

morton

united methodist church

420 North Tennessee Avenue, Morton, IL 61550

For the Week of
Sunday, December 24, 2017– Sunday, December 31, 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 they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. (Matthew 2:10-11)

December 24, 2017 **4th Sunday of Advent** 10:00 a.m.

Gathering for Worship Brian Birchenough
Mary, Did You Know?

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Gabe Wanck

Prelude Praise Team
Carol of the Bells

***Lighting the Candle of Glory**

Leaders: The announcement of the birth of the Son of God in humble manger circumstances was adorned by the radiance of God's glory.

Congregation: Shepherds were in the field that night with their sheep. "And an Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."

Leaders: The Angel told them good news of great joy: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

Congregation: "Suddenly a great company of the Heavenly Host appeared with the Angel, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests'."

Leaders: We will light the Candle of Glory. Think of the radiance of God's glory in His Son as we sing, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing."

***Hymn of Glory** UMH 240
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1,2)

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Special Music Chrstmas Brass
The First Noel
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Children's Message Pastor Gabe Wanck

***Songs of the Season**

The First Noel – UMH 245 (v. 1)
We Three Kings – UMH 254 (v. 1)
O Come, All Ye Faithful – UMH 234 (v. 1,3)
O Little Town of Bethlehem – UMH 230 (1,3,4)
Away in the Manger – UMH 217 (v. 1,2,3)
Angels We Have Heard on High – UMH 238 (v. 1)

Receiving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Praise Team
What a Glorious Night

***Doxology**

Pastoral Prayer

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

Special Music Choir
Only a Manger

Scripture Mathew 2:1-12

Message Pastor Gary L. Feldman
The Wise Men's Story

***Hymn of Glory** UMH 240
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1,3)

***Blessing**

***Postlude**

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

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

Flowers: If you'd like to donate altar flowers to celebrate a special event in your life or in memory of (or in honor of) someone, please sign the flower book for 2018 that is in the Welcome Center.

ADVENT CANDLE: 10:00 Ben & Brenda Eyster and grandchildren.

GREETERS: 10:00 Andy, Traci, Maggie & Max Sullivan
Mel & Linda Clauser

The Wise Men's Story

Matthew 2:1-12

1. God reveals himself to those who _____

The star was visible to everything!

2. God speaks to those who will _____

How does he speak to us?

- a. *First of all, God speaks to us primarily through the Bible*
- b. *Secondly, God speaks to us through the preaching and teaching of the Word*
- c. *Thirdly, God can also speak to us through many other sources: worship, people, events...*
- d. *NOTE: When God does, it will confirm -- and never contradict -- what the Lord has spoken in the Word.*

3. God leads those who will _____

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.

Order Your MUMC Items Soon

The website to order MUMC clothing will be open for one month of each quarter starting January 1, 2018.

Please visit the website and place your order.

<https://mortonumc-2017.itemorder.com/sale>

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.

Christmas Eve Services- Tonight

Sunday, December 24

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: Thelma Robertson, Jessie Mitchell, Amanda Ramsey

RECENTLY RELEASED: Charlotte Gilmore, Jeanne Cron

SYMPATHY TO: Lisa Hutchison and family for the death of her sister-in-law, Max Shenaut who died December 21.

DAY BY DAY

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

Monday, December 25

OFFICE CLOSED

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27

OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON

- 8:00 am Walking for Exercise, G,S

Thursday, December 28

OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON

- 9:00 am Quilters, N
- 9:00 am Footprints Folding Crew, G
- 9:15 am Disciple-Pastor Paul, YR

Friday, December 29

OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON

- 8:00 am Walking for Exercise, G,S

Saturday, December 30

- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study, L

Sunday, December 31

ONE SERVICE

- 10:00 am Celebration 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