

MORROW MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 30, 2023

Greetings, Parents of the amazing children and youth of Morrow Church.

When I was in seventh grade, an announcement was made one Sunday morning that our pastor was being moved from our church in Bridgewater to the Morristown UMC. My family was crushed. Rev. Jim White was the pastor who had been with us for ten years through family celebrations and struggles. When I was ordained, some thirty years later, Jim sent me his red stole for the bishop to place upon me.

I know that while we are excited for Pastor Brenda's well-deserved new opportunity, we are also crushed by her departure. I know that many of you have depended upon a long and trusted relationship with her, especially for your children. I am praying for you and inviting you to join me for a time of prayer and pause, conversation and questions.

I would like to meet first with the parents whose kids depend upon the safe space that is found in Morrow Church youths groups, where they participate in God-talk, deepening their faith, and giving in service, all while living into who God made us to be. **If you have kids in, or entering, the JYF (grades 6-8) or MYF (grades 9-12) groups, please plan to join me on Monday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. on zoom.** Please email me for the zoom link. We will ask that confidentiality be held for honest and open dialogue. If you feel more comfortable putting your questions in writing, for some level of anonymity, [please type them here](#). We will take generic notes at the meeting that can be shared with parents who cannot attend.

I will be meeting with the youth as well. Tonight, I will be at the **Christian Outreach Project** planning meeting. I will also join JYF and MYF for one of their last meetings before summer break. I want to hear them, and also encourage their involvement in the **June 11 Celebration Worship and Luncheon for Pastor Brenda's last Sunday.**

I will be taking the lead on **Confirmation Class** in the coming years. I have missed the opportunity to be with the youth at this important time in their faith journey. More information on the schedule will follow.

To the parents of the little ones, I am meeting with the **Sunday School** teachers about the fall program on Saturday, May 13 at 9:30 a.m. Feel free to send your hopes and ideas ---and if you are willing to help.

Lastly, with the help of many volunteers, all camps are moving forward - **Peace and Nature Camp and COP in June, Morrow Theater Camp and Vacation Bible School in August.**

Morrow Church will continue to be that safe place where God is found and experienced through relationships in and beyond the church.

If you have any pressing questions, please do not hesitate to email or text or call me at 908.227.3870.

Please stay close to God
and to this amazing community,

Pastor Janice Lynn