

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Lent
BEGINS

February 14

Many people take this time before Easter to fast, pray and study Scripture.

What are you doing?

Do you need a small group to help you focus on your Lenten studies?



Club 56 presents 5th Annual XYZ Valentine Tea



Saturday, Feb. 10th

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

All of our older sweethearts are invited! MUMC Gym

RSVP Amy Smith 266-7174

You do NOT NEED to HAVE a sweetheart to BE OUR SWEETHEART



Digital Newsletters

Would you like to receive this newsletter via E-mail? In an effort to provide the best communications and to be more fiscally responsible we are offering the monthly newsletter in a digital format. We know that many of you are always on the go and have your smart phones and computers handy. The PDF version of the Footprints newsletter will be easily accessible from your email inbox on any device you use. You will always be able to pull it up to find out what is going on here at MUMC whether you are in Liberia, Juarez or just across the country somewhere.

To receive this Footprints Newsletter digitally please sign up now by emailing info@mortonumc.org and requesting to be added to the email list. If you would like to receive both a paper copy and a digital copy please indicate that in your correspondence. We send out over 500 copies a month totaling over 60,000 pages a year. That's a lot of paper, toner, and a lot volunteer time. Thank you for considering how best we can communicate with you as we steward God's blessing in our lives.

Fat Tuesday

February 13

5-6:30 p.m.

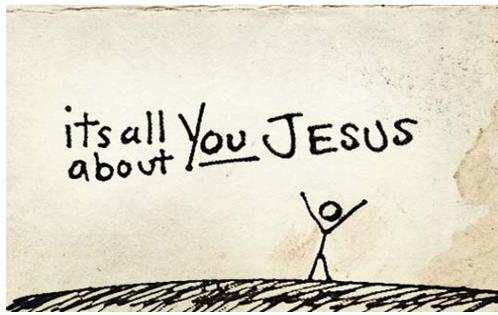
Come and Fellowship

Menu: pancake, eggs, biscuits and gravy, sausage, and fresh fruit



Complete an order form. Turn it in to the offering plate or leave at the front office for Eric by Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Proceeds benefit summer youth mission experiences



New Sermon Series

Love – Worship – Serve!

It's All About You, Jesus!

When someone comes to the truth that life is all about Jesus, their life begins to be shaped more and more into the likeness of Him! And as a result, the desire to love Jesus, worship Jesus and serve Jesus grows and deepens. These three words resonate in the life and teaching of our Lord – Love...Worship...Serve! When asked which commandment is the most important, Jesus said, *'...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. And the second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*' Regarding worship, Jesus said that the Father is looking for people who will worship Him in spirit and truth! And worship is never-ending before His throne in heaven. And our Lord made a clear distinction that he was here *'not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.'* Serving and giving is at the very of heart God and was demonstrated by Jesus!

These messages will focus on our response to Jesus and how we can love Him, worship Him, and serve Him more in our lives.

February 4 We Exist to Serve
February 11 It's All About Jesus!

'Worship is a posture of life that takes as its primary purpose the understanding of what it really means to love and revere God.'
Ravi Zacharias

ELIGIBILITY:

Illinois resident
At least 65 or disabled
Max. Income (**including Social Security**):
1 person \$27,610
2 persons \$36,635
3 persons \$45,657

Eligible households will qualify for a \$75 discount on one vehicle. Mel Clauser, SHIP Counselor, will assist you.

You may Contact Mel (244-7818) with any questions and call the Morton Library (263-2200) to schedule an appointment for this free consultation.

Bring your **Social Security Card, Drivers License, 2016 1040 Form and 1099's** (including Social Security 1099), to your appt.

License Plate Discount
Application Preparation/Submission
Morton Public Library
Wednesdays, Jan 31 to March 7
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Contact Information

420 North Tennessee Avenue
Morton, IL 61550
309-266-7174 phone
309-263-1498 FAX
info@mortonumc.org
www.mortonumc.org

Worship Services

~Sunday~

Celebration
8:00 am
9:30 am
(Sanctuary)

Cross Connections
(Gymnasium)

10:45 am

~Tuesday~

Communion~
8:00-8:30 am

Sunday
Christian Education

September-May

9:30 or 10:45 am

Sunday School

Age 2-High School

Adult Classes



During the week, our Office Volunteers lend a helping hand in the Gathering Area office—answering the phone, greeting visitors, taking messages....

Contact Kim Gregurich
253-0908 to volunteer for a morning or afternoon shift—or as a substitute.
Thanks!

**Connect
with God!**
Volunteer!
**Join a
Class!**
**Connect
with Peo-
ple!**
**Use God's
Gift!**
**Leaders are
Needed!**

**Here's YOUR
Invitation:**

For more information, or to
sign up for any of our
Connect Groups—
contact Pastor Gabe
gabew@mortonumc.org.

**JOIN A
CONNECT GROUP
TO GROW IN YOUR
SPIRITUAL LIFE!**

Where to start?

- Talk with Pastor Gabe or JoAnn Kraft.

Want to start a class?

- We can make a place for you.
- We need some new leaders!

Master Hudson's Musings

It's cold, it's white, it's fast it's lite... What is it? It's snow!!!! And I love it! I don't know about you, but I love going out, all bundled up, to play in the Winter Wonderland. I just love it when Dad makes me a pile of snow and I can dig a big hole in it or when he's making a big pile of snow I dive in the middle and make him cover me up so no one can see me. I love to run and jump and slip and slide and have snowball fights, except when it gets on my face and neck. Then I'm not too happy. And I love sledding. My backyard is ok, it's not too big, but when Dad takes me to the Eureka Golf Course, I just love it. The hills there are so big and so fast. Dad wants to ride with me and I just think he needs his own sled. That way we can race and see who goes farther. Oh, I almost forgot, I learned something new this year. I can ice-skate... kinda. I'm still working on it, but Dad tells me I'm getting the hang of it. Oh and while I was out playing with Dad, Mom was inside working really hard to finish her Board of Ordained Ministry papers. She says she's got her last interview soon and then she's ready to be Ordained. I'm not quite sure what that means, but her and Dad are really excited about it, so I am too. Hope you are having as much fun as I am. Happy Winter! See you soon!

Hudson~

Basics of Alzheimer's and Dementia

We hear daily of these two conditions and may not be certain of the differences they have. Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive disorder of the brain that slowly decreases one's memory, cognition and eventually their ability to perform activities of daily living. It is the most common cause of dementia which is an overall decrease in skills that involve memory, thinking processes, and performance. Dementia is common with advanced age but neither of these two conditions are normal and can certainly bring on much turmoil and pain for the person affected as well as their loved ones.

Alzheimer's disease was named in 1906 by a German psychiatrist, Dr. Alois Alzheimer. He was treating a patient that had worsening psychological symptoms and with her later autopsy he found dramatic shrinkage and abnormal deposits in and around the brain's nerve cells that we now know as plaques and tangled nerve fibers. This common disease was not brought to the public health forefront until the mid 1970's, along with the founding of the National Institute on Aging.

Present day numbers are staggering with an estimate of more than 10 million Americans having a diagnosis of dementia with Alzheimer's composing 60-70% of those cases. Other forms of dementia include Lewy body dementia, anatomical brain-lobe disorders and vascular dementia.

Memory loss is the most common symptom, but having that alone does not constitute a diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's, as it is very common. There must also be an inclusion of two or more core mental functions that are impaired such as language skills visual perception, cognition, performance of daily living activities and attention abilities.

After receiving a diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's the next steps are difficult for both the patient and family or loved ones. There are many depths to consider and the level may be severe or yet mild.

The patient with the diagnosis still needs love, support, communication and support from every angle. They may be fully aware of the diagnosis and can perform very normally for the most part; so they need to be treated as much the same as possible. They are still the same person they were prior to the diagnosis and need to be included in on everyday activities and conversations.

The family and caregivers also need support, consolation and friendship. This is a very difficult time and initially the family will all need "space" to adjust to this change. They then will need a reprieve from time to time so that they can spend some time to run errands, go for a walk or meet up with other friends.

One of the best things we too can do for our friends and family is offer them up in prayer for peace and adjustment to this new way of life with God's comfort and healing.

Children's Education and Music

February

Important Dates

- 10 Club 56 Sweetheart Valentine Tea
14 ASH WEDNESDAY, NO WATCH



Club 56

presents the 5th Annual

XYZ

Valentine Tea

Saturday, Feb. 10th

12pm to 2pm

All of our XYZ Sweethearts are invited!

MUMC Gym

RSVP to Amy Smith 266-7174

You do NOT NEED to HAVE a sweetheart
to BE OUR SWEETHEART



Juarez 2018

Want to support the missionaries to Juarez? Purchase stock and help them build a home for a family! Stockholders dinner will take place in April! See Amy for details!!

WATCH Meals — February

- 7 Cook: NO COOK YET
Clean Up: UMW
- 14 NO WATCH
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
- 21 Cook: Barb Howard
Clean Up: Staff/Parrish
- 28 Cook: Peggy McFeeters - Pork Chops
Clean Up: MUMM

Sunday School

Rotation 5—LENT

DELIVERED BY GOD 2/18-3/25

ART BARB HOWARD
BIBLE DON CHAPMAN
COMPUTER SULLIVAN DUO
GAME CARRIE HOEFLING
MEDIA PRODUCTION—??
PUPPETS—??

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE VOLUNTEER!
Call Amy Smith or Donna Uhlman if you can
fill one of the open spots!



BABY TIME!

We are growing again! We want to say welcome to our newest addition in our church family...

Bradley Ann McCafferty

January 1, 2018

Parents

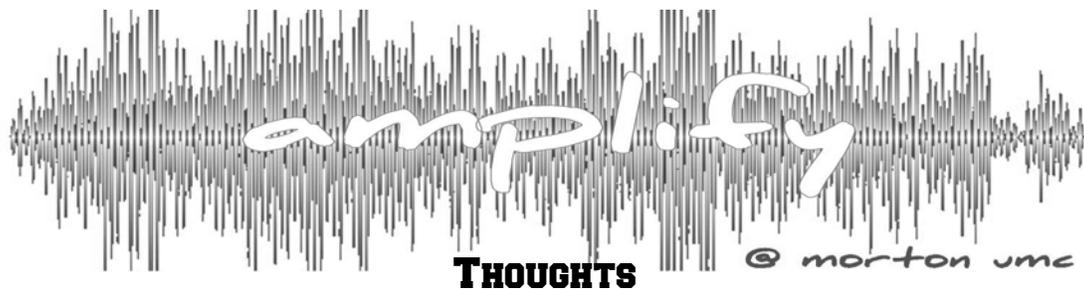
Taylor and Shane

Grandparents

Brad & Kim Gregurich

Great Grandparents

Gene and Judy Morse



A very kind young woman wrote my wife and I a note when we left New York. We were blessed to minister to her for the short time we knew her. I recently thought of her note and wanted to share a part of it so you might take these beautiful (and Paul-ish) words personally and be encouraged.

“The Lord has given you a holy calling, each and every day, and His grace is sufficient for ALL things! May your hearts always rejoice and hope and trust Him—leaning on His tender mercies. May you be strengthened by the grace of Christ, put on the full armor of God, abide in His word daily, meditate and treasure the gift of the cross, and be good soldiers of Christ, not being frightened by anything, but walking in the fear of the Lord, giving thanks, praying without ceasing, and rejoicing in all circumstances, not giving up but standing firm and being steadfast. We are sojourners and in enemy territory, but our Lord is the ruler and victor. May we know the power of the cross and the justice and love of God which vanquished sin and death.”

SUB AND CHILI AND SWEETS SALE

Super Bowl Sunday is almost here, so, that means that it's time to buy some homemade sub sandwiches, quarts of chili and this year, sweet treats! Order forms have been out there for a couple of weeks but we always make more, so don't worry if you didn't pre-order. Please stop by the kitchen after any of the three services on **Sunday, February 4** and purchase something hearty and something sweet to support the summer missions of the youth program.

MORE PERSONAL FUNDRAISERS

We had quite a few opportunities for kids to work and earn money against youth costs this fall. One complaint relating to that, last year, was that students were not earning any of that money for helping at the big events (like Adults Night Out or Basement Sale or Sub and Chili Sale) because we needed all that money to support everyone taking part in summer missions. So, this year, we will try to fix that and see how it goes. The United Methodist Women made a generous donation to the youth program and we will be using that money to support the kids (and the families' checkbooks) by offering "youth money" to those kids who take the time to work and make our big fundraisers possible. While I'm talking about that: **thank you UMW** for your support to make that possible and **thank you UMM**, who donated a scholarship that made it possible for a student to attend the Alabama mission trip last summer. So many blessings to be grateful and praise God for!

SERVICE SATURDAYS

In December, a group of us went to TAPS animal shelter to serve for the morning. On January 13, we served at Loaves and Fish at First United Methodist in Peoria. At least once a month, we will continue to find opportunities to serve, in Christ's name, those who are in need.

JR. HIGH RETREAT—MARCH 2-3

We are looking forward to giving the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders a chance to get away for a couple of days and focus on Christ more deeply at the CIY Believe Conference in Springfield. We went there two years ago and had an amazing time. The music is powerful, the teaching is wonderful, and the fun won't soon be forgotten. As a step towards transition, we are inviting any student who is currently in 6th grade to join us. Please sign up soon!



MORTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



CHRIST-Centered AND MISSIONS-Focused WOMEN OF FAITH

FEBRUARY 2018

UMW Board

Linda Coon, President
 Lynn Goers, Vice President
 Carrie Hoefling, Secretary
 Nicole Potts, Treasurer
 Traci Sullivan, Education/Interpretation
 Sarah Losey, Social Action and Kitchen Coordinator
 Mary Barrick, Membership
 Cheri Patterson, Spiritual Growth
 Linda Clauser, Program Resources
 Erin Jones, Nominations
 Kathy Churchill, Products
 Barb Howard, Funeral Dinners
 Kathy Dallinger, Communications

Circle Leaders

ABIGAIL

Erin Jones 262-0065
 Carrie Hoefling 370-7856

HANNAH

Diane Kovach 241-3424
 Linda Clauser 357-0449

JOANNA

Mary Barrick 360-3689
 Lauren Middleton 530-9133

RUTH

Lois Lichti 263-0562

SARAH

Kathy Dallinger 266-7811
 Melissa Smallenberger 264-2891

UMW BOARD MEETS

February 7, 2018 - Youth Room—9:00 a.m.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

ABIGAIL February 28 9:15 a.m.
 HANNAH February 1 9:30 a.m.
 JOANNA February 1 7:00 p.m.
 RUTH February 21 11:30 am @ Seasons
 SARAH February 19 7:00 p.m.

Other Dates to Remember:

February 2 — Prayer & Self Denial Service

Coffee & Fellowship—9:30 a.m.

Service & Program — 10:00 a.m.

Lessie Bates Neighborhood House Reps.

ALL CONGREGATION WELCOME TO ATTEND

March 4 — Morton UMW Sunday

Our UMW will lead worship.

April 14 — SAVE THE DATE !!

“Quilted in Love”

Every Daughter Brunch — 11:00 a.m.

Think about a quilt to share!

April 23 — IRD Spring Gathering @ Morton UMC

We are now able to provide year-round ordering of the Terri Lynn products. You may be familiar with their assorted nuts and fruit items. These sales are an integral component of our Morton UMW missions fundraising.

Please visit <https://mortonumc.terrilynncares.com> to place an order. Thank you !!

United
Methodist
Women



All meetings are held in the Gathering
Area at the Church — 6:30 p.m.

March 26 — These is My Words: The
Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine 1881-1901
Arizona Territories by Nancy E. Turner

May 29 — The One-in-a-Million Boy by
Monica Wood

**CONTINUE COLLECTING
THOSE CELL PHONES!**



Cell Phone Donations:

Thank you to all who contributed old cell phones to the Center for Abuse in Peoria. Our total collection for 2017 was **92** phones! The phones are wiped clean, programmed for 911 calls & then given to women to use in case of emergency. The donation box is labeled and on the counter in the Welcome Area of the Church. Any time you have a phone you need recycled, please consider giving it to this worthwhile cause. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Clauser (357-0449).

ENCOURAGING WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

***"I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears."
(Psalms 34:4)***

It is with great excitement and some fear that I take on the mantel of UMW President. This organization is a highlight of my life since my retirement from teaching. It has provided me the opportunity to fellowship with women of all ages of our church, to gain prospective on their joys and fears, to find blessings in the mission work we do together and to draw closer to God through our journey.

It is my prayer that other women of our church would join our UMW and that they too would find blessings in this group. I know that I can call upon the Lord to deliver me from my fears and that He will be with me and with us as we journey forward.

Linda Coon, UMW President

Blessings to Lynn Goers as she begins her duties of UMW Vice President !

UMW Book Nook:

I am in the process of studying the United Methodist Women Reading List for 2018. I will definitely be ordering some new books this month and will be excited to share them with you in the near future. If you are turning in a Reading Log for 2017, please contact me as soon as possible so I can get it turned in to the District Office.

Linda Clauser, Program Resource Chairperson

XYZ...Extra Years of Zest

Upcoming Events for February 2018

February 2 - Game Day @ 11:00 a.m. – game to be chosen – lunch is provided

February 6 – Eagle Watching - we will leave the church @ 10:00 a.m. – we will stop & have lunch

February 10 – Valentine Tea Noon to 2 p.m. – put on by Club 56

February 16 – Movie Day @ 1 p.m. – we'll show "La La Land" in the Youth Room with popcorn

February 25 – Lunch with the Bunch – meet at Linn's Buffet in Morton @ 12:15 p.m.

Walking for Exercise every Monday, Wednesday & Friday @ 8:00 a.m. in the gym. Pickleball every Thursday @ 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. in the gym.



Giving Tree

Your generosity has been so very greatly appreciated again this year! We have succeeded in making 254 children and adults from 9 agencies able to experience the joy of celebrating Jesus' birth this Christmas season.

These agencies are extremely grateful for the generosity and care that was put into each gift and appreciate all that our church family does. We have been receiving many notes of thanks. Thank you to Girls Night Out Bible Study for organizing and sorting the gifts.

Thank You Morton UMC church family! Thank you for all the encouraging cards, confections, thoughts, prayers and gifts over these last few months as we walked through the holidays with heaven hearts. Your love and support has helped so much and is cherished. We are so blessed to be in ministry with you and are looking forward to all that God has in store for us in 2018. May the love of God fill all your hearts as it has filled ours. From our hearts to yours, thank you.
Pastors Gabe and Sarah & Hudson.

Dear MUMC,

Thank you very much for the baby gifts for our son, Russ! Thank you to Myra Walker for the beautiful blanket-it's a lovely keepsake. The altar flowers are also pretty and we will cherish them as a keepsake for Russ as well. We loved the baby spoon and think it's great that we can get it engraved. We and Russ are so blessed to have such a thoughtful church family!

Thanks & Blessings,
Matt, Andrea, & Russ Mammen



Building Fund

November 2017

Ending Cash Balance: \$880,033.46

Certificates of Deposit (CDs): \$1,220,645.99

Morton UMC Building Committee Church Conference

The Building Committee met on January 15, 2018.

Excitement abounds as we enter 2018! The Congregation voted on December 11th to proceed with our church's expansion project! With completion of construction documents, receipt of sub-contractor bids, and cooperative weather, we are ever hopeful for a Spring ground-breaking. Keep the prayer support coming!

Design

Work continues on re-purposing some of our current space, i.e. the classrooms and library. Also, the decision has been made to have an 18 inch overhang on the roof. It was also decided to have foam insulation on exterior walls for greater insulation value.

Finance

To start breaking ground, we need to have combined cash and pledges of \$3.4 million . As of the end of December, the congregation has given a total of \$3,225,450.21 in cash and pledges!!!

Timeline

Construction documents are in process. Once they are completed and approved, they will be sent out to subcontractors for bids. This would be for electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, etc.

We have a Spiritual Support Team that has been in place from the start. And, very importantly, we need the congregation's continued prayer support for guidance as we work toward putting the "plow to the ground" in our expansion project!

Direct any questions you may have to one of the members of the Building Committee: Steve Zimmerman (co-chair), Mike Tewksbury (co-chair), Kirk Schick, Jayne Benckendorf, Sam Churchill, Bob Lichti, Jan Sampson, Paul Uhlman, Maureen Lyons, Chuck Birchenough, Cathy Bowen, Dan Czubak, John Ackerman, Matt Milby, Tim Beutel, Joe Crowe, Jason Potts, Dave Jones

Steve Zimmerman and Mike Tewksbury

Suggestions/Feedback for the Building Committee

Q. Were items cut out to meet this dollar amount (\$5M)? Should we stretch a bit to put them back in?

A. In fact, we have added some things; e.g., all brick exterior, front parking lot

Q. Are we taking into account that what we do in Phase 2 will affect Phase 3?

A. Yes, all dirt work, etc. will be done to address Phase 2 and Phase 3. A lot of thought and prayer went into this plan.

Q. The current number of classrooms should have lasted longer; how do we know these classrooms will be big enough?

A. Study was completed to determine number and size.

Q. Are restrooms tornado ready?

A. No, will discuss.

Q. What was the monthly payment on our current building?

A. \$9600

Keep those suggestions coming in!!



Oliver DeCouto	02/01	Linda Allen	02/12	Karen Julien	02/22
Paisleigh Losey	02/01	Alexa Crowe	02/12	Niki Kimmerle	02/22
Susan Nichol	02/01	Jim Destefano	02/12	Charles Kimmerle	02/22
Jill Uhlman	02/01	Paulette Holler	02/12	Scott Middleton	02/22
Alex Brasel	02/02	Geneva Maple	02/12	Joe Bridge	02/23
Mary Brown	02/02	Chloe Losey	02/13	Rudy Urbano	02/23
Gary Fisk	02/02	Diane Kovach	02/14	Laurie Werries	02/23
Laurel Baker	02/03	Barbara Howard	02/15	Deborah Baker	02/24
Robert Bethel	02/03	Amanda Pribble	02/16	Lindsay Franklin	02/24
Kay Fransen	02/03	Bonnie Ricci	02/16	Cole Weyland	02/24
Judith Petefish	02/03	Steven Zimmerman	02/16	Greg Alster	02/25
Kathryn Churchill	02/04	Lisa Hutchison	02/17	Donald Brecher	02/25
Linda Coon	02/04	Daniel Mueller	02/18	Steve Brenkman	02/25
Paul Woerner	02/04	Ellen Freidinger	02/19	Sandra Bump	02/25
Douglas N Fair, Jr.	02/05	Carol Hilpert	02/19	Rae Pittenger	02/25
Melissa Konieczny	02/05	James Raubach	02/19	Myra Walker	02/25
Micki Mueller	02/05	Parker Schick	02/19	Tyler Meiner	02/26
Carol Hayes	02/06	Matthew Chism	02/20	Gary Drummond	02/27
Joshua Weaver	02/06	Jeffrey Erwin	02/20	Kate Loudermilk	02/27
Kristin Kumpf	02/07	Nyamen'ahomgye Maison	02/21	Peter Lyons	02/27
Andrew Linder	02/07	Ryleigh Mason	02/21	Luanne Stonewall	02/27
Lawson Snell	02/08			Janice Tessier	02/27



Administrative Notes:

Flower Ministry

Please contact the church office if you would like to donate flowers - thanks!

February 4 Wally & Lois Beeler
 February 11 Open Date
 February 18 Open Date
 February 25 Pat & Bob Townsend

Attendance

January 7 464
 January 14 353
 January 21 353

Average 390

Hospitalized

Charlotte Gilmore, Joyce Kovalcik
 Thelma Robertson, Ashley Epley,
 Carol Plier, Hank Vanderheyden,
 Dorothy Funk, Gene Dahl, Sharon Stout

Celebration of the birth of Bradley Ann McCafferty born on 1/01/18 daughter to Taylor (Gregurich) and Shane. Grandparents Brad & Kim Gregurich and great grandparents Gene and Judy Morse.

Sympathy To :

Brian and Nancy Wraight and family. Brian's mother Ruth died on January 2.
 The family of James "Jim" White who died January 1.
 Susie McCuskey and family. Susie's son in law, Eric Flaum, has passed.
 Jim and Jayne Benckendorf and family. Jim's mother, Jean Benckendorf, died January 6.
 Yvonne Cole and family. Yvonne's father, Donald Kaufman, died January 13.



Financial Stewardship Report

GENERAL FUND
 December- 2017

General Fund

\$ 78,023.04 **\$64,781.31**
INCOME **EXPENSE**

Year to Date

\$661,174.45 **\$683,177..68**
INCOME **EXPENSE**

General Fund Ending Cash Balance:
 \$157,190.73
 Our Income for December 2017
 exceeded our Expense
 by: \$13,241.33

ATTENTION: FOOTPRINTS CREW
 We are folding Footprints on
 Thursday, February 22 in the
 Gathering Area

DEADLINE:
 Footprints Articles
 February 9, 2018

morton

united methodist church

420 North Tennessee Avenue

Morton, IL 61550-9706

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February

BULK RATE
NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

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Barbara Maison (part-time)

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www.mortonumc.org



**CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS**

Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday
8:00 a.m. - Noon