

# THE MAPLE

December 2024

*Morrisville United Methodist Church*

Dear Morrisville UMC,

As we enter the Advent season, a time of anticipation and reflection, we are invited to **seek** the presence of Jesus in our lives. Advent is a time to draw closer to Christ and open our hearts to His love and grace, like seekers following the star to find the newborn King. We do this through attention to daily prayer, scripture, and fellowship. Seeking His guidance, wisdom, and peace allows His light to shine brightly in our hearts.

As we seek Jesus, we are invited to **share** His love with those around us. The message of Advent is not only about waiting for Christ's return but also about sharing the hope, peace, joy, and love that His coming brings. The Advent season offers countless opportunities to reach out to others through kind words, acts of service, a listening ear, or a gentle smile. May we be a church that embodies the love of Christ in all our relationships, sharing the good news of His birth and transformative power with our neighbors, community, and the world!

Advent also invites us to **serve** as Christ served. The Savior of the world came not to be served but to serve others, teaching us that greatness in God's kingdom is found in humble service. As we remember His humble birth in a manger, let us be inspired to serve others in practical ways. Whether through mission or local outreach, may we reflect the heart of Christ in our service. It is a privilege and our responsibility to serve our neighbors, extending Christ's love in tangible ways during this holy season and always.

I pray that this Advent Season will deepen your faith and strengthen your connection to one another as we journey toward Christmas with open hearts and expectant spirits. Blessings to you all as we celebrate the promise of Christ's birth and look forward to His return.

May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love be ours!

Grace and peace!

Pastor K

(This message was written with help from ChapGPT)



For pastoral concerns or emergencies, Pastor K can be reached at 281-620-9928 (cell) or [emailpastorK@gmail.com](mailto:emailpastorK@gmail.com). Please call the church office if you would like to set up a meeting with him during the week.

## December Calendar

12/1

1:00pm – Private party – Fellowship Hall

12/3

10:00am – Bible Study – Lounge

12/4

6:30pm – Prayer Shawl Ministry - Lounge

12/6

All Day – Blood Drive – Fellowship Hall

12/7

11:00am-6:00pm – Private Event – Fellowship Hall

7:30pm – UWF Event setup – Fellowship Hall

12/8

11:00am-3:00pm UWF Christmas Lunch– Fellowship Hall

6:00pm – Girl Scout Wrapping Party

12/9

10:00am – Cookie Tray prep– Fellowship Hall

2/10

10:00am – Bible Study - Lounge

5:00pm – IFA Backpacks – Main Entrance

12/11

7:00pm – Trustees Meeting – Library

12/14

8:00am – Men’s Bible Study

9:00am – IFA Backpacks – Main Entrance

12/16

6:30pm – Marcia-Ruth Circle - Lounge

12/17

10:00am – Bible Study – Lounge

All Day – Shared Meal – Fellowship Hall

4:00-6:00pm – IFA Gift Distribution – Room 23 & Main Entrance

12/18

1:00pm – Methodist Ladies Who Lunch – King George Inn

12/21

12:00-9:00pm – Private Event – Fellowship Hall

12/22

2:00pm – Latino Christmas Lunch – Fellowship Hall

12/24

10:00am – Bible Study – Lounge

12/25

**Christmas Day – Office and Food Pantry Closed**

12/28

9:00am – IFA Backpacks – Main Entrance

11/27

6:30pm – Prayer Shawl Ministry - Lounge

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### Sundays

9:00am – Small Group Bible Study – Youth Room

10:00am – Worship Service - Sanctuary

10:00am – Sunday School – Room 10

11:00am – Hospitality - Lounge

12:00pm – Latino Ministry Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00pm – Alcoholics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall

#### Mondays

10:00am – ESL – Rooms 3, 10, Library

7:00pm – Boy Scouts - Fellowship Hall

7:00pm – Nar Anon - Room 10

8:00pm – Narcotics Anonymous - Room 30/31

#### Tuesdays

6:00pm – Girl Scout Troop 2129 – Room 23, 26, 30/31

6:30pm – Girl Scout Troop 2692 – Room 21

6:30pm – ESL – Rooms 3, 10, Library

#### Wednesdays

10:30am – ESL – Rooms 3, 10, Library

6:00pm – Latino Band Practice - Sanctuary

6:30pm – Girl Scout Troop 2717 – Room 26

#### Thursdays

6:30pm – ESL – Room 10, Library

#### Fridays

7:30pm – NA - RM 30/31



## FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who completed Faith Promise Cards for 2025. We did not reach our goal of \$210,000 this year, but received promises of \$192,500. If you have not filled out a card yet but intend to, please contact Jim Rea through the church office.

### Offering Envelopes

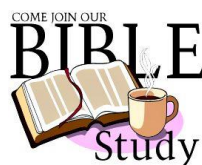


The Finance committee will be putting offering boxes in the Hallway by the church office door starting the second Sunday in December. Please pick yours up if you usually use the offering envelopes. There will be a signup sheet on the table if you would like a box of envelopes but have not used them in the past. As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

In Christ, Jim Rea  
Finance Chair

## PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY TIME!

Tuesday morning Bible Study continues through December 24<sup>th</sup>. We are using “Prepare the Way for the Lord” by Adam Hamilton. Copies are available for purchase. Please contact the office if you would like a copy.



The Sunday Adult Small Group meets upstairs in the Youth Room at 9 AM every Sunday Morning. Please join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible Study.



**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE** We need all kinds of cereal, dried pasta and spaghetti, beans (cannellini, black, red, pink), canned ravioli-type meals, instant coffee (small size)

canned peaches, laundry soap (small or medium size), and hand soaps.

Thank you for your continued generosity!  
Deb Price & The Missions Outreach Team

## COOKIES FOR FRIENDS

Most of us look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas with anticipation and joy. But for those in our church family who live alone or are homebound, this can be a very lonely season. The United Women in Faith have a tradition of remembering these friends with a short visit and a plate of homemade cookies. You, our church family, have lovingly assisted with this mission project each year. We hope you will join us again. Please consider baking 2-3 dozen cookies and bringing them to church on Dec. 8th. Do not include nuts in any recipe, and since several recipients are diabetic, sugarless cookies are welcome. Help us by labeling these with the word **DIABETIC**. Individual plates will then be assembled and festively wrapped so each friend receives a variety of yummy treats. As always, thank you for supporting the United Women in Faith and sharing your love with others. Any questions? Please see or call Carol Young, (215-920-2683)



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL IN DECEMBER

On Sunday, December 22nd during the Children's Message we will be celebrating a mini-Christmas Pageant! We need all children to arrive in the nursery by 9:00am that Sunday. We will also need some extra adult help to stay and dress the children in their costumes. There will be a brief rehearsal before the 10:00am service. The children will line up in their costumes and walk into the sanctuary just before the start of the service. At the end of the Children's Message there will be time for a group photo so have your camera ready! Let's have all our children present! You can invite family and friends to this special event. Visiting children can also join in the pageant; we should have extra costumes.



## IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

Bulletin announcements are due by noon on Wednesdays. Please include the date, time(s) and location in the announcement you send in. Thank you!

## Men's Bible Study



Our Men's Bible Study meets every second Saturday at 8AM in the MUMC church lounge. The December meeting is Saturday December 14th. We welcome all men of our congregation and men from other churches. All you need to bring is yourself and your Bible. You can begin your weekend with good fellowship and encouragement from God's Word. Any questions call Dave Miller at 267-614-3836.

## ALL CHILDREN HELPERS!

We have a new sign-up sheet at Sign Up Central. The Children's sermon has become an important part of our church service. We need people to teach a 3-5 minute lesson on the sermon of the day for the children. *You DO NOT need your clearances for this!* To do this, contact Roxanne in the church office for the sermon scripture, then explain in children's terms what the scripture is about. It is that easy! Please sign up in November and beyond for whichever Sunday suits you. We know the children love this time and they feel more a part of the church congregation because of you!



Teachers, John K. & Joyce B., are sharing the older SS class. We also need another adult present (*with their clearances*) to fulfill our safe sanctuary policy. Please consider getting cleared and signing up for that also. The more people are involved, the more each one of us can rotate & be present in the church service during the Pastor's sermon.

Thank you for continued support of this vital MUMC ministry.

Enjoy,  
The Education Team

**WE HAVE A NEW CUSTODIAN!** We are happy to share that Samson Shoukat is our

new custodian. Welcome Sam! We want to thank Alexis Gonzalez for the excellent care he gave to our church property and the knowledge he shared with Samson so he can continue to take care of our church home. The SPRC Committee





United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith is a **community of women** whose purpose is:

- **To know God** and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ
- **To develop a creative supportive fellowship** and
- **To expand concepts of mission** through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We welcome all women who commit themselves to our Purpose, including you. You don't have to be a member of The United Methodist Church to join. Our membership is diverse: women of many races, cultures, languages, young and old. There is no minimum age requirement. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining this **multicultural, multilingual, and multiracial** organization of women. All women are welcome to attend.

**DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

**DECEMBER 8 (Sunday)**

UWF GENERAL MEETING  
11:00 A.M. After church– Fellowship Hall  
Lunch will be provided  
Program – Movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*  
A Christmas Love Offering will be taken. Members are encouraged to bring 2-3 dozen homemade cookies that will be made into trays for our homebound members. *Do not include nuts. Sugar-free cookies are always appreciated for trays for our diabetic friends.*

**DECEMBER 16**

MARCIA-RUTH CIRCLE  
6:30 P.M. – Church lounge  
Members bring appetizers  
Hostess: Janet Fabian  
Study/Devotion: Bring a Christmas reading to share

**DECEMBER 18**

METHODIST LADIES WHO LUNCH  
Luncheon – King George Inn  
102 Radcliffe Street  
Bristol, PA 19007  
Meet at church 12:30 P.M.  
(Contact Deb Chapman with any questions)



**ANGEL TREE – GIFTS FOR CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS**

MUMC Missions and Outreach Team and the IFA are providing a special opportunity for giving. We would like to provide gifts for IFA, Latino Ministry families, and requests from food pantry clients. Each gift should be of a \$30 value so that there are no hard feelings among siblings on Christmas!

If you would like to purchase and wrap one or two gifts (approximate value \$30.00 EACH) for a local child, starting on Sunday, November 17th, please take a tag from the Angel Tree in the Lounge AND sign out your tag(s) on the clip board next to the tree.

Gifts should be wrapped in gift bags with tissue paper. DO NOT use wrapping paper. Please include on the tag the child's first name and family number from the tag that you take from the tree. Gifts must be returned to the church by **Tuesday, December 10th**.

If you have any questions, please call Deborah Chapman (215-949-9533) or Rhonda Rea (215-493-9505).



**SCRIP GIFT CARDS**

Christmas will be here before you know it and we have Scrip Gift Cards for purchase. Shop early and if we do not have what you want, we can order most vendors on our list and have them for you the following Sunday. See Dave Sample at the table located in the lounge to buy your Scrip gift cards. All Scrip proceeds benefit the general fund of the church!



*Happy Anniversary*

- Samson Shoukat .....December 12
- Chile Obbo .....December 19
- Jennifer Aylene-Arruda .....December 22
- Linda & Dave Mier .....December 22
- Denny & Gail Lowe .....December 27





# Happy Birthday

- Jacen Arruda .....December 1
- Linda Herbster .....December 3, 2024
- Yolanda Kpardeh .....December 4
- Kaylee McCormick.....December 5
- Swithin Swaroop .....December 5
- Donna Dulay .....December 6
- Lillian Mannon .....December 7
- Samson Shoukat.....December 9
- Kyle Steppe.....December 11
- Joseph Urbano .....December 12
- Toby Ellsworth .....December 14
- Beditza Cadillo.....December 16
- Chris Bonno .....December 19
- Suzy Buehler.....December 19
- Mae Menei .....December 21
- Joe Colduvell .....December 23
- Rich Eickhoff.....December 25
- Mickey McDevitt .....December 26
- Trey Buehler .....December 27
- Kim Jakimowicz .....December 29
- Very Straley .....December 30
- Bill Fabian .....December 31



**The Morrisville  
United Methodist Church  
Latino Ministry**

Invites you every Sunday to our  
Worship Service 12:00 pm  
**Seeking, Serving and Sharing  
Jesus Christ!**

**El Ministerio Latino de la  
Iglesia Metodista Unida de Morrisville**  
Te invita todos los domingos  
a las 12:00 pm  
a nuestros Servicios de Adoración  
**Siguiendo, Sirviendo y Compartiendo a  
Jesucristo!**

# Current Prayer Concerns



Pray for God’s peace for our nation and the world.  
Pray for the Holy Spirit to help us to continue to grow  
in the knowledge of God through a relationship with  
Jesus Christ. Prayers for our new pastor, Rev. Raphael  
Koikoi, as we continue our journey together.

Prayers for Carol Hughes, Peter and Deborah  
Chapman, Vera Straley, Pam Manners, Toby Ellsworth,  
Jimmy Ellsworth, Thomas Manners, B.J. Lebegern,  
Paul & Marian Chapman, Sue Urbano

- Ron White (Phyllis Patterson’s nephew)
- David Pugh (Frank Pugh’s son)
- Bob (friend of the Swenson’s)
- Diane Hughes (sister of Carol Hughes)
- The family of Betsy (Burgess) Jurey (Joyce Bigley’s  
neighbor)
- Victor (Brenda Corup’s cousin)
- Marion Rea (Jim Rea’s mother)
- Jen (friend of Vickie Katona)
- Colton Malone (great-grandson of Susan Friend)
- Carol (friend of Vera Straley)
- Robert (Vera Straley’s son-in-law)
- Carol (Vera Straley’s cousin)
- Ellen (Bev Hoyer’s niece)