

Morris Memorial



MORRIS MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

JANUARY 2020

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

In our last article we shared that we were preparing for our Thanksgiving food boxes. Two days before Thanksgiving we gave out 221 boxes filled with the makings of a complete Thanksgiving dinner for each of those families (who signed up in October). The Sunday before that our Youth Group came to Common Grounds to help put those boxes together and what a help they were! We were grateful for the help and we trust it was a good experience for those young people in doing for others less fortunate than they.

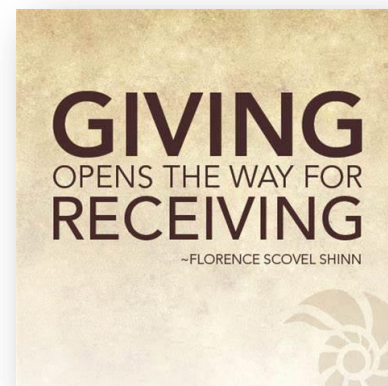
On Sunday, Nov. 17 we held our Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church. What a joy we all experienced worshipping in thanksgiving and unity! It truly was a special time of sharing. Some statistics that were shared at the service (and that may be of interest to you) include: Common Grounds was opened in September, 2007. During that time we have assisted 3,428 families and have provided 27,441 boxes of food. Over that time we have averaged 210 Thanksgiving boxes a year. The average number of families served per day is 20. The average monthly income per household is \$718.49.

We operate with no paid staff and our operating expenses are limited to rent, phone, security fee, utilities, and occasional printing supplies. As with most non-profit organizations, contributions are down and volunteer numbers have decreased. Our volunteers are our most valuable asset. If you volunteer here we thank you! If you do not as yet please consider it. We'd love to have your help!

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! God bless you!

If you would like to help us this month, please consider bringing CANNED SOUP, CANNED FRUIT (IN ITS OWN JUICE) AND/OR BOXED CEREAL. 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 Methodist Church and in the bottom left-hand corner write Common Grounds. As always, we appreciate any and all donations. Thanks again for sharing so faithfully in whatever way(s) you can or choose. May God bless you BIG TIME!!

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.





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

Barney Frazier	January 4	Elouise Leadbetter	January 20
Beth Hall	January 5	Marie Cole	January 20
Haley Williams	January 6	Betty Ramsey	January 24
Katy Smith	January 9	Adam Batty	January 25
Mildred Bledsoe	January 11	Kimberly Hess	January 25
Angelo DeRaimo	January 14	Daniel Baker	January 26
Jim Waggy	January 17	Cathie Brown	January 30
Gill Heasley	January 19	Michael Dalporto	January 30
Jerry Ballard	January 19	Sharon Byrd	January 30



Roger and Betty Ramsey	January 24
Bill & Thelma Ann Wandling	January 25

*Lector
Schedule*

	8:30
Jan. 5	Beth Hall
Jan. 12	Jon Browning
Jan. 19	Nancy Duncan
Jan. 26	Jeannie Morris



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mondays:	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors Nurture in Action
Wednesdays:	6:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Men's Prayer Exercise for Seniors MEC Chapel Bible Study (resuming on 1/15) Bible Study (resuming on 1/15) Chancel Choir
Fridays:	9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors
Sundays:	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Kids Praise (resuming 1/19) Youth (resuming 1/12)

January 2 – UM Men at 6:00 p.m.
 January 3 – First Friday Fellowship at Harding's at 6:00 p.m.
 January 5 – UM Men hosting dinner for UC athletes

January 12 – Staff appreciation luncheon
 January 14 – Finance Team, 6:15 p.m.
 January 14 – Church Council at 7:15 p.m.



Morris Enrichment Center Update

I'm sitting here watching the rain come down and wondering what happened to summer? Didn't we just begin summer and yet this week we will start our winter season? We have been busy at the daycare this year with a new Pre-K teacher and other changes; it's hard to believe this year is almost over. I must be getting old for I remember my grandmother saying "where has time gone?"

The week before Christmas was very busy around the daycare! On Tuesday, December 17th, we had our breakfast with Santa and the parents were invited to join their child for breakfast. I know Barney must have practiced his "Ho, Ho, Ho!" at home! There were biscuits, sausage, gravy and of course cinnamon rolls. Makes me hungry just to think about it!

We also just had our children's Christmas Program. The children diligently practiced and they sounded so sweet. I hope some of you were able to attend and see how precious they are.

As you enjoy the beauty of this season remember those who cannot get out to see the pretty lights, and may not have some of the sweets that we all enjoy so much. Please take a moment and call their name in prayer. We want to wish our church family a very Merry Christmas and want all of you to remember why we celebrate this season. It's not just another holiday but an important time in all our lives. May the coming year only bring us at Morris Memorial abundant blessings from on high.

God Bless!
Georgeanne Leake, Director



Our Morris Youth Group Lends Their Helping Hands

On Sunday, November 17 just prior to Thanksgiving, our Youth Group came to Common Grounds to help prepare the Thanksgiving boxes for distribution to Common Grounds families on Tuesday, November 26. They helped fill the 221 boxes with the non-perishable foods and divided them according to the family size for ease of distribution. They were eager to work, pleasant to work with, and worked well as a team. How we appreciated their help at a time we really needed it. They proved the old adage "Many hands make light work" once again.....and it was fun!



Genuine thanks to members of the Youth Group, their Leaders (Ryan and Candice Anderson), their Assistants, and interested family members. They all shared their time and talents so underprivileged families in our area could share in a wonderful Thanksgiving. We thank them for being an important part of "making these filled boxes happen." We hope to see them again next year. God bless them ALL!

Annual Sunday School Dinner and Auction -
Fun and Fruitful!!

On Saturday, December 7 the three Adult Sunday School classes held an auction to benefit Common Grounds, our local mission outreach. People began the evening with a tasty potluck dinner, had a devotional time and then the auction began. The auctioneer was Mark Hatfield; his trusty sidekick was Anthony Turley who not only helped the auctioneer determine the approximate weight of each gift but also delivered the gifts to the winning bidders. What a GREAT time was had bidding on “good gifts” and “gag gifts” -----all for a good cause! The evening was filled with fellowship, laughter, and joy knowing we were helping our needy neighbors too. When all was said and done, the auction brought in \$1125.00 to share with Common Grounds. It will go very far in helping us be Christ’s hands and feet to those families coming to our mission outreach for help.



Truly, a good time was had by all. If you missed it, put it on your calendar for next year. We’d love to have you plan on joining us and be a part of all the fun. Thank you to the Julia Kendall Class for hosting the dinner/auction and thank you to all who participated in the evening’s events. May God bless you all!

*Children’s Moments
Schedule*

	11:00
Jan. 5	Thelma Ann Wandling
Jan. 12	Karen Winter
Jan. 19	Sharon Byrd
Jan. 26	Jon Browning

*If you are interested in serving as an Usher or Lector during the 11:00 service, please contact the church office, Mary Jo Nichols or Judy Darr. You can also place a note in the Worship & Nurture mailbox with your name, address and phone number.
Thank you in advance for your help!*



USHERS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>POSITIONS</u>
Jan. 5	8:30 am	Ushers ----- Robert & Michelle Stigall
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Steve Boyd, Mickie Bowles and Ann Davis
Jan. 12	8:30 am	Ushers -----Karen Smith and Teddi Smith
	11:00 am	Ushers Donna Stover, Georgeanne Leake and Ann Davis
Jan. 19	8:30 am	Ushers -----Dean Patrick and Beth Hall
	11:00 am	Ushers ----- Tim Basford, Cathie Brown and Ann Davis
Jan. 26	8:30 am	Ushers -----Jackie Carden and Ted Bledsoe
	11:00 am	Ushers -----Ashley & Matt Skiles and Ann Davis

OUR WORSHIP TEAM'S THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

Our hearts are full and overflowing with thanks to the Worship Team for sponsoring our Thanksgiving Food Drive once again. The results show our congregation willingly opened their

hearts and their wallets to purchase food and share with our local underprivileged families. When all was said and done, 547 items were donated the four Sundays prior to Thanksgiving. If you were in church those Sundays, you could see them all collected in the front right of the church. It truly was really impressive!! We needed the sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing, cranberry sauce, and the green beans to put in our Thanksgiving boxes which numbered 221 this year. Any other donations are helping fill



our monthly boxes for families we help. What a tremendous boost you gave!! Thanks to the Worship Team for sponsoring this vital food drive for Common Grounds and thanks to those of you who so willingly purchased food to share with others. We do appreciate your generosity. Together you did a tremendous job! God bless you all!