



**Prayer is a gift you can always give to others.
Please pray for our friends on the long term prayer list:**



Prayer requests that are shared on Sunday morning are emailed to members and friends of the congregation so we can hold each other in prayer through the week. If you would like to receive these emails, contact Pastor Wendy. Also, if you have requests during the week that you would like to share with the congregation, email that request to Pastor Wendy.



The October Maple

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

This was the text Rev. Bass, our District Superintendent shared with us in worship in September. His sermon title, "glowing in the Dark" reminded us how important it is that the light and love and testimony that Jesus Christ gives to us, is shared in a world that knows much darkness.

I remember a few years ago when Super Storm Sandy came through, leaving us without power for almost an entire week. The days were short, so there was a lot of darkness, and Blair and I spent a good deal of time in front of the fire place to keep warm and to have light. The first day of darkness was bearable, and even a little fun. At night I would walk around the development to see houses here and there with light produced by generators. I was envious of those people because they had something that I wanted. As the days wore on we saw a few more people using generators for light, and even parts of the development that seemed to have their power restored. But not us.

After about 4 days of no power and no shower we got in our car and drove to find a restaurant where we could have a good cup of coffee (up to that point we made due with what I could make on in the fireplace), a hot meal in the light, and warmth. What a blessing that was! We felt like we were alive again – very dirty, but alive! I was very aware of how dirty I was, and grateful that our waitress did not seem to notice.

No one with a generator thought to invite their neighbors in out of the cold and dark. Blair and I were envious of their light, but would not have knocked on anyone's door to be invited in. How grateful we were for that restaurant! I share this story with you as a parable. Our generator – the source of our light is Jesus Christ – and nothing can take it from us. There are people living all around us who need the love and the light and the resources that we have, but not have any intention of knocking on our door, asking us to share. And so we must consider how we will reach out to them.

Living in the dark without power, can lend itself to becoming dirty, hungry, desperate and self-dependent. Being the light of Christ, shining in a dark world, takes courage and action fueled with a tremendous amount of generous, sacrificial love. I am filled with awe over and over again by how the Morrisville United Methodist Church does this day in and day out with our programming and partnerships with community groups. I pray that we continue to be connected with our power source, Jesus Christ, and continue to shine His light in our world, so the darkness is overcome!

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Wendy*



Sunday, October 2: World Communion Celebrating our Cultural Heritage

Our Bishop, Rev. Peggy Johnson, will join us for both worship services as we celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our past 175 years of ministry in Morrisville – and anticipate the next 175 years! We are blessed to have members of our church family from many nations around the world, and on this Sunday we are encouraging people to come in your native dress.

Some of you might remember back to the 1980's when MUMC sponsored a young woman and her children from Ethiopian to the United States. This family blended in and became part of our family for several years. Would you like to know “the rest of the story?” Belainesh lives in Northeast Philadelphia, and is still working at the same hospital MUMC helped her find employment in all of those years ago! Belainesh will be joining us in worship on the 2nd! A special time of fellowship will be held for this fun reunion, and for an opportunity to meet and greet our Bishop, between our two worship services.

November 20 Home Coming Sunday Unity service at 10:15 and Luncheon

We will bring the entire year of celebration together on this special Sunday with a combined worship service. Pastors who have previously served the MUMC have been invited to join us for worship and fellowship. Members and friends of our church family over the years are being invited to “Come Home” to MUMC for the day to celebrate our past and pray God's blessing for the next 175 years.

Plan to join us for this and other worship and fellowship events! We still need YOUR stories and memories for our weekly “flash backs” in the Sunday bulletin and our monthly maple. Do you have pictures, articles or memorabilia of the past that you would like to share with us in the display case?

Opportunities to Serve



In the fall of the year we take time to reflect on and evaluate the ministries of the church.

- Did we shine the light of Christ the way God has directed us?
- Did we love as Christ has loved us?
- Are people in the church serving fully, joyfully, and productively?
- Are people in our community learning about Christ through us?
- Are we using our resources wisely and generously?
- Are the right people in the right job?
- Are we serving others more than we are serving ourselves?

These and other questions are being discussed now so that we can plan for next year.

- The finance Committee is working on the 2017 Budget.
- The Staff/Parish Relations Committee considers the work and goals of our church staff.
- The Board of Trustees evaluates the use and upkeep of our facilities.

And all other ministries, from children to adult; from our Men's groups to our Women's groups, our mission plans and our worship plans – everything comes together to evaluate 2016 and plan for 2017.

All of this will be shared at our **Charge Conference on Saturday, October 22 at 11:00 am** with our District Superintendent and a cluster of churches in our area at the **Emilie UMC** in Levittown. The leadership of our church will participate in this important meeting, and all other members of the church are invited to come.

Also important in the evaluating and planning process is the work of the **Nominations Committee**, which is charged with the responsibility to connect people of the church with the work of the church. No committee or task force can do meaningful work without active participants who feel God's call to serve. The Nominations Committee is currently searching for people who are able to serve a three-year term on The Board of Trustees, The Staff Parish Relations Committee, and the Nominations Committee.

Also, because of the growth taking place in our children's ministry, we would like to rekindle the Family Council, which has not been in existence for several years. This committee will help our Director of Children's Ministries with current activities such as our Trunk or Treat; The Easter Egg Hunt; President's Day Bowl, VBS, and mission work, and possible new events as well.

If you are feeling God nudge you to shine your light in this way, please contact Pastor Wendy for more information



The next meeting of the Saturday Morning Men's Group is October 8th. We meet in the church lounge the second Saturday of each month. Come out and enjoy good fellowship and encouragement from God's Word

Our group is planning to travel to the Keswick conference grounds in Whiting, New Jersey again this year. This setting provides an exciting opportunity for worship, building Godly relationships, and instruction in God's word. In addition, there will be free time to enjoy the indoor activity center and outdoor activities. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the dining hall is included. Those of us who went last year had a great time. This year's topic is "Hope in the Midst of Crisis". The date is November 5th; the cost is \$45, if we register before October 15th. We plan to meet at the church and travel together. You can get brochures with registration forms from Dave Miller or Sam Getty. Scholarship money is available. Ask Pastor Wendy or Dave Miller. If you have your registration for Keswick, bring it to the October meeting with a check for \$45. Make checks payable to "Delaware County Men's Fellowship".



Remember to check out mumcpa.org to see what is happening in the life of the church. You can register for events on our web site, and listen to recordings of sermons from previous months.



United Methodist Women

October Schedule:

All women of the church are invited to the events and programs of the United Methodist Women

OCTOBER 4 (Tuesday) UMW GENERAL MEETING

7:00 P.M. Fellowship Hall

Hostesses: Mission Team (Exec. Board)

Visualizing our Prayers – Make a journal

Game Night, Thank Offering, Election of Officers,

Adoption of 2017 Budget

OCTOBER 8 (Saturday) East District Annual Banquet and Celebration

Williamson's Banquet Hall, Horsham, PA 11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 15 (Saturday) Eastern PA Conference Celebration

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Cost \$15.00, includes lunch

Quakertown UMC, 1875 Freier Rd., Quakertown, PA 18951

Theme: The Legacy-The Journey of UMW -1869 to the Present.

Speakers- Ruth Daugherty and Hattie Hamilton

Contact Rhonda Rea to register by Sunday, Sept. 25th

OCTOBER 17 (Monday) MARCIA & RUTH CIRCLES

7:00 P.M.-Fellowship Hall

Crafts for Holly Nook

OCTOBER 19 (Wednesday) ELIZABETH CIRCLE

1:30 P.M. – Church Lounge

Hostesses: Susan Friend & Nancy Sample

Devotion/Study: Charlotte Swenson

Fall Holly Nook

Saturday, November 5

Election Day Luncheon

Tuesday, November 8.



Register NOW for the Women's Retreat in a NEW location, and a whole new look! We feel led to try to grow our group and think a change in venue will be a great idea. But some things shouldn't change, so our girlfriend, **Sue Duffield**, will be joining us again! Accommodations at the Bird-Hand Family Inn are first rate. Just think...you don't have to bring your bedding, and there is even maid service! We have reserved 10, newly renovated rooms with two queen beds in each room, allowing four women to a room to help keep our costs very low. A breakfast smorgasbord is included for both Saturday and Sunday, with dinner on Saturday evening. We may have a chance to take a guided farmland tour...PLUS a special activity and surprise guest on Saturday night! Oh...and two pools and a hot tub! The cost for a room with four women is \$150 per person for the entire weekend. Triple, double and single occupancy are also available, but will include an additional up charge. Please speak to Janet Fabian ASAP for more information.

Janet Fabian – (215)295-7035 email: bjfabian@aol.com



**All Church Pre-Lent, Stay-At-Home Retreat
Friday – Saturday, March 3-4 2017**

Mark your calendars NOW for this unique experience! Every year we begin the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday with a beautiful service of communion and the imposition of Ashes. But for the coming Lenten Season we are adding something new! A stay-at-home retreat! No traveling! No sleeping in someone else's bed! We will gather in the church on Friday night for planned activities together, and then return to our homes for the night. On Saturday morning we will return to the church for breakfast and a day of activities especially planned to help us prepare for Lent. The retreat will conclude after dinner. Everyone is encouraged to put these dates on your calendar NOW. All ages! Members and friends of the church are welcome!



Sunday School has begun!

Welcome back to all the regulars. Special Welcome to those new to our Sunday School. I look forward to a year of studying God's word together. This year, children, youth and our Adult Loyalty Class are using the Faithweaver curriculum which allows all classes to study the same Scripture passage each week. Look for Emails and Take home pages that will help you to continue these discussions at home. Our Christian Education team invites you to join us as a student, teacher, or substitute. Contact Kim Jakimowicz for more information.



Morrisville United Methodist Church

Date: Friday, October 28th **Time:** 6:30 PM

Place: Kids in Fellowship Hall

Adults with Cars in the large parking lot

What to bring:

Kids: Come dressed in a Costume and bring a flashlight and a bag for goodies.

Adults: Decorate your cars and bring treats. Dare our Trunk or Treaters to a simple game or challenge to receive their surprise.

- Dear Church Family: Trunk or Treat is one of our most popular community outreach programs. You are needed to help sustain its success. Plan on bringing your truck and treats on Friday, October 28. Contact Kim if you'd like to help or need more information.

Interfaith Food Alliance Report

The Interfaith Food Alliance is grateful to all MUMC donors and especially our Combined VBS program who gave generously to our School Supply drive. 25 students in need from the Morrisville School District received backpacks FILLED with ALL the grade appropriate items requested by their schools. And in addition, there were 4 large boxes of supplies that were given directly to the Morrisville School District for distribution at their discretion.

The IFA also is thankful for the support of local businesses such as the Trenton Farmer's Market, Charlann Farms, Snipes Farm and McCaffrey's Supermarket that provide fresh produce. Our local Shop-Rite and Giant stores have also been supportive of our pantry. With a grant from Rotary, a commercial refrigerator and freezer have been procured for the center as well.

Please keep those donations of cereal, canned fruit, cleaning products, foil and plastic wrap and feminine hygiene products coming! There are 15 thankful families in Morrisville who receive food twice a month at the Family Backpack Center who are looking to us for help. Please contact IFA Board member, Rhonda Rea (jrpiz@aol.com, 215-493-9505) with questions, donations or ideas for fund-raising.



I hope everyone had a great summer. I am pleased to say that you have continued to be generous with your giving through the summer. During the year, the church purchased a professional grade freezer, which cost \$5,000, for use in conjunction with the shared meal program, the UMW's Election Day Luncheon and the Youth's Apple Pie Sales. We have received donations of \$2,000 towards the purchase but needed \$3,000 from the general budget. Also, the organ in the Sanctuary needed repairs this summer at a cost of \$4,350, which was not in the budget.

So, we have had a few specific extra expenses this year and it would be helpful if the Lord would lead some individuals to help close the gap with a special gift as we come to end of the year. Once again, thank you for your continued generosity.



We finished our first Family Promise week, during which we hosted two homeless families for one week ending September 4th. Our nine guests were very cooperative and a joy to serve. We thank all of the volunteers for their willingness to serve and their generous spirit. We had 26 volunteers, many volunteering more than one time.

Our next Family Promise week is November 27th through December 4th. Our hope is that more members of our congregation will feel called to help so the load can be spread among more people. New volunteers will need time to get the required clearances. The most crucial areas of help are meal coordinators, evening hosts, and overnight hosts. Call David and Marianne Miller at 215-943-2046 if you are interested in learning more about these opportunities.



What an exciting summer! Many of our "angels" went off to college, our youth center is finally complete, and now the school year is off and running! The Lord has blessed us in so many ways!

We would like to once again thank Carol Somers for her tireless work. Every detail was met! She never stopped until the job was complete! I hope I get to be just like her when I grow up! ... We would also like to thank Dave Burkhart for his skills and talents! He has so many tools and so much knowledge. Our youth room is fantastic thanks to him! ... And of course we can't leave out the entire trustees committee and the ISF committee for their commitment and support! You have done an amazing job! Thank you so much!

*Lots of Love,
Jenn, Janet, and the youth crew!*



An Opportunity to join your church family in serving another church family:

- At **St. James UMC in Olney located: 199 E. Tabor Road Philadelphia**
- **Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1 from 10AM-3PM!**

We will be working together in the following ways:

CHURCH ANNEX: Take broken and unneeded furnishings out so that the space may be used again for GED classes, senior computer literacy programs, and children's church on Sundays. We will provide large dumpsters for the items to be disposed of and properly removed.

FOOD PANTRY: Olney has a growing statistic of hungry families. Therefore, St. James' food pantry needs to be cleaned, organized and re-stocked. If you choose to help with this space, please ask your friends, co-workers, and family to donate non-perishable food items AND toiletries.

YARD WORK: We at Morrisville UMC have addressed the huge dead maple tree ensconced in poison ivy, but there is still much shrubbery that needs to be addressed. The children from the school across the street and the surrounding neighborhood use the space for their outdoor recess activities and we want to make it safe. Please bring weed wackers, gardening tools, gloves, and other tools you may deem appropriate.

Please confirm your attendance by sending an email to info@stjumc.org. Should you have any questions and need more information please contact Pastor Wendy Bellis (Morrisville UMC) **215-680-9662** or Pastor John Brice (St. James UMC) **215-460-0148**

- **Please use the sign-up sheets in the church hallway so we can arrange for car pooling.**



Warm thoughts and lovely flowers lighten the heart and brighten the hours for those who may be experiencing life's special challenges. Morrisville United Methodist Church members brought this thought to my mind during my recent illness and recovery.

I would like to take this time to thank each of you for the lovely cards, phone calls, delicious treats, offers of transportation or other wonderful acts of kindness during this time.

These special events give new meaning to the phrase "a speedy recovery" which you have made possible for me. Thank you so much for being there for me.

*Your Friend and Church Member,
Ike Whitter*

Thank you Morrisville United Methodist Church. Words can only begin to express my sincere appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy extended to me on the passing of my dear and beloved wife, Ollie. My church home - the pastor and members alike - played such an important role in my grieving process and continues to strengthen me and my family even today.

Because of you, there's someone who is thanking God and someone who is still remembering your warm and caring ways and wishing a special blessing and love to all of you, every day the whole year through.

Your Friend and Church Member,

*Ike, Todd, Lisa Whitter, King, Deirdra Stark,
Courtney Towan, Chaad Miller, Ahmir, Aalle*

P.S. A very special thanks to all that donated gifts to the Alzheimer's Association in honor of Ollie.