



Mark your calendars
 June 20-24
 9:00 am—noon
 Vacation Bible School

Shake It Up
 cafe
 Lakebury's

If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Leann Hill or the church office. Anyone 6th Grade & older can help.

Trustees is looking for people who are willing to mow the pastors' yards and the church property once a week. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

YARD WORK
 HELP
 NEEDED

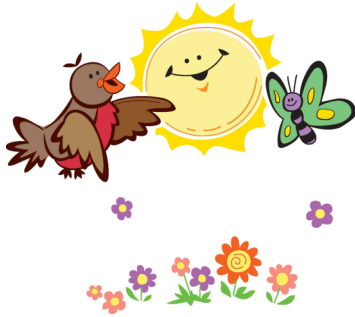
Do you know what year our church bell was made? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter!!

First United Methodist Church
 118 West Jackson Street
 Morris, IL 60450
 815-942-0809

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Spirit Alive

May 2011

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Organist

Cheryle Larson

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Lori Woodard

preschool@morrisumc.com

Sunday School

Superintendent

sundayschool@morrisumc.com

Children's Choir

Director

Leann Hill

Hand Bell Choir Director

Millie Dyer

A Note From Your Pastor . . .

Dear Friends:

On Palm Sunday weekend we received five people into the membership of our church. All five had backgrounds outside of the United Methodist Church (Baptist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran). In fact, most of those who have recently joined our church and/or have had their children baptized here have not grown up in our denomination.

I think that says a lot, not only for our church, but for the state of the Church today. First, there is no longer any life-long loyalty to any particular denomination. Just because you grew up in a certain church, or your parents have been members of that church, does not mean that you will continue in that denomination. In the larger picture there is no longer any long-term “brand loyalty” of any kind. While there are still some old-time “Ford people” or “Chevy people” most folks will buy based on what’s hot at the moment and will shop around to all the showrooms looking for whoever will give the best deal. (We call this a “consumer society” and it has affected how people “shop” for churches –and how churches deal with their “customers.”)

So, if there are fewer and fewer life-long Methodists—what is it that attracts folk to our church? As I get to talk to our new members there are a few things that stand out. First, many come to us because of our programs for children and youth. Our Preschool has been the entry point for several families. Our Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth groups and ASP are attractive as well.

Another big attraction is our theological inclusiveness. Many couples, especially where husband and wife have come from different backgrounds, see our church as a place where everyone is welcomed. Our theology is similar to many other denominations to the point where it feels familiar and comfortable. Our inclusiveness (especially the Open Table of Communion) feels welcoming to many—even before they make the decision to join our church.

And while most people (including some of our long-time members) may not realize its importance, I truly believe that one of our strengths is our balance of personal piety and social justice. This has been an emphasis of Methodism all the way back to John and Charles Wesley. We value personal conversion, growing as disciples, being in right relationship with God (i.e. Personal Piety) and at the same time we speak up for “the last, the least, and the lost” as we look for ways to help hurting people by both dealing with their immediate needs and looking to change the systemic causes of things like poverty, violence and oppression.

Our church’s mission statement speaks to this “both/and” approach to living as God’s people, the Body of Christ. We are called to *make disciples of Jesus Christ* (i.e. bring people to know Christ and grow as disciples) not just for their personal gain but *for the transformation of the world* (i.e. to make a difference and build God’s kingdom on earth).

We must continue to celebrate and affirm who we are as United Methodists and what we have to offer compared to other churches and denominations. In so doing we are attracting people to join with us and therefore fulfilling our church’s mission.

Peace, Pastor Scott

News of the flock

Hospitalized

Dieter Holzinger
Peggy Sjostrom

Lou Borger
Max Babcock

Larry Anderson
Eleanor Hacker

Marilyn Larson
Gerry Matteson

The beginning of life in faith . . .

We celebrate with the following families on the baptism of their children . . .

- ~ Elizabeth Grace Matney, daughter of Mark & Danielle Matney
- ~ Matthew, Mason & Delaney Lopez, children of Michael & Debra Lopez

The beginning of life eternal . . .

Remember the following in your prayers . . .

- ~ Kent & Diane Borger and family on the death of her mother, Ruth Dibble
- ~ The family of Elaine Eisold
- ~ Dennis & Diana McComas on the passing of his sister-in-law, Connie McComas
- ~ John & Marissa Darlington and family on the death of his grandmother, Janetta Steele

New Members

Brent & Amy Baker
Ryan*, Jenna*, Ava*
1173 Oak Grove Ct.
Morris
815-513-5033

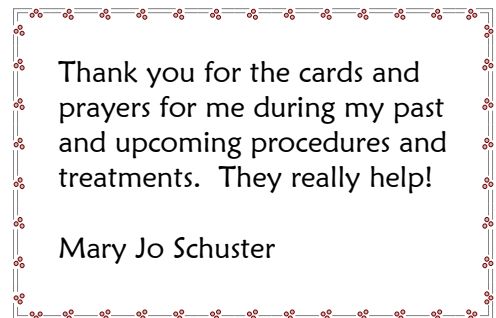
Matt & Gianna Eber
Delaney*, Mackenzie*, Liam*
2455 Indian Grass Rd
Morris
815-941-4668

Brooke Jollay
Jacqueline Jollay*
11610 N. LaSalle Rd.
Newark, IL 60541
708-204-6893



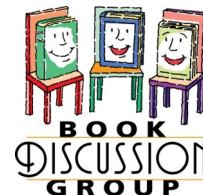
What a great Rummage Sale this spring! Thanks to all the hard work we were set and ready to go by Monday night. Also, a big thanks to all who provided food to sustain us throughout the week. The fall sale is already set—October 12 & 13. Mark your calendars now, so you can start your fall cleaning early.

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Thank you for the cards and prayers for me during my past and upcoming procedures and treatments. They really help!

Mary Jo Schuster



The Book Club will be meeting on Monday, May 2nd at 4:30 pm in the church library to discuss "The Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir" by Kao Kalia Yang. All are welcome to join us.

Mobile Meals



As I prepare to leave the house I'm putting on my rain coat AGAIN! It will be July and 90 degrees before we know it. And soon the poster to sign up to deliver Mobile Meals will be going



up on the bulletin board. We are now picking up the meals in the front lobby. This should make it easier for every one. I would appreciate all your help.

Connie Kundert



Upcoming Events


May 1	At the Church	4:30 pm	Jr. High
May 22	At the Church	4:30 pm	
Sr High	May 15	Just for Fun End of Year Party	TBA


National Day of Prayer



The Morris Ministerial Association will host “The National Day of Prayer”. Millions will unite in prayer at thousands of events from coast to coast. Everyone is invited to gather at the Grundy County Courthouse lawn for this special time of observance and reflection on Thursday, May 5 at noon. The theme, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” is based on the verse from Psalm 91:2. Our prayers will be focused on the “Seven Centers of Power” - Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church, Family. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation.



If you desire a pastoral call or visit, call the church office during regular office hours. If you have an emergency situation and need a pastor right away, call one of their cell phones: Pastor Scott at 815-275-2523 or Pastor Deb at 815-541-8101.



Word from Finance



The results of the 2011 Stewardship campaign are in. This year’s Operating Budget saw a 1.8% increase in pledges over last year’s budget, while the Property Improvements budget saw a 4.7% increase over last year. The Finance Committee wishes to thank everyone for their generous gifts in these economically difficult times to continue to support the church and its mission.

Terry Klepp,
Finance Chair

UMW Circle News

- ~ Executive Board: Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 pm at the church
- ~ Mother/Daughter Banquet: Friday, May 6 at 6:30 pm at the church
- ~ God's Girls: Thursday, May 12, 6:00 clean kitchen followed by meeting at 7:00 at the church.
- ~ Monday Circle: Monday, May 16 at 12:30 pm at the church
- ~ Wednesday Circle: Wednesday, May 18 at 12:30 pm at Julie's Java
- ~ Martha Circle: Thursday, May 19 at 9:00 am at the church
- ~ Rebekah Circle: Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 pm at Bonnie Carlson's home

Come to the



Mother-Daughter Banquet

This year's Mother/Daughter Banquet will be on Friday, May 6 at 6:30 pm in fellowship hall. Join us for an evening of good food, fun and music. You may purchase your tickets after worship or in the church office during the week. Ticket prices are:

Adult = \$10

Children 4-12 = \$5

Children under 4 = \$2.50

May Birthdays

1 Marlene Brayton
Charlie Wright
2 William Earling
Nikolas McKinney
3 Connor Greve
Abigail Wilkinson
4 Chettina Call
Bailey Easson
5 Nancy Gordon
Kristine Lestina
Kim Neal
Mary Twait
6 Ryan Baker
Janice Frosch
James Schuster
Todd Weist
7 Ruth Herman
Eric Larson
8 David Thompson
9 Erika Gordon
LaVerne Harper
Troy Kief
Michael Woodard
10 Patrick Norton
11 Ronald Bottomley
Lori Poore
12 Ashley Flanders
Merle Hall
Sharon La Fontaine

Dennis Stacy, Jr.
Kati Ulrich
Jena Weist
Allison Williams
13 Gary Anderson
Elizabeth Bates
Sara Seidler
14 Ehrler, Andrew
Lance Martin
Marcus Nix
James VanPelt
15 J. Hanson
Kathy Jackson
Nancy Kinzler
Jacob Packley
16 Susan Hicks
Evelyn Trenter
17 Gregg Nadess
Sophia Xydakis
18 Orin Acker
Jeanette Harris
Aaronda Murphy-Neuwirth
19 Barbara Ewalt
Jordon Ramirez
19 Kerrie Smith
20 Nathan Wantlan
21 Lorraine Heffner
Dakota Schindlbeck
22 Barbara Jones

Loretta Matteson
Robert Matteson
23 Carl Berry, Jr.
Cody Spiezio
Margaret Thomas
Abbi Weist
24 Janet Beck
Jacob Perry
25 Thomas Dzuryak
Grant Magers
26 Zachary Davis
Thomas Larmon
Sloan Owens
27 Mary Baczynski
Mary Devries
Nolan Nelson
Molly Hoffman
28 Caitlyn Butler
Melissa Enervold
Janice Harty
Cheryl Hutchings
Amy Sager
Lynn Sampson
30 Jeanette Ringer
31 Robert Bates, Jr.
Clare Bates
Sandra Lisy
Haley McDonald

“Meals on Wheels”—not to be confused with “Mobile Meals”—is always looking for drivers. There are 50—60 people throughout Grundy County that receive “Meals on Wheels”. The Morris route has 7—10 people who have meals delivered to them. The meals are picked up at Saratoga Towers. If you are interested in helping call 815-941-1590 and ask for Cindy.

Summer is coming and so are the great summer camps at Reynoldswood and Wesley Woods. Scholarships are available. This money was generously given by the United Methodist Women and Men. See one of the pastors or call the church office. Please bring the registration form to the church office so the check can be mailed with it.



**Outdoor and
Retreat Ministries**

It is an honor to present the following 8th graders for Confirmation into our congregation:

Margaret Bates
Jake McDonald
Marcus Schluntz

Sophie Gaska
Noah Miller

Laurel Harper
Matthew Nix

Mark Lincoln
Jordan Ramirez



Please join us in the celebration and welcome this class of new members on Sunday, May 15, 2011 at the 9:00 am worship service with cake, coffee and fellowship immediately following in fellowship hall.



We would like to recognize graduates of our church at the worship service on Sunday, June 5 at 9 am. If you have a young adult who is a member of or attends this church regularly and is graduating this year from 8th grade, high school, college or graduate school, please let us know. Complete this information and return to the church office by May 31.

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Grade & School Graduating from: _____

If college, with what degree? _____

Future Plans : _____

Thank You P.A.D.S. Volunteers

A couple Tuesday's ago we finished our third year as one of the seven host churches in Morris for the P.A.D.S Homeless Shelter Program. We had 45 volunteers that worked one of the four hour shifts each of the six months P.A.D.S. was open. We also had 28 volunteers that provided a hot evening meal throughout the season.

This year we averaged 8-10 guests each night of P.A.D.S. and for the six month season that ran from October 16th to April 15th we had a total of 55 guests. What a wonderful program this church and town has, that we can all come together and provide a safe place for these 55 persons that otherwise might not have had a safe place to sleep, a hot evening meal, breakfast and a lunch sack provided to them.

I thank Judy and John Claypool for their role as Site Coordinators and Diane Sprole as the Meal Coordinator. I hope to see many of you volunteers return this fall as well as some new faces. When we all work together we will accomplish great things for our Lord.

Paul Sprole
Site Coordinator

dessert



fellowship

Let's get Together For "Just Dessert"

What could be better than getting together with friends on a warm summer evening, maybe just from 7-8 PM, for a delicious dessert? Beginning in June, the Fellowship Vision Team is gathering groups of eight people together in order for them to get to know each other a little better while enjoying some dessert. Each group of eight adults will meet once in June, once in July, and once in August. All you have to do to be a part of this "summertime fun" is sign your name on one of the inserts that will be included in the church bulletins on May 1, 8, and 15—or the one below. Or if that doesn't work for you, you may call the church office at 815-942-0809 to register. The deadline for signing up is **Monday, May 16**. If you would like to include your children, make sure you sign their names also. We will see how we can make that work for you too. Fellowship Team will designate and call the first host or hostess for the June gathering and that person will contact the rest of each group. From then on, each group is on their own to plan their meetings and decide the times that work best for them. Let's see ... we can almost taste those summertime desserts already! Strawberry Shortcake, Ice Cream Sundaes, Lemon Pies .. and great fellowship!

Diane Sprole
Fellowship Vision Team

I (We) would like to participate in the summertime gatherings called "Just Dessert". Please list all names of those participating :

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please put this in collection plate or turn in at the church office by May 16.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Education Vision Team is celebrating Sunday School teacher appreciation on May 22 during 9:00 am worship service. Please join us in fellowship hall for refreshments following the service, as we honor our wonderful teachers.

Thank you to the following teachers for their time & dedication this past year:

Preschool—Laurie Allen, Lori Davis, Diana McComas, Coleen Gregory

Kindergarten—Linda Klepp, Terry Klepp, Heather Nadess, Stephanie Olson

1st & 2nd Grade—Kristy Ehrler, Missie Wright, Brooke Jollay, Kristine Lestina

3rd & 4th Grade—Duke Ehrler, Liz Bates, Mary Jo Schuster

5th Grade—Monica Brehm, Rick Gaska, Michelle Altiery

6th & 7th Grade Confirmation—Craig Lincoln, Denise Gaska, Wendy Easson

8th Grade Confirmation—Pastor Deb Percell, Jen Jacobs

High School—Angela Meadows, Colin Monk, Liz Miller, Randy Miller

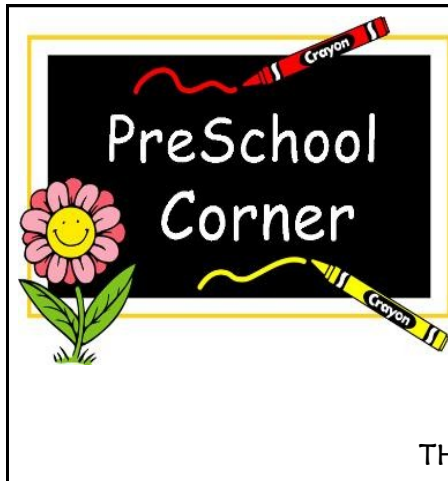
Kitchen Class—Charles Butts

Issues Class—Member led

Adult Study—John Hanson, Ellen Hanson

Music—Becky Thomas

Sunday School Assistant—Lori McClellan



The Preschool is proud to announce the students and their families contributed \$100 worth of Box Tops for the "Box Tops for Education" program last month! The next mission project will be a flower planting project. The classes will plant annuals in the flower beds in front of Pastor Deb Percell's house. The classes are also preparing for the Spring Programs to be held May 9th & 10th. The 2010/2011 school year ends on May 11th & 12th. If you see Mrs. Woodard, Mrs. Hall or Mrs. Hill during Teacher Appreciation Week, (May 2nd thru 6th) please thank them for being the best in their field! They pour their heart, souls and minds into our school and it shows! Without them, our church would not be able to provide the Morris Area with this amazing outreach ministry. They do an amazing job.

THANK THE TEACHERS IN YOUR LIVES--MAY 2 - 6!

Just for Kids!!

Puzzle Brooch

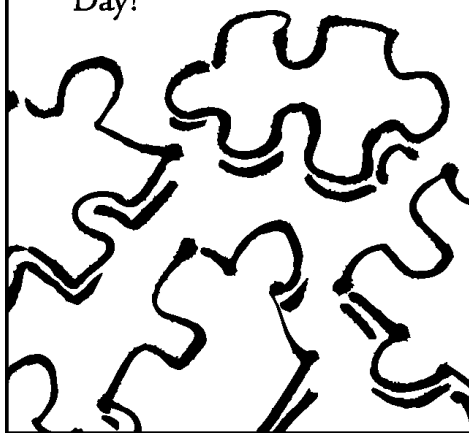
Make this keepsake to let your mom, grandma or aunt know that you wouldn't be complete without her!

What you need:

- Several old puzzle pieces
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue
- Sequins or small buttons
- Metal jewelry safety pin (flat on the bottom)

What you do:

1. Paint the puzzle pieces and let them dry.
2. Come up with a design; for example, place two pieces on the bottom and one on top.
3. Glue the pieces in place so they form one brooch. Decorate by gluing on sequins or buttons.
4. When the brooch is completely dry, glue a jewelry safety pin on the bottom.
5. Give the gift on Mother's Day!



Our mother's instructions

God gives us parents to help us learn about following his ways. Cherishing our mothers means valuing their guidance.

Use the boxed word codes below to complete Proverbs 6:20-22, NIV.

walk speak fathers sleep keep always

guide awake son forsake teaching

around heart neck mothers fasten watch

"My _____ your _____'s command
 and do not _____ your _____'s _____.
 Bind them _____ on your _____;
 _____ them _____ your _____.
 When you _____, they will _____ you;
 when you _____, they will _____ over you;
 when you _____, they will _____ to you."

Proverbs 6:20-22, NIV

Answers: "My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you."
 Proverbs 6:20-22, NIV