

Rooted

Growing a Faith that Lasts



stretched in
service

September 21, 2025
Morristown United Methodist Church
MorristownUMC.org



OUR CORE VALUES

AFFIRMING: We welcome each person as they are, a beautiful child of God.

SERVING: We help and advocate for people and our environment, within our church, the community, and beyond.

INSPIRING: We celebrate God's role in our lives, embracing the examples and teachings of Christ, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

CREATING COMMUNITY: We foster joy in our midst and with our neighbors in everything we do.

LOVING: We reflect God's love and love each other, knowing we are loved and forgiven.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & GRACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

What good is it if we claim faith but have no action?

We come to be stirred by love and sent in compassion.

God calls us not only to believe, but to serve.

Not to hide our faith, but to live it boldly.

Come, let us worship with open hearts and willing hands.

Let our faith come alive through love!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God,

you did not call us to sit still.

You called us to follow, to serve, to love.

As we worship today, stretch us—

beyond what is comfortable,

beyond what is easy,

into the kind of faith that shows up with hands and feet.

Plant within us a desire to serve you in all we do.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #568 Christ for the World We Sing

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING *We Call You Beloved* (Mark Miller)

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S COIN COLLECTION Benefiting the Heifer Project

INVITATION TO THE PRAYGROUND (HYMN #191)

Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of compassion,
we confess that we have kept our faith too quiet.
We have said kind words but withheld kind actions.
We have walked past need, distracted or overwhelmed.
We have waited for someone else to step in.
Forgive us for believing without serving,
for praying without acting,
for hoping without helping.
Awaken us to your Spirit,
and stretch our faith through love. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE James 2:14–17

These are the words of new life for all God's people:
Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-46

These are the words of new life for all God's people:
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

HYMN #433 All Who Love and Serve Your City

MINISTRY MOMENTS

SOCIAL HOLINESS MOMENT

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY For the Fruits of All Creation

**For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

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 #593 Here I Am, Lord

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Our Worship Is Now Over, and Our Service Begins



**First Time
Visitor Form**



Give Online



**Prayer Request
Form**



Ministry Updates



Altar Flower Form



LEADERSHIP



Guest Preacher

Jack Scharf, CLM

Liturgist

Jeanne Huff

Sound & Livestream

Winifred Bunch, David Sullivan,
Ginny Lyttle, Ryan Terrone

Greeters

Vinita John, Amy Scott

Children's Sunday School

Nate Roark, Krissi Ashton

Cable Broadcasting

Jackie Puma

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Nursery

Tati Diaz

Seminary Interns

Josephine Tunda
Benin Shekawongo
Arnold Kamdem

OneLicense #A-711642

Altar Flower Sign-Up

We have updated our Altar Flower Sign-up Form.

Arrangements are \$75, and you may supply 1 or 2. LINK: bit.ly/mumcaltarflowers



The form allows the option to pay online for the arrangement; *this is optional!* You can always email Regina or call the church office to arrange for an altar flower dedication, too.

UNIFIED LEADERSHIP BOARD INFORMATION SESSIONS AND SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

From Pastor Luana

Throughout 2025, our church has been prayerfully discerning a new way of organizing our leadership through the **Unified Leadership Board (ULB)**. This process has included months of study, conversation, and prayer, with the goal of strengthening our ministry by creating a structure that is:

- **Stronger** – grounded in mission and vision
- **More efficient** – fewer meetings, more ministry
- **Better connected** – improved communication across all areas of church life

We are now moving toward a church-wide vote to adopt this model, and we want to be sure everyone has the opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and understand the “why” behind this change.

Upcoming Informational Session

TODAY – Sunday, September 21 after worship – In person at MUMC

These sessions will provide a deeper look into how the ULB works, why it is being recommended, and what it will mean for Morristown UMC as we continue to grow in faith and service.

Church-Wide Vote

- **Tuesday, September 30 at 7:00 PM** – Special Called **Charge Conference** (open to all members of Morristown UMC)
- **Agenda:** Limited to a vote on adopting the ULB
- **If approved:** Implementation begins **January 1, 2026**

Thank you for your prayers and thoughtful engagement throughout this discernment process. These info sessions are your chance to ask questions and go deeper before we vote together as a church family.

This Week at Morristown UMC

Sunday, September 21, 2025

9:15 AM Adult Sunday School, WR
10:30 AM Children's Sunday School, PG
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM ULB Information Session, FH
5:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL

Monday, September 22, 2025

11:00 AM Staff Meeting, Z
6:30 PM Second Saturday Team Planning, Z
7:00 PM AA, YL
7:00 PM Caregivers
8:00 PM Arise

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

11:00 AM Property Team Meeting, WR
7:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL
7:00 PM UWF Book Club, WR

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

6:00 PM Creativity and Crumpets (Craft Group), RM 32
7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting, Z

Thursday, September 25, 2025

6:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Study, WR
6:30 PM Yarners
7:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL
7:00 PM Choir, MR

Friday, September 26, 2025

6:30 PM COG Ice Cream Social, FH

Saturday, September 27, 2025

12:00 PM AA, YL
5:00 PM Mark Miller Concert

Sunday, September 28, 2025

9:15 AM Adult Sunday School, WR
10:30 AM Children's Sunday School, PG
10:30 AM Worship
12:00 PM Festival on the Green
5:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH BOOK CLUB

by Cherry Tom

Please join us for the resumption of the monthly UWF book club meetings on **Tuesday, September 23 at 7pm** in the **Wesley Room**. Paige Dinneny will lead the discussion on *Thistlefoot* by Genna Rose Nethercott. The novel tells the story about two estranged siblings who inherit a magical house on chicken legs called Thistlefoot. It weaves Jewish and Slavic folklore about Baba Yaga (a witch) into a modern tale of reconciliation after generational trauma. All are welcome whether or not you have completed reading the book. (Note – multiple copies of the book are available in the MAIN library system.)

Rooted
Growing a Faith that Lasts



Our September worship series, *Rooted: Growing a Faith that Lasts* is taking us on a five-week journey of deepening faith:

Sept 7 – Planted in Grace

Sept 14 – Watered in Worship

Sept 21 – Stretched in Service

Sept 28 – Shaped in Scripture

Oct 5 – Rooted in Community (*World Communion Sunday*)

We'll have connected Sunday School and small group materials for all ages, so the whole church is learning and growing together.

And for those looking to dig even deeper, **Brown Bag Bible Study meets Thursdays at 6pm in the Wesley Room** — bring your dinner your Bible, and your questions as we explore Scripture and grow together in faith.

Let's gather, worship, and grow — together, rooted in God's amazing grace.

Save the Date

OCTOBER

TACOS AND TREATS
Second Saturday Family
Event
October 11, 2025
4-6pm



PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT



October 3, 2025
7pm

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Worship & Pot-Luck Lunch
October 12, 2025
After Worship



LOVE BOLDLY

Love Boldly: Bullying & Community Dignity

GOD CALLS US TO GROW TOGETHER IN LOVE, NOT FEAR

What does the Bible say?

Jesus said, "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you."

(Matthew 7:12)

"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up."

(Ephesians 4:29)

"The test of our love is not how we treat the great and powerful, but how we treat the least and most vulnerable." - John Chrysostom, 4th-century bishop

What does the United Methodist Church say?

"We support social climates in which human communities are maintained and strengthened for the sake of all." (¶162, The Nurturing Community, Social Principles 2025–2028)
"The Church recognizes bullying as a form of violence and calls for its prohibition in schools, congregations, and communities."

(Prohibition of Bullying, Resolution #3211, 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions)

"Grace for all means grace for each."

Bishop Rueben P. Job

Serve Joyfully: Where does the world need the love of God today?

1 in 5 U.S. students ages 12–18 report being bullied at school.

(National Center for Education Statistics, School Crime and Safety Report, 2023)

Students who experience bullying are at increased risk for anxiety, depression, and suicide attempts. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021)

37% of teens report being cyberbullied at least once.

(Pew Research Center, Teens and Cyberbullying, 2022)

Lead Courageously: What can you do?

Create safe spaces where every child and adult feels welcomed, loved, and valued.

Speak up when you see bullying—in schools, workplaces, churches, or online.

Support anti-bullying programs and advocate for strong protections in schools and communities.

Practice kindness and model Christ's command to love our neighbors.

"The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."
- Archbishop William Temple

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously



The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love** boldly, **serve** joyfully, and **lead** courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.



Renowned Composer & Justice Activist
MARK MILLER
and a FESTIVAL CHOIR with singers from
Harmonium, Drew University,
and area church choirs.

SAT
9.27.25
5:00 PM

Suggested Donation \$20



Morristown United Methodist Church
50 South Park Place, Morristown, NJ
MorristownUMC.org

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