

Connected

December 2015



Spreading Holiday Cheer

At their mid-November meeting, Route 45, our youth group for fourth- and fifth-graders, gathered to create holiday wreaths for elderly residents in our area. Check out more pictures from the past month's festivities on page 2!

Christmas Eve Worship

There will be 3 worship celebrations held in the sanctuary on December 24, Christmas Eve. See page 5 for more information about each celebration.

DEC.

24

THURS.

5pm - Christmas Eve Worship for Families & Children

7pm - Christmas Eve, Unplugged

11pm - A Brassy Christmas Eve Celebration

In This Issue

- Picture Gallery Pg 2
- Our Sponsorship of a Syrian Family Pg 3
- Upcoming Advent Events Pg 4
- Christmas Eve Worship Celebrations Pg 5
- Events Calendar Pg 7

Season's Greetings from Morrow Church!



Supporting Syrian Refugees

Morrow Church's Sponsorship of a Syrian Family



Top: Andrea Wren-Hardin, Lay Leader, & Sally Pillay, Director of First Friends;
Bottom: The family's new home in NJ

At the last Church Council meeting on November 17, the Council voted unanimously to explore the option of supporting a Syrian refugee family.

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, our partners at First Friends reached out to us about a family in need. The father has been in the US for two years, having won his asylum case. His wife and three children (ages 4, 8, and 13) finally arrived on Tuesday evening, and the family has been reunited.

By the time they arrived, we had identified a short-term housing option, holiday hosting, and a list of Morrow and Maplewood community volunteers ready to help. Our efforts transitioned from hosting



Morrow Church community member Dan Sugarman puts together bunk beds for the two girls.

to helping First Friends prepare an apartment in 2 days for the family

of 5's arrival. Morrow volunteers cleaned the bathroom, swept floors, assembled bunk beds, hung pictures, and added knobs to kitchen cabinets to make sure the family had a functioning apartment to come home to.

We provided all of the beds for the family, including a set of bunk beds, a twin bed, and a full-size bed. When the 13-year-old saw the apartment, he said, "This isn't just beautiful, it is wonderful." We welcomed them to their new home with a Middle Eastern meal.

Morrow Church members also took the family shopping in Paterson at Middle Eastern markets and paid for their groceries. The family said they could get 30 meals out of this initial grocery run.

Morrow Church continues to be a conduit for the Maplewood community to participate by collecting volunteer names and assigning tasks as they arise. Our phone is ringing off the hook! If you'd like to lend your support, contact the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

We appreciate your ongoing discretion in sharing details about the family's identity and circumstances, including in posts on social media. Please help us extend grace by maintaining privacy and protecting the dignity of the family.

Morrow Church Featured on Local News



On Wednesday, November 25, Morrow Church was featured on Channel 2 news for our support of this Syrian family.

Check out the video clip online at <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/video/3325651-nj-church-welcomes-syrian-refugee-family/>



Preparing for Christmas

Don't Miss These Upcoming Advent Events!

Advent by Candlelight

December 1, 7:30pm

This special event is designed by women, for women, as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season.

Gather for a night of poetry, music, and readings as we reflect on the meaning of Advent and the coming of Christmas. There will be light refreshments shared around a table as we watch and listen to Christmas-themed performances.

Bring a friend for this beloved annual tradition! Transportation is available to and from the event for those who need it.

Contact the church office to sign up today! You can also sign up online at www.morrowchurch.org/calendar or through the Evite.

Candlelight Carols

December 6, 4pm

This annual holiday performance, featuring music and lessons about the Christmas story, is on Sunday, December 6, at 4pm in the sanctuary. This event is free and open to the public.

After the performance, we will have an Advent Dinner at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets for the dinner cost \$12 per adult and \$6 per child, to be paid at the door.

Register online through the events calendar at www.morrowchurch.org/calendar or call the church office to reserve your tickets.

Coffee & Christmas Cheer

December 10, 3pm



Come by the Second Mile Room on Thursday, December 10, from 3pm-4:30pm for coffee and Christmas

cheer with Pastors Brad and Brenda!

Please RSVP to the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

Parsonage Open House

December 13, 3pm



Join us at the parsonage (12 Roosevelt Road) on Sunday, December 13, for light refreshments and fellowship

this holiday season.

Come by any time between 3pm and 5pm!

Donkeys, Camels, & Goats... Oh, My!

Visit Ancient Bethlehem on Christmas Eve



Beginning at 4pm on Christmas Eve, children and families can experience the excitement of ancient Bethlehem with a visit to the Bethlehem marketplace, held outdoors in front of Morrow Church.

Visit the stable with Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and wise men.

Plus, you can see sheep, goats, donkeys, and even a camel!

Dress warmly!

Bethlehem will be open until 7pm.

Worship on Christmas Eve

Celebrations at 5pm, 7pm, & 11pm on December 24

Worship for Families & Children



At this 5pm worship celebration, children are invited to put on costumes (which we provide) and participate in telling the Christmas story as we sing carols and wish each other a very Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve, Unplugged



Held at 7pm in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, this contemporary worship celebration features acoustic music in a casual atmosphere.

A Brassy Christmas Eve Celebration



Join us for this candlelight celebration at 11pm on Christmas Eve, featuring readings, carols, and a brass quartet.

Special Youth Ministry Events

Embark on an ADVENTure with MYF

December 13 and December 20

Join Morrow Youth Fellowship (MYF), a youth group for students in grades 9-12, for ADVENTure, a unique Advent program held on two Sundays, December 13 and 20, at 7pm.

We'll be partnering with other youth groups to restore Emmanuel Church in Union City so that it can become a worship space again.

Sign up online through the events calendar at www.morrowchurch.org/calendar.

Upcoming JYF Events

DEC.

5

9am, JYF Girls/Boys Overnight Retreat

SAT.

DEC.

11

7pm, JYF Meeting (MEND Shopping)

FRI.

DEC.

18

7pm, Christmas Party

There will be tasty treats, fun games to play, and a ghastly gift exchange. Bring a "ghastly gift" -- something silly or fun and of no value to exchange at the party.

Noteworthy News & Needs

Pre-Register for Morrow Memorial Preschool

Morrow Church families can pre-register for enrollment for the 2016-17 school year from January 4-8.

Registration forms for 2-1/2-, 3-, and 4-year-old classes will be available outside of the Preschool Director's office beginning on December 14.

You can find more information, including additional copies of the registration form and tuition policy, online at www.morrowpreschool.org.

For questions, please contact Cynthia Hicks, Preschool Director, at (973) 763-5460.

Donate on December 1, #GivingTuesday

Tuesday, December 1, is #GivingTuesday, a special day set aside each year to encourage donations to the organizations that work for good in our world.

This year, join United Methodists around the world in supporting the projects and missionaries of **The Advance**, the United Methodist Church's official program for giving to designated causes.

Every gift made online will be matched by up to one million dollars.

Visit www.umcmmission.org/give to make your donation on December 1.

DEC.

1

#GivingTuesday
9:30am, Caregivers Ministry
7:30pm, Advent by Candlelight

TUES.

DEC.

2

4pm, Cherub Choir Rehearsal
4pm, Wesley Choir Rehearsal
6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal

WED.

DEC.

3

9:30am, Sisters in Faith
7pm, aPealing Bells Rehearsal
7:45pm, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURS.

DEC.

6

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9am, Community Breakfast
9:15am, Learning Celebration
10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary
11:45am, Global & Community Outreach Meeting
4pm, Candlelight Carols
5:30pm, Advent Dinner
7pm, MYF Meeting

SUN.

DEC.

8

9:30am, Caregivers Ministry
7:30pm, Finance Committee Meeting

TUES.

DEC.

9

4pm, Cherub Choir Rehearsal
4pm, Wesley Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm, Route 45
6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal

WED.

DEC.

10

9:30am, Sisters in Faith
3pm, Coffee & Christmas Cheer
7:45pm, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURS.

DEC.

13

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9am, Community Breakfast
9:15am, Learning Celebration
10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary
11:30am, Fellowship Hour
11:45am, Music Committee Meeting
3pm, Parsonage Open House
7pm, MYF (ADVENTure)

SUN.

DEC.

14

7:30pm, Board of Trustees Meeting

MON.

DEC.

15

9:30am, Caregivers Ministry

TUES.

DEC.

16

4pm, Cherub Choir Rehearsal
4pm, Wesley Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal

WED.

DEC.

17

9:30am, Sisters in Faith
7:45pm, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURS.

DEC.

20

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9am, Community Breakfast
9:15am, Learning Celebration
10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary
11:30am, Fellowship Hour
11:45am, Global & Community Outreach Meeting
7pm, MYF (ADVENTure)

SUN.

DEC.

22

9:30am, Caregivers Ministry

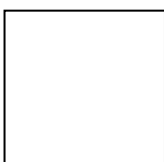
TUES.

DEC.

24

4pm, Living Nativity
5pm, Worship in the Sanctuary
7pm, Worship in the Sanctuary
11pm, Worship in the Sanctuary

THURS.



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

Make Your Commitment Today

November has been an exciting month! Through our Stewardship Ministry, the Morrow Church community has committed to transforming our world through a progressive Christian movement.

Your financial commitment represents what you value most about our faith community: vibrant children's programs, diverse and inspiring music, engaging worship celebrations, meaningful opportunities for education, and effective outreach to local and global communities.

Join with us now in making a financial commitment to support Morrow Church in 2016.

Return your commitment card today! Thank you to those who have already made a commitment for 2016.

Help a Family In Need This Christmas

Through the "Help a Family at Christmas" program, MEND (Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity) provides Christmas gifts for families in need.

If you'd like to support a family this Christmas, contact Dawn Hernandez-Pemberton, MEND Ministry Coordinator, with the size of family you can support (small, 2-4 individuals; medium, 3-6 individuals; or large, 6-8 individuals), or, if not an entire family, how many individuals (i.e., 1 or 2 people). You can contact her at the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

In lieu of buying and wrapping gifts, you can make a monetary donation. Write your check out to Morrow Church (note "MEND Help a Family at Christmas" in the memo line.)