



The SPIRE

*Morristown United Methodist Church
50 South Park Place, Morristown, NJ 07960*

Vol. 17, No. 1

January 2017



CHO-sen Words

Happy New Year! I wish for you and yours a very happy and healthy New Year filled with peace, love, and hope. May you walk close with the Lord and grow in his grace.

The year 2017 signals a new beginning for all of us. It is like holding in our hands a blank sheet of paper to write a new story. We now have an opportunity to write our own stories about what we hope and dream for this New Year.

I suspect that several of you are thinking about writing your own New Year's resolution(s) on your paper. That's good, too. Undoubtedly, many people will come up with their own New Year's resolutions ranging from joining a health club or diet program to starting a new form of spiritual discipline. But a good many of those well-intended resolutions will end up lasting for only a couple of weeks. So, someone wittingly said, "May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions."

I am working on a resolution that is going to be achievable and sustainable throughout 2017. As I have done many times before, I will learn to "Let Go and Let God" every day. I will ask myself, "What's in it for God?" rather than "What's in it for me?" This is my way of growing as a committed disciple of Jesus Christ, who has shown me the Way, the Truth and the Life in God's grace.

The more I think about it, this whole daily practice of "Let Go and Let God" can be a freeing experience from unnecessary clutters and stresses we often experience in life.

So on my blank piece of paper, I am going to write my favorite five words: Let Go and Let God. And I am going to live by it. My prayer is that by putting God first in everything I say and do, I will be able to glorify God and bless many folks along the way in 2017. Would you like to try it yourself, my friend?

Have a terrific beginning in 2017 with all the blessings of life from our awesome and gracious God. See you in Church.

Walking With You,
Brandon



January 1, 2017
Epiphany Sunday
Holy Communion
"A New Beginning"

Isaiah 60:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 21:5
Jack Scharf preaching

January 8, 2017
Baptism of the Lord
First Sunday after Epiphany
"Remember Your Baptism"

Matthew 3:13-17
Pastor Brandon preaching

January 15, 2017
Second Sunday after Epiphany
"It's All About Priorities"

Matthew 6:33; Colossians 1:10
Pastor Brandon preaching

January 22, 2017
Third Sunday after Epiphany
"Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude"

Psalms 45:7; Philippians 4:8-9; James 4:10
Pastor Brandon preaching

January 29, 2017
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
"Faith It!"

Matthew 8:5-13; Romans 10:7; James 1:22-25
Pastor Brandon preaching



Nueva Esperanza

Pastor Charles Perez

What an exciting time it was during this Advent season and encountering a busy Christmas weekend I imagine. There is a true meaning to the Christmas season that can be seen if we really look at the Christmas story and the people who are involved. Mary is a pivotal character for Jesus to be born. A woman is exalted as part of the Christmas story during a time when women were considered less than second class citizens. The shepherds were considered the "nobodies," the "unimportant" people of their time. And yet, it is amazing how an angelic choir fills the heavens to greet them to be the first to see God in the flesh. For Baby Jesus and his parents could only find a manger, a place suitable for farm animals. The Wise men, immigrants from another country, were willing to leave everything and everybody behind to bless the King of Kings.

I know I sound "preachier" than usual, but my Advent experience has been encountering homeless people like baby Jesus with no suitable place to lay their heads. A time where I have befriended them and built relationships with them; with the hope of them having the equality that we all have when it comes to the necessities of life. I have befriended and built relationships with undocumented people who left their country like the Wise Men with the hope of a better life in America. Emmanuel came to live on this earth, to be with us in the flesh. Died and resurrected and gave birth to the church through the Holy Spirit, so that we can be God incarnate (Emmanuel) to those like the baby Jesus, like the shepherds, like the wise men, and Mary of our times. As we come into the New Year, we continue to celebrate that God is with us, in us and continues to work through us. Blessings to you all!



If you have become a member of our church in the past two years or are now considering to becoming a member you are **strongly encouraged** to attend our upcoming three session program on “**Getting Connected to Your Church.**” This series will help you understand more about what Methodism is all about, how the Morristown United Methodist Church functions, and most importantly how you can get connected more fully into the life of your church.

These three one hour sessions will be held in the Pastor’s study and will be informal in nature and will allow for plenty of questions and discussions. Please bring your questions!

To accommodate people’s schedules we will offer these sessions two times, once in February and once in March.

Classes will run from 11:45 am and 12:45 pm and light snacks will be served.

Sunday, February 5th – Session #1: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Methodism

Sunday, February 12th – Session #2: Everything You Wanted to Know about the Morristown UMC

Sunday, February 19th – Session #3: How to Get Connected to the Life of Your Church

and

Sunday, March 5th – Session #1: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Methodism

Sunday, March 12th – Session #2: Everything You Wanted to Know about the Morristown UMC

Sunday, March 19th – Session #3: How to Get Connected to the Life of Your Church

These are very important classes for recent new members and for anyone considering becoming a member of the church. Please make this a priority. So we know how many will be attending please register by emailing Jack Scharf at JackScharf7@gmail.com with your name and which sessions you plan to attend. THANK YOU!



**Celebration of Jean White’s Life
Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.
Morristown UMC Sanctuary
A reception to follow**

Jean White, the loving wife of Rev. Dr. James White who is one of our dear former pastors, passed away on December 15 in peace. We invite you to attend a special memorial service to remember and celebrate her life at our church on January 7th. Pastor Brandon and Pastor Jeff Markay of the Chatham UMC will officiate together. Please keep Pastor Jim and his family in your prayers. Thank you all.



Church Leadership

**DEDICATION AND BLESSING OF
CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2017
Sunday, January 8, 2017 during worship**

Our church is blessed with many gifted and dedicated lay servant-leaders, who serve various areas of ministry faithfully. These friends are the backbone of our church who are making a real difference in our church, community and the world.

On Sunday, January 8th, we will dedicate them and bless them during worship.

All the leaders of the Administrative Board, Council of Ministries, Committees, Ministry Teams, Small Group Leaders, Sunday School Leaders/Teachers are invited to join the worship so that we can honor you and bless you as you begin your vital work in 2017!



January

- 3 Susan Dingsor
- 5 Giovanni Rivera
- 6 Brian Pfarrer
- 7 Jonathan Mitchell
- 10 Jim Ciprich
- 11 Heather Aston
Phyllis Kovacs
Gary Myers
- 14 Lisa Scharf
- 15 Joshua Danus
Marcia Futter
- 16 Chris Loyek
David White
- 18 Nancy Frantz
Nancy Nutt
Linda Wallace
- 19. Steve Radis
- 20 Genesis Gobin
- 21 Becky Earls
- 25 Marilyn Burk
Ella Hauryluke
- 27 Jessica Danus
- 28 Ian Doig
- 29 Christina Ciprich
- 31 Kiana Davis



Once again I must send a heart-felt “thank you” to my secret “Christmas Spirit.” I hope you know me well enough to know how very much your generosity is appreciated.

Thank you!
Mona



- Nueva Esperanza Worship and Ministry
- Stephen Ministry
- Church Leaders and Ministry Teams
- Our Sunday School and Youth Ministry

Our Church Family and Friends

Family and friends of Ozzie Doig, mourning his death

Family and friends of Jean White, mourning her death

Sarah Michal and her family, mourning the death of her grandfather

Carol Kennaday

Carolyn, cancer

Sadie Stiles, depression

Gavin, strength and healing

Joe Mossey, liver issues

Strength, motivation, patience and no fear

Linda’s father, healing

Evelyn Smith, eye issues

Donna, healing and strength

Owen, strength and hope during cancer treatments

Maggie, starting dialysis

Debbie’s mom, successful treatment of cancer

Lea O’Shea, Nancy Ruggerio’s daughter

Adam, successful treatment of colon cancer

Kristen, new mom, getting chemo

Jenny’s father, treatment for prostate cancer

James, recovery from stage 4 cancer

Ellie, 12-years-old, tumor

Mary Moody, treatment for cancer

Melissa’s mom, battling stage 4 ovarian cancer

Enid, lung cancer

Pfc Abigail Crisp, NJ Army National Guard
Sgt. Randall Ferrara, NJ Army National Guard
Jordan Dale, US Marines
Lt. Karen Kraft McAllister, U.S. Navy, San Diego

On-going Prayer

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sonya Burroughs | Jack & Johnna |
| Lou Cattano | Barbara & Jim MacHale |
| Beth & Bruce Courter | Micah |
| Erika Davis | Richie Perdew |
| Bill Earls | Rick Radis |
| Neil Eriksen | Arden Sutton |
| Nancy Gardner | Emma Wyman |
| Leslie Loyek | Ken Zippler |

Mona's Musings

On December 15th **Jean White**, the wife of **Pastor Jim White**, passed away after a very long and



courageous struggle with chronic lung disease. **Jean and Jim** were here at MUMC for 14 years before he joined the Board of Global Ministry in 1993. Upon his retirement they spent several

years in North Carolina, and then a few years ago they moved to Stroudsburg, PA to be nearer family. There will be a memorial service here on January 7th led by **Pastor Brandon** and **Jeff Markay** who was the youth pastor here during Jim's time with us. Their family has set up a beautiful website to remember and honor Jean. Jim has asked that I include the address in this message. It is <http://rememberingjean.com/>. Please do take a moment to enjoy it—it's a wonderful tribute for a wonderful lady. Those of you who remember their time here at MUMC will find it especially meaningful.

On December 23rd **Ozzie Doig** also passed away. He and **Jean** have been living at Bristol Glen in Newton for several years, but they've kept in touch and are still very much a part of our family here. On Friday, as I was laying out the candles for the Christmas Eve service



I was remembering the many years that **Ozzie and Jean** took on that task. It was a "labor of love" for them—a gift to their MUMC family. They always took time to visit with the office staff after they completed their chore. Just a short while after I finished I heard about his death--such a sad coincidence. He will always be remembered here with love—he was a truly nice guy. Our love and prayers go out to Jean and their children.

See you next month!
Mona



THE MEN'S BREAKFAST will sponsor a talk on "The Challenging Facts of Nursing Home Care" by Les Sutton on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Among other things, he will discuss the reasons for admittance, including Alzheimer's Disease and the role that Medicare and long-term insurance can play.

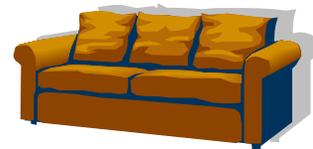
The breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m. prepared by supremo chef Lou VanderSande and is followed by the talk at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend both. However, if you plan to attend the breakfast, please let us know so we can plan for the required number of breakfasts.

Les Sutton, J.D., S.C.L.A., is owner and Director of the Sutton School of Business, Inc., Mendham, NJ, specializing in providing continuing education insurance courses for major companies. Les Sutton has over 35 years of experience as an educator and executive in the financial and insurance industries. He was Director of the Weichert Insurance School, executive with the American Educational Institute, held numerous positions within financial planning and insurance associations, and has been an Adjunct professor at FDU. He holds the prestigious Senior Claims Law Designation and is an expert in legal liability and insurance coverage issues. He has lectured throughout New Jersey on a wide variety of topics and has also been an expert witness in negligence trials.

Note, we have a new web page at: <http://www.gcumm.org/groups/5619a91383c3f42e3b0ed38d> . Everyone is welcome - invite your friends and neighbors. For further information and breakfast reservations, please contact Howard Leach at hhleach@aol.com or at 973-540-1283, or Lou VanderSande at louvande@verizon.net or 973-887-9530.



Rummage Sale



Saturday March 25th, 2017

9am-2pm

Proceeds benefit youth mission project.

We accept:

Household items, dishes, utensils, appliances, toys, children's furniture, books, holidays, glassware, antiques, office supplies, linens, furniture, electronics, DVD's, CD's, phones, lamps, sports equipment, computers, vases, picture frames, jewelry (please bring jewelry to the office), baskets, tins, tools, pet supplies, TV's (must be flat screen 20in or smaller).

Please make sure that the rummage you donate is in good enough condition to resell. It costs us time and money to throw out things that are damaged or broken.

We reserve the right to refuse any items that are not in good condition.

Please do not donate the following:

Cribs, Car seats, Washers/Dryers/Stoves/Refrigerators, Mattresses, Gas powered equipment, Clothes, Big Screen TV's

Donations accepted January 1st - March 19th 2017.

Please contact Andrew at, mumcrummage@gmail.com before dropping off any large items or if you have any questions. All items are to be placed on the stage **behind** the curtain. **Drop off times are Monday-Friday 9am-5pm or on Sunday mornings 9am-noon.**



Morristown United Methodist Church
50 South Park Place Morristown
Call 973-538-2132



or visit us at www.morristownumc.com for more info.

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p>  <p>10:15am Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office closed</p> <p>7:30pm A.A.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00pm Wesleyan Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30am Emmaus Reunion</p> <p>1:30 pm Memorial Service— Jean White</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00am Breakfast Club Sunday School Bible Study 10:15am Worship Service 11:45am Asbury Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30pm A.A.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:15pm Trustees</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00pm Wesleyan Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30pm Yarners 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30am Emmaus Reunion</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00am Breakfast Club Sunday School Bible Study 10:15am Worship Service 11:45am Asbury Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Dr. Martin Luther King Day</p>  <p>Office Closed 7:30pm A.A.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00pm Council of Ministries</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00pm Wesleyan Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00am Men's Breakfast 8:30am Emmaus Reunion</p> <p>5:00pm Couples Connection</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Breakfast Club Sunday School Bible Study 10:15am Worship Service 11:45am Asbury Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30pm A.A.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00pm Wesleyan Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30pm Yarners 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30am Emmaus Reunion</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Breakfast Club Sunday School Bible Study 10:15am Worship Service 11:45am Asbury Choir</p> <p>-</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30pm A.A.</p>	<p>31</p>				



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Brandon Cho, Senior Pastor
Rev. Charles Perez, Associate Pastor
Jack Scharf, Certified Lay Minister/Administrative Director
Sarah A Michal, Director of Music Ministries
Maria & Vince Cattano, Youth Ministry Coordinators
Jennifer Yang, Organist
Mona Lindemann, Administrative Assistant/Spire Editor
Cesar Torres, Property Manager
Kevin Vance, Webmaster



Morristown United Methodist Church on-the-Green
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Morristown, New Jersey 07960
Change Service Requested



The Spire