



Prayer is a gift you can always give to others. Please pray for our friends on the long term prayer list:

Pastor's Page

When our District Superintendent visited with us in our October Charge Conference, he asked us a question: "What are the signs of spiritual growth in your congregation?" We were quite pleased to share with him some of the new ministries of the year, and the growing energy with our Bible studies and prayer life. I don't think he was impressed. As he explained to us that a sure sign of spiritual maturity is our ability to confess our sin and forgive one another, it struck me how quick we are to act (or be busy) and how slow we are to reflect (and listen to God speak).

I think that is also true for this season we call Advent (yes, this is an Advent reflection and not a Christmas reflection). Getting ready for Christmas has become for many Americans, a flurry of activity. Baking, shopping, decorating, getting the lights up and trimming the tree, wrapping, going to parties, etc. We are so busy doing that too often we skip over Advent, which is a time of reflecting and repentance. Advent is a time to "be still and know that I am God."

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" we sing. This is a prayer that God will come to us and through his son, will save us. If we could find a way to save ourselves, we certainly would do so – somewhere between wrapping the gifts and baking the sixth batch of cookies and stringing the lights! But the truth is, WE CAN'T! So as we prepare for the flurry of activity that is to come, let's be sure to stop periodically and remind ourselves that the most important kind of preparation we can do is to prepare our heart to receive what only God can give: the glorious gift of salvation, found in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Wendy



Study With Friends is a new online and on air ministry airing locally on WFIL 560am radio Saturdays at 8:30am, or you can find the podcast on iTunes and available for download at studywithfriends.org. Each week, a few of the over 20 women who participate in this ministry gather around the table (and the microphone) to discuss God's Word. This format provides an intimacy and variety not found on other radio programs.

The www.studywithfriends.org website provides exciting Bible study resources for women to follow along with the radio and podcast studies. Every episode is led by Bible study author and teacher Holly Lazzaro. Holly leads each participant as they discover the truths of Scripture, using her more than 15 years of Bible teaching experience to practically apply each passage. Current and past study sessions can also be found on the website.

Also on the website, a brand new blog featuring encouragement, wisdom and authentic faith experiences written by some of the "friends." Each post mines God's Word for practical lessons to help women through their week.

As one of the "friends" says, "Finding time to study God's word is challenging but I know I am a better wife, mother and friend after I do." So grab a pair of headphones and a Bible and come – Study with Friends!

Youth News

Every year our youth make homemade apple crumb pies! This year was no different! We made over 200 pies again and it was a huge success. Thank you to all that helped out and to those of you that bought our delicious pies!

And we still have nuts for sale! Please make an effort to come and check out our selection of quality nuts (no, not the kids!). Every item you purchase from the youth supports our mission work and our opportunities to fellowship and learn more about what God has in store for us!

Like it says in Psalm 71:17

*"O God, You have taught me from my youth,
And I still declare Your wondrous deeds."*

Thank you for supporting our youth, you are helping us do God's work and assisting in creating disciples of Christ! How cool is that?



2015 Stewardship Campaign:
Our Legacy, Our Hope

"...like a tree planted by the streams of water..." Psalm 1:1

By the time you read this article in the Maple newsletter our four week stewardship campaign will be over, but if you haven't submitted your faith promise card it is NOT too late. Please prayerfully consider what you can commit to the Lord's work here in Morrisville. Faith promise cards are available in the narthex of the church or by contacting the church office at 215-295-9593. Thank you for your continued generosity.

In His Service,
Jim Rea

Finance Committee Chairman



Wednesdays in Advent

St. John Lutheran, the Presbyterian Church in Morrisville and MUMC have been coming together this year for new ministry and worship opportunities. Our next joint effort will take place on Wednesday evenings in Advent. Dinner will begin at 6:00 -- worship will begin at 6:45

December 2

Host Church: St. John Lutheran
preacher: Rev. Bruce Ballentine (MPC)

December 9

Host Church: Morrisville United Methodist
Preacher: Rev. Michael McKillip (St. John's)

December 16

Host Church: Presbyterian Church
Preacher: Rev. Wendy Bellis (MUMC)

We will be asking for desserts and help hosting the meal on December 9th.



A sign-up sheet for ordering Christmas Poinsettias is on the flower table in the lounge. The cost is \$9.00 and flowers may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Services.

If paying by check, make the check payable to M.U.M.C. and write "Christmas Poinsettia" on the message line on your check. If paying with cash, place money in an envelope and mark "Christmas Poinsettias" and your name on the envelope. Payment can be placed in the offering plate or given to Carol Somers (215-295-1480).

Deadline for ordering is December 13th.



The next meeting of the Saturday Morning Men's Group is on the 12th of December at 8 AM. We meet in the church lounge on the second Saturday of each month. Good fellowship, "light" refreshments, and encouragement from God's Word is a great way to start our weekend. Men of all ages are welcome. If you have any questions call David Miller at 215-943-2046.



United Methodist Women

THE PURPOSE

United Methodist Women is a **community of women** whose purpose is:

- **To know God** and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ
- **To develop a creative supportive fellowship** and
- **To expand concepts of mission** through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We welcome all women who commit themselves to our Purpose, including you. You don't have to be a member of The United Methodist Church to join. Our membership is diverse: women of many races, cultures, languages, young and old. There is no minimum age requirement. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining this **multicultural, multilingual, and multiracial** organization of women. All women are welcome to attend.

December Schedule

DECEMBER 1: UMW GENERAL MEETING – 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary

Hostess: Adrienne Circle

Program: "Sounds of the Season" presented by the Morrisville High School Choir, lead by Shelley Zuckerman

- A Christmas Love offering will be taken.
- *Women are encouraged to bring 2 doz. cookies that will be made into trays for our homebound members. (Sugar-free cookies are always appreciated for trays for our diabetic friends.)*

DECEMBER 16: ADRIENNE CIRCLE – 6:30 P.M.

Hostess: **Rhonda Rea**

Study/Devotion: Christmas Readings

BERNICE CIRCLE – 6:30 P.M.

Hostess: All Members

Study/Devotion: Dinner

DECEMBER 21: ELIZABETH CIRCLE – 12:30 P.M. – Ryan Hall

Hostess: All Members

Study/Devotion: Luncheon – Selected Readings



We are proud to lead a group of women who have adopted a motto first heard from one of MUMC's saints in glory, Bernice Turner; "I'd rather wear out than rust out." To some, our busy week of Election Day Luncheon, Granny's Attic and Holly Nook Bazaar may have seemed like an exercise in busy-ness for our group. But a spirit of co-operation, prayer and giving led us to offer hospitality to the community and have a successful fundraiser for mission at the same time!

Thanks to all who:

- Moved tables, dishes and boxes,
- Shopped for ingredients
- Kneaded and baked homemade bread
- Baked for our Bake Table (\$700)
- Greeted our lunch guests (\$933- luncheon profit)
- Crafted clever items (\$1,326)
- Set the tables
- Cooked and served soup (\$430- Soup and Bread sales- takeout)
- Waited on tables, cut cakes and stocked our salad bar
- Ran the dishwasher
- Cleaned and organized jewelry and junque (\$194- jewelry/ \$632- Granny's Attic)
- Served Hot Dogs and more on Sat. (\$135)
- Sold their wares (\$35)
- Stitched Silent Auction items (profit to be announced in the future!)

By God's grace and the work of many hands we raised a total of \$4,385.18 that will be used for Mission work locally and globally. A HUGE THANK YOU to one and all.

Rhonda Rea and Linda Mier

MUMW Co-presidents

Thank you for praying!

This is a very late thank you to all of your members who did so much praying for me during my illness. After a year of tests and 9 months of chemo treatments it looks like I have beaten my cancer. I will still have to be checked on everything to make sure the cancer doesn't come back. I feel all the prayers I have received have really helped me during my recuperation. It has been a busy year for me and my husband, Art.

P.S. I also want to thank the women who sent me the shawl that was in my favorite color. Thanks again, it is greatly appreciated from my heart.

Dorlores W. Carlen

5536 Betmar Drive, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

To all the members of my MUMC family I want to say thank you for your concern during my recent illness. The cards, phone calls, e-mails, prayers and other expressions of caring were so cheering and greatly appreciated. It is wonderful to have friends but praying friends are special and that's how I think of all of you.

With Christian love,
Betty Wisnosky



January 15-16 at Camp Innabah

Calling all Ladies! You won't want to miss this! The theme of our annual retreat will be "Second Chair: Learning How to Serve From the Second Chair." Our girl friend Sue Duffield will be with us again this year.

Sign up sheet is in the lounge. Please call Janet Fabian with any questions



December 27 at 10:15 AM

There will be one worship service on Sunday, December 27th. No Sunday School.



St. Mary is offering enrollment assistance for Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicaid at three convenient locations. The open enrollment period for 2016 coverage is November 1, 2015 - January 31, 2016. (Medicaid enrollment available all year)

BENSALEM: Fatima Catholic Outreach Center Centro Católico de Fatima 2915 Street Road TUESDAY: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY: Noon - 7 p.m. FRIDAY: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
*Spanish Translator Available *Español Traductor Disponible

LANGHORNE: St. Mary Medical Center 1201 Langhorne-Newtown Road TUESDAY: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. THURSDAY: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. WEEKENDS: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

LEVITTOWN: Queen of the Universe Parish 2477 Trenton Road TUESDAY: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. WEDNESDAY: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. THURSDAY: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Call 215.710.5888 to schedule a personal appointment

Our Children Say ...



○ For: Chik-Fil-A Spirit Night

We were able to raise \$110.00 and enjoyed a night of fellowship without having to cook a thing. The money will be used to help offset the cost of shipping and handling for our Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

○ For: Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Thanks to your generous donations we were able to help 7 families by providing them with turkey and all the trimmings.

○ For: Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone that participated in the shoebox packing party. We filled and delivered 107 boxes! If you would still like to help you can donate toward the shipping cost of \$7.00 per box.

Many Thanks for your generosity.

Kim Jakimowicz



Our Children's Christmas party will be held on December 13 at 11:00AM (immediately following Sunday school) Bring an exchange gift \$5.00 value. Please contact Kim to RSVP and for ways to help with the party.



Christmas Pageant

Our annual Christmas Program will take place on December 20, during the 11:15 am service in the Sanctuary. Sunday School Students of every age are encouraged to participate. We have begun practicing during choir rehearsal every Sunday at 10:00AM. We will hold two additional practices on Sunday December 13 and Saturday December 19 at 10 AM.

As always we rely on the parents to help. Parent help will be needed for costumes and scenery. If your child does not normally attend choir please urge them to do so for the next few weeks to help make our pageant a success. If your child would like to participate please let me know.



Each Year our church helps up to 10 families by providing gifts for Children in need. Our giving tree will be located in the lobby, please choose a tag, purchase and wrap the gift and return it to the Children's Ministry office by December 13. Don't forget to attach the original tag to your gift.

****Sunday School News****

- Children's Choir will not sing on December 13.
- There will be no Sunday School on December 27.