

Morristown United Methodist Church | MorristownUMC.org

# Wandering Heart

*"Rescue me from danger"*

Sunday, February 25, 2024  
Second Sunday in Lent



Lift Off by Nicolette Peñaranda  
Inspired by Matthew 14:22-23  
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## Welcome to Morristown United Methodist Church



If this is your first time among our community, please use the visitor card in the pew rack to share some information about yourself with us, and place it in the offering plate so we can reach out to you and help keep you informed about this community.

We invite you to write down your prayer requests on the cards in the pew racks. Place them in the offering plate and they will be given to our prayer team.

### INTROIT

### ORGAN PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME & GRACE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

**the courageous and the fearful,**

the hungry and the hopeful,

**the impatient and the reserved.**

God welcomes the young and the old,

**the poets and the prophets,**

the faithful and the tired,

**the curious and the convicted.**

Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

**there is room for all to gather here.**

This is God's house.

**Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

**OPENING HYMN**      UMH #400 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, 1<sup>st</sup> verse

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**CHOIR ANTHEM**      *Wade in the Water* (African-American Spiritual, arr. Emerson)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,**

**There are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big.**

**In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves.**

**Forgive us for doubting you.**

**Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray,**

**amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

**PSALM**                      Psalm 22: 25-31                      UMH pp. 752-753; Response 2

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE**                      Matthew 14:22-33

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**                      UMH Hymnal page 38, #16

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.**

**I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.**

**I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.**

**I believe in a God who knows my name.**

**I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid. Amen.**

**HYMN**                      UMH #474 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, verses 1 and 3

## **MINISTRY MOMENTS**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **LENTEN DOXOLOGY (TUNE: OLD 100<sup>th</sup>)**

*Praise God throughout these forty days.*

*Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.*

*And praise the Spirit who imparts*

*God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

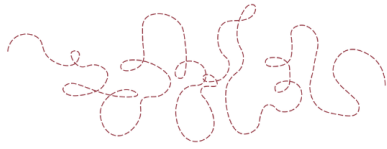
## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**                      UMH #269 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**



## Our Worship is Now Over and Our Service Begins...



### Participating in Today's Liturgy

#### Senior Pastor

Rev. Luana Cook Scott

#### Liturgist

Regina Heater

#### Director Of Music Ministries

John Liepold

#### Organist

Jennifer Yang

#### Sound & Livestream

Dave Sullivan, Kenneth Boamah,  
Winifred Bunch, Pearl Ontalan

OneLicense #A-711642

### Coming Up @ MUMC

#### Sunday, February 25, 2024

##### ***Souper Bowl Donations Due Today!***

9am | Adult Discipleship, WR

10:30am | Worship, Sanctuary & Livestream

11:30am | Fellowship Coffee Hour, FH

12pm | Congregational Visioning Summit, FH

#### Monday, February 26, 2024

6pm | Confirmation, Zoom

7pm | Caregivers Group, WR

7pm | AA, YL

#### Tuesday, February 27, 2024

7:00pm | UWF Book Club, YL

#### Wednesday, February 28, 2024

7pm | Handbells, FH

#### Thursday, February 29, 2024

6pm | Brown Bag Bible Study, WR

7pm | Choir, Music Room

#### Friday, March 1, 2024

*Rummage Donations Accepted Starting Today*

#### Sunday, March 3, 2024

9am | Adult Discipleship, WR

10:30am | Worship, Sanctuary & Livestream

11:30am | Fellowship Coffee Hour, FH

12pm | ASP Team Meeting, YL

#### **About the Cover Art - Artist's Statement**

*Lift Off* by Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by Matthew 14:22-23

*Acrylic, ink, paper collage, and mixed media on canvas*

Inside the wind tunnel in this piece, we see the West African symbol, *Adinkrahene*, symbolizing leadership and charisma.

Peter embodies all of that when he follows Jesus onto the water. But the bottom of his foot holds the *Mako*. *Mako* reminds us that not all peppers grow the same.

As charismatic and eager to impress Jesus as Peter is, he does not necessarily embody the same level of

development as Jesus. The hand of Jesus reaches through the image of *Asase Ye Duru*, reminding us that the earth has weight. Jesus, the divine, is greater than the limitations of the flesh, the fears we carry like the uncertainty of the water. What we also see around the hand of Christ is *Nyame Dua*, the sacred stump symbolizing God's presence and protection. The ever-present God protected Peter from drowning. All of this storytelling is set inside the symbol of *Mmusuyidee*, signifying prosperity and sanctity. We are invited to maintain a hopeful outlook and persevere.



## Ministry Updates



### Lent Opportunities

#### *About Our Lenten Worship*

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

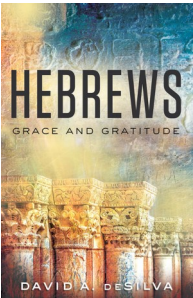
The lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" will follow us through Lent. As we examine Peter's faith journey, it's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we will focus on a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

#### *Brown Bag Bible Study - Thursdays at 6pm, WR*

Join Pastor Luana for a Lenten Study about the life and witness of Peter. She'll use the book, *The Life and Witness of Peter* by Larry R. Helyer. Bring your own meal and beverage and an open and curious mind!

#### *Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School*



In *Hebrews, Grace and Gratitude*, author and New Testament scholar David deSilva takes you through a study of Hebrews, tracing the themes of grace and gratitude through this unique New Testament book. Through his insights, you will discover a bold perspective on who Jesus is and what he has done; gain a deeper appreciation for the salvation he offers us, and hear afresh God's call to a life of gratitude and faithfulness.

We would be delighted to welcome you into a fellowship with other believers who are examining this book and what it says for us today. We meet at 9am, in the Wesley room.

### UWF Book Club

February 27, 2024 7pm – Youth Lounge - *A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice and Freedom* by Brittany K. Barnett. A lawyer's memoir about the search for justice for African Americans with societal potential being held in prison with unequal biased sentencing. The discussion leader will be Marilyn Roberts.

### Annual Whippany River Clean-Up Saturday, March 16, 8:30am-12pm

We're excited to participate in the Annual Whippany River Clean-up once again, scheduled for March 16. Meet at 8:30am at the parking lot across from Bethel Church at 59 Spring St. Please bring gloves, and if you have a Morristown UMC T-shirt, please wear it.

### Save the Date! EarthAware Presentation "ELECTRIFY" YOUR HOME WITH THE HELP OF THE IRA (INFLATION REDUCTION ACT)

Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 11:45am - 1pm

Free and Open to the Public | Light Lunch Provided

Did you know you can cut your utility bills, reduce the amount of air pollution your home produces, AND receive tax credits and rebates through the Inflation Reduction Act for doing that? Volunteers from the Morristown chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby will help you navigate the incentives available for weatherizing and electrifying your home.

### Caregivers Support Group

February 26 | 7:00pm

Are you (or have you recently been) in a caregiving role? Are you supporting a parent, partner, child, or friend through an illness or medical uncertainty and looking for a time to talk with others who share in the challenges of caregiving?

Please join us to share experiences, resources, and challenges in an atmosphere of compassion.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Paula Michelsen via [mumc@morristownumc.org](mailto:mumc@morristownumc.org)



# Harmonium

Choral Society

Dr. Anne Matlack, Artistic Director

## *Vespers: Celebrating Dusk*

*Mozart's Vesperae solennes de Confessore with chamber orchestra  
and otherworks inspired by the evening from Mendelssohn  
to Evelyn Simpson-Curenton.*

**Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 3 p.m.**

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

**Single ticket day of: \$40 regular; \$35 students & teachers.  
Single ticket in advance: \$30 regular; \$25 students & teachers.  
(Advance sale ends at 11:59 pm on March 8)**



If you have accessibility needs, questions, or concerns, please contact us at least two weeks prior to the performance at (973) 538-6969 or [manager@harmonium.org](mailto:manager@harmonium.org).

Visit us at [harmonium.org](http://harmonium.org).

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