

Connected

November 2015



Liturgical Dance at World Communion Sunday

During the month of October, we celebrated a series of special worship celebrations together, including World Communion Sunday (October 4), Blessing of the Animals (October 11), and Laity Sunday (October 18). We also had our annual Women's Ministry Retreat and weekly Learning Celebrations and children's and youth choir rehearsals. Check out page 6 for our picture gallery!

Save the Dates!

Advent begins at the end of this month. Also, be sure to note the date for our beloved annual tradition of Candlelight Carols, which is being held a bit earlier this year than in years past.

NOV.

29

SUN.

First Sunday of Advent

DEC.

6

SUN.

4pm, Candlelight Carols
5:30pm, Advent Dinner

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Showcasing our Morrow Church Pride

An Update on the “Give Us 5!” Campaign



For the past 3 weeks, we've been showcasing our favorite things about Morrow through our fun “Give Us 5!” campaign.

Wondering what our community values most? Check out the word cloud on page 2, which features everyone's responses (the larger words represent the most common responses).

To share (more) about what you love, email your favorite things about Morrow Church to opendoors@morrowchurch.org or post them online via social media.

You can also pick up a “Give Us 5!” card from the church office and use it to record the things you love most about our community. We'll continue sharing everyone's responses during worship on Sundays and online. So go on... give us 5!

Finance Update

by Kathy Finch, Finance Chair

As of October 22, here is our current financial situation:

Total income: \$553,235.95

Total expenses: \$579,634.96

Deficit: \$26,399.01

We are still projected to have a deficit of \$10,000 for the year, so we look forward to receiving all our pledges as they come in.

If you haven't made your pledge yet, or if you think you can give a little more, now is the time.

Please prayerfully consider giving as you are able to support our mission and ministry.

Thank you for your support!

Stewardship Ministry

Investing in a Progressive Christian Voice

So you want to change the world? Make a real difference? End hunger and injustice? Now's your chance! Give to Morrow Church not only as a statement of what you believe, but as a course of action for vital social change. When you give to Morrow Church, you are investing in a progressive Christian voice for the transformation of the world.

Your gift to Morrow funds local outreach efforts, such as feeding hungry families in our own community, & global mission work, like constructing a maternal health clinic in Mizak, Haiti. It also ensures that our building & grounds are safe, secure, and beautiful for weekly worship celebrations, community events like voting and blood drives, & all the other vibrant church & community activities that go on each week.

Whatever your level of support, giving to Morrow Church empowers you to make lasting, concrete change in the world. In the coming weeks, you'll be hearing more about how your giving can transform our local & global community. Stay tuned!

Children & Youth Ministry

JYF/MYF STEAM Camp

November 5-6

On Thursday, November 5, and Friday, November 6, from 9am to 3pm, our senior high students will be hosting STEAM Camp for elementary students in Grades K-5. They'll explore science, technology, engineering, art, & math (STEAM) at fun learning stations. They'll also have plenty of time for games, snacks, and lunch.

We are looking for 6-12th graders to help lead activities for 1st- through 5th-graders.

To learn more and sign up, contact Rev. Brenda Ehlers, Associate Pastor, at behlers@morrowchurch.org.

Route 45 (Grades 4-5)

November 11

The next meeting of Route 45, our youth group for 4th- and 5th-graders, will be on Wednesday, November 11, from 5:30pm to 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Students will gather for a night of dinner, service, and fun as we get ready for Thanksgiving.

This month Route 45 will celebrate Thanksgiving by creating door wreaths as holiday decorations for older adults in our local community.

To sign up, visit our church calendar online at morrowchurch.org/calendar. Click on the event link to register.

Upcoming Service Activities for JYF & MYF

Celebrate the Thanksgiving season with service! On Thursday, November 5, from 10am to 1pm, our 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-graders are heading to Paterson, NJ, to work with CUMAC. This organization operates a food pantry, thrift shop, after-school program, GED and ESL classes, and other programs. CUMAC also provides support to other local organizations for those in need. Bring your permission form and wear closed-toe shoes and a jacket.

Morrow Youth Fellowship (Grades 9-12) will be serving at Bridges on Saturday, November 28, from 10 am to 1pm. Bridges is a unique outreach program that serves the homeless community in Summit, NJ, and surrounding areas.

Register online for these events at morrowchurch.org/calendar.

Healthy Snacks Needed for STEM Enrichment

Our after-school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) enrichment program for 3rd- and 4th-graders meets weekly on Tuesday and Wednesdays at Seth Boyden Elementary School.

We're looking for healthy snack donations for 25 kids, such as:

- mini whole-wheat bagels with cream cheese
- cheese sticks
- fruit (apples, bananas, grapes, or clementines)
- pretzels
- goldfish crackers
- graham crackers

(Large packages, rather than individually wrapped items, are best.)

To donate snacks for our eager learners, visit us online at www.morrowchurch.org/mission-outreach/after-school-enrichment.

A Church Conference Unlike Any Other



Our annual Church Conference was held on October 13 at its usual time and its usual place--but this was no usual meeting!

Dubbed the "un-conference" by Pastor Brad himself, attendees gathered in a Fellowship Hall-turned-piano-bar, complete with (non-alcoholic) wine, plenty of snacks to munch on, and, of course, live piano music provided by our very own Director of Music Ministries, Holland Jancaitis. Favorite tunes included "Sweet Caroline," "Bohemian Rhapsody," and "Don't Stop Believing," among others.

With food, fellowship, and music abounding, this crowd proved that business and pleasure can indeed mix--and with amazing results.

Open House for Preschool



Morrow Memorial Preschool will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, November 14,

from 9am to 11am.

Join us for coffee, take a tour of the preschool, and learn more about enrollment. Children are always welcome!

We encourage you to spread the word to any friends or neighbors who may be interested in the preschool.

For more information, including a flyer, visit us online at www.morrowpreschool.org.

All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 1



Who has inspired you on your faith journey?

On November 1, All Saints' Day, we'll join with United Methodists

around the world as we remember and celebrate those Christians whose commitment to the gospel has inspired and transformed us.

At Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30am, we'll honor those who have taught us, through their lives and through their faith, what it means to serve one another and live the gospel.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel

NOV.

9am, Community Breakfast

1

9:15am, Learning Celebration

10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary

SUN.

11:30am, Fellowship Hour

7pm, MYF Meeting

NOV.

3

MMPS Election Day Bake Sale

9am, Caregivers Ministry

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment

TUES.

NOV.

4

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment

4pm, Cherub Choir Rehearsal

4pm, Wesley Choir Rehearsal

6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal

WED.

NOV.

5

9am, JYF/MYF STEAM Camp

9:30am, Sisters in Faith

10am, JYF - CUMAC

7pm, aPealing Bells

THURS.

7:45pm, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

NOV.

6

9am, JYF/MYF STEAM Camp

FRI.

NOV.

8

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel

9am, Community Breakfast

9:15am, Learning Celebration

10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary

11:30am, Fellowship Hour

12pm, UMW Board Meeting

SUN.

NOV.

10

9am, Caregivers Ministry

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment

TUES.

NOV.

11

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment

4pm, Cherub Choir Rehearsal

4pm, Wesley Choir Rehearsal

5:30pm, Route 45

6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal

WED.

NOV.

12

9:30am, Sisters in Faith

7pm, aPealing Bells Rehearsal

7:45pm, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURS.

NOV.

13

7pm, JYF Meeting

FRI.

NOV.

14

9am, MMPS Open House

SAT.

NOV.

15

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel

9am, Community Breakfast

9:15am, Learning Celebration

10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary

11:30am, Fellowship Hour

12pm, SPR Committee Meeting

7pm, MYF Meeting

SUN.

NOV.

16

7:30pm, Board of Trustees Meeting

7:30pm, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

MON.

NOV.

17

9am, Caregivers Ministry

3:15, STEM Enrichment

7:30pm, Church Council Meeting

TUES.

NOV.

18

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment

4pm, Cherub Choir Rehearsal

4pm, Wesley Choir Rehearsal

6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal

WED.



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

Ministry Tracker Has Launched!



It's official: Our new church database, Ministry Tracker, has launched! Now you can edit your address, upload a new picture, submit permission forms, and more -- all in one central

location.

If you haven't updated your profile yet, log in today using the link that was emailed to you. (If you've misplaced the original email, just let us know and we'll re-send it to you.)

For questions or feedback about using Ministry Tracker, reach out to us at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

Paddle Tennis Marathon Raises \$4,229

If you're a loyal "Connected" reader, you may remember reading about our Paddle Tennis Marathon last month. This unique fundraiser was organized by church member Tim Roebuck to raise much-needed financial support for schools in Sierra Leone, which are struggling to re-open in the aftermath of the Ebola crisis.

Well, the final results are in, and our dedicated paddle tennis players raised a grand total of \$4,229!

Thanks again to all of our players and supporters for their time and pledges!