



## Pastor's e-Note

Morristown United Methodist Church

April 18, 2018

Dear Morristown Church Family and Friends,

“Ohana” is the Hawaiian word for family. It is a favorite word, along with “aloha” and “mahalo,” which churches and people in Hawaii use frequently. As God’s family, we belong to God and we belong to each other. In Africa, the word “Ubuntu” is used for a similar purpose. Essentially, “Ubuntu” means “I am, because of you.” It is to say, ‘My humanity is inextricably bound up in yours.’ We belong in a bundle of life.”

Both “Ohana” and “Ubuntu” enable us to see life differently. Instead of looking at life from my own vantage point (based on what I see, what I want and what I need), we are led to see life from my relationship with others around me (based on what we see, what we want and what we need).

One of the most important revelations we learn from our Christian faith is that we exist and have our being always in the context of “we, us, our and ours.” For the disciples of Jesus Christ, this communal and relational understanding of life changed their entire life goals, gave up their lives as Jesus did and devoted to a life of mission – as messengers of the Gospel - till the end.

For those of us, who are the disciples of Jesus Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, are given fresh opportunities to live out this vital value. Salvation is more than a private accomplishment or individual experience of God’s grace; it is ultimately communal. We are saved so that we can be God’s messengers of salvation for

others, too. So, I can even say that "I am not fully saved until my neighbors experience God's saving grace, too."

My learning from "Ohana" and "Ubuntu" shows me that you and I, as disciples of Jesus Christ, can make a difference in people's lives. We can by God's grace do our part to advance our church's vision: "to become God's beloved community, change lives and transform communities."

The Men's Breakfast will meet this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. A delicious breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. followed at 9:00 a.m. by a presentation by Howard Leach on the legendary Rev. Billy Graham entitled "Remembering Billy Graham." Howard attended three of the many crusades that Billy Graham led over the years. Everyone is invited to attend both the breakfast and the talk. However, if you plan to come for breakfast, please let Howard know so that they can prepare enough food.

You are cordially invited to the Messiah Concert this coming Saturday at 7:30 p.m. It will be an evening of inspiration and outstanding musical presentation. Invite your friends and neighbors.

I want to promote a new "Jesus in Life" Small Group, which will be led by Matt and Jacqueline Zeller. On Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the group will enjoy a picnic on the Green after worship at 11:45 a.m. Hope several of you will come and enjoy it with fellow church members and friends.

This coming Sunday, I will continue "the Modern Family Values" sermon series. My sermon will be on "Accepting Responsibility" based on Ephesians 5:14-15. I would love to see you in worship on Sunday.

Have a blessed week and weekend. See you in church.

Blessings,

Pastor Brandon