

MORROW MIRROR

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Morrow First United Methodist Church

Spring 2020

Rev. Dr. Karen Lyons, Pastor



Happy New Year/ New You/ New We!

Let us join together in 2020 in a disciplined reading of Luke and Acts.
Here is an open invitation from Bishop Sue.

“Happy 2020! As we enter into a brand new decade and a brand new year, I invite you to be a good Methodist and join me and our entire Annual Conference in daily, disciplined reading of the Bible. This “method” will help us be spiritually disciplined and more open to what the Holy Spirit has to say to us in 2020. It will also help prepare us for Annual Conference this year, and live into our theme of “One in Ministry to All the World.”

I have selected the gospel of Luke and its exciting sequel, the book of Acts, to study over the next few months. We will read one chapter a week, and each week you will receive a reflection and questions to ponder written by a clergy or layperson from our Annual Conference. Subscribe at ngumc.org to receive an email reminder each week indicating which chapter we’re on and providing the reflection materials.

Why Luke/Acts? Both focus on the power and work of the Holy Spirit. The gospel of Luke describes how the Holy Spirit works through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, and includes some of Jesus’ most compelling teaching and parables. Acts picks up as the power of the resurrected Christ is breathed upon the Church, and describes how the Church without hesitation follows the Holy Spirit wherever it leads. It reminds us how we are to continue God’s story for all of creation by proclaiming the good news to all the world and working to reconcile all people to God.

I have started each of my appointments with two-year studies of Luke and Acts. My appointments have been to churches in crisis, who have forgotten God’s vision and how they are to be at work in the world. In many ways they had become “country clubs” and the people had come to consider the pastor and staff as hired help to tend to their needs. Luke/Acts radically changed their vision, reminding them that they are to be in partnership with clergy to reach outward, spread the good news, and be in ministry to all the world. These studies jump-started the churches into a new way of being. Many went on to do my favorite Disciple Bible study, “Into the Word, Into the World.”

I don’t think you can immerse yourself in Luke/Acts without hearing anew God’s radical call upon your life, and I don’t think our Annual Conference can immerse itself in Luke/Acts without seeing that we need to break away from business as usual, discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us, and follow wherever the Spirit is leading.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will be powerfully at work in our lives as we ponder Scripture together. I also pray that it will make us uncomfortable and transform us so that we are more like Christ.

Fasten your seatbelts! I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is taking us on a new journey.”

Subscribe to receive the weekly reading prompt and reflection by choosing "**Reading the Gospel of Luke**" at www.ngumc.org/subscribe

Luke and Acts in 2020

North Georgia Conference Reading Schedule

January 1	Luke 1	July 1	Acts 3
January 8	Luke 2	July 8	Acts 4
January 15	Luke 3	July 15	Acts 5
January 22	Luke 4	July 22	Acts 6
January 29	Luke 5	July 29	Acts 7
February 5	Luke 6	August 5	Acts 8
February 12	Luke 7	August 12	Acts 9
February 19	Luke 8	August 19	Acts 10
February 26	Luke 9	August 26	Acts 11
March 4	Luke 10	September 2	Acts 12
March 11	Luke 11	September 9	Acts 13
March 18	Luke 12	September 16	Acts 14
March 25	Luke 13	September 23	Acts 15
April 1	Luke 14	September 30	Acts 16
April 8	Luke 15	October 7	Acts 17
April 15	Luke 16	October 14	Acts 18
April 22	Luke 17	October 21	Acts 19
April 29	Luke 18	October 28	Acts 20
May 6	Luke 19	November 4	Acts 21
May 13	Luke 20	November 11	Acts 22
May 20	Luke 21	November 18	Acts 23
May 27	Luke 22	November 25	Acts 24
June 3	Luke 23	December 2	Acts 25
June 10	Luke 24	December 9	Acts 26
June 17	Acts 1	December 16	Acts 27
June 24	Acts 2	December 23	Acts 28

Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Resident Bishop
North Georgia Conference of The United
Methodist Church



Reading prompts and online schedule available at www.ngumc.org/luke-and-acts

Subscribe

There are two ways to receive weekly reading prompts and reflections.

1. Go to www.ngumc.org/subscribe and choose "Reading the Gospel of Luke"
2. Click "update your preferences" at the very bottom of any NGUMC newsletter you subscribe to already (Weekly Update, re:Vision, Prayers, or the email invitation to Read Luke and Acts together).

MFUMC Caregiver Ministry



Bridging challenges for caregivers with prayer, assistance, and love.

The Care for the Caregiver Ministry aims to assist, through prayer and encouragement, those who care for loved ones. If you are, or know of, a church member who is a caregiver of a loved one who has a medical, physical, or mental illness/disability please notify Shannon Gailey, 404-514-9925 or HMS1116@gmail.com.



Cook Wanted

The First Baptist Church of Morrow is looking for cook for their Wednesday night dinners.

Interested persons should contact

Bert: 770-961-9270 x202

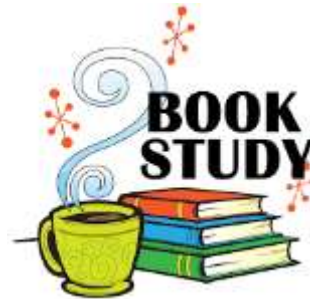


It's time for CPR certification and I am looking for interest. Please let Shannon Gailey know if you are interested in

obtaining/renewing CPR certification.

Shannon Gailey: 404-514-9925 /

HMS1116@gmail.com



LENTEN BOOK STUDY

The Walk by Adam Hamilton

Sessions will be at 10:00 a.m. in the Searchers Class on Wednesdays March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, April 1 and on April 8. The books are here and are \$14.00. Books can be purchased from Pam Boyd or Doug Jewett. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Board.

Summer Book Study

Jesus: the God Who Knows Your Name

by Max Lucado

This will be a six-week study held on June 17, June 24, July 1, July 8, July 15 and on July 22.

There are two books for this study; a book and a study guide. Total cost is \$20.00.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Searchers Class.

See Pam Boyd or Doug Jewett to purchase your books.

February 2020

Weekly Activities

Sunday		Tuesday	
Bell Practice, Sanctuary	9:00 a.m.	Cub Pack, Cub Pack Room	7:00 p.m.
Nurturing Classes for all ages	9:45 a.m.	Wednesday	
Worship Service, Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.	Wednesday Night Supper, FH	6:00 p.m.
Monday		WWNS Program, FH	6:30 p.m.
Comfort & Joy, C&J Classroom	10:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts, Scout Hut	7:00 p.m.	Thursday	
Girl Scouts, 1 st & 3 rd Mondays, Upstairs	5:30 p.m.	Food Pantry, Thursdays	10:00 a.m. - Noon

2/1 Alpha Iota Chapter Meeting, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
 Celebration of Life Service for Tom Cromer 3:30 p.m., Sanctuary

2/2 Communion Sunday
 UMW Executive Committee Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

2/3 Electa Share delivers dinner to Good Shepherd Clinic, 5:30 p.m.

2/4 Ramblers Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., IHOP Morrow

2/6 Cub Pack Leaders Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Pack Room

2/8 UMW District Mission U at Fayetteville UMC

2/9 Scout Sunday
 Confirmation Class, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
 Youth: Lunch & Devo, after service, home of Mike & Becky Griffin

2/11 Fellowship Hall Reserved All Day for WWNS Setup

2/13 United Methodist Women Thursday Friendship Share, Noon, Searchers Classroom
 Girl Scouts of America 3's A Charm Service Unit, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room

2/14 *Valentine's Day*

2/17 *Presidents' Day* - Office Closed
 United Methodist Women Electa Share, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

2/18 Unload Midwest Food Bank truck into Pantry, approximately 7:30 p.m., Call Diana Aull for details

2/20 Boy Scouts of America Troop 112 Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Scout Hut

2/23 Confirmation Class, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
 Youth: Lunch & Devo, after service, home of Deborah Mitchell
 Alpha Xi Delta serving dinner at Calvary Refuge Center, 5:30 p.m.

2/24 Governance Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

2/26 *Ash Wednesday* Service, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

February 2020

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



Joe & Susie Henley	2/21
Jack & Faye Kirksey	2/14

Karis Brandenberger 2/4
 Pamela Mathews 2/4
 Luke Davis 2/5
 Reggie Pye 2/9
 Fran Valenzuela 2/12
 Susan Hall 2/13



Cora Johnson 2/15
 John Gailey 2/18
 Shawn Smith 2/20
 Sue Clark 2/22
 Madison St. Germain 2/24
 Angie McElhannon 2/24

Sunday Servants

Sunday Date	2/2/2020	2/9/2020	2/16/2020	2/23/2020
Color	White	Green	Green	White
Altar Guild	Laura Wiley			
Liturgist	Doug Jewett	Anna Cox	Pam Boyd	Mary Anne Brannon
Acolyte	Abby Bales	Anna Seelhammer	Noah Johnson	Jacqui Johnson
Acolyte Assistant	Kathy Gailey	Beth Matthews	Janice Bales	Molly Knowles
Children's Sermon	Molly Knowles	Julia Gawel	Liz Haynie	Susan Adams
Children's Church	Tracy Larson & Anna Cox	Fran Valenzuela & Anna Cox	Shannon Gailey & Kathy Gailey	Nursery (Volunteers Needed)
Sound	Joe Wiley	Angela Seelhammer	Eric Knowles	Chuck Matthews
Greeters Narthex	Mary Bellinger	Shirley Watterson	Janice Bales	Karen Kelly
Greeters Hall	Bertha Stegall	Virginia Hall	Nelda Dunson	Elaine & Reggie Pye
Ushers	Joe Wiley, Boyd Rodgers, Andrew Cox	Larry Haynie, Doug Jewett, Reggie Pye, Joe Wiley	Andrew Cox, Eddie Byrd, Chuck Matthews	Mike Griffin, Brian Adams, Bob Brannon, Jimmy Bales
Trustee Rep	Jimmy Bales			

March 2020

Weekly Activities

Sunday		Tuesday	
Bell Practice, Sanctuary	9:00 a.m.	Cub Pack, Cub Pack Room	7:00 p.m.
Nurturing Classes for all ages	9:45 a.m.	Wednesday	
Worship Service, Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.	Wednesday Night Supper, FH	6:00 p.m.
Monday		WWNS Program, FH	6:30 p.m.
Comfort & Joy, C&J Classroom	10:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts, Scout Hut	7:00 p.m.	Thursday	
Girl Scouts, 1 st & 3 rd Mondays, Upstairs	5:30 p.m.	Food Pantry, Thursdays	10:00 a.m. - Noon

3/1	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i> Communion Sunday
3/2	Thursday Friendship Share delivers dinner to Good Shepherd Clinic, 5:30 p.m.
3/3	Ramblers Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., IHOP Morrow Ramblers Meeting, about 9:30 a.m., Searchers Classroom
3/4-4/8	Lenten Book Study
3/6-3/8	Confirmation Retreat to Camp Glisson
3/8	<i>Daylight Saving Time Starts</i> Youth: Lunch & Devo, after service, home of Brian and Susan Adams
3/12	United Methodist Women Thursday Friendship Share, Noon, Searchers Classroom Girl Scouts of America 3's A Charm Service Unit, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room Cub Pack 912 Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
3/15	Women's Day (Women Lead Worship) UMW General & Executive Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
3/16	United Methodist Women Electa Share, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
3/19	Boy Scouts of America Troop 112 Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Scout Hut
3/22	Confirmation Led Worship Service Youth: Lunch & Devo, after service, home of Mark and Fran Valenzuela <i>Need a group to serve dinner at Calvary Refuge Center, 5:30 p.m. Contact Doug Jewett if your family or group is interested.</i>
3/23	Governance Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room
3/24	Unload Midwest Food Bank truck into Pantry, approximately 7:30 p.m., Call Diana Aull for details
3/29	Town Hall with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, 3:30 p.m., Fayetteville First UMC

March 2020							
Nº	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
13	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
14	29	30	31				



Chuck & Beth Matthews 3/1

Jim & Teresa George 3/20

Connor Smith 3/1
 Bennett Valenzuela 3/2
 Susan Adams 3/9
 Teri Rodgers 3/9
 Glenna Ann Bowmaster 3/9
 Savanna McElhannon 3/13
 Jonah Valenzuela 3/14
 Maggie Durrance 3/17



Flora Henlon 3/18
 Tracy Larson 3/20
 Molly Knowles 3/22
 Karen Kelly 3/25
 Mike Griffin 3/26
 Brad Boyd 3/28
 Gail Hartley 3/31

Sunday Servants

Sunday Date	3/1/2020	3/8/2020	3/15/2020	3/22/2020	3/29/2020
Color	White	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple
Altar Guild	Mary Anne Brannon				
Liturgist	Anna Cox	Chuck Matthews	Chuck Matthews	Erica Sturgies	Pam Boyd
Acolyte	Noah Seelhammer	Sara Adams	Abby Bales	Anna Seelhammer	Noah Johnson
Acolyte Assistant	Kathy Gailey	Beth Matthews	Janice Bales	Molly Knowles	Kathy Gailey
Children's Sermon	Laura Wiley	Shannon Gailey	Anna Cox	Molly Knowles	Julia Gawel
Children's Church	Tracy Larson & Anna Cox	Fran Valenzuela & Anna Cox	Shannon Gailey & Kathy Gailey	Nursery (Volunteers Needed)	Molly Knowles & Susan Adams
Sound	Joe Wiley	Angela Seelhammer	Eric Knowles	Chuck Matthews	Joe Wiley
Greeters Narthex	Kathy Gailey	Boyd Rodgers	Eddie & Brenda Byrd	Judy Jaeger	Diane Cox
Greeters Hall	Sara Doughty	Teri Rodgers	Jennifer Sullivan	Maggie Durrance	Diana Aull
Ushers	Andrew Cox, Eddie Byrd, Chuck Matthews	Joe Wiley, Boyd Rodgers, Andrew Cox	Larry Haynie, Doug Jewett, Reggie Pye, Joe Wiley	Andrew Cox, Eddie Byrd, Chuck Matthews	Mike Griffin, Brian Adams, Bob Brannon, Jimmy Bales
Trustee Rep	Teri Rodgers				

Church Family,

It has been several years since we have had a formal stewardship campaign. We plan to have one sometime this year. In the meantime, I'd like to present some information for your thoughtful consideration. As you have probably noted in weekly bulletin updates, we struggle from month to month to meet our financial obligations as a church.

Our Financial Secretary, Becky Griffin has prepared the following chart (Chart 1) showing the giving trends of those who contribute regularly to the church:

Chart 1	
Number People or Family Unit	Average per month
6	\$1-\$10
8	\$11-20
5	\$21-\$30
3	\$31-\$40
6	\$41-\$50
2	\$51-\$60
3	\$61-\$70
2	\$71-\$90
4	\$91-\$120
5	\$121-\$140
1	\$141-\$150
2	\$151-\$170
2	\$171-\$190
2	\$191-\$200
5	\$201-\$220
4	\$221-\$250
4	\$251-\$320
5	\$330-\$400
4	\$401-\$500
3	\$501-\$600
2	\$601-\$650
3	\$850-\$1000
3	\$1200-\$1600
1	\$1601-\$3000
85 Giving Units	

With this in mind, I'd like to also present Chart 2 (on the next page) showing steps toward reaching the Biblical ideal of contributing the first 10% of income to the ministries of the church (tithing).

I ask that you prayerfully consider your giving in the coming year and think about taking a step towards tithing. I am still working on it myself.

Also, consider inviting others to church; friends, neighbors or co-workers. While the goal is to get the un-churched to come to Christ, it will also increase the number of contributors.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put in your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38

Your brother in Christ,

Doug Jewett

Finance Chair

Chart 2

INCOME AND CHURCH SUPPORT

The table printed below is intended to aid you in estimating your weekly gifts to the church, based on the incomes listed in the first column. Tithing (10%) has been the traditional standard of giving in the church.

Weekly Income	Weekly Tith (10%)	5%	7%	9%	11%	13%	15%	20%
50	5.00	2.50	3.50	4.50	5.50	6.50	7.50	10.00
100	10.00	5.00	7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	20.00
200	20.00	10.00	14.00	18.00	22.00	26.00	30.00	40.00
300	30.00	15.00	21.00	27.00	33.00	39.00	45.00	60.00
400	40.00	20.00	28.00	36.00	44.00	52.00	60.00	80.00
500	50.00	25.00	35.00	45.00	55.00	65.00	75.00	100.00
750	75.00	37.50	52.50	67.50	82.50	97.50	112.50	150.00
1000	100.00	50.00	70.00	90.00	110.00	130.00	150.00	200.00
1500	150.00	75.00	105.00	135.00	165.00	195.00	225.00	300.00
2000	200.00	100.00	140.00	180.00	220.00	260.00	300.00	400.00
3000	300.00	150.00	210.00	270.00	330.00	390.00	450.00	600.00
5000	500.00	250.00	350.00	450.00	550.00	650.00	750.00	1000.00

MFUMC Monthly Income*/ Expense Breakdown 2019

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Income	\$ 15,607.00	\$ 18,629.29	\$ 33,196.00	\$ 18,017.50	\$ 18,794.00	\$ 25,791.00
Expenses	\$ (19,987.02)	\$ (23,444.04)	\$ (26,563.16)	\$ (22,135.83)	\$ (23,091.99)	\$ (22,243.22)
Difference	\$ (4,380.02)	\$ (4,814.75)	\$ 6,632.84	\$ (4,118.33)	\$ (4,297.99)	\$ 3,547.78
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Income	\$ 18,184.83	\$ 18,562.14	\$ 26,778.00	\$ 22,157.66	\$ 24,395.51	\$ 29,996.32
Expenses	\$ (22,291.99)	\$ (21,101.22)	\$ (21,414.50)	\$ (25,321.45)	\$ (22,733.38)	\$ (25,619.00)
Difference	\$ (4,107.16)	\$ (2,539.08)	\$ 5,363.50	\$ (3,163.79)	\$ 1,662.13	\$ 4,377.32

* The income shown in this table is donations given for the general fund (operating budget).



Time/Place:	6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Cost:	Adults 12 & up: \$6.00 take home plates \$6.00 Children 11 & under: Free or \$2.00 donations
Reservation Deadline:	Noon on Monday of each week
To Make Reservations:	Fill out reservation form in the sanctuary pew pocket Or e-mail church office: office@mfumc.com
Please note:	Quantity of food for WWNS is purchased based on the number of reservations. Those not cancelling reservations in advance are expected to pay.

Date	Menu	Program
2/5/2020	Ham & Cheese Sliders, Chips, Salad, Dessert Lemonade, Tea, and Coffee	Scouting Program by Teri Rodgers
2/12/2020	Ham, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert Lemonade, Tea, and Coffee	Valentine Party Games with Cindy Anderson
2/19/2020	Winter Break	Winter Break
2/26/2020	Vegetable Soup, Corn Bread, Salad, Dessert Lemonade, Tea, and Coffee	Ash Wednesday Service (Fellowship Hall)
3/4/2020	Swedish Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Dessert Lemonade, Tea, and Coffee	To Be Announced
3/11/2020	Chili Cook Off Provided: Crackers, Salad, Dessert Lemonade, Tea, and Coffee	To Be Announced
3/18/2020	Baked Potato Bar, Salad, Dessert Lemonade, Tea, and Coffee	To Be Announced
3/25/2020	Pizza, Salad, Dessert Lemonade, Tea, and Coffee	To Be Announced

Message from the North Georgia Conference Cabinet on the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation

A diverse group of 16 United Methodist leaders from around the world has collaborated on a proposed path forward for The United Methodist Church that has the unanimous support of all the parties involved. The agreement is the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation.

On Monday, the North Georgia Cabinet and Bishop Sue watched a live stream of a panel interview with the participants in the mediation process who developed the Protocol. Afterward we discussed the importance of this document, what the Protocol means to us here in North Georgia, and the widespread misinformation we have encountered. We offer you the following clarifying points from our discussion.

- The participants in the mediation represent centrist, progressive, and traditionalist perspectives, and come from the United States, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. These leaders came to unanimous agreement on the Protocol.
- This Protocol offers a path for The United Methodist Church to continue to be a denomination for those with traditional, centrist, and progressive perspectives. The post-separation United Methodist Church will continue to have room for divergent perspectives and value diversity as an essential component of our faith.
- The Protocol also offers a path to separate for those whose convictions do not allow them to continue to be United Methodist.
- The mediation participants are now developing legislation that mirrors the Protocol. This legislation will be considered in May by the 2020 General Conference. It is expected that this legislation will be considered ahead of all other legislation.
- What we hold in common, above all else, is our call to reach those who do not yet know Christ's love.

There are several places we encourage you to turn for information and insight on this Protocol that can help as you articulate this work to your congregation and discuss with your colleagues.

- The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation <https://tinyurl.com/sjrl3sg>
- Video of the Panel Interview of the Participants in the Mediation Process <https://youtu.be/q2wZQyAjU6M>
- Press Release <https://tinyurl.com/vvemu2c>
- Frequently Asked Questions about the United Methodist Mediation Team <https://tinyurl.com/rje6gaz>
- Podcast: At The Table With Bishop Sue - Episode 3 <https://www.ngumc.org/podcast>

Town Hall Meetings with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson on the future of The United Methodist Church in North Georgia and Beyond

Clergy and laity are invited to attend a town hall meeting with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson on the future of The United Methodist Church here in North Georgia and Beyond.

Schedule

March 1 AROS/AMAR Hillside UMC 3:00pm

March 8 ACPK/AMRY Peachtree Road UMC 2:00pm

March 22 ATHN/ADOX/AGST Madison First UMC 3:00pm

March 29 GRFN/LAGR Fayetteville First UMC 3:30pm

April 19 NW/ROCA Trinity at the Well UMC 3:30pm

April 26 GNSV Gainesville First UMC 3:00pm



Betty Whittaker

Crystal Motes as she travels to Bangalore, India for work for 3 weeks, requested by her goddaughter, Joanna Sturgies

Destiny Love, undergoing chemotherapy and radiation for cervical cancer, requested by her grandmother, Jean Peacock

Doris Cromer and Family after the recent passing of Tom

The Family of Doris Melear after her recent passing

Rev. Dr. Ed Judy and Family after the recent passing of his mother, Betty J. Judy

Emily Trawick was diagnosed with brain tumors and recently underwent surgery for stomach cancer. She is the stepdaughter of Diane Ide Harris, former member of our church, requested by Diane Cox

Janet Thomaston, requested by her sister, Anita Thomaston

Jerry Griffin chemo treatments, requested by his family

The family of Jim Dorminy after his passing

John Maddox diagnosed with lung cancer, requested by his sister, Jackie Davis

Judy Stanford has Alzheimer's Disease, requested by her friend, Dana Chapman

Karen Sargent and family after the passing of Charles on 1/31

Maggie Durrance requested by Judy Jaeger

Paul Johnson undergoing radiation treatments for throat cancer, requested by his daughter, Cora

Paula Chastain diagnosed with breast cancer, requested by her brother and sister-in-law, Keith and Kathy Munson

Savanna French, continued prayers, requested by her great-aunt, Connie Cabe

Shirley Barnett is on hospice care, reported by Brenda Byrd

Sonny and Becky Strickland after the tragic loss of his sister

Tim Lively, a Clayton County Police Officer, has finished chemo treatments for a brain tumor, reported by Doug Jewett

WHO ARE YOU SENDING CARDS TO?

If you are sending cards to our homebound & shut-in members or to those on the prayer list, please notify the church office (office@mfumc.com). We want to know who is receiving these so we know who is not.

If you would like to request for Pastor Karen to visit a friend, family member, or church member, please email the church office or her at revkarenlyons@gmail.com with their and your contact information.



Our Love, Prayers and Christian Sympathy to

The Family of Doris Melear, a member since March 1996 who passed away at the age of 93 on her birthday, January 18, 2020. She was the widow of The Rev. J. Ray Melear, pastor from 1957-1962, and Pastor Emeritus from 1996 until his death in 2002.

As the pastor's wife from 1957-1962, Doris was an active member who served in various capacities. She was a member of the women's group known then as the *Women's Society of Christian Service* (now United Methodist Women--UMW), and served as a delegate to the School of Missions; as an instructor for Mission and Bible studies; as an officer in the Wesleyan Service Guild; and as a participant in many other areas of mission and ministry within the church and community. When Doris returned to MFUMC in 1996, she once again became active in the UMW.

Doris is survived by her children: John Wilson Melear and wife Janelle of San Diego, CA; David Raymond Melear of Jonesboro; Joseph Richard Melear of Chamblee; Evelyn Callahan and husband Dennis of Monroe; her brother: Alfred McKinney of Covington; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services for Doris Melear were held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at the Chapel of Ford-Stewart Funeral Home in Jonesboro with The Rev. Jack Nelson officiating.

Interment followed at Holly Hill Memorial Park.

The family requests donations in memory of Doris Melear be given to Morrow First United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 143, Morrow, GA 30260.



Our Service Members

Stationed on Okinawa Island

Kameron Burrell (great nephew of Linda McElhannon)

Stationed Overseas

Major David Wayne Baker (grandson of Susie Henley)

Stationed Stateside

Matt Allen (husband of Darcy Bloom Allen)

Jayson Dooley (son of Nannette Dooley)

Steven Green

HN Damian Hammond (nephew of Keith & Kathy Munson)

David Key (son-in-law of Bil & Melanie Johnson)

Stationed in South Korea

Capt. Kyle L. J. Phillips (grandson of Larry Phillips)

Stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC

Alex McKenzie-Castillo (son of Ardell McKenzie-Sasso)

Jacob Beard (friend of Brooksie Foster)

Stationed at Misawa Airbase, Japan

Kevin McElhannon, Jr.

(grandson of Bill & Linda McElhannon)

Stationed in Kandahar Afghanistan

Max Anderson (cousin of Layla Leo)



Please send updated Service Member location information to
the Church Office: office@mfumc.com.

Nursing Home/ Independent Living/ Rehab Patients/ Homebound Members

Bright View North Andover: Ethel Jewett, 1275 Turnpike St, #1211, North Andover, MA 01845-6147

Summer's Landing Bayberry Trace: Shirley Barnett, 315 Arrowhead Blvd, Rm 122, Jonesboro, GA 30236-1103

Benton Village of Stockbridge: Laura Cofield, 201 Evergreen Terrance, Stockbridge, GA 30281-7375

Ellen Betsill, 501 Blossom Tr., McDonough, GA 30253-2179

Mary Brazeal, 3920 Brookline Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30022-6435

James Gloor, 5879 Clate Court, Ellenwood, GA 30294-4069

Bill & Linda McElhannon, 3793 Charlotte Drive, Rex, GA, 30273-1208

Janet Thomaston, 7871 Thrailkill Road, Jonesboro, GA 30236-3367



Christian Sympathy for Thomas E. (Tom) Cromer

Our Love, Prayers and Christian Sympathy to the family of Thomas E. (Tom) Cromer who passed away on January 25, 2020.

Tom and his wife Doris became members of Morrow First UMC in November 1965 and active together in the Searchers Sunday School Class; the children's and youth ministries with their daughters, Jan and Lisa; and in The Morrow Ramblers Older Adult Ministries.

Tom served for many years on the Finance Committee as Financial Secretary and on the Audit Committee and Administrative Board. He also served as an usher and a driver for the church van. Additionally, Tom enjoyed baking and his Caramel Cake became a highly sought-after delicious highlight at the church's annual barbecue!

Tom is survived by his wife, Doris; his daughter Jan Stewart and husband Bruce; his daughter Lisa Loggins and husband Joey; *grandchildren* Courtney Stewart, Jordan Stewart and his wife Shauna, Tiffany Cox and her husband Dustin, Joseph Loggins and his wife Dana, Matt Loggins and his wife Brittney; *great-grandchildren*: Sarah Loggins, Colton Cox, Payton Cox, Dylan Loggins, Jackson Loggins, Levi Loggins, Kemper Loggins, and Ace Loggins; *brother*: Jerry Cromer and his wife Debbie; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials can be made to the Morrow First United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 143, Morrow, GA 30260 in memory of Thomas E. Cromer.



Local Methodists Seek Path Forward as Split Looms

By Shelia M. Poole, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published January 22, 2020

The Rev. Leon Edward Matthews wants to keep his focus on the Lord and not lawsuits as the United Methodist Church barrels toward a likely split over same-sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy.

That's why Matthews, senior pastor of Atlanta's Warren Memorial United Methodist Church, supports a proposed agreement that would allow for churches to retain their property and set aside money for those who want to leave.

In addition to where individual churches and their members land, the business of the church must also be resolved. If the latest proposal is approved in May, it lays the groundwork for what happens to things like property, its outside ministries and a pastor's pension.

There are many issues before the church, but the issue of performing same-sex marriages and ordination of LGBTQ clergy in active relationships has been brewing for decades.

Under the proposal, a new "traditionalist Methodist" denomination could be formed.

It would be a mistake not to view the looming separation from both theological and business angles, said Daniel Dalton, a Detroit attorney who has handled property disputes among other denominations in the past.

He said he has been contacted by many UMC churches, including several dozen in Georgia.

"Most are waiting to see what happens at the May 2020 General Conference (where a vote on the proposal will be held) before they take any action," he said. "All wish to leave the denomination."

The big question is, "If you leave, do you have the ability to leave without any strings attached?" Dalton asked. "Will you control your own assets and your own destiny? These hard conversations need to be held within the church body.

It can end up in court — and it does."

The trust clause in the UMC's Book of Discipline states that the local church owns the property in trust for the entire denomination.

According to the UMC News, there are detailed procedures a church must follow, including approval by a district superintendent for the sale, lease, mortgage or extensive renovations of church property.

"We've been trying to coexist and it's not been fruitful," said Matthews, who describes his views as center-right.

"Now, we have to find a way to coexist separately and still be a United Methodist Church and still have the basics of Methodism."

This way, said Matthews, issues can be settled within the denomination and not by a judge's gavel.

"Good, we finally got everybody in the room," he said of the joint effort to come up with a suitable proposal that had input from a 16-member group that included diverse voices and bishops.

Signers included representatives from the United States, Africa, Europe and the Philippines and included the conservative Wesleyan Covenant Association, UMCNext, Mainstream UMC, Reconciling Ministries Network and the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus.

A spokeswoman for the denomination said there are 45,126 churches globally, of which 32,257 are in the United States.

The "Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation" is expected to come before the General Conference

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Local Methodists Seek Path Forward as Split Looms *continued from previous page*

for a vote during the meeting in Minneapolis in May.

The General Conference is the UMC's foremost legislative body.

The proposal, hammered out over several months in borrowed space in a Washington, D.C., law office, lays out a blueprint for the formation of a new traditionalist Methodist denomination, according to a release about the plan.

Here's what it includes:

- The new church would receive \$25 million over the next four years and give up further claim to the UMC's assets.
- An additional \$2 million would be allocated for potential additional new Methodist denominations that may emerge from the UMC.
- Acknowledging the historical role of the Methodist movement in systematic racial violence, exploitation and discrimination, the protocol would allocate \$39 million to ensure there is no disruption in supporting ministries for communities historically marginalized by racism.
- Conferences and local congregations could vote to separate from the UMC to affiliate with new Methodist denominations created under the agreement within a certain period. Churches wishing to stay within the UMC would not be required to conduct a vote. Provisions exist for entities that choose to separate to retain their assets and liabilities.
- All current clergy and lay employees would keep their pensions regardless of the Methodist denomination with which they affiliate.

Sue Hauptert-Johnson, resident bishop of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church, said, "Clearly there are some United Methodists who cannot remain in a denomination in which any pastor marries a same-sex couple, or in which any annual conference ordains an openly gay or lesbian person. There are also some United Methodists who cannot remain in the denomination unless every pastor is willing to marry a same-sex couple, or unless every annual conference ordains an openly gay or lesbian pastor. The protocol creates a way for these groups to separate from the United Methodist Church."

Kenneth Feinberg, a prominent lawyer who oversaw the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, served pro bono as the mediator for the discussions that led to the protocol.

The main impetus for the process, which was held over six all-day sessions, "was the stark reality of 'What is the alternative?' Everyone thought the alternative was unacceptable — protracted uncertain litigation, which is very costly and emotional," Feinberg said.

It also likely meant a disruption of the church, so mediation became the best path forward.

It was critical to have the right people in the room that represented divergent views.

The timing for acceptance may be right.

The Rev. Keith Boyette, president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, said he is well aware of how the conflict has escalated and been harmful to the denomination.

He thinks this proposal has a greater likelihood of success than previous ones. "I'm fairly optimistic," he said. "Every term of the agreement was negotiated and was subject to compromise. No one got exactly what they wanted."

WHY IT MATTERS

United Methodists represent one of the largest denominations, with more than 13 million members worldwide, including nearly 7 million in the U.S. and more than 467,000 United Methodists in Georgia.

AUDITIONS



The Front Porch Players

WALKING ACROSS EGYPT

Comedy/Drama

by Catherine Bush

Upon discovering a stray dog on her back porch, Mattie decides she is too old to keep a pet and calls the dogcatcher. Little does she know that the dogcatcher, Lamar, will open her eyes to a whole world she never knew existed, a world that includes car theft, prison breaks and a juvenile delinquent named Wesley who is as desperate for a family as she is. Armed with only her mouthwatering corn bread and a deep abiding faith in the Almighty, Mattie is determined to woo Wesley to the side of God and good Southern manners.

SETTING: the small town of Listre, North Carolina, 1984.

SET: Mattie's kitchen and living room and a common area that represents the church, the Swanson's house and the prison yard.

AUDITIONS DATES: **Sat, March 7th at 10:00 am and Sun, March 8th at 5:30 pm ~ Cold reads. ~** Calls backs Mon, March 9th @ 7:00 pm if needed. First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro, GA.

CHARACTERS:

MATTIE RIGSBEE: A spunky hardheaded elderly Southern Baptist lady who cooks cornbread.

ROBERT RIGSBEE: Mattie's middle-aged son who is still single and hardheaded.

ALORA SWANSON: Mattie's nosy soap-opera-loving neighbor.

FINNER SWANSON: Alora's gun-toting crazy husband.

LAMAR BENFIELD: The town's dogcatcher and a good guy.

WESLEY BENFIELD: Lamar's teenage nephew and a car thief.

REVEREND BASS: The minister at the local Baptist Church who preaches the Gospel with fervor.

SHERIFF TILLMAN: The town sheriff and peace maker.

GOSPEL CHOR: Appears with Reverend Bass and sings old Baptist hymns in harmony parts. ** (The choir will only come during the final weeks of rehearsals.)

PIANIST: Plays for the choir, may also sing along.

PRODUCTION DATES: **May 15,16,17 and 22,23,24. TECH WEEK: May 10,11,12,13 & 14.**
(Yes I know May 10th is Mother's Day. We will start later.)

Rehearsals to be determined by director and consensus of the cast.

DIRECTOR: Kathryn Wood may be contacted @ momcatkc@gmail.com or text 404-421-7743.

The Front Porch Players Proudly Present
The Bridges of Madison County – The Musical



MARCH 2020

Fridays, March 6 & 13 – 7:30 pm | Saturdays, March 7 & 14 – 7:30 pm
Sundays, March 8 & 15 – 2:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro Family Life Center
1842 Lake Jodeco Road, Jonesboro, GA 30236

Tickets Available Now!

Ticket Information for *The Bridges of Madison County – The Musical*
www.thefrontporchplayers.com|770.897.1404

The Bridges of Madison County - The Musical, tells the tale of Francesca, a dedicated, Iowan housewife and mother whose simple life changes when her husband, son and daughter go on a three day trip to the State Fair in Indianapolis, and she encounters a photographer for *National Geographic Magazine* who is asking for directions to the covered bridges of Madison County. This musical is based on the book by Marsha Norman with music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown that ranges from operatic strains to American folk.

The Bridges of Madison County - The Musical, is a Tony Award winner for Best Original Score and Best Orchestration.

Members of our church family in the cast of *The Bridges of Madison County – The Musical*, are Keith Larson as Richard “Bud” Johnson; Julia Gawel as Carolyn Johnson; and Jimmy Larson, Tracy Larson, and Chuck Matthews who are part of the Ensemble.

Members of our church family who serve on The Front Porch Players Board of Directors and Committees are Mary Anne Brannon, Vice President; Jean Peacock, At Large Board Member and Advertising/Public Relations Chair; and Chuck Matthews, Lighting & Sound Assistant.

Jean Peacock, Advertising/Public Relations - The Front Porch Players
jeanpathome@gmail.com

**MORROW FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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404-314-5894

**MISSION STATEMENT OF
MORROW FIRST UMC**

Morrow First United Methodist Church is a community of faith with a passion for Jesus Christ and all people.

This passion is demonstrated through active worship, teaching and study. It is enacted by:

- **Striving to win souls to Christ**
- **Providing help to those in need**
- **Promoting Christian fellowship**

All activities of Morrow First United Methodist Church are dedicated to the glory of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Calvary Refuge Center Serving Schedule 2020

For many years our church has committed to provide a meal on the fourth Sunday of each month for the homeless residents at Calvary Refuge Center.

We need volunteers to provide food, take and serve the residents. You do not cleanup. Once dinner is served, you are free to leave.

Please contact Doug Jewett (dsj3783@aol.com) if you or your group/family is interested in helping with the needy in our community.