

Sharing our prayer concerns

Musical interlude

Prayers for the Church and the world

SENDING FORTH

† Hymn

“For the Healing of the Nations”

UMH No. 428

† Benediction

† Postlude

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

O God, creation’s secret force,
Thyself unmoved, all motion’s source,
Who from the morn till evening’s ray
Through all its changes guid’st the day:

Grant us, when this short life is past,
The glorious evening that shall last;
That, by a holy death attained,
Eternal glory may be gained.

O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ, Thine only Son;
With the Holy Spirit and Thee,
Shall live and reign eternally.
--Ambrose of Milan, 4th century



JESUS TEACHING THE CROWD

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

Service of Worship | 9:30 AM

Fellowship Time 10:30 AM | Sunday School 11:00 AM

The Rev. Connie Mitchell Shelton

Raleigh Area Bishop

The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour

Pastor

A Service of the Word
The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025

In Psalm 37 the Psalmist reminds us never to fret over the ways of the wicked, but to trust in God. The one who remains patient in the ways of God will inherit the land. In his Sermon on the Plain, Jesus has challenging words for the great crowds who've come to hear him and be healed of their uncleanness.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ring the Church bell

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *"In Heavenly Love Abiding"*

Leslie Orlovsky

Choral Praise *"Jesus Be Praised"*

† **Call to Worship**

Let us sing a new song in the assembly of the faithful.
The praise of God the Father is on our lips today!

Christ our Lord is the glory of the people Israel.
Jesus shows the true light to all the nations.

All the earth joins the heavenly host,
Praising God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

† **Opening Prayer**

Holy God you sent your one and only Son to reconcile all the world to yourself.
He ate with sinners. He became at one with our nature in your plan to intervene.
Let your Spirit inspire us today to bridge the troubled waters and seek to be reconciled to you and to others in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

† **Hymn of Praise** *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

UMH No. 140

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalter Lesson

Psalm 37:1-11

Isabelle Sturgill

Anthem

"Loving God, Loving Each Other"

Children's Lesson

Kevin Seymour

† **Gospel Lesson**

Luke 6:27-31

Sermon

"It's Hard to Hear Jesus"

Kevin Seymour

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† **Hymn of Response**

"O God of Every Nation"

UMH No. 435

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

UMH No. 888

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.

Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.

Mission Moment

Pam Summers

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!**

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

This week at Morris Chapel

Wednesday – Choir practice, 6:30 PM.

Sunday – Worship Service at 9:30 AM, Fellowship with snacks and coffee at 10:30, Sunday School at 11.

For the good of the Church

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper – March 4 at 5 PM. All ages are invited to come and enjoy pancakes, bacon, and lots of syrup. This is a celebration just before we begin the season of Lent – a time of penitence and sacrifice.

Ash Wednesday Worship – Join us for a brief service of prayer, reflection, and the Imposition of Ashes on March 5 at 5 PM. This service begins the 40-day journey to Holy Week and Easter. All are welcome.

The choir has begun practice on the Easter cantata. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. Rehearsals are on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM. See Jerry Keith.

Scholarship applications are now available. Stop by the church office after worship to pick one up. See Danny Baker if you'd like to know more.

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee works to hold our Pastor accountable to expectations and also supports our Pastor and his family. If you have feedback to offer or questions about this, please see Sandra Carter.

Missions and Outreach

Food Pantry – Remember to bring non-perishable food items next week for the food pantry at Love Grove AME Zion Church. Seasonings, flour, and cooking oil are very much appreciated also.

Family Promise – Week of March 10. Meals are provided to families whose housing situation is in transition. See Karen Rosser if you're interested in providing a meal for a family.

Blessing Bracelets, \$5.00. The Media Sunday School Class is taking orders for hand-crafted bracelets suitable for men and women. Proceeds beyond the cost of supplies will fund future mission projects. See Pam Summers today in the Fellowship Hall.

Fellowship

Refreshments after worship -- Our time together after worship is a precious moment of the week. Please consider volunteering to provide light refreshments on a Sunday morning. The sign-up poster is on the wall next to the kitchen counter.

Methodist Men will meet March 6 at 7 PM to elect new leaders. The Methodist Men work to support the ministries of the church, working in partnership with and alongside other ministry groups.

Faith Formation

Sunday School classes are now ready for children. Teachers are in place waiting for your precious children, so be sure to bring them by for lessons. Growing up in God's word is a blessing. Two adult classes are offered every Sunday also.

Keep these in your prayers

New this week: Lexi Cline, Laurel Parker, Isabelle Sturgill, Joyce Key Thomas.

Condolences: Families of Ann Jackson, Harry Dunlap, Lavonda Richardson.

Ongoing Concerns:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Mike Berryman Rick Billings Chris Carver Jeff Cummings Mitch Darroch | Peggy Danielsen Edwin Foushee Katie Lacy Maude Maloney Carol Martell Rhonda McNeill | Susie Pierce Lindsay Rattner Valerie Robertino Donna Skoen Ron & Peggy Scott | Jackson Snipes Fred Spivey Pam Summers Wayne Thomas Pam Vaughan |
|--|--|--|---|

Prayer requests may be sent to Pastor Kevin at kseymour@nccumc.org, or just call / text 919-802-8286 any time at all. If any matter is close to your heart, it is never too big or small for the God we love and adore. Let me hear from you.

Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

Attendance 2/16/25 **50**

| Tithes & Offerings as of: 02/16/2025 | |
|---|--------------|
| 2025 Budget - Needed to Date: | \$ 27,339.70 |
| 2025 Budget - Received to Date: | \$ 52,133.74 |
| Running Surplus /(Deficit) | \$ 24,794.04 |

Serving in Worship

| | Acolytes | Children's Message | Lay Readers | Ushers | Greeters | Communion Servers |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 23 | Calleigh Baker Lincoln Brewer | Gillian Hubley | Isabelle Sturgill | Ron Mercer George Orlovsky | Linda Dilley | |
| March 2 | Rylee Ray Bryson Baker | Manuela Seymour | Doug Currin | Justin Ray JC Ray | George Orlovsky | Donnie Carter Sandra Carter |
| March 9 | Jase Burris Cole Burris | Richard Angel | Drew Burris | Drew Burris Gary Rosser | Danny Baker | |
| March 23 | Ian Carter Isabelle Sturgill | Krystle Ray | Inge Hersman | Richard Angel Wayne Stack | Laurel Parker | |

Notice to all who are scheduled to serve -- 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.