

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

Mobile Directory is ready!

Our Mobile Directory contains contact information for all the families of Morton UMC and is an easy to use tool to help you stay connected. PLUS, you will see portraits of all our families that participated in our recent photography event. What a great way to connect names and faces!

To Access the mobile directory:

1. Type in the link listed below:

<https://mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/331646/morton-united-methodist-church>

2. Enter your Access Code: **M2237 (Matthew 22:37)**

Once you are logged in, you can scroll through the directory, search by name, view family profiles, email/call/map, and view staff only page. The onscreen Guided Tour will walk you through each of these areas.

To update your contact information, please contact Shelli Koener at the church office 309-266-7174. Periodically we will be hosting additional photography events to include even more of our family's portraits in our mobile directory. Connecting has never been easier! Check it out today.



Calling All Golfers

The **2018 Bishop's Open** will be on **Friday, May 11**, at the Piper Glen Golf Course Club near Chatham. Festivities begin at 11 a.m. with lunch followed by a shotgun start at noon. Dinner will follow the completion of the golf outing. All proceeds of the outing will be for the **Our Conference, Our Kids** campaign to endow spiritual life programs at each of the five conference agencies dealing with children and youth:

The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and the United Methodist Children's Home.

Individual Golf Registrations

COST: \$100 per person— Golf registration include green fees, cart, lunch and dinner.

Please contact Pastor Gary for more information.

Let's get 3 Foursomes to help support this worthy endeavor and enjoy some fun at the same time!



'Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.'
(Matthew 9:35)

When Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God had come near, it meant that the very nature of God would be manifest through the life and ministry of Jesus. Jesus would demonstrate the love of God in simple yet powerful ways, always revealing that He has His best in mind for us! It was by His Words and Works, that Jesus would explain this wonderful Kingdom and also give evidence of it through acts of kindness with signs and wonders.

This sermon series will lead us in practical ways of demonstrating the love of God in simple yet profound ways. Looking first to the life of Jesus and His ministry, we will see why it's important to not only share our faith but to demonstrate it as well! We read in the Gospels that Jesus 'did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many' (Matthew 20:28). After His resurrection, Jesus commissioned His Disciples to 'Go and make disciples of every ethnic group in the world...' and that He would '...be with us, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28:18, 20). The baton has been passed on to us to serve others by sharing His love in simple ways!

Join us as we learn to 'serve like Jesus.'

May 6 The Words and Works of Jesus
 May 13 The Invitation to Come!
 May 20 The Kingdom and Compassion
 May 27 Commissioned to Serve!

Matthew 11:1-6
 Matthew 11:28-30
 Matthew 9:35-38
 Matthew 25:31-46

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 People!**

**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

Just a month ago spring was arriving and now I'm hearing about summer being right around the corner. I can't even believe it. My 1st Grade year is almost over and it feels like it went so fast! Mom and Dad keep telling me not to grow but I keep not listening and every day I'm bigger, smarter, and getting into more trouble. I don't know what mom and dad mean when they say I'm spoiled, but I can tell you I really enjoyed seeing all of my grandparents this past month. They all came to see me and I loved showing them all my Lego creations and my Ninja Warrior Skills. Grandpa Phil helped dad finish building my outdoor Ninja Course and I love it! The kids in the neighborhood do to. They come over and we climb and jump and have so much fun. I think I hear someone at my back door now, time to go play! See ya around.

~ **Hudson**

Medical Ministry

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers.

Each year nearly 1 million people will be diagnosed with it. There are 3 main types of skin cancer: Basal cell, Squamous cell, and Melanoma. There are other unusual types of skin cancer that include Merkel cell, Kaposi sarcoma, Cutaneous lymphoma, skin adnexal tumors and various types of sarcomas.

Treatment for basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas (cancers) is fairly straightforward and generally surgical removal is adequate. Malignant melanoma, depending on the size of the tumor, may require multiple treatment methods including surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and immunotherapy. By far the best approach to skin cancer is prevention and early detection.

Prevention tips include: limit sun exposure especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., apply sunscreen every day using at least 30 spf before sun exposure and every 60-80 minutes during exposure, avoid tanning booths, and conduct monthly self checks.

When doing monthly self checks, be sure to check your entire body, even hard to reach areas. Enlist the help of a friend or family and use a full length mirror and a hand held mirror to see your back. Don't forget to look at your hands, feet, and scalp as well. Although the number of skin cancer cases is rising, illness and death rates have declined because more of them are being caught earlier when they are easy to treat.

For more in depth information please visit these websites:

www.aad.org - American Academy of Dermatologists
www.cancer.org - American Cancer Society
www.skincancer.org - Skin Cancer Foundation

Stop by the blood pressure table Sunday, May 20th for more information.

Children's Education and Music

May Important Dates

- 2 VBS Adult Informational Meeting, 6:30pm
VBS work night, 6:30pm
- 6 VBS Adult Informational Meeting, 10:45am/Noon
- 9 VBS YOUTH MANDATORY MEETING, 6:00pm
VBS work night, 6:30pm
- 16 VBS work night, 6:30pm
- 17 Last Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 20 LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 23 VBS work night, 6:30pm
- 30 VBS work night, 6:30pm

MANDATORY YOUTH VBS
training session on
Wednesday, May 9,
6:00 pm! This is the
ONLY one offered for
youth volunteers!

Final Sunday School

Our last Sunday School time before the summer will be on Sunday, May 20. There will be **NO SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL** offered this summer. Please enjoy worship as a family at 8:00, 9:30 or 10:45.



Shipwrecked VBS planning is on!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will take place during the week of June 24-28, Sunday-Thursday. Kids will learn that they are *Rescued By Jesus!*

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS for our volunteers will take place on Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30PM and Sunday, May 6 at 10:45 and Noon. If you are volunteering, please make sure you meet with us! We will watch a video clip of the week and learn how the schedule works each night! If you cannot make it to this date, please contact AMY and we will get together when it is convenient for you! **Even if you have volunteered before, PLEASE try to be at one meeting!**

WORK NIGHTS will begin on Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 PM and will be held EVERY WEDNESDAY evening. Please take some time to come and help us to prepare for this exciting ministry!

DONATIONS – of course donations are **highly appreciated** to help defray the cost of our AWESOME VBS ministry.

YOUR PRAYERS – but lastly and most importantly, we need your prayers for the team, the volunteers, the children, and this ministry.

To Register online:
[www.mortonumc.org!](http://www.mortonumc.org)



THOUGHTS

My most recent semester of school, which will have ended by the time this gets mailed out, was really difficult. The busiest time for the youth program is ramping up. There have been injuries and illnesses galore in the youth program and in my family. There's been dying cars and changes in childcare and back-and-forth dealings with insurance companies. Now our thoughts are of how life will shift and change as, God willing, Jenn and I joyfully welcome a new baby girl to our family in September. I am so tired. But God is good and He just keeps renewing the strength that is needed. He deserves praise.

A few weeks ago, in Sunday School, we started doing our own, personalized version of Psalm 150 where every person offered up a praise they could give the Lord for something fresh and recent in their lives. I had just finished a 20-page thesis for a class, so mine was "for the strength to finish." Everyone else had theirs and it ended up sounding something like this: "Praise the Lord for the strength to finish; praise the Lord for a good day at school, praise the Lord for a fun weekend, praise the Lord for puppies, praise the Lord for peace and quiet, praise the Lord for good health, praise the Lord for a good tech-Saturday. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!" What a blessing it is to praise the Lord! Take a moment and do the same, follower of Christ.

GRADUATION

We will recognize our graduating Seniors on May 20. While not all will be recognized at church, these graduating seniors have been a big part of this church family since they were little. If you see them around, let them know how proud you are of them. The seniors include: Chris Bill, Katie Majors, Kylie Pfeifer, Joe Troyer, and Allie Yerby. The **Baccalaureate service** that the local youth pastors put on for the students and their families will be at Bertha Frank on **May 13**.

SERVICE SATURDAYS

On April 14, a group of 14 of us went to TAPS animal shelter to serve. We did a lot of cleaning. We cleaned the parking lot, animal crates, vans (inside and out), and the lobby. We organized their dog food, and puppy pads and a closet or two. Then we were able to socialize a room full of cats before they gave us a treat by putting a couple puppies in a back room for us to play with. It was a blessing to be there together. Our next service outing will be on May 12 at Loaves and Fishes.

INSOMNIA FEST: MAY 25

This year we will be treating our annual youth lock-in as an end-of-the-school year celebration. We will start the night going to Elevate trampoline park for an exhausting first couple of hours. We will come back to the church for a no-sleep (unless you sleep) extravaganza filled with games and snacks and hiding and throwing balls and watching movies and saying weird things because you're really tired and can't remember how to speak in full sentences. A sign-up sheet will be available soon for the teens. Adults—please let Eric know if you willing to help on any level for what is a long night.

ADULTS NIGHT OUT: THANK YOU

I am writing this in the midst of preparing for this special night but before it actually happens. I am trusting that the kitchen will not blow up, the students won't all walk out to protest the jobs they're assigned, and the electricity won't go out. I am praying that it goes well. Already, though, I know I can say thank you to the walkers for rolling silverware, to Kathy Dallinger and her circle for prepping menus and order pads, to Sarah Losey for tracking down tables and desserts and keeping kitchen help on task, to Nancy Wraight for arranging so many food donations to keep our costs low, to Brian Wraight for shopping, prepping, cooking, and managing everyone, to everyone who came and everyone who donated, to everyone that gave us desserts, to everyone who lent a table, to everyone who helped set up the room, and everyone who came to work that night. Thank you!



MORTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



CHRIST-Centered AND MISSIONS-Focused WOMEN OF FAITH

MAY 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

UMW BOARD MEETS

May 2—Youth Room—9:00 a.m.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

ABIGAIL	May 16	Spring Brunch
HANNAH	May 3	9:30 a.m.
JOANNA	May 3	7:00 p.m.
RUTH	MAY 16	11:30 a.m.
SARAH	May 21	Spring Salad Dinner 6:00 p.m. @ Fox Farm

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

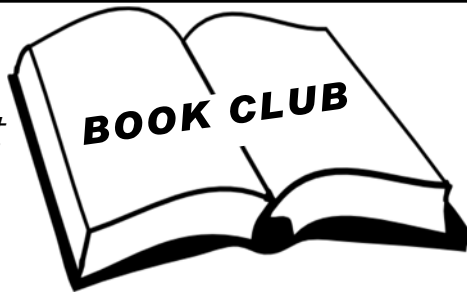
Other Dates to Remember:

May 18-20	UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio
July 27-31	Mission U in Springfield, Illinois
August 13	IRD Day Apart at DaySpring Church in East Peoria, Illinois



Be sure to “take a peek” at the quilt photos posted on the
UMW bulletin board in the Gym!

United
Methodist
Women



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

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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the cooks, clean-up teams
and those who have enjoyed our WATCH
dinners. See you in the Fall!

Sarah Losey & Nicole Potts

Sarah Circle would like to thank the
ladies and their guests for supporting
our Every Daughter Brunch this year.
With your support, the profits from this
event will continue our mission
outreach. A very special "thank you"
to Judy Hesselberth for the caring and
informative program.

"...what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 10:12)

As UMW members we are called into the Lord's service in many ways, big and small. Service to our Lord brings with it great joy and fulfillment. Many thanks for your service in UMW Sunday, in preparation and serving WATCH meals, in preparation and serving meals at the Ridge, in preparing Easter baskets for Baby Fold, in supporting the Dream Center, in gathering snacks for BACE, in support of the Every Daughter Brunch, and in serving and preparing food for funeral dinners. These are a few of the BIG ways in which your service has been noted, but there are also the small ways that go unnoticed in public ways. These SMALL things such as kind words, prayers, a smile, a touch are BIG to those on the receiving end.

I am so proud to be the leader of a group of women who make the service of our Lord the center of their days. Women who serve their Lord "with all their hearts and with all their souls."

Linda Coon

UMW Making a difference for almost 150 years! For nearly 150 years, United Methodist Women members have been turning our faith, our hopes and our love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. This year's Illinois River District Spring Celebration was held at Morton United Methodist Church on Monday, April 23, with a program sharing special events & District history.

XYZ...Extra Years of Zest

Upcoming Events for May 2018



May 4 – Game Day @ 11:00 a.m. – we will play Five Crowns – all items provided

May 9 – Lunch at Avanti's in Peoria & then Wheels of Time Museum -
Meet @ church @ 11:00 a.m.

May 18 – Movie Day @ 1 p.m. – We'll show "Wonder" in the Youth Room
with popcorn

May 22 – Lunch at Kuchie's On the Water & then Luthy Botanical Gardens –
we will meet at the church @ 11:00 a.m.

May 23 – Morton Civic Chorus– "Encore" – meet at church at 6:15 p.m.
Cost will be \$15.

Money & reservation turned into Lynn Zimmerman by Friday May 11th.

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
through April.



*Thank you church family, for your loving care and support
on the death of my sister, Shirley.
You certainly helped to bring the trust and peace of Jesus to my heart.
God Bless you all . JoAnn*

The Hospitality Committee is in need of help. We are looking for people that would be able to learn the routine for making coffee and serving the donuts on Sunday mornings. If we set our goal high we would love to have 52 volunteers hear the call, then it would be 1 Sunday a year. In reality, we are asking for one Sunday a month or to be on a substitute list to cover for someone throughout the year. If you or someone you know would be interested please contact JoAnn Kraft, Nan Lindemann, or Cheri Patterson.

God is not unjust: he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, June 11, 2018
1:00-6:00 PM

Morton United Methodist Church
You are eligible to give on the 11th if you donated
double Red on or before Feb. 19 or
whole blood on or before April 16.

A message from Farmer John Ackerman:

If anyone finds a wild swarm of honey bees
this spring, I would be glad to come and get
them.

Thank you. John Ackerman (309-231-7429)



Building Fund

MARCH 2018

Ending Cash Balance: \$509,411.33

Certificates of Deposit (CDs): \$1,625,708.79

The Building Committee met on April 16, 2018.

Design

Construction Documents have been approved. The Design Team is continuing to explore re-purposing ideas for our current space. Work continues on the complexities of gaining approval from FEMA on the floodplain compliance issue. Farnsworth Group has assigned an expert on such matters, Emily Jenkins, PE, PHD to complete the final steps in the process. When approval is secured, the Village of Morton will be able to issue the necessary permits for work to begin. No specific date has been assured. As we all know the wheels of government grind exceedingly slow. We hoped to avoid a lengthy process and had laid the groundwork for addressing it. We anticipated the possibility of a delay – just not one this long.

As Paul says in Philippians, “forgetting what is past and straining toward what lies ahead, we press on towards the goal . . .”

Finance

Good news on the finance front. We are very close to meeting all the requirements for cash on hand, pledges and borrowing power. Our goal was to have a total of \$3,400,000 in cash, assets (bills paid), and pledges yet to be received during 2018, 2019, and 2020. As of the end of March, we have \$2,349,466 in cash and assets, and we are very close to having \$1,100,000 in pledges yet to be received.

Timeline

We have met our goal of having Construction Documents completed. Our next step is to work with the contractor to define sub-contractors through a bidding process. As our contract states, the Building Committee has final approval of all sub-contractors.

Suggestions/Feedback for the Building Committee

“In Design phase please make sure restrooms have tankless water heaters - same as present restrooms and nursery on west side of building.” Also: “Design doors to Gathering Room so caskets can be moved easily - maybe sliding doors.”

Douglas Fair	05/01
Donald Ficht	05/02
Jim Rada	05/02
Jacqueline Schwarzentraub	05/02
Juliet Tewksbury	05/02
M. Bernice Wells	05/02
Caleb Dalfiume	05/03
Doug Hutchison	05/03
Joseph Oyer	05/03
Matthew Wehnes	05/03
Luke Dalfiume	05/04
Bruce Harrison	05/04
Karen Smothers	05/04
Morgan Wiegardt	05/04
Haley Walters	05/05
Eva Bruce	05/06
Kevin Hall	05/06
Nan Lindemann	05/06
Leo Reich	05/06
Amy Meiner	05/07
Donald Sullivan	05/08
Kimberly Applen	05/09
Micah Walker	05/09
Anna Werries	05/09
Lucile Foster	05/10
Sharon Scott	05/10
NyameEnyi Maison	05/11
Winifred Stocks	05/11

Happy Birthday!

Justin Grimm	05/12	John Walters	05/22
Ellen Hall	05/12	Jennifer Weaver	05/22
Megan Losey	05/12	Lydia Grieder	05/23
Maggie Sullivan	05/12	Louisa Miller	05/23
Kate Kennay	05/13	Jaclyn Anderson	05/24
Steven Munson	05/14	John Dalton	05/24
Grayson Savage	05/14	Elizabeth Deppe	05/24
Leone Wayman	05/14	Gail Owen	05/25
Regan Gashaw	05/15	Hope Scheffler	05/25
Margaret Hooge	05/15	Sage Dicks	05/26
Dax Tewksbury	05/15	Taylor VanEtten	05/26
Leah Alster	05/16	Don Chapman	05/27
Linda Todd	05/16	Alex Czubak	05/28
Jessie Mitchell	05/17	Liam Wright	05/28
Kent Buffington	05/18	Allison Yerby	05/28
Don Huber	05/18	Eliana Kimmerle	05/29
Chloe Walters	05/18	Linda Swinford	05/29
Doris Kirk	05/19	Madison Tisdale	05/29
Carrie Hoefling	05/20	Yvette Ackerman	05/30
Molly Shook	05/20	Donald Hatch	05/30
Tyler Bennett	05/21	Heather Berger	05/31
Erin Jones	05/21	Ava Geerts	05/31
Michael Shook	05/21		



Administrative Notes:

Flower Ministry

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

May	6	Open
May	13	Margi Weygand
May	20	Bob & Lucile Foster
May	27	Hutchison's

Attendance

April	1	570	
April	8	373	
April	15	403	Average 427
April	22	365	

Hospitalized

Doris Birchenough, Clark Boers,
James Destafano, Imo Reich,
Tom Siron, Trish Hall, Joyce Mutters,
Linda Hatch, Marcella Rouland,
Thelma Robertson, Mike Guidotti

Sympathy To :

The family of Gurney St. Clair Sr. who died March 24.

The family of Gary Drummond who died April 12.

The family of Cliff Lowery who died April 17.



Financial Stewardship Report

March- 2018

General Fund	
\$46,078.57	\$57631.65
INCOME	EXPENSE

Year to Date

\$146,491.79	\$164,506.22
INCOME	EXPENSE

General Fund Ending Cash Balance:
\$140,818.88
Our Expenses exceeded
our Income for the March Budget
by: \$11,553.08

ATTENTION: FOOTPRINTS CREW
We are folding Footprints on
Thursday, May 31 in the
Gathering Area



morton

united methodist church

420 North Tennessee Avenue

Morton, IL 61550-9706

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BULK RATE
NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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MORTON, ILLINOIS
PERMIT NO. 26

May

Place Label Here

MORTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY STAFF

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ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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MINISTER of YOUTH

Eric Gordon ericg@mortonumc.org

MINISTER of CONGREGATIONAL CARE

JoAnn Kraft joannk@mortonumc.org

MINISTER of CROSS CONNECTIONS MUSIC/

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Kerry Brenkman kerryb@mortonumc.org

XYZ COORDINATOR:

Lynn Zimmerman zimmo5@comcast.net

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Barbara Maison (part-time)

barbaram@mortonumc.org

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ORGANIST

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A/V COORDINATOR

Nick Graff nick@mortonumc.org

NURSERY COORDINATOR

Leslie Wenzel lrbart79@hotmail.com

morton
united methodist church

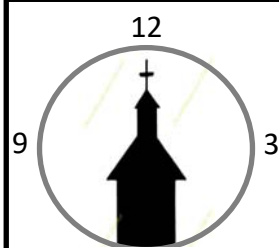
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Morton, Il 61550

office: 309-266-7174

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email: info@mortonumc.org

www.mortonumc.org



**CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS**

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