

# Morris Memorial



MORRIS MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

DECEMBER 2019

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, one of our sponsoring churches. 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.

It was also reported that 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 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*

Elizabeth Cartmill	December 3	Velma High	December 19
Garrett Eads	December 4	Michelle Stigall	December 21
Chuck Yanov	December 5	Timothy Pittman	December 22
Lyndsey Jones	December 5	Gretta Hairston	December 23
Roy Smith	December 5	Sandra Myers	December 24
Bill Wandling	December 11	Lenese Hickman	December 24
Brittany Boyd	December 12	Dean Silkwood	December 25
Sharon Pittman	December 13	Betsy Sokolosky	December 27
Mickie Bowles	December 13	Ann Kautz	December 28
Carolyn Short	December 15	David Cole	December 28
Emily Sokolosky	December 17	Maxine Boyd	December 30
June Toler	December 17	Mary Hill	December 31



Katy & Don Smith	Dec. 13
Debbie & Mike Barber	Dec. 19
Mark & Monica Hatfield	Dec. 27
Candice & Ryan Anderson	Dec. 28

*Advent  
Reading  
Schedule*

	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Dec. 1	Teddi Smith and Karen Smith	Jim & Ann Kautz
Dec. 8	Gael & Doris Morris	Jerry & Mary Townson
Dec. 15	<b>10:30</b> Bill & Susan Vieweg	N/A
Dec. 22	Dave & Marie Cole	Jerome & Gretta Hairston
Dec. 24	<b>7:00</b> Bob & Chris Kirby	N/A



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mondays:	9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors
	9:30 a.m.	Nurture in Action
Wednesdays:	6:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors
	10:00 a.m.	MEC Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Fridays:	9:30 a.m.	Exercise for Seniors
Sundays:	4:00 p.m.	Youth

December 1 – Kids Praise rehearsal at 3:00 p.m.

December 3 - PPRC at 6:00 p.m.

December 4 – Trustees at 7:00 p.m.

December 5 – UM Men at 6:00 p.m.

December 7 – Kids Praise Dress Rehearsal at 9:00 a.m.

December 7 – Adult Sunday School party and auction at 6:00 p.m.

December 8 – Kids Praise Christmas musical at 11:00 a.m. service

December 10 – Finance at 6:30 p.m.

December 10 – Admin. Board at 7:15 p.m.

December 10 – Chancel Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

December 12 – Knit Wits at 2:00 p.m.

December 12 – Community Christmas Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

December 14 – Chancel Choir dress rehearsal at 9:00 a.m.

December 15 – Christmas Cantata at joint worship service at 10:30 a.m.

December 15 – UM Men Spaghetti dinner after 10:30 a.m. service

December 18 – No Choir practice

December 19 – MEC Christmas program at 7:00 p.m.

December 20 – “A Christmas Gift from Our Hearts to Yours” concert at 6:00 p.m.

December 24 – Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

December 24-26 ~ Church office closed for Christmas

## Morris Enrichment Center

“What am I thankful for this Thanksgiving?” I am thankful for good health and the ability at my age to still work with children who bring such joy and pleasure to my life. I am thankful for family and my friends and a church where love abounds.

Greetings from the Enrichment Center! We have been a busy bunch around here, especially after Judy Neal encouraged my children to take time to share with others by bringing donations for Common Grounds. When all was counted and delivered to Common Grounds, Susan Vieweg, our representative from the church told me we had 2000 items to turn in. One classroom gave 580 cans and we all celebrated with pizza and crazy bread. Thank you, Judy and Susan, for teaching little children about giving. I am so proud of what they accomplished for this will be with them the rest of their lives.

We have been doing a little cleaning around the church and one item that really made an impression on Lynn Thompson, was the stove in the kitchen getting cleaned. Everyone we asked couldn't remember when it was purchased, so having burners looking like new made the “old stove” look like it really was a new stove. Thank you, David Johnston, for your hard work. The men of the day care plan to wax the floor in the Family Life Center in a few days and hopefully it will sparkle and shine for the holidays.

Again, I want to thank you as a church family for this great ministry. The true reward will be when these little ones accept Jesus in their lives. God bless each of you this holiday season, and take a little time to rest and be thankful for what God has done for us.

*Georgeanne Leake and  
Staff of MEC*



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*Don't forget to order your Christmas poinsettias by December 9<sup>th</sup>!  
Order forms are available in Sunday's bulletin or in the church office!  
We are ordering 6" red poinsettias and they are \$11 each.*

**COMMON GROUNDS WHOLEHEARTEDLY THANKS  
OUR SCOUTS FOR A GREAT DAY OF SHARING!**

On Saturday, November 2 our Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 177 led by Alan Long, and our Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 168 led by Angie Tucker, hung "Scouting for Food" bags on doors of homes in Kanawha City. They returned one week later on November 9 to collect the donations. The scouts began early in the morning to collect grocery bags of food from the homes of generous people. Once the food was collected, the scouts brought it to Common Grounds, our church's local mission outreach here in Kanawha City. What a great help they were! The scouts set about going through the collected food, separating it by date and type, and placing it on the appropriate food shelves ready for distribution. When all was said and done, we had a grand total of **234** bags (consisting of **1872** items- mostly canned goods). In fact, they brought in a lot more bags this year than they did last year! Way to go, Scouts!! Now that's a lot of food, especially for Common Grounds!



The scoutmasters, the scouts, and their parents were pleasant, enthusiastic, goal-oriented, and a true joy to work with! The volunteers of Common Grounds wholeheartedly thank the scouts for sharing the donated food with us to support our local mission! We're so appreciative of them and so proud of them as well!

We cannot forget to thank the generous Kanawha City residents as well. It takes us all, doesn't it? Together with the scouts they have provided much-needed food for those less fortunate in our neighborhoods. May God bless one and all involved!

*Children's Moments  
Schedule*

	<b>11:00</b>
Dec. 1	Georgeanne Leake
Dec. 8	<i>Kids Praise musical</i>
Dec. 15	<i>Choir cantata</i>
Dec. 22	Ashley Skiles
Dec. 29	Thelma Ann Wandling

*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!*



A FEW WORDS OF THANKS

The Knit Wits is a group of ladies who enjoy one another's company but who also share their time and talents with others. In so doing, they truly make this world a better place.

Just this past month, as a mission of our church, they lovingly knitted and crocheted dish cloths for Common Grounds' Thanksgiving Food Boxes. Each was wrapped individually and included a personalized note wishing that the family who received it a sense of God's presence near-at-hand this Thanksgiving and always. The ladies also gave us four new warm baby blankets which they had made. Needless to say, those are especially needed this time of year and we are so appreciative!

You may be interested in knowing that the Knit Wits hand-make items for a number of other local charities. They do it without fanfare; they do it quietly as they show that they care and desire to spread God's love by sharing their time and talents. Wholehearted thanks to each and every Knit Wit who made these Thanksgiving dishcloth gifts (and blankets) and who go about doing God's work in this way. What a blessing they are!

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THANK  
YOU

*Thank you for all of the prayers and "get well" cards and wishes that were sent my way! They really made my day and brought a smile to my face. I am so blessed to have such great friends and family.*

*Please know that you mean the world to me. The surgery seems to have been a success. The surgeon has told me to still take it easy (lol) and I will have a follow up CT scan in April.*

*Love you all! Jeannie Morris*

*You are cordially invited to an exciting Christmas concert on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> here at Morris! "A Christmas Gift from Our Hearts to Yours: Soul to Soul" will include the following talented vocalists:*

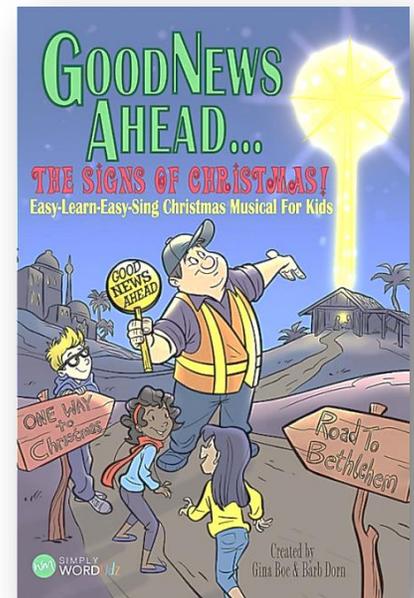
*The Vandalia Boys  
UNIT  
Jack Anderson  
The Brothers in the Cross  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Chorus*

*The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. and entrance is free! An offering will be collected for Common Grounds and light refreshments will be served afterwards in the conference room.*

*Please join us for a wonderful evening of music and fellowship as we celebrate the Christmas season!*

Please join us on Sunday, December 8th at the 11am service as our Kids Praise Choir presents "Good News Ahead...The Signs of Christmas!"

Come along on this adventurous tour to Bethlehem! The tour guides are geared up and ready to guide their group of students through the various parts of a living nativity . . . following the signs of Christmas along the way! Filled with scripture and songs of truth, *Good News Ahead . . . The Signs of Christmas!*, created by Gina Boe and Barb Dorn, will be the most exciting living nativity tour you've ever experienced, bringing Old Testament prophecies and the Christmas story to life through scripture-based songs you will love! Please support our Kids Praise Choir and enjoy an uplifting message!



Our Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the combined 10:30 a.m. service. Please make every attempt to attend as you will be blessed by their musical message. The UM Men will also be holding a spaghetti dinner afterwards and we will be celebrating Larry White's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service with Morris Memorial! We are so grateful for Larry and his devotion to God through music. Please join us in thanking him for his time, talent and faith.



## ANGEL TREE It Starts With A GIFT

Angel Tree is a Prison Fellowship program that serves incarcerated parents by giving them a way to restore and strengthen the relationships with their children and families. Every Christmas, Angel Tree mobilizes local churches and organizations to minister to hundreds of thousands of children by delivering a gift, a personal message of love from their mom or dad in prison, and the Good News of the Gospel.

Here's how it works: Angel Tree coordinators gather information from inmates who want to participate in the program and provide it to local churches and organizations. Volunteers prepare "angel gift tags" to provide the information to those who wish to purchase gifts. Morris Memorial has actively supported this ministry for many years. This year we have been asked to serve **34 local families with a total of 60 children.**

Every child receives **TWO GIFTS**, each of which is valued between \$15 and \$20. One gift is a **FUN** gift (a type of toy, game, etc.) which is suggested by the inmate. The other gift is an item of **CLOTHING** which is suggested by the child's caregiver (type of clothing, size and color preference noted on gift tag). Two Christmas trees with the angel gift tags have been set up in the entryway of the church sanctuary; one tree for the clothing gifts and the other for the fun gifts (pink ribbons for girls and blue ribbons for boys). Participants may choose to purchase a single gift or several if desired.

All gifts are to be wrapped and labeled with the angel gift tag and need to be brought to the church by **DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> at the latest.** Volunteers will be present in the sanctuary entryway to receive the gifts at both Sunday worship services (at other times the gifts may be given to Erin in the church office). Families will pick up the gifts the following week at which time they are also given the opportunity to request a free, easy to read copy of the Bible.

For questions, contact Gloriann Caudill, Morris Memorial Angel Tree Coordinator (glorianncaudill@gmail.com or 304-421-5592).

**THIS CHRISTMAS, HELP UNWRAP THE JOY**

## The True Christmas Gift

—Kay Hoffman

The gifts I'd leave beneath your tree,  
Aren't those that you can touch or see,  
No toys meant just for pointless play,  
But gifts to bless you every day.  
The gift of friendship warm and true,  
Is one that I would leave for you.  
Good health and happiness and cheer  
To keep you smiling through the year.  
The gift of peace that comes from God,  
With prayer to guide each path you tread.  
And when your heart has lost its song  
The gift of hope to cheer you on.  
These are the gifts I'd leave for you.



# USHERS

THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>POSITIONS</u>
Dec. 1	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers ----- Nancy Duncan and Beth Hall Ushers ----- David & Sharon Byrd and Ann Davis
Dec. 8	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers -----Dean & Karen Silkwood Ushers Donna Stove, Georgeanne Leake and Ann Davis
Dec. 15	10:30 am	Ushers -----Matt & Ashley Skiles and Ann Davis
Dec. 22	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers ----- Ted & Mildred Bledsoe Ushers ----- Tim Basford, Cathie Brown and Ann Davis
Dec. 29	8:30 am 11:00 am	Ushers ----- Susan & Bill Vieweg Ushers -----Mark Miller, John Shannon and Ann Davis

*Save  
the  
Date*

Please mark Sunday, December 15, 2019 on your calendar for an important day at Morris Memorial. Our financial campaign, to plan for 2020, will culminate on this Consecration Sunday when we ask folks to bring their prayerfully considered Estimate of Giving cards for 2020 to the combined morning service at 10:30 a.m. The Finance Team hopes that you can join the morning's worship services where an opportunity to bring your Estimate of Giving card to the altar will be provided. In the days leading up to the 15<sup>th</sup> please read the letters you receive from Morris concerning this year's finance campaign. Then prayerfully consider what our Bible instructs us concerning our gifts and plan to join in as a community of faith that day.

The Finance Team thanks you for your ongoing dedication, prayers and support for Morris Memorial and we hope to see you on the 15<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, the 15<sup>th</sup> will also culminate with a celebratory spaghetti luncheon after the combined worship service for everyone to enjoy.