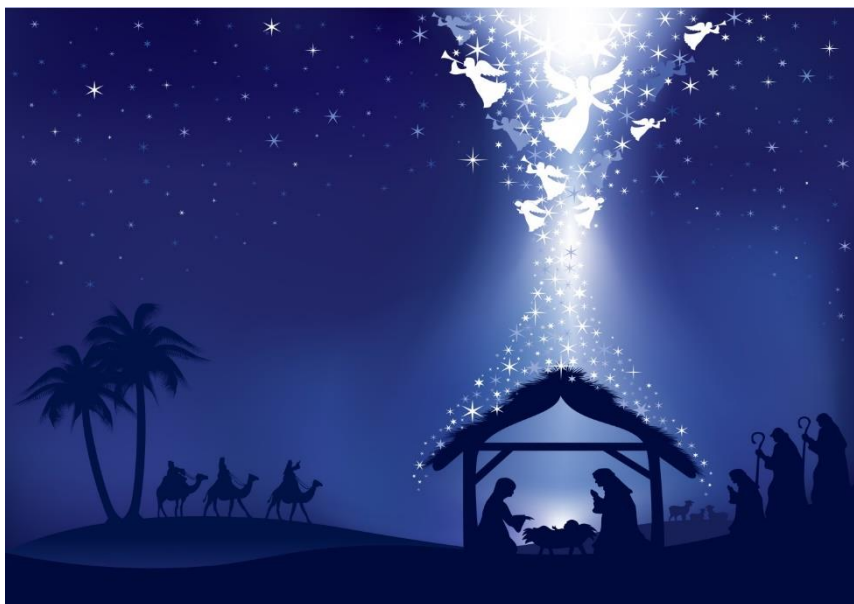


# morton

united methodist church

420 North Tennessee Avenue, Morton, IL 61550

Sunday, December 23, 2018



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](http://www.mortonumc.org)

We are "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ For the Transformation of the World!"

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

#### \*Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle PEACE

**Leaders:** Favor us with peace for our troubled souls!

**Congregation: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth for those he favors!**

**Leaders:** Favor us with peace for our broken relationships!

**Congregation: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth for those he favors!**

**Leaders:** Favor us with peace for our warring world!

**Congregation: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth for those he favors!**

**Leaders:** Give us peace with You, dear Lord!

**Congregation: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth for those he favors!**

**Leaders:** As we light the Candle of Peace, always remember that Jesus is our peace!

**Congregation: Lord God, your word promises us "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." As we celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus, may His peace be born in us again.**

**Leaders:** Let us sing, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing."

#### \*Hymn of Praise UMH 240

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

#### \*Passing the Peace of Christ

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

#### Offerings

**Offertory** (9:30 a.m.) Choir

*Wexford Carol*

#### \*Doxology

## **Songs of the Season**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (v. 1) – UMH 218*  
*Angels from the Realms of Glory (v. 1) – UMH 220*  
*The First Noel (v. 1) – UMH 245*

## **Ministry of Prayer**

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

**Anthem**

Choir

*Wexford Carol*

**Scripture**

Isaiah 61:1-4

**Message**

Pastor Gary L. Feldman

*The Gift of Purpose-Filled Living*

**\*Hymn of Wonder**

UMH 219

*What Child is This*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

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

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

**ADVENT CANDLE:** 8:00 Robert & Erin Jones Family  
9:30 Chris & Mary Barrick Family

**ACOLYTES:** 8:00 Charlotte Potts & Amanda Shook  
9:30 Alex McKie & Ian Bair

**GREETERS:** 8:00 David & Marilyn Formhals  
9:30 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmand: Molly Shook & Family

# Cross Connections Worship Service

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

December 23, 2018

10:45 a.m.

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COUNTDOWN

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

WORSHIP IN SONG

GIVING OUR GIFTS  
"Believe"—Bob Camp

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

HOLY SCRIPTURE  
Isaiah 61:1-4

TODAY'S MESSAGE

*The Gift of Purpose-Filled Living*  
*Pastor Gary L. Feldman*

CLOSING PRAYER

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**OVERTIME CONNECTIONS**

**MINISTRY LEADERS:**

GREETERS  
Hilda Brenkman

CREATIVE ARTS  
Jayne  
Benckendorf

PRAISE TEAM  
Kerry Brenkman

# Sermon Notes

*Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas*

*4. The Gift of Purpose-Filled Living*

Isaiah 61:1-4

# *Come Share Our Joy in the Birth of Our Lord Jesus*

## **Christmas Eve Services**

5:30 p.m. Family Candlelight

7:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion

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

11:00 p.m. Vespers Candlelight

## **Sunday, December 30**

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



## **Christmas Eve Offering**

CONNIE WIECK IS OUR COVENANT MISSIONARY IN CHINA and shares our Lord's love with all. Each year we pledge to support her not only financially with \$2,500 per year, but also with prayers and communication.

As in previous years, the special offering from our Christmas Eve services will be given in support of Connie unless you specify otherwise.



**All 2018 contributions must be postmarked no later than December 31. All electronic giving will need to be processed by December 21 to be recorded in 2018.**

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 would still like to turn in an "estimate of giving card" please feel free to do so for 2019.**



## **Alternate Mailing Address**

For those leaving Illinois for the winter but would still like to receive your MUMC mail, please stop by the office and update your alternate mailing address.

**Happy Holidays from Building Committee**

We would like to update everyone on the new addition project. It is truly exciting to finally see some activity. Currently we are pouring footings for the building when weather permits. The building pad is in place and will sit through the winter. The contractor will try to block in the 2 storm shelters and put the concrete top on the shelters. At this point the weather will become an issue. The contractor will most likely button up the job site until warmer weather in the spring. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to ask anyone on the Building Committee.

Thanks to all and have a blessed holiday season,  
Mike and Steve



**ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH VOLUNTEERS**

Everyone who works with our children and youth must have a background check on file. Please pick up a form at the welcome desk and return to the office or a staff member as soon as possible. Thank you for loving on our children and youth, keeping them safe and guiding them to Jesus.



**ROOTED IN PRAYER**

Illinois River District  
Annual Equipping Event  
January 27, 2019  
2-4:30 p.m.

Crossroads United Methodist Church



**Mark the Calendar**

- **January 4** XYZ Game Day
- **January 9** W.A.T.CH. Resumes
- **January 12** Youth Service Saturday
- **January 14** UMW Book Club
- **January 19** Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner
- **January 27** Bishop Frank J. Beard Preaching

## **ATTENDANCE 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 4 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](mailto:garyf@mortonumc.org)

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

MINISTER of MUSIC & EDUCATION: Amy Smith [amys@mortonumc.org](mailto:amys@mortonumc.org)

MINISTER of CONGREGATIONAL CARE: JoAnn Kraft [joannk@mortonumc.org](mailto:joannk@mortonumc.org)

MINISTER of YOUTH: Eric Gordon [ericg@mortonumc.org](mailto:ericg@mortonumc.org)

XYZ COORDINATOR: Lynn Zimmerman [zimmo5@comcast.net](mailto:zimmo5@comcast.net)

MINISTER of CC MUSIC & BELLS: Kerry Brenkman [kerryb@mortonumc.org](mailto:kerryb@mortonumc.org)

PART-TIME OFFICE SECRETARY: Barbara Maison [barbaram@mortonumc.org](mailto:barbaram@mortonumc.org)

CUSTODIAN: Russ Johnson [russj@mortonumc.org](mailto:russj@mortonumc.org)

ORGANIST: Jane Chapman [info@mortonumc.org](mailto:info@mortonumc.org)

AUDIO/VIDEO COORDINATOR: Nick Graff [nick@mortonumc.org](mailto:nick@mortonumc.org)

NURSERY COORDINATOR: Leslie Wenzel [lrbart79@hotmail.com](mailto:lrbart79@hotmail.com)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Shelli Koener [shellik@mortonumc.org](mailto:shellik@mortonumc.org)

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Shelli Koener [info@mortonumc.org](mailto:info@mortonumc.org)

**For more information, please visit our website at  
[www.mortonumc.org](http://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:** Joyce Kovalcik

**RECENTLY RELEASED:** Winifred Stocks





# DAY BY DAY

## **Sunday, December 23**

- 8:00 am Celebration Worship Service, S
- 9:30 am Celebration Worship Service, S
- 10:45 am Cross Connections Service, G

## **Monday, December 24**

**OFFICE CLOSED at NOON**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 5:30 pm Family Candle Service, S
- 7:00 pm Candlelight & Communion Service, S
- 9:00 pm Cross Connections Candlelight Service, G
- 11:00 pm Vespers Candlelight Service, S

## **Tuesday, December 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

## **Wednesday, December 26**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

## **Thursday, December 27**

**OFFICE CLOSED at NOON**

- 8:30 am Daily Grind, L
- 9:00 am Quilters
- 9:15 am Footprints Folding Crew, G

## **Friday, December 28**

- 8:00 am Walking for Exercise, S

## **Saturday, December 29**

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

## **Sunday, December 30**

- 10:00 am One Celebration Worship Service, S

### **Location Key:**

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