

Rooted

Growing a Faith that Lasts



planted in
grace

September 7, 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

Come, all who are weary and wondering.

We come to be planted in God's grace.

Come, all who feel rootless or restless.

We come to sink our lives deep into God's love.

Come, all who long to grow in faith.

We come with open hearts, ready to be nourished by the Spirit.

Let us worship God, who makes all things grow.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,

You are the gardener of our souls.

Plant your grace deep within us today.

**Help us trust that we are your beloved creation—
shaped not by our own doing, but by your mercy.**

As we worship, open us to the new life you are growing in us.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #400 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (Mark Miller)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES – NATE ROARK

CHILDREN'S TIME

BLESSING OF NATE ROARK

Gracious God, we give you thanks for Nate, for the gifts they bring, and for the call you have placed on their life. Bless their ministry among us, that together we may nurture children, youth, and families in the way of Jesus. Root us all in your grace, and let your Spirit guide us as we grow together. Amen.

CHILDREN'S COIN COLLECTION Benefiting the Heifer Project

INVITATION TO THE PRAYGROUND #191 Jesus Loves Me

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.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYGROUND

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy,
We confess that we have often tried to grow ourselves—
striving, performing, and comparing.
We forget that faith is your gift.
Forgive us for forgetting grace.
Forgive us for measuring ourselves and others by standards you never set.
Let your love be the soil of our lives once again.
Plant in us what is good,
and uproot all that keeps us from you.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:1–12

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

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 2:4–10

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

SERMON

HYMN #365 Grace Greater Than Our Sin

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 #384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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



Liturgist

Evelyn Davis

Sound & Livestream

Winifred Bunch, David Sullivan,
Ginny Lyttle, Ryan Terrone

Greeters

Amy Scott

Children's Sunday School

Debbie Nico, Nate Roark

Cable Broadcasting

Jackie Puma

Morristown UMC Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Luana Cook Scott
LCookScott@MorristownUMC.org

Director of Music Ministries

John Liepold
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Organist & Pianist

Jennifer Yang

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Director of Family Ministries

Nate Roark
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Property Manager

Andrew Cattano
ACattano@MorristownUMC.org

Nursery

Tati Diaz

This Week at Morristown UMC

September 7, 2025

10:30 AM Children's Sunday School, PG
10:30 AM Worship
12:00 PM Nominations Committee Meeting, WR
5:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL

September 8, 2025

8:00 AM Drew Theo School Faculty Retreat, FH
11:00 AM Staff Meeting, Z
7:00 PM AA, YL
7:00 PM Caregivers
8:00 PM Arise

September 9, 2025

11:00 AM Property Team Meeting, WR
6:15 PM Trustees, Z
7:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL

September 10, 2025

6:00 PM Creativity and Crumpets, Rm32
6:00 PM ULB Information Session, Z

September 11, 2025

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

September 12, 2025

7:00 PM Praise & Worship Night, FH

September 13, 2025

8:00 AM Emmaus Training, 1st Fl.
12:00 PM AA, YL

September 14, 2025

10:30 AM Children's Sunday School, PG
10:30 AM Worship
5:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL

PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

7:00 PM

MORRISTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
50 SOUTH PARK PLACE, MORRISTOWN, NJ

PRAISE GOD WITH SINGING!

We'll sing songs by artists like Chris Tomlin, Casting Crowns, Rend Collective, Phil Wickham, Elevation Worship, Brandon Lake, Bethel Music and more!
Join us to sing, praise or listen - all are welcome!

Contact Vince Cattano for more information - VCattano@gmail.com

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.)

Adult Sunday School



Meets Sundays
9:15am
Wesley Room

by David Mitchell, Adult Sunday School Coordinator

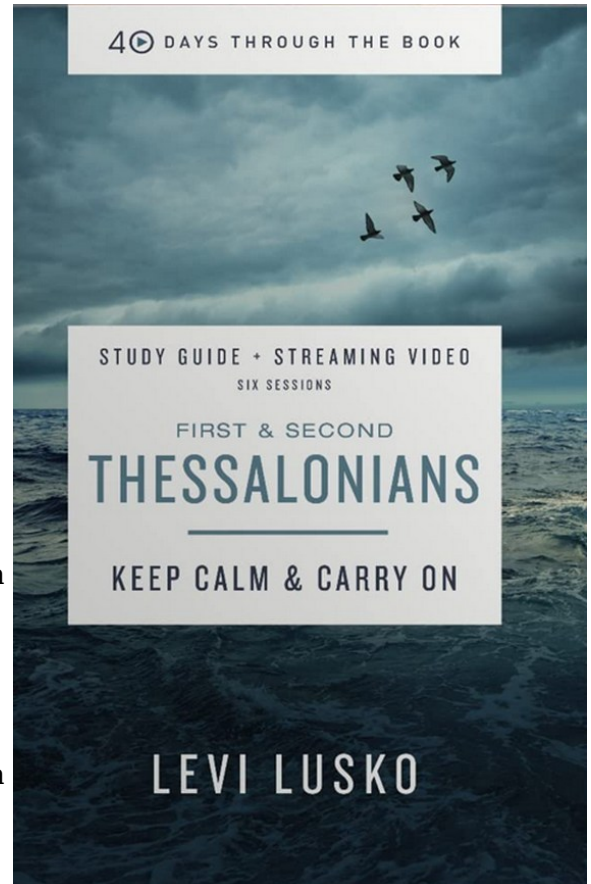
To the believers in Thessalonica, Paul addresses many of the core beliefs and practices that Christians of all maturity levels need to know to honor Jesus and impact the world.

In this six-session study, bestselling author and pastor Levi Lusko guides you through these short letters from Paul, revealing how to press on and not become discouraged in your faith.

1 and 2 Thessalonians stand out as deeply pastoral and practical for all believers. If you want to remember what really matters about faith in Jesus and hear the call to follow Jesus on your daily adventure of faith, this video study guide will propel you forward on your journey.

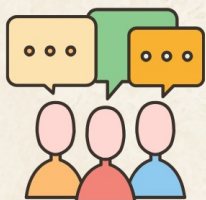
You are invited to join us for the new Adult Study year. Each Sunday at 9:15 in the Wesley room. No advanced prep is necessary. Each session is designed to be stand-alone, so if you have to miss a session or more, you will still get a lot out each session.

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of
of

ULB INFORMATION SESSIONS AND SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE



The Church Council is pleased to announce that on August 12 it voted to recommend the Unified Leadership Board (ULB) as the new leadership structure for Morristown UMC, effective January 1, 2026, along with the associated "Rules of Governance and Governing Principles."

This recommended change will now be voted on by a Charge Conference (full congregational meeting). This Special Charge Conference is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 30** by ZOOM to encourage participation.

In preparation for the Charge Conference, the Church Council will be hosting two informational sessions:

- **Wednesday, September 10, 6pm (ZOOM)**
- **Sunday, September 21, after service (in person)**



You can see a brief overview of the ULB and the Rules of Governance on the website.

Rooted

Growing a Faith that Lasts



This September, we're coming back together for worship, learning, and community — and we want YOU to be part of it.

Series Launch: Sunday, September 7

Rooted: Growing a Faith that Lasts will take 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 returns Thursday, September 11, 6pm** — 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.

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.



LOVE BOLDLY

Love Boldly: Human Rights & Sacred Worth

KNOWING WE BELONG TO CHRIST GIVES US STABILITY

What does the Bible say?

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

“Every human being is created in the image of God (Imago Dei), which means our worth is never determined by race, gender, status, or ability.”

-John Wesley, On the Image of God

What does the United Methodist Church say?

“Every person is of sacred worth, created in the image of God.”

(¶163, Basic Rights and Freedoms, Social Principles 2025–2028)

“The community provides the context where we learn what it means to be fully human... each person is created in the image of God and is of inestimable value.”

(¶162, The Nurturing Community, Social Principles 2025–2028)

“Grace for all means grace for each. No one is outside God’s love.”

-Bishop Rueben Job, Three Simple Rules

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

1 in 4 people globally report experiencing discrimination or harassment.

(United Nations Human Rights Office, World Report on Discrimination, 2024)

In the U.S., 64% of adults say discrimination is a major problem today.

(Pew Research Center, Race in America Report, April 2023)

Affirming people’s sense of belonging improves mental health and resilience.

(American Psychological Association, Effects of Belonging on Well-Being, 2023)

“Justice is what love looks like in public.”

-theologian and professor Cornel West

Lead Courageously: What can you do?

Speak words that affirm the sacred worth of every person.

Learn about and support human rights initiatives locally and globally.

Stand with those facing discrimination—your presence is a witness.

Pray for courage to live as Christ’s body, affirming all as beloved.

“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.