

Presentation of God’s tithes and our offerings

Offertory

† Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sharing prayer concerns, announcements

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving
Sharing the bread and the cup
Prayer following Communion

UMH No. 9

SENDING FORTH

† Hymn of Response

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

UMH No. 152

† Benediction

† Postlude

†*The congregation is invited to stand, as you are able.*

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a Sceptre from Israel rise up,
And dash in pieces Princes and Nations.
How brightly beams the morning star!
With sudden radiance from afar;
With light and comfort glowing!
Thy Word, Jesus, only feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, oh praise such love overflowing!
-- by *Felix Mendelssohn*



MORRIS CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8533 Cox Mill Road, Sanford, North Carolina 27332
Office – (919) 499-4949

Pastor cell (919) 802-8286 | kseymour@nccumc.org

Worship Service, 9:30 AM
Fellowship and Sunday School, 10:45

The Rev. Connie Mitchell Shelton
Raleigh Area Bishop

The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour
Pastor

A Service of Word and Table

Epiphany Sunday
January 4, 2026

Today we celebrate Epiphany, which falls on January 6 and is the climax of the Christmas season and the twelve days of Christmas. The term epiphany is Greek and means “to manifest” or “to show.” The Epiphany season is associated with the first manifestations of Jesus—to the wise men, in his presentation in the temple, in his baptism, to his disciples, and in his first miracle. Today’s lesson from Isaiah speaks of the light that will arise upon all people. In Matthew, the wise men also follow a light—a star that guides them to the Christ child, revealing to the world that this child is Lord and King, worthy of worship and praise.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ring the Church Bell

Greeting

Prelude	<i>“We Three Kings”</i>	Lesley Orlovsky
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Choral Praise *“Star Child”* **Barbara Lewis and Jerry Keith**

✠ Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel.

Praise to the one who made the light of Christ!

Give thanks for the wise ones who found their way to Jesus.

Glory to the newborn king.

Let the people follow the everlasting light!

And bow before the presence of his rising.

Blessed be the name of the Lord forever and ever.

**Praise to the Father, and to the anointed Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen!**

† Opening Prayer

Eternal God, forever active in human history, we give thanks for your visitation in our midst. For the old, old story we have relived in this Christmas season, we sing our gratitude. Continue with us, God of our salvation, that we may receive wisdom and grow in love toward all your saints. May your Word-made-flesh herald a renewal among us. To that end, bless this time of worship, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

† Hymn of Praise “Come, Thou Almighty King” UMH No. 61

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 60:1-6 (Pew Bible p. 690, OT)	Calleigh Baker
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Anthem *"It Was a Starry Night"* **Barbara Lewis and Jerry Keith**

Children's Lesson

Stacey Burris

† Gospel Lesson **Matthew 2:1-12**
(Pew Bible p. 2, NT)

Sermon *“The Beckonings of God”* **Kevin Seymour**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† Prayer of Confession

O God, our guide to all goodness, you once used a star to lead people to Christ. We confess our poor sense of direction. We are easily distracted, we get confused, and we lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ that we may follow him to you. Amen.

† Words of Assurance and Pardon

Knowing that all are equal here, and knowing that Jesus paid the price for the whole world, hear the good news:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

✦ The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Glory to God, Amen.

† Hymn of Response *“The Summons”* TFWs No. 2130

WELCOME TO MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
~ This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! ~

This week at Morris Chapel

Sunday – Worship service @ 930 AM; Fellowship & Sunday School, 10:45.
Monday – Methodist Men, 6:30 PM;
Tuesday – Pastor's Bible Study, 10 AM;
Wednesday – Children & Youth Night, 5-7 PM, Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 PM.

For the good of the church

New Sunday School Class – Beginning on January 11 and led by Lou Millar, this class will be using the Cokesbury Adult Bible series. The meeting place is directly across from the Media class at the end of the hall.
If you're interested, please call Lou Millar at 919-353-5582.

Update your contact information. If your phone/email/mailling address has changed, you may use one of the yellow prayer cards in your pew pocket and leave it in the offering plate. Sandra Carter serves as Membership Secretary, so you may also see her regarding changes in your contact information.

Church calendar online: www.morrischapelumc.org/events

Events and activities are kept current. Visit Morris Chapel's website or scan the QR code:



Upcoming

Fellowship Dinner – Jan. 17 @ 5 PM. Meatloaf, Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Desserts and Beverages.
RSVP with the enclosed form.

Valentine's Dinner – Feb. 14 @ 5:30 PM. Save the Date! Details coming soon.

Jan. 5. Methodist Men, 6:30 PM.

Jan. 7. Children and Youth night, 6-7 PM; Choir rehearsal, 6:30.

Jan. 11 – 17. Family Promise Partner Week. See Karen Rosser.

Jan. 12. PPRC, 6:30 PM. Finance, 7 PM.

Jan. 17. Fellowship Dinner, 5 PM. Meatloaf, Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Desserts and Beverages.

Jan. 19. Church Council, 7 PM.

Keep these in your prayers

New this week: Larry Maddox, Linda Gallucci.

Families of Sherry Elliott, Billy Thomas.

Morgan Baker	Casey Hall	Dano Linehan	Donna Sloan
Peggy Baker	Katie Garcia Hinson	Maude Maloney	Jackson Snipes
Ernestine Black	Baby Samson Hinson	Landon Massa	Phil Spivey
Sue Buie	Casey Goldberg	Nancy McDuffie	Caroyln Sykes
Jeff Cummings	Crystal Hall	Linda McNeill	Shelby Truelove
Mandy Dalrymple	Elva Hall	Rhonda McNeill	Brantley& Cindy Turner
Peggy Danielsen	Dennis Hartman	Robert Mudd	Dave Whitney
Warren Edwards	Lewis Hartman	Kathy Pembroke	Katie & Walter Woods
Bill Farwick	Bryant Hickman	Susie Pierce	Bob Woolston
	Edith Howard	Chuck Ralston	Sandy Woolston
	Nancy Johnson	Ron & Peggy Scott	Betty Zann
	Warren Lewis	Rena Shry	

Send prayer requests & to Pastor Kevin @ 919-802-8286, kseymour@nccumc.org,
or use the yellow prayer card request found in your pew pocket.

Attendance last Sunday: 66

Tithes & Offerings as of: 12/28/2025	
2025 Budget - Needed to Date:	\$ 203,094.92
2025 Budget - Received to Date:	\$ 206,726.95
Running Surplus /(Deficit)	\$ 3,632.03

Your gifts to Morris Chapel make a positive impact down the street and around the world.

Serving in Worship

	Acolytes	Children's Lesson	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
Jan. 4	Calleigh Baker Lincoln Brewer	Stacey Burris	Calleigh Baker	Daniel Baker Bryson Baker	Donnie Carter	Krystle Ray Stacey Burris
Jan. 11	Jase Burris Cole Burris	Kevin Seymour	Isabelle Sturgill	Jason Kilmer Dan Wissinger	Crystal Burichin	
Jan. 18	Calleigh Baker Rylee Ray	Krystle Ray	Drew Burris	Ron Mercer George Orlovsky	Gail Thomas	
Jan. 25	Ian Carter Callen Morris	Manuela Seymour	Inge Hersman	Justin Ray JC Ray	Janice Holder	
Feb. 2	Paisley Kilmer Teagan Kilmer	Stacey Burris	Blair Pace	Drew Burris Gary Rosser	Linda Dilley	Steve Huepper Marian Huepper

**You are respectfully asked to arrange for a substitute
in the event that you cannot fill your assigned slot.**

If you have changes, let Pastor Kevin or Peggy Baker know.

Thank you for serving the good of God's church.