

Members of Morrow Church attended "Criminal Justice and Justice for All: Race, Faith, Incarceration and Community Action," a town hall meeting with Senator Cory Booker, on Tuesday, August 11. The interfaith panel, sponsored by the Coalition of Religious Leaders of New Jersey, was moderated by UMC Bishop John Schol. (Pictured from L to R: Senator Booker, Jane Ehlers, Caroline van Zeijts, Andrea Wren-Hardin, Mike Hertl)



Selfie with Senator Booker!

Show Sierra Leone Some Love!

SEPT.
26
SAT.

Join our Platform Tennis Marathon on Saturday, September 26, from 8am to 10pm, as we play nonstop tennis to raise funds for Sierra Leone's education system. The marathon will be held at the courts in Maplewood (at Oakland & Valley). We welcome all levels of players, from beginners to advanced!

Learn more and sign up to play at www.morrowchurch.org/sierra-leone

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See You at Home Again Sunday!

A Note from Rev. Bradford Motta

The summer months are a time of weekend excursions, family visits, and vacations, which often makes worship attendance during this time of year a little low. But while our numbers on Sunday mornings might have been down these past few months, our ministry and events schedule have been anything but slow.

In July we held our legendary Turnover Sale, with its characteristic busyness and outstanding successes (read more on page 4). We also sent students on the annual Christian Outreach Project trip, where they helped rebuild homes in need of repair. At Vacation Bible School, held the first week in August, children explored and adventured together as they scaled Mount Everest and learned about God's love and power (see our picture gallery on page 6!). Finally, in mid-August, we hosted 3 vibrant performances by Morrow Musical Theatre Camp, who transformed our sanctuary into a colorful set for Disney's "Aladdin, Jr."



Church members also participated in a Monday evening adult study, "Living the Questions," and attended a series of informal gatherings at the church and in people's homes (including neighborhood coffee hours with yours truly). Some of our members also attended a town hall meeting with Senator Cory Booker, which featured an interfaith panel moderated by UMC Bishop John Schol (see the selfie, at right!). It's been an exciting summer, and plans are in the works for an inspiring year ahead.

As our new program year begins, I look forward to meeting with you over coffee, celebrating worship together, and connecting with you at upcoming events. On Sunday, September 20, we'll celebrate Home Again Sunday, a kind of family reunion that will bring us all back together for the start of a new year. It's the perfect time to invite a friend or neighbor to come and experience the warmth and caring that is the hallmark of our Morrow Church community.

I'm excited to continue this journey of faith and life with you as we kick off a new year at Morrow Church. See you on September 20!

In Christian love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brad", written in dark ink.

Rev. Bradford L. Motta, Senior Pastor

Hosting Families in Need with IHN



**Interfaith
Hospitality Network**
of Essex County, Inc.
*an affiliate of Family Promise**

From September 13-20, we'll be hosting families at Morrow Church through our partnership with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. (This will be our only hosting opportunity in 2015.)

Four temporarily homeless families will join our Morrow Church community for the week as we convert our Sunday school classrooms into living spaces. Volunteers will make dinner for

our guests, provide company in the evenings, and stay overnight to chaperone. We're also in need of donations to stock our food pantry and provide necessary toiletries for our guests.

Visit our website at www.morrowchurch.org/ihn/ to volunteer as a host! You can also sign up during Fellowship Hour after the 10:00am worship service on Sundays.

If you have questions, email Gigi Loh, our hosting coordinator, at gloh@mac.com. Thank you for your continuing support.

Earth Sprouts Begins Soon



Earth Sprouts is a weekly enrichment program for preschoolers. Each Friday afternoon from 1pm-3:30pm, we

learn about God's love in creation by exploring the natural world around us.

We spend time outdoors observing and journaling about nature, taking turns at different learning stations, harvesting plants from our garden, and more. We also plan our own menu for snack time with fruits and veggies from our garden!

Our fall session runs from September 25 through December 11. Tuition for the 10-week session is \$350.

To learn more and register online, visit the Morrow Church website.

Choir Kick-Off Dates

Do you secretly--or not-so-secretly--sing in the shower? Have you admired our choirs from afar, wishing you could join? Now's your chance! To learn more, email Holland Jancaitis, Director of Music Ministries, at hollandj@morrowchurch.org.

Wednesday, September 9

4:00-4:45pm

Cherub Choir (Age 3 1/2 through Kindergarten)
Wesley Choir (Grades 1-3)
Heavenly Handbells (Grades 4-6)

4:45-5:30pm

Worship Arts Choir (Grades 4-6)

5:30-6:30pm

Youth Choir (Grades 7-12)

Thursday, September 10

7:00-7:45pm

aPeeling Bells (Jr. High-Adult)

7:45-9:30pm

Chancel Choir

Attend This Year's Church Conference

This year, our church conference will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at 7pm, here at Morrow Church.

We'll review our work in ministry over the past year and plan ahead as we think of ways to enrich the life of our church community.

The church conference offers an exciting opportunity to work together with fellow church members in shaping the spiritual life and community of Morrow Church. Don't miss this special event!

For more information, contact the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

Volunteer for our After-School Program

Our popular after-school enrichment program is returning for another year!

This year, our students will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:15-5:15pm at Seth Boyden Elementary School (274 Boyden Ave. in Maplewood). The program, which begins September 22, will meet for 3 8-week sessions.

We're looking for volunteer tutors to give 3rd- and 4th-graders help with their homework and instruction in fun STEM activities. We ask that volunteers commit to a minimum of 8 weeks.

If you're interested, email Rev. Brenda Ehlers, Associate Pastor, at behlers@morrowchurch.org.

For more details, visit our website at www.morrowchurch.org/mission-outreach/after-school-enrichment/

Meet Us on Route 45 this Fall



Calling all 4th- and 5th-graders! An exciting new program, Route 45, begins this fall!

One Wednesday a month, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm,

we'll meet in Fellowship Hall for a fun evening of dinner and service.

After dinner and game time, we'll learn about groups that support those in need in our local community and beyond. Join us as we grow our faith, engage in service, and have fun with friends!

Mark your calendars for the first day of the program on Wednesday, September 16, at 5:30pm.

Junior Youth Fellowship Kicks Off



The 2015-2016 season of Junior Youth Fellowship kicks off on Friday, September 18, from 7pm-9pm. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall and MacDonald

Hall. Bring a dish to share with friends and we'll supply the dessert.

This youth group for 6th-8th graders meets most Friday nights from 7-9pm. Invite your friends!

Come on September 18 and learn about our evenings of fun, friendship, and service to our community and beyond.

New Online Church Directory Launches

Looking for contact information for a member of our church community? Want to sign up for an upcoming event, change your address, or update your kids' medical forms?

With MinistryTracker, our new online church database, you'll have all the Morrow Church information you need right at your fingertips. You can access the site on any device, including computers, tablets, and smartphones.

MinistryTracker features an online directory that allows you to choose which information can be viewed by others. Plus, you'll have easy and convenient access to our church calendar, event sign-ups, and more. You can also access and store documents like permission slips, medical forms, and media releases in one central location.

Look for an email by Friday, September 4, with a link to your personal portal. Just click the link and follow the instructions to log in. Then fill out your profile and upload your picture. Log back in whenever you need to sign up for an event, update your profile information, or find out the latest news and announcements.

We'd love to have everyone's profiles by Home Again Sunday on September 20 to help us kick off the year ahead. Drop by the church office or visit one of our computer stations at the Home Again picnic for help with the log-in process. Fill out your profile by Sunday, September 20, to receive a mystery prize!

Check Out Our Website!

Visit www.morrowchurch.org for the latest news

Our church website has been revamped for easier access to all the information you need about Morrow Church!

Looking for information about Children & Families, Youth Ministry, Adult Ministry, Music Ministries, or Mission & Outreach? The handy tabs along the top of the website will get you where you need to go.

Upcoming events will be featured in the slider on our homepage. Just click on an image for more details. The latest-and-greatest news will be shown in the bottom right corner of the homepage. Plus, you can access helpful resources for renting rooms, planning for weddings or baptisms, and more.

Check back regularly for ongoing updates!

The Legend Continues!

by Mary Beth Scherer & Joyce Stibitz, Turnover Sale Coordinators

Our Turnover Sale was a huge success, grossing \$65,000 for our mission and ministries here at Morrow Church.

This year's sale marked 82 years of the "Miracle on Baker Street," sponsored by the United Methodist Women. The sale drew to a close on July 21. Over a period of 7 days, we completed a total of 20 1/2 hours of sales. We had 19 departments, 39 sorters, & 66 salespeople -- half of whom came from the greater community to join our efforts.

Thank you to all those who donated items, contributed their time & dedication as volunteers, and offered prayers for our sale. We invite veteran & new workers to join us next year!

Email us at turnover@morrowchurch.org to share your feedback about this year's sale.

Reconciling Ministries Network at GNJAC



At this year's Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC), 6 key pieces of legislation on human sexuality were passed--4 for general conference in May 2016 and 2 for our annual conference. (Visit our website to learn more!)

Participants gathered in small groups to share their hopes and concerns for the church's future and its teaching on same-sex relationships, a method known as holy conferencing, as they prepared to vote. This vote is the beginning of deeper, more meaningful conversations to come. The GNJAC is setting up a task

force to provide resources and to encourage and facilitate open conversations as we move forward.

The Reconciling Community of the GNJAC, which helped organize communion during the conference, includes Morrow Church members Rev. Sharon Burniston, Barbara Savino, and Andrea Wren-Hardin.

Scaling Mt. Everest at Vacation Bible School

by Amelia Riekenberg, VBS Director

More than 60 children climbed Mt. Everest by learning through science, art, music, story, & play how to conquer life's challenges by relying on God's power. They made new friends using "glacier ice," created pillows for comfort, & praised God through music & dance at "Summit Celebration." At "Bible Expedition," they learned how the Israelites conquered the challenges of wandering in the desert, and at "KidVid Cinema," they learned how ordinary kids work through life's challenges. Over healthy Bible-themed snacks, our mountain climbers shared about overcoming challenges in their own lives. It truly was a week that transformed lives, fostered friendships, & celebrated God's love!



September 2015

SEPT.
6
SUN.
8:15am, Worship in the Garden
10:00am, Worship in the Sanctuary (Kids at Worship)
11:00am, Fellowship Hour

SEPT.
8
TUES.
7:30pm, Church Council Meeting

SEPT.
11
FRI.
5:30pm, Laity Leadership Academy (Haddonfield, NJ)

SEPT.
12
SAT.
8:15am, Laity Leadership Academy (Haddonfield, NJ)

FALL WORSHIP BEGINS
SEPT.
13
SUN.
IHN FAMILIES ARRIVE
8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary (Kids at Worship)
11:45am, Fellowship Hour
11:45am, UMW Board Meeting

SEPT.
16
WED.
5:30pm, Route 45
5:30pm, Farmigo Pick-up

SEPT.
17
THURS.
10:00am, Martha Circle Meeting

SEPT.
18
FRI.
7:00pm, Junior Youth Fellowship Kick-off

HOME AGAIN SUNDAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS!
SEPT.
20
SUN.
8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9:30am, Education Hour
10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary
11:30am, Home Again Picnic
7pm, Morrow Youth Fellowship Kick-off

SEPT.
21
MON.
5:30pm, Communications Committee Meeting
7:30pm, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

SEPT.
24
THURS.
7:00pm, Junior Youth Fellowship/Methodist Youth Fellowship Parent Event

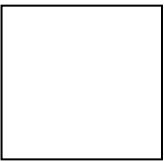
SEPT.
25
FRI.
1:00pm, Earth Sprouts Begins

SEPT.
26
SAT.
8:00am, Platform Tennis Marathon (Fundraiser for Sierra Leone)
9:00am, Budget Workshop

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9:30am, Education Hour
SEPT.
27
SUN.
10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary
11:45am, Fellowship Hour
11:45am, Global & Community Outreach Meeting
12:30pm, America's Grow-a-Row
7:00pm, Morrow Youth Fellowship Meeting

SEPT.
28
MON.
7:30pm, Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Join Us for Home Again Sunday on September 20



Worship in the Sanctuary will be at 10:30am, followed by a picnic on the lawn. We'll provide hamburgers, veggie burgers, & hot dogs for everyone.

Please bring a salad or side dish to share (gluten-free options welcome!). Also, bring a homemade dessert for our annual dessert contest!

Congratulations, Rev. & Mrs. Keith D. Rae!



On July 11, 2015, Morrow Church members Rev. and Mrs. Keith D. Rae celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a vow renewal ceremony in the sanctuary. Congratulations from the Morrow Church family!