

Morris Memorial



MORRIS MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2019

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Pastor's Reflection

Pray for our Denomination

I am a third generation United Methodist pastor. Together my grandfather, my father, and I have served a total of 120 years. My grandfather began his ministry in the 1920's. That ministry continued well into the 1960's. My father's ministry began in the 1940's and continued until he was diagnosed with cancer in 1986. My ministry began in 1978. I long since completed enough years of service to qualify for retirement. Ministry is not just my job, however. It is my calling.

I remain loyal to the United Methodist Church. I have become frustrated and discouraged at times, but I do not expect to retire until God leads me to do so. I also do not expect to leave the U.M. Church unless God directs me to do so. I am not blindly loyal, however. I have strong beliefs about the choices which will be presented to the delegates at the special General Conference this February. Those beliefs are based on what appears to me to be the clear teaching of the bible. I can and do love those whose views are different from mine, but I will not remain silent when I believe that our denomination may be taking a step which is contrary to the scripture.

I urge you to pray for our denomination. When you do, you will not just be praying for an institution. You will be praying for people. You will be praying for many who have committed their entire lives to the cause, and you will be praying for those who could yet be reached with the gospel and be saved from sin and death if the United Methodist Church does not fail them.

Pray not just that the General Conference will make the right decision but also that it will be done in the right way. Pray that those who gather in St. Louis will treat one another with love and respect. Pray that all of our delegates will seek and discern God's will. Pray that the General Conference will make the right decision. Pray that those who believe that the General Conference has indeed reached the right decision will not gloat, pray that those who do not believe that the General Conference has made the right decision will find God's will for their lives, and pray that we will all have in us the mind that was in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2). Pray. Pray. Pray.

Pastor Mark

Jesus Commands Us to Love

This February, Pastor Mark's sermon series will be titled "Commanded to Love." Love is not just something we "fall" into. It is something which our Lord commands us to do. On February 3, we will hear what Jesus says when he is asked what commandment is the most important. Our sermon title will be "Commanded to Love." In order to prepare for worship on that Sunday you are invited to read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Mark 12:28-30. The sermon title for February 10 will be "Commanded to Love One Another." We will look at Christ's commandment to his followers to love one another. Our scripture readings for the day will be 1 Peter 3:8-12 and John 13:33-36. On February 17, Pastor Mark's sermon will be titled "Commanded to Love our Neighbors." We will be hearing Leviticus 19:13-18; Romans 13:9, 10; and Mark 12:28-34.



Confirmation Class to Be Offered This Spring

Young people in grades 6-10 are invited to be part of a confirmation class this spring. Pastor Mark plans to lead the group in examining the basics of the Christian faith and to challenge group members to repent and accept Christ as Lord. Every participant will, of course, need to make his or her own decision for Christ. Those who make such a decision will be invited to receive the sacrament of baptism if they have not already been baptized. Those who believe that they are ready to accept the obligations of church membership will be invited to take membership vows.

Students and their parents are invited to an orientation session on February 17 at 6 p.m. Pizza (including gluten-free pizza) will be provided. Each student is asked to bring at least one parent if at all possible. If you are interested in the confirmation class and this date does not work for you, however, please speak with Pastor Mark. A meeting at another time could be arranged. You can reach Pastor Mark by E-mail at revmwflynn@gmail.com or by phone at 304-925-1413 or 304-925-5479.



Pastor Mark will propose ten class sessions. He has tentatively scheduled sessions on the following Sundays: March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31; April 7, 28; and May 5, 12, and 19. Most of these sessions could be either right after the 11:00 service (a light meal) or on Sunday evening. If it works for the young people involved, we will celebrate baptisms and confirmations on June 9, which is Pentecost Sunday.



Please remember in prayer these members of our church family on their special day

Brian Silkwood	February 1	Polly Stephens	February 16
Mark Hatfield	February 4	Jamal Dillard	February 17
Betty Patrick	February 6	Nancy Cole	February 21
Samuel Morris	February 6	Glenna Underwood	February 22
Gerald Nelson	February 7	Paul Arbogast	February 23
Ruth Ann Stigall	February 8	Ian Cartmill	February 23
Kathy White	February 10	Karen Smith	February 23
Julie Williams	February 10	Fayette Bowen	February 24
Bonnie Dworsky	February 10	Carolyn Ballard	February 25
Lesa Eskew	February 11	Darby Simmons Stone	February 25
Alice Mount	February 13	Wanda Hymes	February 27



Doris & Gael Morris	February 1	Linda & Bob Kendall	February 14
Dan & Carolyn Short	February 10	Ingrid and Roy Smith	February 24
Karen & Charles Winter	February 14	Walter & Vivian Myers	February 26

*Liturgist
Schedule*

	8:30	11:00
Feb. 3	Michelle Stigall	David Byrd
Feb. 10	Robert Stigall	Chris Terpening
Feb. 17	Mary Collins	Jim Caudill
Feb. 24	Carolyn Ballard	Sharon Byrd

COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

The first week of the new year proved to be busy, busy, busy! In one day we took care of families we've had a number of years, new families who came for help because of their needs, other families who came back to us because of change in life circumstances, and two separate homeless men (one who was so hungry he opened the package of bread and the canned meat and "woofed it down" as he exited the building and then called out, "Thank you so much!" (Seeing someone so hungry is truly a heartbreaking sight! For most or all of us it's difficult to imagine; yet, "there but for the grace of God go we.") By donating food, time, talents, and/or money you are fulfilling the scripture: "I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40 You REALLY are!! Thank you for caring so much!



As we shared in the past, our own Knit Wits group donated hand-made dish cloths for all our families receiving Thanksgiving boxes. In addition, they have given us ten beautiful baby blankets we keep and share on an as-needed basis for pregnant ladies or families with infants. How grateful we are for the lovely handwork made specifically for our families in need. Thanks go to each and every Knit Wit! May God bless you and yours richly!

If you would like to help us this month, please bring **BOXED CEREAL** (unsweetened, please) **OR OATMEAL, CANNED SOUPS, AND/OR CANNED FRUIT** (in its own juice). Your donation(s) may be placed in the woven trunk in the Closet in the Narthex. If you would like to give a donation by check, please make the check out to **Morris Memorial United Methodist Church** and in the bottom left-hand corner write Common Grounds. If you are supporting Common Grounds with food, with money, by volunteering, and/or by praying for this mission outreach of our church, **YOU are MAKING A DIFFERENCE** in our own neighborhood - guaranteed! Bless you!

If you are interested in learning more about Common Grounds, have comments to share, or would like to volunteer here, please contact **Susan Vieweg**, our **Morris Memorial Common Grounds Coordinator**, at (304) 344-2617 or (304) 549-6155.

USHERS

THIS
MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>POSITIONS</u>
Feb. 3	8:30 am	Ushers -----Dean Patrick & Beth Hall
	11:00 am	Ushers -----Matt & Ashley Skiles and Ann Davis
Feb. 10	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Reuben & Rebecca Gillispie
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Mickie Bowles and Ann Davis
Feb. 17	8:30 am	Ushers -----Dave & Marie Cole
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Cathie Brown, Tim Basford and Ann Davis
Feb. 24	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Robert & Michelle Stigall
	11:00 am	Ushers -----Ann Davis

Over the years the Lord has blessed us at Morris Memorial with many gifts. We have seen many lives changed by the ministries of our church. We would like to continue that same witness in our community for many years to come. The furthering of the future ministry depends on resources of the present. Any church has continual need of funds to move

forward. We do what we can as long as the Lord gives us life, but what about once we are in Heaven? It is comforting to know that when we step into God's presence to know that our loved ones are comforted and that the church we have loved and dearly supported throughout our lives, will continue to prosper by a gift we have purposed to give.

Morris Memorial United Methodist Church has an exciting opportunity for the future of our church. We are considering partnering with the Western & Southern Financial Group to provide a means for our members and friends to leave a lasting legacy. More details will

be announced next month of this opportunity to ensure the work of the ministry is carried on in the future. Stay tuned! The future is and will continue to be brighter as we carry on the work God has called us to do.

