

Morrisville United Methodist Church

On Waiting and Advent

Waiting is challenging. It is one of humanity's greatest struggles. If you doubt that, ask the toddler who wants more milk but is told she has to wait until dinner because she already exceeded her limit at snack time—then ask that same child years later when she is a soon-to-be high school graduate waiting to hear from her top college choice while others already know where they are heading. Ask the 35-year-old awaiting a diagnosis after a biopsy, when the appointment was supposed to be only a routine physical. Ask the parent desperately waiting for word of their child's safety after yet another school shooting. Ask the person hoping the insurance company will approve the doctor-recommended treatment plan, or the traveler whose flight delay jeopardizes their ability to officiate a funeral service that evening. Or, waiting for Christmas because you will be with family.

For the early church—and especially for the monastics—the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” was a hymn of waiting. Sung during the seven days leading up to Christmas, it offers deep theological grounding and space for contemplation, both personal and communal. And while we are not monks or nuns, the call to contemplation is still a gift. Before I wander too far down that rabbit trail, let's return to the hymn.

The first verse, originally in Latin, expresses humanity's longing for the coming Messiah—the real presence of God, the incarnation. The prophetic imagery of Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Zechariah, Malachi, Daniel, and John the Baptist gave hope to people who might otherwise feel hopeless. It allows one to see light in darkness, to feel joy when life offers little to be joyful about. Just as captive Israel longed to be freed and restored, so too does captive humanity. The refrain speaks this hope aloud as we wait, reminding us that our hope is found in Jesus.

And still—waiting is challenging, even when we know where our hope lies. We live in a culture that demands quick answers, fast solutions, and immediate fixes. Waiting forces us to learn patience. It reminds us that while the promise of Christ's return is true, the timeline is unknown. Yet His promises are trustworthy. So, we wait in joyful hope, allowing the Holy Spirit to prepare our minds and hearts—not only in Advent, but in every season. Ideally, our waiting shifts from passive endurance to active soul work, shaping our daily lives. When holy waiting is woven into our routine, we can truly sing this hymn as a celebration of our trust in the One who has come and will come again. Hallelujah!

Both the season and the hymn remind us that the Christian life holds the tension of the **“already and not yet.”** We celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas, but we also wait in hope for His promised return. Advent acknowledges the world's brokenness while fixing our eyes on the fullness of God's kingdom still to come. By singing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” we join a chorus that spans centuries, affirming that our waiting is not in vain—for Emmanuel, “God with us,” will surely come.

Grace and peace as we wait,

Pastor K



For pastoral concerns or emergencies, Pastor K can be reached at 281-620-9928 (cell) or emailpastorK@gmail.com. Please call the church office if you would like to set up a meeting with him during the week.

December Calendar

12/1

6:30pm – Girl Scout Gift Wrapping – Fellowship Hall

12/4

10:30am - IFA Meeting – Fellowship Hall

6:30pm – Prayer Shawls Ministry - Lounge

12/5

All day – Blood Drive – Fellowship Hall

12/7

5:30pm – Thankful Fest - Sanctuary

12/9

9:00am-1:00pm – Cookie Trays – Fellowship Hall

5-7pm – IFA Backpacks – Main Entrance

12/10

7:00pm – Trustees Meeting - Library

11/10

7:00pm – Finance Meeting - Library

12/13

8:00am – Men's Bible Study - Lounge

9:00-11:00am – IFA Backpacks – Main Entrance

6:00pm – Piano Recital - Sanctuary

12/14

9:00am-3:00pm – Shared Meal Prep – Kitchen

11am-4pm Latino Ministry Christmas Party –Fellowship Hall

12/15

1:00pm – Marcia Ruth Circle – Lounge

12/16

5-7pm – Shared Meal– Fellowship Hall

12/17

1:00pm – Methodist Ladies Who Lunch – Amore

12/18

6:30pm – Prayer Shawls Ministry - Lounge

12/20

7:00pm - UWF Event Setup

12/21

11:00am – UWF Church-wide lunch and movie – Fellowship Hall

12/23

5-7pm – IFA Backpacks – Main Entrance

12/24

Christmas Eve – church offices and food pantry close at noon

7:00pm – Christmas Eve Service

12/25

All day – church offices and food pantry closed

12/27

9-11am – IFA Backpacks – Main Entrance

12/31

New Year's Eve – church offices and food pantry close at noon

5:00pm – AA Overnight Event – Fellowship Hall

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays

10:00am – Worship Service - Sanctuary

10:00am – Sunday School – Room 10

11:00am – Hospitality - Lounge

7:00pm – Alcoholics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall

Mondays

7:00pm– Boy Scouts - Fellowship Hall

7:00pm – Nar Anon - Room 10

8:00pm – Narcotics Anonymous - Room 30/31

Tuesdays

10:00am – Bible Study – Lounge

6:00pm – Girl Scout Troop 2129 – Room 23, 26, 30/31

6:30pm – Girl Scout Troop 2692 – Lounge

6:30pm – ESL – Rooms 3, 10, Library

Wednesdays

10:30am – ESL – Rooms 3, 10, Library

Thursdays

6:30pm – ESL – Room 10, Library

7:00pm – Choir Practice – Choir Room

Fridays

7:30pm - NA - RM 30/31

Saturdays

8:00-9:45pm NA – Room 30/31



PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY TIME!

Continues Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Lounge. We will be using the Adult Bible Study series. Come join us!



Pastor K



SMALL GROUP SUNDAY MORNING

BIBLE STUDY is held every Sunday morning at 9AM in the youth room. Come join us!



SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Our next Men's Bible Study is Saturday, December 13th, at 8AM in the MUMC church lounge. We will continue to look at "The 12 priorities every man needs to know". All you need to bring is yourself, your Bible, and a cup of coffee if you need it to wake up. Hope to see all of you who want to start their weekend with good fellowship and encouragement from God's Word! If you have any questions, call Dave Miller.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Offering envelope boxes will be out in the hallway by the office starting December 7th. Please pick up your envelope box as soon as possible if



you usually get one. If you have not had one in the past and would like a box (they help you keep track of your giving), please either contact the church office or Jim Rea. There is also a clipboard with a sign-up sheet on it at Sign Up Central to ask for a box of envelopes for 2026. Copies of the approved budget for 2026 will be available on the table along with a Narrative Budget sheet that breaks down the spending into major categories. On behalf of the entire Finance Committee, thank you all for your generous giving throughout 2025!

In Christ,
Jim Rea, Finance Chair

E-GIVING Great News Everyone! We now have a QR Code that you can scan that links you directly to our E-Giving site. When you scan the code below with your smartphone you can send your offering to the Church's General Fund, Communion/Pastor's Fund or Mission Fund. This is the same link that is available on our church's website. Thank you always for your faithful giving to Christ's work here in Morrisville.



MEMBERSHIP Do we have your correct email address? If you are not getting emails from church and would like them, please send your email address to the office or give to Joyce Bigley or Barb Lombardo.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all the men & women who have graciously volunteered to present a children's sermon during

each Sunday's service. We could always use other volunteers to lessen the teaching load in the future. If you are interested in joining this rewarding ministry for our children, please sign up on the Sign-Up Central table outside of the pastor's office.

Thank you for all you do for our children who are our future church. God bless, Joyce



SOLO PIANO RECITAL — Saturday, December 13th at 6:00pm. Dr. Thomas Ridgway will present a program of French and Russian masterpieces in the Sanctuary, featuring works by Debussy, Ravel, Boulez, and Mussorgsky. This recital offers a survey of major contributions to the piano literature spanning impressionism, modernism, and the Russian romantic tradition. All are invited to attend.

PRAISE BAND SERVICE – SECOND SUNDAY The Praise Band will play on December 14th instead of the third Sunday because the Children's Christmas Pageant will be on December 21st.



United
Women
in Faith

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

UWF is sponsoring a potluck luncheon followed by a showing of "A Charlie Brown

Christmas" at 11:30am on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025. Everyone is invited to attend and bring friends/family. Please sign up at "Sign Up Central" so we have an idea of how many people are coming. You may also sign up to bring a dish to share.



ANGEL TREE— Would you like to bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas? There are Angel tree tags available on trees in the lounge. There will be additional tags appearing throughout

Advent for you to purchase gifts for children of the IFA guests, Latino Ministry and MUMC pantry guests. Please return your angel tag and gifts by Tuesday, December 9th. An opportunity for generosity! Questions? Speak to Rhonda Rea or Deborah Chapman

COOKIES FOR FRIENDS Most of us look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas with anticipation and joy. But for those in our church family who live alone or are homebound, this can be a very lonely season. The United Women in Faith have a tradition of



remembering these friends with a short visit and a plate of homemade cookies. You, our church family, have lovingly assisted with this mission project each year. We hope you will join us again. Please consider baking 2-3 dozen cookies and bringing them to church on Sunday, Dec. 7th and place them on the table in the hallway. Do not include nuts in any recipe, and since several recipients are diabetic, sugarless cookies are welcome. Help us by labeling these with the word **DIABETIC**. Individual plates will then be assembled and festively wrapped so each friend receives a variety of yummy treats. As always, thank you for supporting the United Women in Faith and sharing your love with others. Any questions? Please see or call Carol Young, (215-920-2683)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – CELEBRATE JESUS! We are planning our Children's Christmas pageant for December 21 during the Children's Message time of our 10:00 worship service. Please note the following dates especially if your

children or grandchildren want to participate in our pageant. Dec 7 will be our day to decide which children are doing which parts in the pageant and seeing their costumes. Dec 14 will be an important rehearsal during our regular Sunday School time. On December 21 we need the children to arrive at 9:00 am so that we can get them in costume and a final rehearsal before we move into sanctuary at 10:00. We hope you can stay and help us with the costumes and whatever else is needed that day; 2 of our teachers are expected to be away that Sunday! On Dec 28 we will have a Happy Birthday Jesus party. If you have any questions, see Barb Lombardo or any of our SS staff.

We thank you as always for your help and allowing us to work with your children as they learn more about Jesus. May you enjoy a Blessed Christmas season!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE We are so thankful for the bounty of food and turkeys we received for our Thanksgiving Baskets. With your help we were able to give over 60 families in our community Thanksgiving dinner this year. Our pantry is full thanks to so many of you and



the community! We do not need anything right now. Thank you for all you do to help us help our neighbors in need. Many thanks!
Deb Price and the Missions Team



SCRIP GIFT CARDS See Dave Sample at the table located in the lounge to buy your Scrip gift cards. All Scrip proceeds benefit the general fund of the church. If we do not have what you want, we can order most vendors on our list and have them for you the following Sunday. Thanks!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes for children up to age 12 take place immediately following the Children's Message each Sunday; Mr. Craig teaches the younger students and Ms. Joyce and Mr. John alternate with the older children. We love sharing God's love with our younger ones. Helpers are always welcome! Barb Lombardo



United
Women
in Faith

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 7

Members are encouraged to bring 2-3 dozen homemade cookies on Sunday, December 7 that will be made into trays for our homebound members. Do not include nuts. Sugar-free cookies are always appreciated for trays for our diabetic friends.

December 15

MARCIA-RUTH CIRCLE

1:00 P.M. – Church lounge

Members bring appetizers or desserts

Hostess: Linda Mier

Bring a Christmas reading to share.

December 17

METHODIST LADIES WHO LUNCH 1:00 P.M.

Luncheon – Amore

8630 New Falls Road

Levittown, PA

(Contact Deborah Chapman with any questions)

December 21 (Sunday)

UWF POTLUCK LUNCHEON

11:30 A.M. After church– Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be provided

Program – Movie A Charlie Brown Christmas

A Christmas Love Offering will be taken.

Sign up at “Sign Up Central” for attendance and/or a dish to share.

LATINO MINISTRY DIRECTOR AND FAMILY



We want to thank everyone for their love and support throughout this year. As always, this congregation pours their heart for all our community. It has

been a pleasure to serve in a congregation that loves their neighbor and is full of love and dedication.

It has been a wonderful year. I had the opportunity to further my education and moved from a being Christ Servant Minister (CSM) to a Certified Lay Minister (CLM), graduating in 2025. I am looking forward to furthering my education at the Leadership Academy Preaching Institute and what God has for me and my family, but whatever it is I always have Faith in my Lord and know that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 3:13.

This year we are going to start new things having Faith in God that our job is always to serve all. Stay tuned for the upcoming year of events and worship.

Thank you, brothers and sisters,
from the Cadillo Family

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

Bulletin announcements are due by noon on Wednesdays. Please include the date, time(s) and location in the announcement you send in. Thank you!



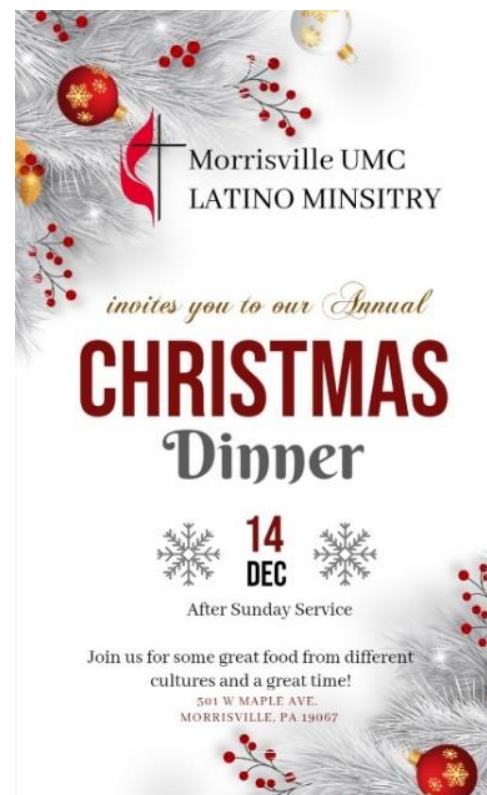
ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY –

Saturday, December 6th, 6:00pm

Thank you, Hal Long, for graciously opening his house to us again this year! Please bring a dish to share.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the SIGN-UP CENTRAL table in the main hallway. Please

sign up for bringing a main course, side dish/vegetable, or dessert. Again, this year, we are including a “white elephant” gift exchange (bring a wrapped funny gift/something you no longer want). **Hal's address is: 2306 Lakeview Drive, Yardley.** Let us know if you need a ride (Joyce Bigley & Linda Mier). The more the merrier and we hope to see you there!



Current Prayer Concerns



Prayers for victims in the following places:

Earthquakes: Afghanistan, Philippines, Indonesia
Floods and landslides: Kenya, Indonesia, Vietnam,
Hurricane Melissa.

Prayers for the UMC in Liberia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe,
Philippines as they face attacks from former UMC
members.

Prayers for all affected by the recent government
shutdown.

Prayers for Don Swenson, Tami Bernard, Rosie
Benstead, Carol Young, Jenn Arruda, Alice South,
Tyrone Frisby, Sonia Robinson, Andy McCall, Tom
Miller, Ann Hook, Carol Hughes, Pam Manners, Toby
Ellsworth, Jimmy Ellsworth, Thomas Manners, Paul &
Marian Chapman, Sue Urbano

Mary Chapman (Dave Miller's sister)
Angie, Angelica & new baby (friends of Beditza
Cadillo)
Elijah (community member)
Tim Doyle (nephew of Dave & Marianne Miller)
Debra Porter (friend of Hal Long)
Luisa Proaño (friend of Hal Long)
Arlene Eberly (Cheryl Scott's mother)
Leslie Eberly (Cheryl Scott's Sister)
Sandra MacKinnon (Steve Russell's mother)
Philip Buehler (Becky Kent's brother-in-law)
Lisa (friend of Joyce Bigley)
Nanette (cousin of Hal Long)
Kevin and Armanda Green (son & daughter-in-law of
Merlene Taylor)
Betty Hancock (friend of Debbie Eickhoff)
Jill Seagrass (friend of Vera Straley)
Eileen (friend of Joyce Bigley)



Happy Anniversary

Samson Shoukat	December 12
Chile & Patrick Obbo	December 19
Jennifer Ayling-Arruda	December 22
Linde and Dave Mier	December 22
Denny & Gail Lowe	December 27th



Happy Birthday

Jacen Arruda	December 1
Linda Herbster	December 3
Yolanda Kpardeh	December 4
Kaylee McCormick	December 5
Swithin Swaroop	December 5
Donna Dulay	December 6
Lillian Mannon	December 7
Samson Shoukat	December 9
Kyle Steppe	December 11
Joseph Urbano	December 12
Toby Ellsworth	December 14
Beditza Cadillo	December 16
Chris Bonno	December 19
Suzy Buehler	December 19
Mae Menei	December 21
Joe Colduvell	December 23
Rich Eickhoff	December 25
Mickey McDevitt	December 26
Trey Buehler	December 27
Kim Jakimowicz	December 29
Very Straley	December 30
Bill Fabian	December 31