



Morris First United Methodist Church

Upcoming Events:

January 6th – Youth Ice Skating 12-6 pm

January 9th – Board Meeting 7 pm

January 13th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

January 16th – UMW 7 pm

January 18th-19th – UMW Retreat

January 19th – UMM 8 am

January 20th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

January 21st – Christ's Cupboard Open

January 27th – Youth 5-7:30 pm



Happy New Year to all!

As we were completing our charge conference paperwork that reviews statistics and trends from over the year, leadership and I completed paperwork like the church and pastor evaluations and I realized there are some things that I feel I need to share with all of you. The good news is that we are financially stable. We have paid 100% of our apportionments and our budget should be sufficient for the upcoming year. If you were in worship December 30th, then you were part of the celebration of all the ministries and missions we have accomplished throughout the year. Thank you for being mission-minded and choosing to follow Jesus Christ in service and living out our mission statement: Sharing the love of Christ by offering resources to persons in our church, community and around the world in need.

Another trend has shown that our worship attendance has dropped. Dropping worship attendance is a phenomenon that is happening to many small town churches and even small churches in cities. An increase in mission participation is also something that many churches are experiencing. I am asked each year to evaluate the trends of the church and determine factors that are contributing to the trends. For the increase in mission participation, I responded with: "People want to be contributing to the mission with hands on and not just sitting and being fed. They feel more productive doing hands on missions than sitting in worship. They like doing things and the mission ministries are less frequent so they can more easily commit to these activities since they are not a weekly commitment." For the dropping worship attendance I submitted: 'People have alternate Sunday activities competing for their time. They have activities with children and grandchildren on Sundays that draw them away from worship. Worship is no longer a priority.' Then I asked myself are these true statements? Are there other reasons for dropping worship attendance? Now I'm asking you. If you haven't been to worship for a while or don't attend on a regular basis, do you have other reasons?

To help everyone understand how worship is planned and in response to some feedback that I have received concerning worship, I wanted to explain how I plan the different elements in worship. I preach from the lectionary scriptures. These scriptures are planned on a three year rotation. Each Sunday and holy day has specific scriptures; Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel. I choose 2 of the scriptures that I use to craft my sermon and try to weave the theme throughout the worship service. That means that I choose the Call to Worship, prayers, hymns and Benediction to correspond with the theme.

The Call to Worship is meant as a way to bring us into worship and signal that we are beginning our worship of God. I select the Call to Worship from different resources or use the Psalm from the Lectionary. The Pastoral Prayer is a prayer that lifts up our concerns, but also concerns for the world and requests for guidance and help in our Christian walk. I do select written prayers instead of ad-libbed prayers so that the prayer does not sound the same over and over again. The prayer is selected from different resources and modified for our worship.

For the hymns, I have a list of hymns rated by how well the majority of the members know the hymn so I choose those that are known and well-known (4 and 5 stars). I also consider the United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries website that has suggested hymns for the lectionary scriptures though sometimes the hymn suggestions are not on our list so I don't use them. For the first hymn I try to pick a hymn that is more upbeat and contains praise elements. I choose the middle hymn to help us prepare our hearts for prayer while the last hymn usually reflects our response to God's call to discipleship and sending us out into the mission field. I try not to use a hymn too frequently so I keep track so that we have a variety of hymns sung throughout the year.

In order for all of you to have a say in the worship experience, I will be placing a suggestion box for suggestions on how the worship experience can be improved for you. Please make hymn suggestions, sermon topic suggestions, sermon delivery suggestions, and other worship suggestions that will enhance your worship experience. If you have other suggestions for me please include those as well. I want to serve you and God to the best of my ability, but if I don't receive feedback, then I can only assume everyone is happy and I have no room for improvement. I pray that with these suggestions 2019 will be a wonderfully blessed year for all. Thank you!!

Pastor Tracy

THANK YOU

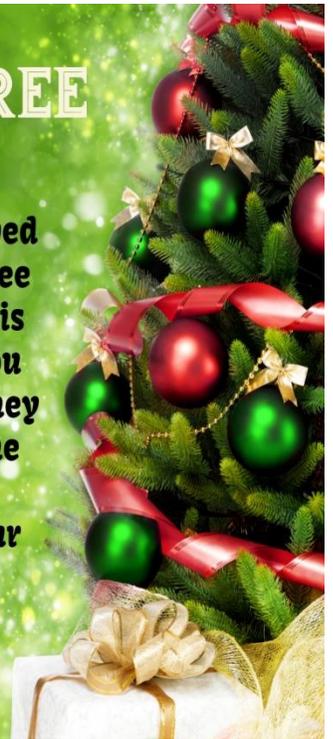
Thank you for the generous Christmas bonus. I am very appreciative of the gift.

Thank you!

Pastor Tracy

ANGEL TREE

Thank you to everyone that helped make the Angel Tree a success again this year. Whether you shopped, gave money or helped wrap the gifts. We really appreciate all your help!



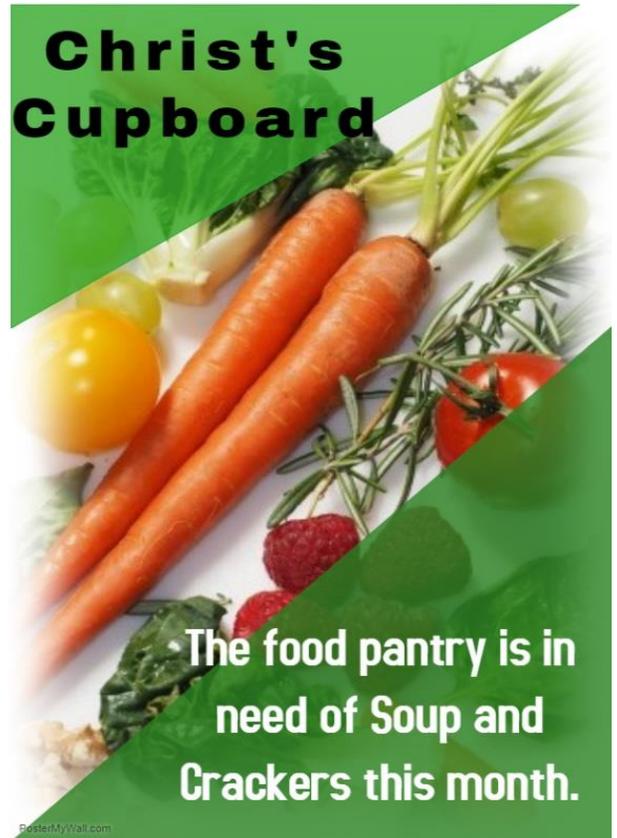
**January 6th – Ice Skating 12-6pm
(\$10 per person)**

January 13th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

January 20th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

January 27th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

Christ's Cupboard



The food pantry is in need of Soup and Crackers this month.

Prayer Requests



Darlene Walden	Matt Davis	Patsy Zink	Becky Riley	Deloris Hart
Robin Melton	John Reed	Cliff Grishum	Gus Davis	Ann Churchill
Coach Clay	Stewart & Paula Tishner	Rhonda Stephenson	Frank Morris	Joyce McDowell
Mollie Barnes	Edward Sullins	Bob Bergevin	Rosilin Warren	Jan Davis
Coy Holt	Brad Wilson	Samantha	Mac Arnet	Raymond Godfrey
Savannah Sturdivan	Dale Whited	Jerry Zink	Ruby McCullah	Cornia Belisle
Ruth Edmonds & family	Debra Motte	Amas Hayden family	Christ's Cupboard	Backpack Program

December							February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28		
30	31												

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  New Year's Day	2	3	4	5  Debbly Golden
6 Youth Ice Skating 12-6 pm	7	8	9 Board Meeting 7 pm	10	11	12
13 Youth 5-7:30 pm	14	15	16 UMW 7 pm	17  Phoebe Berryhill	18 -----UMW  Mary Grice	19 Retreat----- UMM 8 am
20 Youth 5-7:30 pm	21 Christ's Cupboard Open 3-6 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27 Youth 5-7:30 pm	28	29  Paula Edmonds & Kendall Golden	30	31		