



The SPIRE

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

Vol. 18, No. 2

February 2018



The CHO-sen Words:

February is Valentine's month. It is the time of the year when we celebrate LOVE.

One of the most interesting courses I took at Drew Theological School was called "The American Jesus." This particular course focused on how Jesus' images have been formulated in different eras of Christian history, particularly in our American history. In the early days of the Christian Church, Jesus was understood as the powerful and lofty God, whom we glorify and worship. And then, people began to portray Jesus as a personal friend. One of our favorite hymns called "What a Friend We Have In Jesus" is a good example. In recent years, people began to see Jesus as their "buddy." Nowadays, we portray Jesus as our "lover" to whom we express our love and devotion. We sing our love for Jesus in our hymns and many of our contemporary Christian songs.

I suspect that we enjoy all different kinds of songs that reflect our faith, commitment, gratitude, worship, devotion, and love of God in Christ Jesus. The love songs for Jesus Christ fill our space with a deeper sense of connection with the one who first loved us.

Because we are loved, we can love others. Because we are given, we can give. As the song goes, "Love is something if we give it away, give it away." Giving away love is probably the most beautiful way of living.

I agree with the song that says: "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." As we look around our world, we see so much division and suffering. Those of us who love Jesus have the unique opportunity to spread God's amazing love. Let God's love transform the world through us and through God's Church.

Happy Valentine's Month!

Faithfully,
Pastor Brandon



February 4, 2018
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Communion
“Jesus, the Healer”
Mark 1:29-39
Kris Hansen preaching

February 11, 2018
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
“Transfigured in Glory”
Mark 9:2-9
Special music from Jubilation Ringers
Pastor Charles preaching

February 14, 2018—7:30p.m.
Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day
“The Matter of the Heart”
Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21
Pastor Brandon preaching

Lent Sermon Series: **“Seven Essential Questions”**
Both lifelong Christians and people on the edges of the church have some of the same basic questions about life and faith. Lent is the perfect time to explore these questions, leading up to the big question that is answered with Easter: Is there hope for life and life beyond death?

February 18, 2018
First Sunday of Lent
“Who Is Jesus?”
Matthew 16:3-16
Pastor Brandon preaching

February 25, 2018
Second Sunday in Lent
“What Matters Most?”
Mark 12:28-34
Pastor Brandon preaching



Nueva Esperanza

Pastor Charles Perez

The question becomes, what kind of relationship do we want to have with the living God and what kind of church do we want to be in our community?

*Leonard Sweet said it best, “For God to do something through us, God must be doing something in us. If we are not always evangelizing ourselves, we have no business evangelizing others.”

*Means of Grace/Spiritual Disciplines/Growing in your relationship with God.

*Either the Body of Christ is going to be anticultural, which means that we stay within ourselves who are Christians and stay away from the people of the world (literally speaking).

*Incultural Body of Christ is one that loses its anchor of tradition and their integrity and gives into the culture that it is not about Christ anymore, but about the culture. In other words, the culture supersedes Christ.

*A counterculture Body of Christ is one that tolerates the culture, but creates an artificial wall between Christians and the world God loves.

*Paul said, “I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:22)

*The intercultural Body of Christ realizes that the gospel travels through time not in some ideal form but from one inculturated form to another. God reaches all peoples and all ages through culture.

*I hope this reflection and meditation helps us to have the right relationship with God and be the right kind of church.

BRANDON & JACK'S

BLOG

Today we want to share with you some thoughts about one of the unique characteristics of Methodism. In many ways this characteristic defines Methodism. This characteristic and understanding of the church is called “**Connectionalism.**” There are three principal ways that Methodists understand Connectionalism: philosophically, theologically, and organizationally.

Philosophically

Methodism understands that humans are truly connected and related to each other. “No man is an island,” and when one person acts it has an effect, even if not perceived, on others. We are bound together as a unity and therefore we, as connected people, are responsible for our church, our community, and our nation. We are not simply independent individuals responsible only for our own actions.

Theologically

Methodism understands that God is present or “immanent” in the world and in each of us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Although we are certainly not God, we believe that God dwells within us and that, therefore, each person is of infinite value. We further believe that our connectionalism is realized in the world as the “Body of Christ.” Because of our connectionalism, the church is the true representation of this Body of Christ in today’s world.

Organizationally

As a consequence of this philosophical and theological understanding of connectionalism, Methodists have developed strong organizational structures within the local and global churches. Each Methodist Church is bound by our “Discipline,” which comprises our principles and bylaws. Further, each Methodist Church is a member of an Annual Conference and is connected to a residing Bishop. In addition, we are connected to the world community of some 12.5 million Methodists through our General Conference.

In our next Blog we’ll explore some additional implications of Connectionalism for our Morristown UMC.



implications of connectionalism for our Morristown UMC.

RECONCILING MINISTRY EXPLORATORY TEAM TO BEGIN WORK

At our recent annual charge conference we agreed to explore the possibility of becoming a Reconciling Ministry Congregation. Reconciling Ministry Methodist churches agree that LGBTQ persons are to be fully accepted into our church and our denomination.

Jack Scharf, our Administrative Director, will be leading an exploratory team of 5-10 individuals to explore what is involved in moving towards becoming a formal Reconciling Ministry Church. We plan to get this team underway in February.

This is an exploratory team which will meet for approximately 6 months to see whether our congregation is prepared for this undertaking. If so, then a formal implementation team will be formed which will take from 1 to 2 years to decide on formally applying to become a Reconciling Ministry Congregation.

We are currently seeking 5 to 10 people who are willing to serve on this exploratory team. We are especially seeking people who either are LGBTQ or have a family member or close friend or colleague who is LGBTQ and who are supportive of the concept of moving toward becoming a Reconciling Ministry Congregation. The exploratory team will meet for six meetings for 90 minutes each. **We have set a tentative date of Sunday, February 25th at 11:45 am for our first meeting. If you are interested in becoming a member of this exploratory team please contact Jack at JackScharf7@gmail.com or at [973-590-8556](tel:973-590-8556).**



Trustees Report 2018

2018 Board Members

Andrew T. Cattano, President
Greg Kraft, Vice President
TBD, Secretary
Lou VanderSande, Treasurer
Yvonne DeCicco, Member
Jan Buck, Member
Winifred Bunch, Member
Jim Ciprich, Member
Denise Schmidt, Member
Antonio Hernandez, Member

Final budget for 2018:

Funding for church operations - \$65,000
Property insurance - \$25,644
Air Group annual maintenance contract - \$5920
Other HVAC repairs and expenses - \$15,000
(estimate based on prior years)
Misc. repairs and expenses - \$7500 (estimate based on prior years)
Capital projects - \$32,000 (apartment kitchen upgrades and Parsonage master bathroom upgrades)

Total \$151,064

Last month we had to do \$6,000 worth of repairs to the heating system. This was for one (of the five) pumps for the building, and also a zone valve was replaced. Both of these were close to 40 years old. In the coming weeks there will be some roofing/flashing repairs being made. In order to do the repairs safely, a lift will be used. As soon as a work date set we will let you know.

Our first AED has arrived. It is located on the first floor to the right of the office door. Thank you to a generous donor; we will be getting a second one.

If you have any questions about our building, please let me or any of the Trustees know. You can reach me via email atcattano@aol.com, phone 973-818-2173, or on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you.

Andrew T. Cattano



Abendmusik Concert
featuring

The London Trio

Carla Auld, flute
Gabriel Schaff, violin
Lanny Paykin, cello

February 17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.



On behalf of the Music at MUMC Concert Series Board, a big “thank you” to the volunteers who work behind the scenes to make our luncheons so successful! They handle everything—from coordinating lunch orders with the caterer, decorating the tables with holiday flair, serving lunch with a smile, and of course, cleaning it all up afterward! These folks truly go above and beyond to make sure that concert attendees are both welcomed and well fed!

Winifred Bunch served as the Coordinator this season, and she was assisted by the following individuals; Tracy Adams, Lauralee Barrett, Judy Bellush, Connie Cohen, Clive Coutts, Jr., Sue Coutts, Debie Foster, Emmy Lu Friant, Jerry Friant, Teresa Mitchell, John Montagna, Barbara Morris, Evelyn Smith, Cesar Torres and Jean Turse.

Thank you all for adding that extra touch of hospitality that our church community is known for!



Bring Your Valentine to the Next Couples' Connection Session

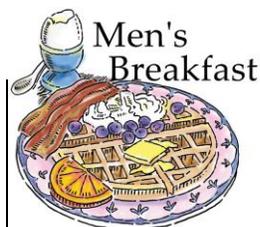
February 24th 5-8 p.m.

The MUMC Couples' Connection small group meets one Saturday night a month, January through June. In 2018, the group will follow a small group study based on the nationally released movie *War Room*, produced by The Kendrick brothers, creators of other faith-based movies including *Fireproof* and *Courageous*. The compelling drama explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of life.

The next event is slated for Saturday night February 24th. Each session runs from 5-8:00 p.m. with creative childcare being provided 4:45 – 8 p.m. The adult program format calls for a group session from 5-6:30 p.m. after which the couples are encouraged to go on a "date" 6:30-8:00 p.m. Couples at all stages of their relationship journeys are welcome to attend...dating, engaged, married with no children, married with young children, married with teens, and empty nesters. Participants enjoy a very diverse, supportive and caring community!

Topics that will be discussed in the series include: Dealing with Spiritual Luke-Warmness; Christian Accountability; Grasping Grace and the Gospel; Engaging in Spiritual Warfare; and Trusting God in Prayer. Remaining Saturday night program dates are: February 24, March 24, April 28, May 19 and June 16. Participants need not attend every session to benefit. A copy of the *War Room* movie is available to borrow.

If you hope to participate or would like more information, kindly e-mail Holly at hdinneny@optonline.net.



Men's Breakfast

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST will sponsor a talk by Virginia Lyttle, our Church Historian, on 'Church History and Artifacts' on Saturday, February 17, 2018. Breakfast is served at 8:00 A.M. followed by Virginia's presentation and tour at 9:00 A.M. She will guide us through the church to show us some of the church's artifacts that survived the fire in 1972. Everyone is welcome to attend both. However, if you plan to attend the breakfast, please notify Howard so we can plan for the number of breakfasts required.

As some of you may know, our Church history started in 1827 with 13 members in a small church located on Market Street near the corner of Maple Avenue. Our second church, dedicated in 1841, was located at the top of Dumont Place between the Post Office and the old Record Building. Our third church, built on our current site, took four years to build. It was started in 1866 and dedicated on March 22, 1870. In the 1780's Methodist circuit riders preached in Morris County. In 1811 Bishop Asbury preached in the Presbyterian Church. and three years later a small group met in the home of Stephen Bonsall. By 1825 this small group incorporated as the Methodist Episcopal Society of Morristown. During this time Morristown was a preaching point on the Essex Circuit. On Sunday, January 21, 2018, we received a plaque listing our church as a Methodist Historic Landmark. Between the founding and now a lot of history has transpired. Come and hear about the "inbetween."

Virginia Lyttle is a retired educator with thirty years experience in public education. Her teaching experience was a Morristown High School in English, speech, and theatre and as director of the radio and television studios. She was the recipient of the NJ Governor's Teachers Award. Mrs. Lyttle was principal of the Morris School District Community School supervising before and after school programs in seven schools, the adult school and Summer Plus.

Mrs. Lyttle is active in the American Association of University women serving on local and state boards including four years as state president and president of the charitable trust. Because of her work in AAUW she was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Campus Sexual Assault.

She is a member of the Morris County Womens Advisory Committee and on the board of the NJ Coalition on Human Trafficking. She enjoys working at the soup kitchen and participating in church activities. She likes gardening, travel, and history.

For further information and breakfast reservations contact Howard Leach at hhleach@aol.com or 973-540-1283.



A very sharp-eyed recipient of the Spire noticed that I had inadvertently neglected to include the January birthdays last month—**thank you, John-Paul!** My apologies to all you January folks. ~Mona~

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

- 1 Jan Leslie
Elizabeth Rodgers
Evelyn Smith
- 3 Glenn Coutts, Sr.
Ron Yarger
- 5 Michael Rodgers
- 6 Joseph Rivera
- 6 Evan Stubaus
- 11 Mona Lindemann
- 13 Jieun Kim
- 24 Lee Wallace
- 25 Andrew T. Cattano
Kristi Miller
- 26 Edgar Davis



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

Jim MacHale

- Ellen Zanetti**, recovery from surgery on Feb. 1
- Lou Cattano**, undergoing treatment for kidney transplant rejection
- Tommy M.**, lung transplant
- Evelyn Davis**, good outcome
- Connor**, good outcome
- Lisa Y.**, strength and healing
- Christine and Marcus**, healing
- Erico family**, mother of four battling terminal cancer
- John Leding**, strength and healing
- William E. Hettrick**, prostate cancer
- Rob W.**, to find peace and God’s direction
- Frank**, strength and healing
- Judy M.**, colon cancer
- Agnes**, living with cancer, healing
- Gary**, loss of job
- Tim Byrne**, successful treatment of cancer
- John Hyland**, contined strength and healing
- Kelly Buzalski**, fighting cancer
- Joan**, in hospice care
- Janice Harris**, colon cancer
- Stephanie**, leukemia
- Carolyn**, cancer
- Maggie**, dialysis and chemo
- Debbie’s mom**, successful treatment of cancer
- Lea O’Shea, Nancy Ruggerio’s daughter**, recovery
- Adam**, successful treatment of colon cancer
- James**, recovery from stage 4 cancer
- Jenny’s father**, treatment for prostate cancer

Serving Our Country

Pfc. Abigail Crisp, NJ Army National Guard
Jordan Dale, U.S. Marines
Sgt. Randall Ferrara, NJ Army National Guard
Staff Sgt. Steve Lantz, Army Reserves, Middle East
Lt. Karen Kraft McAllister, U.S. Navy, San Diego

On-going Prayer

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Sonya Burroughs | Bob Kennaday |
| Shannon Bain | Barbara MacHale |
| Beth & Bruce Courter | Micah |
| Erika Davis | Rick Radis |
| Neil Eriksen | Ms. So |
| Nancy Gardner | Arden & Les Sutton |
| Jack & Johnna | Emma Wyman |
| | Ken Zippler |



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is a huge success. We have provided countless prayer shawls to folks in need of their comfort for many different reasons. Our members have been very loyal in knitting and/or crocheting many shawls. However, we find ourselves in need of additional hands to keep the supply going. **You don't have to be a member of our church—and you don't have to attend meetings—to participate in this rewarding ministry.** If you have a few spare moments and would like to contribute, please contact Nancy Frantz at 973-398-0231 or Nancy Nutt at 973-476-7726 to offer your help.



NEW PORTABLE PODIUM DONATED TO THE CHURCH

Matt Hansen, a long-time member of our church, has lovingly gifted our church a new portable podium. The pastoral team will be using this podium during a weekly worship services. The team thanks Matt for his very generous gift to our church.

Mona's Musings

We have a new member of our MUMC staff family. **Mike Laba**, a long-time church member, has taken over the position of Finance Manager from Jack Scharf who will stay on as our volunteer Administrative Director. Mike has an extensive background in finance and has served for the past five years as the Chair of our church's Finance Committee. Jack will take on that position. Even trade? Welcome to the family, Mike—it's nice to have you here.



My two wonderful **Nancys—Frantz and Nutt**—celebrated their joint birthdays on January 18th. It was Nancy Frantz's turn to choose the type of cake and since she's a "chocoholic," I tried a new recipe for chocolate lava cake. I think it was a hit in spite of the fact that one side sort of collapsed. It was still yummy—there were no leftovers. These two ladies are here every Thursday to help with getting the bulletin ready for Sunday. I depend on them and they have become very dear friends—thank you, gals.

Dear members of our family—**the Torreses**—celebrated their 10th Wedding Anniversary on January 22.



Elizabeth took her hubby on a "mystery trip" to the famous Chart House restaurant in Hoboken. He had no idea where he was going—just took directions from his beautiful bride. **(Good job, Elizabeth!)** They had a delicious dinner and enjoyed the incredible view of Manhattan across the river. Happy Anniversary, you two—we love you and wish for you many, many more anniversaries.



Rummage Sale



Saturday March 3, 2018
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 - February 25th 2018

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.

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30pm Chancel Choir	2 5:30pm Soccer Ministry	3 8:30am Emmaus Reunion 5:00pm Youth Lock-in and Chili preparation
4 9:00am Breakfast Club 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Worship Service 11:30am Chili distribution 11:35am Asbury Choir 3:30 pm Nueva Esperanza	5 7:30pm--A.A.	6	7 4:00pm Soccer Ministry 6:00pm Wesleyan Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers	8 6:30pm Yarners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9 5:30pm Soccer Ministry	10 8:30am Emmaus Reunion
11 9:00am Breakfast Club 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Worship Service 11:35am Asbury Choir 3:30pm Nueva Esperanza	12 7:30pm--A.A.	13 6:15pm Trustees	14  4:00pm Soccer Ministry 6:00pm Wesleyan Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers	15 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 5:30pm Soccer Ministry 7:00pm ASP Social	17 8:00am Men's Breakfast 8:30am Emmaus Reunion 7:30pm Abendmusik The London Trio
18 9:00am Breakfast Club 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Worship Service 11:35am Asbury Choir 3:30 pm Nueva Esperanza	19  Office Closed 7:30pm--A.A.	20	21 6:00pm Wesleyan Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers	22 6:30pm Yarners 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23 5:30pm Soccer Ministry	24 8:30am Emmaus Reunion 5:00pm Couples Connection
25 9:00am Breakfast Club 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study 10:15am Worship Service 11:35am Asbury Choir 3:30 pm Nueva Esperanza	26 7:30pm--A.A.	27	28 4:00pm Soccer Ministry 6:00pm Wesleyan Choir 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers			



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Brandon Cho, Senior Pastor
Rev. Charles Perez, Associate Pastor
Jack Scharf, Certified Lay Minister/Administrative Director
Mike Laba, Financial Manager
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
50 Park Place
Morristown, New Jersey 07960
Change Service Requested



The Spire