

THE MAPLE

January 2024

Morrisville United Methodist Church



A message from my heart...

"For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

When you all receive this newsletter, it will be a New Year, 2024. I am amazed at how fast time is flying right in front of our eyes. That is why the best way to begin a year is with **PRAYER**.

In the Scripture above, God is using the prophet Jeremiah to give hope to the people of Israel. They were in exile in Babylon, but God promised to bring them back to their land. They were in anguish, out of where they belong, no temple, under oppression, humiliated, in suffering. But look what the Lord is telling them "**I have plans for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**"

Today God is telling us the same thing in the beginning of a New Year, in a time and world experiencing illnesses, violence, war, and the loss of loved ones. Maybe you lost your job, or you are having family-marriage difficulties. God still has plans for you and me. He has beautiful plans for our families, communities, country, and the world. He is working!!! This reminds me of the song Way Maker which says "Even when we don't feel it, He's working, and even when we don't see it, He's working." God never stops working on our behalf.

We know there is always a requirement with God's promises "Then you will **CALL** me and **COME** and **PRAY**, to me, and I will **LISTEN** to you. You will seek me and find me **WHEN** you **SEEK** me **WITH ALL YOUR HEART.**"

The Lord is asking us to put him in the first place, the place that only belongs to Him. He wants us to seek him with all our hearts. Not for what we can get from him, or what he can do, but because He is our Father, God, and Creator, He loves us and He created us to be in relationship with Him.

What are your plans for the New Year? Are you planning on getting closer to God? Are you planning on reading and studying the Bible more? Are you planning on being part of a community of faith? Are you planning on giving more of your time, talents, and treasure to God? That is what the Lord is expecting from us. God has wonderful plans and purposes for us to accomplish to give Him glory. He is waiting for us to seek Him with all our hearts and we will find Him. **WE NEED TO PRAY, PRAY, AND PRAY!**

My prayer for you is in 3rd John 1:2 "Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."

Amen, amen.

HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR 2024!

With Love,

Pastor Olga



January Calendar

1/1

Church Office and Food Pantry Closed – New Year’s Day

1/6

4:00pm – Private Party Setup – Fellowship Hall)

1/7

4:00pm – Private Party (Fellowship Hall)

1/8

7:00pm – Finance Team Meeting (Library)

1/9

5:00pm – IFA Backpacks (Main Entrance)

1/10

1:30pm – Methodist Ladies Who Lunch (Garden of Eatin)

7:00pm – Trustees Meeting (Library)

1/13

8:00am – Men’s Bible Study (Lounge)

9:00am – IFA Backpacks (Main Entrance)

1/14

12:30pm – Girl Scout Cookie Rally (fellowship Hall)

1/15

Church Office and Food Pantry Closed – MLK Holiday

7:00pm – Marcia Ruth Circle (Lounge)

1/16

1:00 pm – SPPRC Meeting (Room 10)

4:00pm – Shared Meal (Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm – Worship Team Meeting (Library)

1/23

5:00pm – IFA Backpacks (Main Entrance)

7:00 pm – Administrative Council Meeting (Room 10)

1/27

9:00am – IFA Backpacks (Main Entrance)

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays

9:00am – Small Group Bible Study (Youth Rooms)

10:00am – Worship Service

11:00am – Hospitality (Lounge)

7:00pm – Alcoholics Anonymous (Hall)

Mondays

10:30 am – ESL Beginners Class (Room 10)

7:00 pm – Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm – Nar Anon (Room 10)

8:00 pm – Narcotics Anonymous (Room 30/31)

Tuesdays

10:00 am – Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) starts 1/23

6:00pm – Girl Scouts 2192 (Rooms 10, 26, 30/31)

6:30pm – ESL (Room 10 & Library)

6:30pm – Girl Scouts 2692 (Room 21)

Wednesdays

10:30am – ESL (Room 10 & Library)

6:30pm – Girl Scouts 2717 (Room 26)

Thursdays

7:00pm – Choir -Practice (Choir Room)

Fridays

6:30pm – ESL Latino (Room 10)

7:30pm - NA (RM 30/31)

FINANCE UPDATE



Happy New Year to All from the Finance Committee.

Giving Statements for 2023 are out in the Hallway by the church office. Please pick up your statement during the month of January to avoid us mailing it to you. Also, please check the information to ensure its accuracy and contact Barbara Lombardo or Jim Rea through the church office if you have a question. Once again, thank you all for your continued generosity.

Jim Rea on behalf of the Finance Committee.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY TIME!

Tuesday Bible Study will resume on January 23, 2024 at 10:00am. We will be using the book “God the Deliverer, Our Search for Identity and Our Hope for Renewal” by Randy Frazee.



Pastor Olga



Our next Men's Bible Study is Saturday, January 13th, at 8AM in the MUMC church lounge. It will

be good to get together between Thanksgiving and Christmas. 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. (267-614-3836) and you will be put on the invite list.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE



This is a busy time for the food pantry. We can use cereal (not Cheerios), canned pasta (ravioli, SpaghettiOs), boxed pasta and spaghetti, canned beans (all kinds and colors), canned meat (tuna and chicken), mac & cheese, canned fruit, laundry soap, dish detergent, hand soap, fresh fruits, and vegetables (apples, oranges, sweet potatoes, onions).

Thanks for your continued generosity!
Deb Price & The Missions Outreach Team



United
Women
in Faith

THE PURPOSE

United Women in Faith 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 do not 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.

January Schedule

NO GENERAL MEETING

JANUARY 10

METHODIST LADIES WHO LUNCH – 1:30 P.M.

Garden of Eatin

964 Woodbourne Road, Levittown

Contact Person: Deborah Chapman

January 15

MARCIA-RUTH CIRCLE – 7:00 P.M.

Church Lounge

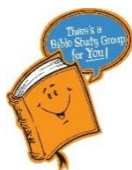
Activity: Blessing Bags

Hostess: Rhonda Rea and Lois Avery

Devotion: Linda Mier

SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

We meet at 9AM in the Youth Room and are studying the book of Mark. Bring your Bible and be ready to enjoy good fellowship. Call David Miller at 267-614-3836 if you have any questions.



Interfaith
Food Alliance

**INTERFAITH FOOD ALLIANCE /
FAMILY BACKPACK CENTER
NEWS**

As a new year begins, the IFA is grateful for the support of MUMC. With the use of 3 MUMC upstairs Sunday School rooms, the IFA is able to provide supplemental food (non-perishable and perishable) bi-monthly to 83 families in need who live in the Morrisville School District. In July of 2022, we were serving only 53 families, so the need now is greater than ever.

In December, with the help of our 13 faith community members and other friends we were able to provide 190 children with 2 Christmas gifts each. That means 380 gifts were given through the generosity of our Alliance and the Bucks County community. Thank you one and all!

In January at MUMC donations of **canned meats** (tuna, chili, stew) and **cleaning supplies** will be especially appreciated by the IFA. Donations should be placed in the blue-striped bins outside of the church office.

In hopes for a world without hunger,

Rhonda Rea
IFA Board Member
jrpiz@aol.com

LATINO MINISTRY UPDATE



Thank you to Pastor Olga and the MUMC family for a wonderful year. We are looking forward to the blessings of the new year!

Beditza Cadillo,
Director, Latino Ministry

PLEASE NOTE

Pastor González will be away December 31, 2023 through January 16, 2024. For pastoral care in her absence while she is away, please contact Pastor Joe Martin, Fallsington UMC, at 215-593-4904 or jomartplayer@aol.com

FOOD AND VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9



MUMC Family - we are truly blessed and we have been sharing this blessing with those in need! We have been blessed with an abundance of donations. A big thank you to Beditza Cadillo for her dedicated commitment in traveling to Philadelphia to receive and drop off all the wonderful produce and food items we can include in our generosity to those in need!

If you wish to be a part of this food ministry, please reach out to me and you can help in big and small ways. Sometimes we need to clean and glean through some of this "fresh" produce. If you think this is something you are interested in, please reach out. Once a month we can work together to package and sort through God's Abundance. This is the 2nd Thursday of every month! My number is 267-393-5381

SHARED MEAL UPDATE

Our shared meal program is still in "Take out" Mode. This has enabled us to be successful through the pandemic. It is now time to revisit the possibilities to go back to in person serving. Our next shared meal meeting will be directly after Shared Meal this January 16th. Approximate time 4:30/5pm. We will revisit the opportunities to start our transition back to in-person - that means we need YOU!!!

Can you volunteer to help cook, serve, or clean up after our monthly soup kitchen? Pray on it and join us!

BLESSINGS

Our Shared Meal was recently blessed with a fabulous work of charity. This month our meal was generously prepared and donated by Becky Kent's nieces - Morgan, Samantha, and Danielle. They made 12 beautiful lasagnas and they will be the star of this month's meal!

God is Good- All the Time - God is Good!!!

With Love and Grace,
Jennifer Ayling-Arruda
Director of Food and Volunteer Ministries

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School is coming back! We have a teacher for younger and older students. We need both adult and teen helpers. If you can be available one or more times a month to help, please contact Barb Lombardo. Thank you!

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!



Happy Anniversary

Walt & Janet Nagbe (13 years)..... January 8



Happy Birthday

Skylar Dumas..... January 2
 Mark Sample January 3
 Sarah Trimble January 3
 Vaa Thomson..... January 4
 Chile Obbo..... January 5
 KB Makwanna January 9
 Rochelle Stintsman..... January 9
 Pam Manners January 12
 Sue Urbano January 15
 Brian Decker January 18
 Carol Hughes January 18
 Michael jennet January 18
 Rose Quarterman January 20
 Jaime Urban January 20
 Jennifer Ayling-Arruda January 21
 Dave Burkhardt January 24
 Tom Wisnosky January 25
 Paul Somers..... January 29
 Yairah Melendez Ortiz..... January 30

Current Prayer Concerns



We pray for God's peace in the Middle East, our nation, and the world. We pray for God's peace to fill our hearts.

Paul Somers, Carol Young, Pam Manners, Toby Ellsworth, Jimmy Ellsworth, Thomas Manners, B.J. Lebegern, Paul & Marian Chapman, Sue Urbano

Maureen (friend of the Swenson's)
 The Wittenborn and Demech families
 Elaine Miller-Wagner (friend of Jane Burger)
 Nephew, brother and sister-in-law of Fran Pugh
 Clara Briggs (sister of Estella Smires)
 Suzanne (Joyce Bigley's cousin)
 Marianne (friend of Joyce Bigley)
 Helen Van Note (Fran Pugh's sister-in-law)
 Andrew (friend of Vera Straley)
 Darius (second cousin of Andrew, community member)
 Steve (friend of Joyce Bigley)
 Brenda Jones (cousin of Phyllis Patterson)
 Sandra and Larry (friends of Jane Burger)
 Patricia (friend of Joyce Bigley)
 Ellen (niece of Bev Hoyer)
 Carrie (Vera Straley's daughter)
 Millie (friend of Charlotte Swenson)