

Presentation of God's tithes and our offerings

Offertory

† **Doxology**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. (Repeat)
And now let the weak say, "I am strong!" Let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!" (Repeat)
Give thanks. Give thanks.**

Sharing our prayer concerns

Musical interlude

Prayers for the Church and the world

SENDING FORTH

† **Hymn** *"How Firm a Foundation"* **#529**

† **Benediction**

† **Postlude**

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

Oh, let me fall as grain to the good earth
And die away from all dry separation,
Die to my sole self, and find new birth
Within that very death, a dark fruition,
Deep in this crowded underground to learn
The earthly otherness of every other,
To know that nothing is achieved alone
But only where these other fallen gather.
If I bear fruit and break through to bright air,
Then fall upon me with your freeing flail
To shuck this husk and leave me sheer and clear
As heaven handled Hopkins, that my fall
May be more fruitful and my autumn still
A golden evening where your barns are full. – *Malcolm Guite*



**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 Celebration 9:30 AM

Fellowship Time 10:30 AM | Sunday School 10:45 AM

The Rev. Connie Mitchell Shelton

Raleigh Area Bishop

The Rev. Sunny B. Limm

Fairway District Superintendent

The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour

Pastor

Nancy Martinez

Assistant to the District Superintendent

A Service of the Word

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024 9:30 AM

In John's gospel, Jesus speaks of the importance of death in birthing new life, using an example of a single grain that bears much fruit. He tells his disciples they must lose their lives in order to find eternal life.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ringing the Church bell

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Meditation at the Cross”

Leslie Orlovsky

A Medley arranged by Albin C. Whitworth

Choral Praise

“Lord Be Glorified”

Choir

† Opening Sentences

from Hebrews 4

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,

Let us hold fast to our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

But one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

That we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

† Opening Prayer

Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility.

Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

† Hymn of Praise

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalter Lesson

Psalms 51:1-12

Jason Morton

Anthem

“Glory to His Name”

Choir

Children's Lesson

Richard Angel

† Gospel Lesson

John 12:20-26

Sermon

“The Challenge and the Promise”

Kevin Seymour

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† Hymn of Response

“To God Be the Glory”

#98

The Lord's Prayer

Reception of new members

#33

Richard and Pirjo Blosser
Debra Callodonato

Congregational commitment

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Jesus Christ. We will surround our new sisters and brothers with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Congregational response

We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness that in everything God made be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Glory to God, Amen.

MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARISH NOTICES – March 17, 2024

WELCOME!

Welcome to Morris Chapel United Methodist Church! We are delighted that you joined us in Christian Education and Worship today. Morris Chapel United Methodist Church welcomes visitors who are seeking a church home, those who join us for special occasions, and those who seek relief from life's burdens. Join us in praising God, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and giving thanks to a loving God for the blessings of the day!

CALENDAR

Every Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service – in person and Livestream
Sunday	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
Sunday	10:45 am	Sunday Schools
Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study “Sunday’s Coming” Pastor Seymour
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Choir Practice – all are welcome

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

First Time Visitors! We are so glad you joined us, and we hope you return! Please pick up a coffee mug with goodies and info at the front door area as you exit. It is a token of our gratitude and love for visiting our Worship Service. Be blessed

Safe Sanctuary Training will be TODAY, Sunday, March 17th at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. Please text Sandra (919) 770-4772 if you can be in attendance. Everyone that participates in our church ministry must be trained in our policy unless you received training last year. Training reoccurs every three years.

Church Council meeting Monday 7pm Mar 18. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend and observe the workings of the Church Council. If anyone would like to get on the agenda, please notify Danny Baker or Laurel Parker in order to get you on the agenda. Guests will be provided an opportunity to address the Council at the end of the meeting.

Easter Egg Hunt! Will be held for all the children on Easter Sunday, following the 9:30 Service! Hope to see all there!

The Month of March the Mission Committee will collect items for The Haven, a safe house for abused men, women and children. They are requesting full size hair items such as shampoo, conditioner, mousse and hairspray as people can be there for 60 days or more. They also need of cleaning products like Clorox or Pine Sol. If you find it in your heart and can help, collection bins will be in the church narthex and the Fellowship Hall. Thank you and God Bless

Holy Week & Easter Services -- We will gather for Maundy Thursday worship at 7:15 PM on March 28 to recognize and remember the Last Supper. Easter Sunrise Service will be on the front lawn at 7:15 AM on March 31, followed by The Resurrection of our Lord at 9:30 AM. Please plan to attend, and invite family and friends to join us.

Pastor’s Tuesday Bible Study is an extension of the Sunday Sermon! Class starts at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Every week is a different topic so you are never “behind” in this study. Come & see....

A Delicious Time of Year is quickly approaching. Today and on March 24th, the last day of sales, we will be selling small chocolate covered peanut butter balls, peanut clusters, and Buckeyes priced at \$4.00 a bag. (Correct change greatly appreciated!) We hope you are all ready to stock up! Thank you in advance for supporting this fun project. The proceeds will go to the Men’s group and will be earmarked for decorations and choir robes. Project ladies are Terrena Shelton, Marion Huepper, Marcia Garcia and Mavis Harper.

The 2024 Fellowship Hall Calendar is posted in the Fellowship Hall on the left bulletin board just as you enter. **Committee Chairs**, please enter all meetings scheduled for the FH on this calendar. If an Announcement is needed for the church, email the bulletin preparers by Wednesday morning what you wish to have listed. Thanks!

New Site: Accessing Sunday Sermons is as easy and going on Facebook. Refresh your memory, rethink the messages, be enriched again. May God bless your devotion. <https://www.facebook.com/MorrisChapelUnitedMethodistChurch>

PARISH NOTICES

The Center for Leadership Excellence invites you to a webinar, *Looking Up: Acknowledging Grief, Embracing Hope* with Courtney Ellis. This is an invitation into simple, gentle, creative spiritual practices that encourage our hearts as

we seek to live with open hands. Whether you're holding the weight of grief, seeking to lead well through uncertain days, or just eager for a fresh encounter with the Spirit, Ellis is a wise and soulful guide. **Tuesday, March 19, 2024 1pm- 2pm**
Go to <https://nccumc.org/leadership/looking-up-acknowledging-grief-embracing-hope/> to register

**Announcements: by noon on Wednesdays to Laurel Parker at laurelparker@charter.net or (919) 271-0963
AND Mavis Harper at mavisharper1944@gmail.com or (919) 770-0489.
PLEASE word your announcement as you wish to see it printed.. Thank you**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sherry Baucom Lucas Bell Vicke & Randy Buchanan Joey Campbell Kristie Casterlin Congregational Unity Jayden Cockran Family of Diane Conti Jimmy Clifton Family of Brian Cummings LeeAnn Finicum Ron Hartman Beth Hedging Mark Hickman	Jimmie Holt Teresa Ingram Ann Jackson Evan & Leslie Johnson Nancy Johnson Kenny Kozca Charles Maddox Maude Maloney Ann McLeod Maxine McLeod Foster McNeill Rhonda McNeill	Mike Phillips Susie Pierce Family of Natalia Ripvanwinkle Helen Rogers Family of Betty Rosser Anna Sanfilippo Shirley Salmon Richard Saucier Ron & Peggy Scott Becky Seymour Kyle Smith	Kenneth Spivey Lisa Stafford Hilton Stewart Denny Summers Joyce Key Thomas Family of Matthew Thomas United Methodist Church United States of America Pam Vaughan Ruth Watson Jimmy Womack Bob & Sandy Woolston
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Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings Attendance 3/10/24 83

Tithes & Offerings as of: 03/10/2024	
2024 Budget - Needed to Date:	\$ 36,980.44
2024 Budget - Received to Date:	\$ 64,202.79
Running Surplus /(Deficit)	\$ 27,222.35

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Mar	Acolytes	Children's Message	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
17	Jase Burris Cole Burris	Richard Angel	Jason Morton	Jason Morton Danny Baker	Drew Burris Laurel Parker	
24	Ian Carter Isabelle Sturgill	Krystle Ray	Doug Currin	Richard Angel Pat Anger	Marian Huepper Marcia Garcia	
31	Paisley Kilmer Teagon Kilmer	Stacey Burris	Gary Maddox	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	Donnie Carter Sandra Carter	
Apr 7	JC Ray Bryson Baker	Gillian Hubley	Drew Burris	Jack Harper Janice Holder	Crystal Burichin Gail Thomas Travis Thomas	Kevin Seymour Manuela Swymour Deb Callodonato George Orlovsky
14	Jason Morton Calleigh Baker	Richard Angel	Inge Hersman	Greg Vorholt Gary Maddox	Doug Currin Donna Maddox	

After Worship Treats will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Thank you!