



THE WORK OF IMAGINATION

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 22, 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.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & GRACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into God's presence,
you who imagine and you who seek,
you who disrupt and you who repair.

By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

Come into God's keeping,
you who bear the divine image,
you who are in this world but not of it,
you who feel tested or tried.

In Christ, we gather and we belong.

Come into God's presence,
singing for joy and for justice;
bringing prayer and worship,
your most faithful acts of resistance.

To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

OPENING PRAYER

**God of discernment,
you send your Spirit to guide us
when the questions seem too difficult
or the possibilities seem too limited.
Bless us with curiosity and creativity.
Show us pathways beyond the binaries of
"either/or" and "yes/no."
Give us the strength to live your will,
and dedicate our lives
to your holy callings
of love, mercy, humility, and grace.
We do this following the way of Jesus Christ,
our leader and our guide.
Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #354 I Surrender All, verses 1-3

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

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.**

CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows the ways we have chosen to serve powers that are unloving and unjust. God, you see the powerful people in this world as they scramble for more, keeping the weak in places of suffering. Even though we are aware of their evil alliances, we contribute to these systems and power structures with our money, our time, and our attention.

We confess that our purchases support harmful practices and abusive regimes. We confess that our entertainment choices, at times, center people who mock the weak. We confess that our participation in consumerism and disposability causes destruction of creation. Forgive us for aligning our allegiance with systems and corporations that harm life and cause suffering. Help us resist the temptation to devote ourselves to worldly ways that offend your righteousness. We choose to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, so we might have open hands to serve you better. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Mark 12:13-17

Inspired by God and entrusted to us, these are holy words for holy living.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

**We believe there is no other object of our allegiance or devotion
that compares to the Way of Jesus.
This devotion supremely outmatches any allegiance
to country, team, or people group.
We believe that when we divide our allegiance among other powers,
our faith is diluted by lesser ambitions.
We lose sight of our calling,
and we compromise our values.
We believe our allegiance to Christ's way of love and justice
informs all other promises, contracts, covenants, and relationships.
When forced to choose between Caesar's way and Christ's way,
we choose Christ
because Christ first chose us.
Amen.**

HYMN 452 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

MINISTRY MOMENTS

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY (Old 100th)

**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 #577 God of Grace and God of Glory

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Our **Worship** Is Now Over, and Our **Service** Begins



LEADERSHIP



Liturgist

Evelyn Davis

Sound & Livestream

Katlyn Agostinelli, Ryan Terrone,
Winifred Bunch

Greeters

Amy Scott

Children's Sunday School

Nate Roark, Sue Curnow

Morristown UMC Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Luana Cook Scott
LCookScott@MorristownUMC.org

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John Liepold
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Nursery

Tati Diaz

Seminary Interns

Josephine Tunda
Benin Shekawongo
Arnold Kamdem



**First Time
Visitor Form**



Give Online



**Prayer Request
Form**



Ministry Updates



Altar Flower Form

This Week at Morristown UMC

Sunday, March 22, 2026

9:15 AM Adult Sunday School, WR
10:30 AM Children's Sunday School, PG
10:30 AM Worship
12:00 PM ASP Mac & Cheese Cookoff

Monday, March 23, 2026

11:00 AM Staff Meeting, Z
7:00 PM AA, YL
7:00 PM Caregivers
8:00 PM Arise, Z

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

11:00 AM Property Team Meeting, WR
2:00 PM Arise, K
4:00 PM Arise Delaney Hall Witness/Support
7:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL
7:00 PM UWF Book Club, WR

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

6:00 PM Creativity and Crumpets (Craft Group), Rm. 32
7:00 PM Handbells, FH
7:00 PM ASP Social Event, YL

Thursday, March 26, 2026

6:00 PM Youth Weekly Study, Rm. 32
6:30 PM Yarners
7:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL
7:00 PM Choir, MR

Saturday, March 28, 2026

12:00 PM AA, YL
2:00 PM Pioneer Acting Class, Rm. 32

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

9:15 AM Adult Sunday School, WR
10:30 AM Children's Sunday School, PG
10:30 AM Worship
5:00 PM Pioneer Rehearsal, YL
5:00 PM Maurice Duruflé: Requiem (Opus 9) Concert at
St. Peter's

VIRTUAL EASTER LILIES BENEFITTING NOURISH.NJ

Honor a loved one by ordering a Virtual Easter Lily.
Proceeds will go towards supplies for Breakfast Bags for nourish.NJ.

The cost is \$10 per lily. The deadline for ordering is March 30.

Order forms are available at the Welcome Desk,
or you can order online: bit.ly/lilies2026

We will print your dedications in our Easter Sunday bulletin.



**Maundy Thursday Service
Breaking the Bread**

April 2, 6pm-7pm

Gather with us for our Maundy Thursday service. Please enter the building quietly in a worshipful way. A dinner of soup and bread will be provided. If you would like to make soup or bake bread, please contact Kristin Moran.

Youth Study

Thursdays at 7pm, Room 32

Starting March 5, youth will gather weekly at 6pm in Room 32 (third floor next to the Yarners room) for a new series inspired by *Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints* — exploring stories of bold, justice-seeking faith leaders from diverse backgrounds. Come grow in faith, build friendships, and make a meaningful impact.

UWF Book Club - March 24

Please join us for the next UWF book club meeting on *Tuesday, March 24 at 7pm in the Wesley Room*. Ginny Lyttle will lead the discussion on *Triangle: the Fire that Changed America* by David Von Drehle. As a journalist, he describes the harrowing event of March 25, 1911 in detail from eye witness accounts of those who survived and stories of those who did not. 146 were killed –123 women. He includes as well the turbulent labor, business, and political environment of the time. The described aftermath led to social awakenings, urban liberalism, and workplace reform.

As always you are welcome to attend whether or not you have completed your reading of the book.



M@SP
MUSIC AT ST. PETER'S

Durufle
REQUIEM

The combined choirs of
St. Peter's Episcopal Church &
Morristown United Methodist Church
John Liepold (conductor), Anthony Hammond (organ)

March 29 • 5 p.m.

JOIN US FOR

Spring Break Compassion Camp!
March 30th - April 3rd 2026

Children's Program for K-5th Grade

\$45 fee for first child; \$30 for additional children

Drop Off: 8:30-9am

Pick Up: 2-2:30pm

Morristown United Methodist Church
50 S Park Place, Morristown NJ 07960



COMPASSION
CAMP

BE LOVED • BE KIND • BE YOU

Compassion Camp centers on learning how to notice, care, and respond with kindness in our everyday lives. Campers will explore what it means to follow Jesus by practicing empathy, justice, generosity, and inclusion. Each day includes Bible stories, interactive activities, and opportunities to reflect on how we can make a difference in our homes, schools, and community. This special week is designed to help children grow in faith, friendship, and love for neighbor through worship, storytelling, music, crafts, games, and yoga.

Partial or Full Scholarships Available

Registration Form: bit.ly/compassioncamp26

For more information please contact nroark@morristownumc.org



Coming this March to Morristown UMC: Compassion Camp!

Children are invited to a joyful week of faith, fun, and connection at **Compassion Camp**, taking place March 30–April 3 from 9:00 AM–2:00 PM. Throughout the week, children will explore what it means to live with compassion through engaging Bible lessons, active games, creative crafts, music and songs, and moments of mindful movement, including yoga. Each day is designed to help children grow in kindness, empathy, and faith while building meaningful friendships in a welcoming and inclusive environment. On Tuesday we will be welcoming a guest educator who works with wildlife rescue animals to teach us about kindness with creatures.

A light breakfast and a full lunch will be provided daily. The registration fee is **\$45 per child**, with a discounted rate of **\$30 for each additional child** in the same family.

We are also looking for **church members to volunteer** and be part of this meaningful ministry. Volunteers can serve **half days or full days**, depending on your availability. The full program day—including drop-off and pick-up, as well as set-up and clean-up—runs from **8:00 AM–3:00 PM**. You do need to be Safe Sanctuary certified to volunteer; if you are not already certified, we will gladly help you complete the process. Simply contact nroark@morristownumc.org for support.

A **volunteer training session** will be held on **March 29 following the worship service**.

Compassion Camp is a wonderful opportunity to support our children, strengthen our community, and share God's love in tangible ways.

Register for Compassion Camp: bit.ly/compassioncamp26

Holy Week & Easter

MORRISTOWN UMC

Palm Sunday (March 29)

Worship 10:30 AM

Palm Sunday Concert

Durufle Requiem 5:00 PM
at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Holy Thursday (April 2)

Breaking the Bread 6:00 PM

Good Friday (April 3)

Worship 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (April 5)

6:30 AM Joshua's Garden

Easter Sunday Festival Worship (April 5)

10:30 AM with Brass & Communion

