



What do you fear?

WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID,
GIVE ME YOUR HAND

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 AND GRACE

GATHERING MUSIC #211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1 &7)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in worship—

we pray together,

we stand together,

we sing together,

we listen together.

Here in worship—

we are not alone.

So when life gives you reason to grieve,

to fear, or to worry,

remember this moment.

We are not alone.

Let us worship our with-us God.

OPENING HYMN #250 Once in Royal David's City

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (Taylor Scott Davis)

CHILDREN'S TIME & Coin Collection Benefitting Heifer Project

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

When we were afraid, did we stay by one another's side?
Did we offer our hands, or did we leave each other alone?
When fear rose within us, did we choose solidarity?
Did we see the fear in our neighbor, or only our own?
We confess that none of us is perfect. We all fall short, we all miss the mark,
and still—God offers grace, and we offer grace to one another.
So we take a deep breath, and we begin again.
Thank you, God, for mercy that is a gift.
And now we ask ourselves once more:
When others were afraid, did we stay beside them?
Did we reach out in compassion, or turn away?
Did we choose courage, community, and love?
We accept God's grace, and we offer grace in return.
With God's help, we begin again.
Alleluia. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM (Psalm 85:8–13 (See Insert))

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 41:5-10

These are words of new life for all God's people.
Thanks be to God.

ADVENT ALLELUIA

Retrain



Al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia!

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25

These are words of new life for all God's people.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

HYMN #197 Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus

MINISTRY MINUTES

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH)

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy God, we have known the valley and the longest night,
and still—we believe.
We believe You are with us.
We believe hope rises.
We believe good news is louder than fear.
So in all our feelings—in our trembling and our trust,
in our joy and our weariness—receive these gifts.
Bless them, and bless us,
that we may hold onto good news,
reach for one another,
and witness love born among us again.
Still, we believe.
Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #251 Go Tell It on the Mountain

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



**First Time
Visitor Form**



Give Online



**Prayer Request
Form**



Ministry Updates



Altar Flower Form



**Our Worship is now over
and our Service begins...**

R

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the first line of the refrain. The second staff is in 2/4 time and contains the melody for the second line of the refrain. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Psalm 85:8-13

Let me hear what God will speak,
For the Lord will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turned to the Lord in their hearts.

**Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord,
that glory may dwell in our land. R**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before the Lord,
and make God's footsteps a way. R**





LEADERSHIP

Guest Preacher

Arnold Kamden

Liturgist

Carol Ferraro

Sound & Livestream

Winifred Bunch, David Sullivan,
Ginny Lyttle, Ryan Terrone

Greeters

Vinita John, Amy Scott

Children's Sunday School

Nate Roark

Cable Broadcasting

Jackie Puma

Morristown UMC Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Luana Cook Scott
LCookScott@MorristownUMC.org

Director of Music Ministries

John Liepold
JLiepold@MorristownUMC.org

Organist & Pianist

Jennifer Yang

Office Manager

Regina Heater
RHeater@MorristownUMC.org

Director of Family Ministries

Nate Roark
NRoark@MorristownUMC.org

Property Manager

Andrew Cattano
ACattano@MorristownUMC.org

Nursery

Tati Diaz

Seminary Interns

Josephine Tunda
Benin Shekawongo
Arnold Kamdem

OneLicense #A-711642

This Week at Morristown UMC

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:15 AM Adult Sunday School, WR
10:30 AM Children's Sunday School, PG
10:30 AM Worship
3:00 PM Parallel Brass Christmas Concert
5:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL

Monday, December 22, 2025

11:00 AM Staff Meeting, Z
7:00 PM AA, YL
7:00 PM Caregivers, Yarners
8:00 PM Arise, Rm. 32

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

11:00 AM Property Team Meeting, WR
12:00 PM Christmas Decorating in Sanctuary
7:30 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Office Closed
3:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service
6:00 PM Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Merry Christmas!

Saturday, December 27, 2025

12:00 PM AA, YL

Sunday, December 28, 2025

10:30 AM Children's Sunday School, PG
10:30 AM Worship
3:00 PM Things I Can't Say from the Pulpit, FH
5:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL

The church office will be closed from December 24 through January 2 as the staff takes a long winter's nap.

GREAT MUSIC ON THE MORRISTOWN GREEN PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS WITH PARALLEL BRASS



3:00PM · SUNDAY · 12.21.25

Suggested Donation: \$20

Concert to Benefit the Festival International Musique de St. George

Made possible by funds from Morris Arts, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



ADVENTure in Mission 2025 Alternative Gift Giving for Christmas

There's still time to participate in ADVENTure in Mission this year!

ADVENTure in Mission is our annual opportunity to make a Christmas gift in honor of a friend or loved one by donating to a mission organization. Instead of buying a physical gift for someone, givers make donations to organizations that serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our community and the world. There are many worthy charities to choose from, and you'll receive a card to share with the recipient, recognizing the gift made in their name.

Our 2025 "catalog" is available now in Fellowship Hall!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG OF HEART

DECEMBER 24 AT 3PM

AN INTERACTIVE, HIGH ENERGY RETELLING OF THE FIRST
CHRISTMAS IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES.



MORRISTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MORRISTOWNUMC.ORG

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 7:30pm



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