

morton

united methodist church

420 North Tennessee Avenue, Morton, IL 61550

For the Week of

Sunday, December 17, 2017– Sunday, December 24, 2017



Thank you for joining us today!

If you seek a caring community, are seeking answers to today's problems, or an experience to connect with God,
You can find it here within our church family.

For information about ministries and weekly Connect Groups,
Visit our Welcome Center or our website at
www.mortonumc.org.

We are “Making disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.”

Sunday Worship Celebration

When the Angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." Luke 2:15

December 17, 2017 **3rd Sunday of Advent** 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Something to Think About...Something to Pray About...Something to Share...Something to Do

- *Why is Christmas important to you?*
- *What is your favorite Christmas tradition?*
- *If you were a shepherd the night Jesus was born, what would be your reaction to the angels appearing?*

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Gabe Wanck

Prelude Gospel Bells
Rise Up Shepherd and Follow

***Lighting the Birth Candle**

Leaders: The birth of Jesus is the magnificent expression of God's love in sending His Son to become flesh and dwell among us.

Congregation: An Angel spoke to Mary, saying, "Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus."

Leaders: Mary said to the Angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

Congregation: The Angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, so the One to be born will be called the Son of God."

Leaders: And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger. Think of that holy birth as we light the Birth Candle. Let us sing "The First Noel."

***Hymn of Praise**

UMH 245

The First Noel

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Children's Message (8:00 am) Amy Smith

Receiving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Choir

The Shepherd's Lamb

***Doxology**

***Songs of the Season**

In the Bleak Midwinter – UMH 221 (v. 1)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear – UMH 218 (v. 1)

Silent Night – UMH 239 (v. 1)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (...forgive us our 'sins'...)

Special Music Gospel Bells

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Scripture Luke 2:8-20

Message Pastor Gary L. Feldman

The Shepherd's Story

***Hymn of Commitment** UMH 236

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (v. 1,2,6)

***Blessing**

***Postlude**

****Please stand as you are able***

HEAD USHERS: HEAD USHERS: Chuck Birchenough, Dave Gilbert, Connie & Steve Klein.

Flowers: Poinsettias – See insert

ADVENT CANDLE: 8:00 Mike & Beth Shook and family
9:30 Nick & Ryan Gillhouse and family
10:45 Brett and Maggie Klokkenga & family

ACOLYTES: 8:00 Noah Losey & Nyamedze Maison
9:30 Ella Smallenberger & Ava Alt

GREETERS: 8:00 Don & Jane Sullivan
9:30 Kevin & Carol McGuire

Cross Connections Worship Service

We welcome you to our Cross Connections service as we gather for this time of worship.

December 17, 2017

10:45 a.m.

COUNTDOWN

PRELUDE

Carol of the Bells

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Brett & Maggie Klokkenga and Family

WORSHIP IN SONG

What a Glorious Night-Praise Team

GIVING OUR GIFTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

FOUNDATION

Luke 2:8-20

Special Music

Not That Far From Bethlehem-Kerry Brenkman

TODAY'S MESSAGE

The Shepherd's Story

Pastor Gary L Feldman

CLOSING PRAYER

OVERTIME CONNECTIONS

MINISTRY LEADERS:

WOW Welcome

Creative Arts

Jayne Benckendorf

Greeters

Praise Team

Hilda Brenkman

Kerry Brenkman

The Shepherd's Story

Luke 2:8-20

- 1. THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS FOR _____**
 - God chose to break the news of the birth of his Son, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, not to kings and priests and world leaders, but to a group of shepherds working at night
 - The message of Christmas is that "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17)
- 2. THE GOSPEL REQUIRES A PERSONAL _____**
 - Since the angel announced the news to them, the shepherds had to see for themselves
 - We all must personally visit Jesus...making our own 'pilgrimage' to Bethlehem
 - G.K. Chesterton once said, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."
- 3. THE GOSPEL IS TO BE _____**
 - The gospel is good news for everyone. It's about a God who loves people, who has goodwill toward people, who has come to be a savior and deliverer and leader.
 - The best way to share the gospel is by sharing the love of God by showing others what the love of God looks like.
 - Martin Luther said, "It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor." This is how we share the gospel – by treating others, as we know Jesus would have treated them.

Phone Call Caroling – TODAY

Would you like to sing Christmas Carols?
Join the XYZ group for phone caroling **TODAY**
At 2:00 p.m. in the library

Finance Stewardship Reminders

All 2017 contributions must be postmarked no later than December 31. All electronic giving will need to be processed by December 27 to be recorded in 2017.

To ensure that your contributions are applied to the correct fund, **please specify on the memo line** of your check how you would like your contributions distributed.

If you are or have donated stock to the church, please let Shelli know. The check is received from the broker and the donors name is not included on the check. This information is needed to give you credit for the donation.

If you would still like to turn in an "estimate of giving card" please feel free to do so for 2018.

If you make your contributions online via Vanco Services and made changes to your "estimate of giving" for 2018, you will need to log on to Vanco Services or complete a new form for these changes to take effect. The church is not permitted to make changes to your online contribution amounts without your consent.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available on the church Welcome Desk and from the church financial secretary.

If you have any questions about your contributions, please contact Shelli Koener, at 309-266-7174 or shellik@mortonumc.org.

Christmas Eve Offering

Connie Wieck is our covenant missionary in China and shares our Lord's love with all. As in previous years, the special offering from Christmas Eve Services will be given in support of Connie unless you specify otherwise.

A Blue Christmas Worship Service

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Soup Supper – 6:00 p.m.

Worship Service – 6:30 p.m.

An evening of fellowship, support, and prayer for those who grieve during the holidays.

Around this time, the holidays can become difficult in the midst of the joys of the season. Some are dealing with the death of a loved one, coping with the loss of a job, facing life after divorce or separation, living without family or living with cancer or some other disease. These situations can put a question mark over our future and make us feel completely alone. And they can make parties and typically fun events painful and difficult to attend.

To help with one's sense of loss, hurt, and pain, which can be overwhelming at this time of year, we want to offer a *Blue Christmas Worship Service*. Feeling 'blue' is an expression that attempts to describe the sadness in one's life. Our worship service will be a way for people to gather together and know that they are not alone in their journey through difficult times. Join us as we share a simple soup dinner and support one another in worship and prayer! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Gary or Pastor Gabe at 266-7174.

Christmas Season Services

Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary (One Service)

5:30 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion Service

9:00 p.m. Cross Connections Candlelight & Communion Service

Sunday, December 31

10:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Gym (One Service)

Mark Your Calendars!

- **December 26** No Tuesday Morning Communion
- **December 25-26** Office Closed
- **December 31** One Worship Service at 10 a.m.
- **January 7** Sunday School Resumes
- **January 10** WATCH Resumes

ATENDANCE PADS

Please sign & pass the attendance pads, found at the end of the row, during the greeting time and return them to the first person in the row to be picked up after the service.

Cross Connections attendance sheets are on each table.

NURSERY

Child Care is available during worship services for INFANTS AND CHILDREN THROUGH AGE FOUR in our staffed nursery.

CHURCH STAFF and CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. – Noon

CHURCH PHONE: (309) 266-7174

PASTOR: Rev. Gary Feldman (618) 315-9390 garyf@mortonumc.org

PASTOR: Rev. Gabe Wanck (309) 335-7250 gabew@mortonumc.org

MINISTER of MUSIC & EDUCATION: Amy Smith amys@mortonumc.org

MINISTER of CONGREGATIONAL CARE: JoAnn Kraft joannk@mortonumc.org

MINISTER of YOUTH: Eric Gordon ericg@mortonumc.org

XYZ COORDINATOR: Lynn Zimmerman zimmo5@comcast.net

MINISTER of CC MUSIC & BELLS: Kerry Brenkman kerryb@mortonumc.org

PART-TIME OFFICE SECRETARY: Barbara Maison info@mortonumc.org

CUSTODIAN: Russ Johnson russj@mortonumc.org

ORGANIST: Jane Chapman

AUDIO/VIDEO COORDINATOR: Nick Graff

NURSERY COORDINATOR: Leslie Wenzel lrbart79@hotmail.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Shelli Koener shellik@mortonumc.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Shelli Koener info@mortonumc.org

**For more information, please visit our website at
www.mortonumc.org**

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please let the church know if you or a member of your family is hospitalized. **The hospital does not notify us.**

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED: Charlotte Gilmore, Thelma Robertson

RECENTLY RELEASED: Carol Davis, Robert Mutters

SYMPATHY TO: Mike Tewksbury and family. Mike's grandmother died on December 13.

DAY BY DAY

Sunday, December 17

8:00 am Celebration Worship Service, S
9:00 am Blood Pressure Sunday
9:30 am Celebration Worship Service, S
9:30 am Sunday School, YR
10:45 am Companions in Christ, L
10:45 am Cross Connections Service, G
2:00 pm Boys Scout
2:00 pm XYZ Phone Caroling
5:00 pm Women's Bible Study, L

Monday, December 18

8:00 am Walking for Exercise, G,S
11:00 am Services at Restmor, OS
7:00 pm Sarah Circle, OS
7:00 pm Boy Scouts, G

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 am Communion, S
8:00 am Volunteer Work Group
9:00 am Staff Meeting, GA
10:00 am Sisters in Faith, L
7:00 pm Praise Team, G

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 am Men's Prayer Mtg., YR
8:00 am Walking for Exercise, G,S
11:00 am Ruth Circle, OS
6:00 pm Blue Christmas Service G,S

Thursday, December 21

9:00 am Daily Grind, OS
9:00 am Quilters, CR
9:15 am Disciple-Pastor Paul, YR
10:00 am Pickleball, G
5:15 pm Thursday Night Book Study, OS
6:00 pm Pickleball, G

Friday, December 22

8:00 am Walking for Exercise, G,S

Saturday, December 23

7:00 am Men's Bible Study, L

Sunday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE ONE SERVICE

10:00 am Celebration Worship Service, S
5:30 pm Family Candlelight Worship Service, S
7:00 pm Candlelight & Communion Worship Service, S
9:00 pm Cross Connections Candlelight & Communion Worship Service, G

G-Gym,
L-Library,
S-Sanctuary
GA-Gathering Area
OS-Off Site
YR-Youth Room
PO-Pastor Office
K-Kitchen
CR-Copy Room

Christmas Week Office Hours

December 25 & December 26
Office Closed

December 27 – 29

Opened 8 a.m. – Noon.

January 1 – **Office Closed**