAY
15

FRI.

Conquering
Challenges with
God's Mighty Power

Join us May 15-16 for "Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power," a retreat in Jim Thorpe, PA.

We'll stay in cabins at Mauch Chunk State Park. The weekend will include whitewater river rafting on Saturday and downhill mountain-biking on Sunday. The cost is \$130.00 per person for the weekend.

We'll be looking at the challenging relationships in our lives: friends, family, foes, & faith.

Contact the church office for more information. This is one adventure you won't want to miss!

Work in Our Garden! Family Service Activity



MAY
16

SAT.

Donation Garden
9am-12pm

Celebrate the spring season with our Family Service Activity on Saturday, May 16!

Join us at Morrow Church from 9am to 12pm as we work in our donation garden. Our donation garden helps keep the food pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows well-stocked with fresh and healthy fare for local families in need.

Come out and get your hands dirty for a good cause! We welcome children of all ages!

Join Our Young Adult Pilgrimage to Taizé, France!



It's not too late to sign up! We're in the early planning stage for 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, & communal living.

Looking for a transformational spiritual experience this summer? Interested in gathering for fellowship with other young adults from around the world? Now's your chance!

Church members Kris and Nicole Hubert will be leading this trip from July 17-27. We'll hold an informational meeting to discuss estimated costs & other trip details.

Scholarships may be available to help offset costs.

If you're between the ages of 16 & 29 and you're seeking a meaningful spiritual experience with others this summer, contact the church office to find out more details!



Please remember to save your sellable items to donate to our sale! We begin accepting quality, gently-used donations on June 20. (The tent will arrive by June 23.)

We are **not** accepting any of the following items this year:

- CRTs, including tube TVs & computer monitors (flat-screen TVs & monitors are welcomed);
- computer desks or entertainment centers;
- children's carseats or sliding-side cribs;
- mattresses or box springs;
- skis or exercise machines;
- heavy sofa beds; and
- VHS tapes.

We ask that you try to deliver items on non-sale days during the morning, if possible.

If you have any questions, contact the church office at (973) 763-7676 or Joyce Stibitz, Turnover Sale Coordinator, at (973) 763-0323. Thank you!

JULY
2

THURS.
7pm-9pm

JULY
7

TUES.
7pm-9pm

JULY
9

THURS.
7pm-9pm

JULY
11

SAT.
9am-12:30pm

JULY
14

TUES.
7pm-9pm

JULY
18

SAT.
9am-12:30pm

JULY
21

TUES.
9am-12pm

Scholarships Available for College & Graduate School Seniors & Graduate Students Eligible to Apply



Applications are online! If you're a graduating senior or a graduate student, & a Morrow Church member, then you're eligible to apply. Applications are due by Friday, May 15. Students & selected recipients will be acknowledged at our 10:30am worship service on June 7, Education Sunday. Apply today!

Looking for Up-to-Date Member Information?

Updates to the Church Directory Now Available



Contact the church office if you'd like an update of contact information for church members.

Since publishing our directory a year ago, we have 7 new member families & an additional 23 changes in either home or email addresses for church members.

May 2015

MAY
3
SUN.
Worship in the Chapel, 8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am
Staff Parish Relations Meeting,
12pm
Mission/Outreach Dinner, 6pm

MAY
5
TUES.
Children's Musical Rehearsal,
4pm

MAY
6
WED.
United Methodist Women
Spring Luncheon, 12pm
Children's Musical Rehearsal,
4pm
The Table: Music &
Communion, 8pm

MAY
9
SAT.
Morrow Memorial Preschool
Clean-up, 9am
Children's Musical Dress
Rehearsal, 9am

MAY
10
SUN.
MOTHER'S DAY
Worship in the Chapel, 8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary (with
Children's Musical), 10:30am

MAY
12
TUES.
Church Council Meeting,
7:30pm

MAY
15
FRI.
Morrow Youth Fellowship
"Conquering Challenges"
Retreat (Jim Thorpe, PA),
6:30pm

MAY
16
SAT.
District Day of Learning,
8:30am
Junior Youth Fellowship -
Food Pantry (Time TBA)
Family Service Activity
(Donation Garden), 9am

MAY
17
SUN.
Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am
United Methodist Women
Board Meeting, 11:45am

MAY
18
MON.
Board of Trustees Meeting,
7:30pm
Building & Grounds
Committee Meeting, 7:30pm

MAY
21
THURS.
Martha Circle, 10am

MAY
24
SUN.
Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am (Memorial Sunday)

MAY
25
MON.
Memorial Day
(Church Office Closed)

MAY
28
THURS.
Greater New Jersey
Annual Conference Begins
(Wildwood, NJ)

MAY
31
SUN.
Worship in the Chapel,
8:15am
Worship in the Sanctuary,
10:30am
America's Grow-a-Row at
Fellowship Hour, 11:45am

Check our online calendar for more event details!

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



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

Save the Date!

Farewell Reception for Pastor Chris & the Heckert Family

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, Kimberly, Annelise, & Evelyn. Afterward, we'll gather at 11:45am in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the Heckerts' time, presence, & fellowship with us over the past five years.

Communications Deadlines

Want to submit an update, article, or announcement for one of our publications? Check out our guidelines & deadlines below!

Submissions can be made via email at opendoors@morrowchurch.org, via phone at (973) 763-7676, or in person at the church office. (All content is subject to editorial & pastoral approval.)

Sunday Bulletins

Submit your event information, including contact details, by Tuesday for publication the following Sunday.

Weekly eBlasts

Our eBlast is emailed to subscribers each Wednesday afternoon. Submit your information, including contact details & a picture, by Tuesday at 3pm for publication the following day.

Monthly Newsletter

Our newsletter, Grafted, is distributed online & in print once a month. Submit your information, including contact details & pictures (if desired), by the 15th of the month for publication the following month.