



# Morris First United Methodist Church

## Upcoming Events:

April 8<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting 7 pm

April 9<sup>th</sup> – OBI Blood Drive

April 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Facebook Live Service 6:30 pm

April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Christ's Cupboard Open

April 30<sup>th</sup> – OBI Blood Drive

**Morris Methodist Church Presents an**  
**EASTER EGG**  
**Scavenger Hunt**

**Thurs., April 9th, Friday,**  
**April 10th or Sat. April 11th**

Begin at the Morris Methodist Church where you will be given a bag of goodies and the directions/instructions for the Easter Egg Hunt. Adults can then drive their kids around to find the Egg decorations. When you find one of the decorations, take a picture with it, post it to Facebook, and tag the church.

*Pick up directions at the Morris Methodist Church on Thurs., Friday, or Sat. (April 9th, 10th or 11th) from 1-2 pm*

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This is a time that we will all remember and will tell to our grandkids or our grandkids will tell to their kids. Words and phrases like pandemic, unprecedented, social distancing, flatten the curve, safer at home and shelter in place are the new catch phrases of our time. Information overload is a real thing. We are susceptible to it. And just like Psalm 121, we ask from where does our help come and we receive the answer:

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;

the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep

your going out and your coming in

from this time on and forevermore.

During this time, it is especially important for us to seek God in answer to our fears. We also need to stay connected with others through phone calls, text messages, emails, cards and notes. We are still called to love our neighbors. Our faith can be strengthened during this time or it can fail. When we seek God in all that we do, then our faith is strengthened. Stay in God's Word, pray often and remember the United Methodist general rules: (1) do no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind (2) Do good; by being in every kind merciful; as have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible, to all people (3) attend to the ordinances of God; such worship, ministry of the Word, either read or expounded, the Supper of the Lord, family and private prayer, searching the Scriptures, fasting or abstinence. This is a great time to get back to the basics.

Easter Day is April 12th and as much as we want to, we will not be able to worship together in person, but I have a challenge for you. Think of what images inspire and remind you of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I think of sunrises. Take pictures of the images you think of and send them to me either in an email, [revtracyhoskins@gmail.com](mailto:revtracyhoskins@gmail.com), or to my cell phone (918)706-5628 or post to Facebook and tag our Facebook page @morrismc. I'd like to use them in our Facebook Live Easter Worship.

I am praying daily for all of you and will be calling, texting, writing a card or note to you soon (if I haven't already.)

Pastor Tracy

To: Pastors and Congregations of the Oklahoma Annual Conference.  
From: Bishop Jimmy Nunn  
Dean of the Cabinet – Rev. Tish Malloy  
Assistant to the Bishop – Rev. Dr. Joe Harris  
Director of Connectional Ministries – Rev. Derrek Belase  
Interim Treasurer – Randy Compton  
Date: March 25, 2020  
Re: Memo 2— Covid-19

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We last wrote to you on March 17 and today, that feels like so long ago. Much has transpired since then, none of which any of us could have imagined then. However, with yesterday's announcement by Governor Stitt regarding "Safer at Home," we want to update some of our previous guidance. There were certain measures outlined in his executive order which are statewide:

- Issues a statewide "Safer at Home" order for adults over the age of 65 and vulnerable individuals with serious underlying medical conditions.
- Limits gatherings to no more than 10 people.
- Prohibits visitations to nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

You can read the entire executive order here -

[https://www.governor.ok.gov/articles/press\\_releases/governor-stitt-announces-latest-covid-19-actions](https://www.governor.ok.gov/articles/press_releases/governor-stitt-announces-latest-covid-19-actions).

In further guidance released this morning, he expanded his list of exempted workers under the category of other community-based government operations and essential functions to include "faith-based services that are provided through streaming or other technology."

**In light of all that, we strongly recommend and expect that all United Methodist Churches close and that staff work from home as much as possible. We do not recommend that any in-person gatherings take place for any reason though we do understand that some may choose to follow CDS safe distancing and under 10 people requirements in order to record worship services and messages of devotion and encouragement.**

This is permissible under the CDC guidelines as well as in keeping with Governor Stitt's exemptions and his "Safer at Home" order. If you are gathering to record or host live worship on Sunday morning, please make sure you have under 10 people in your gathering and that they are practicing the 6' safe distancing guidelines. This will help us flatten the curve.

We have all been heartened to see the various creative, innovative ways you are providing a vital connection between your church and your congregants. You are doing an outstanding job seeing ALL the people! There are numerous webinars online which provide guidance and information on online giving, worship and leading Bible study and other groups during this time of impact by COVID-19.

We also want to provide a summary of what we sent earlier regarding Holy Communion. United Methodist licensed local pastors and ordained elders in the Oklahoma Annual Conference may celebrate the sacrament of holy communion through a recorded or online worship service to which people are invited to gather as a congregation from a distance. It is recommended that an order from the United Methodist Book of Worship or United Methodist Hymnal be used. The Words of Institution and Epiclesis ("Pour out Your Holy Spirit...") are essential to the service.

Cont.



This unusual way of consecrating and receiving this sacrament is being allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic because congregations are being gathered electronically by necessity. The elements of bread and preferably some form of juice need to be used by the congregants wherever they are. Clergy are strongly encouraged to use the Lord's Prayer either before or after the community receives the elements. Congregations that are led by supply pastors should join with a congregation that is led by a licensed or ordained clergyperson in order to partake of the sacrament.

Questions for clarification on any of these matters should be directed to your district office.

Once again, follow CDC guidelines. Be creative and safe. Share ideas and resources. Be concerned about people - not statistics and learn from this emergency. Most especially, love and care for one another as our Lord has told us to do.

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# *Pictures & Scriptures Needed*

**Think of what images inspire and remind you of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I think of sunrises. Take pictures of the images you think of and send them to me either in an email, [revtracyhoskins@gmail.com](mailto:revtracyhoskins@gmail.com), or to my cell phone (918) 706-5628 or post to Facebook and tag our Facebook page @morrisfumc. I'd like to use them in our Facebook Live Easter Worship. If there are any scriptures that speak to you during this time, please include those also.**



*He died so we can live*  
**GOOD FRIDAY  
SERVICE**

Facebook Live  
April 10th at 6:30 pm

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**DONATE  
BLOOD**

**DONATE LIFE**

**OBI Blood Drive  
April 9th & 30th  
Morris United Methodist  
Church**

*Please Give* 

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# Prayer Requests



## Cancer

Darlene Walden, Patsy Zink, Robin Melton, John Reed, Jennifer Grundman, Jo Matthews, Paul Clark, Jennifer Reagan, Ron Veytovich, Karen Mudd, Dale Brannon, Judith Taber, Patsy's friend, Leon Haworth, Linda Clark Wolf, Raegan Wathor, Ethan Gogulski, Pam Robinson, Sharon Dibble, Beverly Dibble, William Smith

## Health

Russell Bailey, Dana Hugle, Grady Chandler, Leota McCurry, April Hercher, Aubry Smith, Jonathan Clay, Erni Headrick, Kathy Davis, Carl King, Mary King, Sammy Bailey, Anthony Deaton, Joyce Maylen, Kirk Patrick, Cleda Todd, Addison, Michelle Stewart, Sue Deaton, Marie Harris, Denny Lee, Watson Langford, Ray Moffeit, Kaitlyn Factor, Rodney King, People with Coronavirus, Frank Buzzard, Chealsie Zink, Cody Barnes, Jenn Rising

## Other

Christ's Cupboard, Backpack Program, Dr. Brad Edmonds, Max Edmonds, Healthcare Workers

## Grieving

Iris Abbott family

March							May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4							
			Mike Osborn			Emily Kell							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
		Rick & Anna Davis' Anniversary	Board Meeting 7 pm	Easter Egg Hunt	Good Friday Service 6:30 pm Easter Egg Hunt	Easter Egg Hunt							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
Easter Sunday		Tracy Sullins				Karla James							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
	Christ's Cupboard Open												
26	27	28	29	30									
	Maggie Barnes												