



Works of Mercy by Sarah Fuller | sarahfullerart.com, Used with permission

Sunday, January 18, 2026

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.

Our altar flowers today are given by Rolf Frantz, in honor of his wife Nancy's [REDACTED] birthday today.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & GRACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day has dawned, a new year begun

O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future

O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path

We enter this new year with hope and excitement

O Lord, remind us that You lead us

O Lord, guide us as we look to You and worship You.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN #224 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING *Total Praise* (Richard Smallwood, 1948-2025)

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S COIN COLLECTION Benefitting the Heifer Project

INVITATION TO THE PRAYGROUND

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

Gracious God, you are our Redeemer, always at work for our good. Yet we confess that we often trust our own plans over Yours. We resist when love requires sacrifice, and we withhold compassion when it costs us something. Forgive us, Lord. Through Jesus, who paid the full price for our redemption, restore our hope, renew our trust, and reshape our lives so that we may reflect Your steadfast love to all. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 1:17

SCRIPTURE Luke 4:16-21

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

SERMON Jack Scharf – CLM

SOCIAL CREED

We believe in God, Creator of the world, and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

HYMN #543 O Breath of Life

MINISTRY MOMENTS

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY #94

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 #533 We Shall Overcome

"We Shall Overcome" is the iconic anthem of the American Civil Rights Movement, evolving from spirituals and labor songs into a powerful symbol of hope, unity, and resistance against racial injustice, popularized by activists and singers like Pete Seeger and Joan Baez, and used in pivotal moments like the Selma marches and LBJ's voting rights speech. Its origins trace back to Black spirituals and a hymn by Charles Albert Tindley, adapted by striking workers and then embraced by the movement for its message of enduring strength and eventual triumph. Given our country's present denial of due process

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



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



LEADERSHIP



Guest Preacher

Jack Scharf, CLM

Liturgist

Tom Macaluso

Sound & Livestream

Winifred Bunch, David Sullivan,
Katlyn Agostinelli, Ryan Terrone

Greeters

Stu Ashton, 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



First Time Visitor Form



Give Online



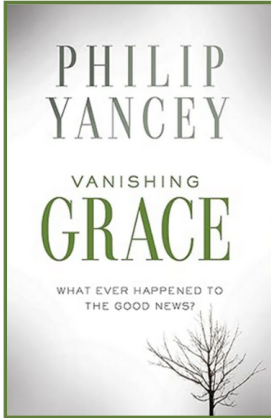
Prayer Request Form



Ministry Updates



Altar Flower Form



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Next Book Study: *Vanishing Grace* by Philip Yancey

Christians have proclaimed the good news about Jesus for centuries. But the good news isn't sounding so good these days, at least to some. More and more surveys show that people view Christians as bearers of bad news, judgment, and intolerance. In *Vanishing Grace*, bestselling author Philip Yancey acknowledges the problem and then explores how we can respond with both grace and truth. He offers a discerning look at what contributes to a hostility toward Christians, and identifies three groups--pilgrims, artists, and activists--who can show us a different way.

Meets Sundays at 9:15am in the Wesley Room



Mitten Collection: Warming Hands, Honoring Christ



This winter, we are collecting new or gently used mittens (all sizes) to support families waiting in line to visit loved ones at Delaney Hall, as well as others in our community who need warmth and care.

As we remember the Christ who was born into vulnerability, we give as an act of love—offering warmth, dignity, and compassion in his name. Mittens may be placed in the collection bin in the narthex.



**United Women in Faith
Book Club**
January 27
7pm
Youth Lounge

Please join us for the first UWF book club meeting of the new year on **Tuesday, January 27 at 7pm in the Youth Lounge**. Jane Rehmke will lead the discussion on "The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdrich.

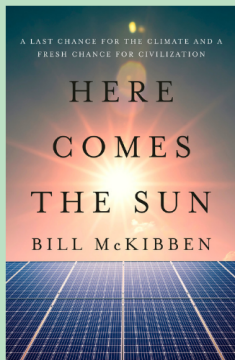
The novel describes the impact of the 2008-2009 economic collapse on several farming families in North Dakota's Red River Valley and includes adolescent love triangles, climate change, and community history.

Louise Erdrich is a member of the Turtle Band of Chippewa and her many books have included Native American perspectives. As always you are welcome to attend whether or not you have completed your reading of the book.

ARISE IS GOING HYBRID IN JANUARY
ARISE is a weekly gathering for those seeking spiritual grounding, support, and connection, especially for anyone working for justice or finding today's climate challenging. Beginning in January, ARISE will meet Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. in a Zoom hybrid format, allowing participants to join in person or online.
For details and Zoom information, email LCookScott@MorristownUMC.org.

ARISE

MONDAY EVENINGS
8PM
ZOOM & IN-PERSON



EarthAware Book Study

Join EarthAware to participate in an online discussion of acclaimed environmentalist Bill McKibben's book, *Here Comes the Sun*, hosted by Green Earth Ministry of Morristown Unitarian Universal Fellowship on Feb. 2. The book is 208 pp long and is available for loan from the Main Library Alliance. Reach out to Leslie Raff for more info! Registration is required - scan the QR code.



Valentine's Family Date Night



Saturday, February 14
4-6pm

You're invited for a free evening of crafts, dinner, games and fun!



Morristown United Methodist Church
50 S. Park Place, Morristown, NJ
MorristownUMC.Org

**Please RSVP (to help us plan!)
by February 11**