

The Peace May the Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Glory to God, Amen!

Presentation of God's tithes and our offerings

Offertory

† **Doxology** # 95

Sharing our prayer concerns

Musical interlude

Prayers for the Church and the world

SENDING FORTH

† **Hymn** *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"* # 220

† **Benediction**
A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition # 607

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

† **Postlude**

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

Let us, O highest God, complete the year, So that its end be like this beginning.
May your hand remain with us, So that later, at the close of the year,
With an abundance of blessings, We will, as now, sing a Hallelujah.
---Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)



**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

Epiphany Sunday

December 31, 2023 9:30 AM

At the start of this new calendar year, we celebrate the feast of the 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.” Today’s lesson from Isaiah foretells the light of Christ that will arise over all nations. In Matthew, the wise men also follow a light—a star that guides them to the Christ child, revealing to the world that this small infant is Lord and King. We are called to look for how Jesus reveals himself today, in relationships, in people, and in those whom we least expect.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ringing the Church bell

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Judy Spivey

Choral Praise

“Star Child”

Choir

† **Call to Worship**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel.

Praise 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**

Most gracious and almighty God, you are the source of light and you are eternal wisdom. We praise your name for the inspiration, the blessing, and the sustained goodness you have bestowed upon us this year. Give to our hearts earnest appreciation for those who lit our path toward you, for it is a great inheritance we have received since your light has come into our lives. Give us the strength of faithful purpose that we may light the path of wisdom for the coming generation to find their way to the Christ of wisdom, redemption, and salvation. **Amen.**

† **Hymn**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

234

(verses 1 – 4)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

Manuela Seymour

Anthem

“We Three Kings”

Choir

Children’s Lesson

Krystle Ray

**** Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

“Light”

Kevin Seymour

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer of response

Augustine of Hippo (4th century)

O Love of God, descend into my heart;
Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling,
And scatter there Your cheerful beams.
Dwell in the soul that longs to be Your temple;
Water that barren soil overrun with weeds and briars
And lost for lack of cultivating.
Make it fruitful with Your dew.
Come, dear Refreshment of those who languish;
Come, Star and Guide of those who sail amidst tempests.
You are the Haven of the tossed and shipwrecked.
Come now, Glory and Crown of the living,
As well as the Safeguard of the dying.
Come, Sacred Spirit;
Come, and fit me to receive You. **Amen.**

† **Hymn**

“There’s a Song in the Air”

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARISH NOTICES – December 31, 2023

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!

UMC Men's Meeting for January will be at Elizabeth's Pizza in Sanford at 7pm 1/04/24. Will be looking for ideas to do for the new year. I hope to see you there! Greg Vorholt 586-201-0687 gregvorholt@yahoo.com

Canned Food Drive is coming up next Sunday, Jan. 7. Bring your canned or boxed goods (no glass containers) and place them in the box in the narthex. Our donations are added to the food pantry at Love Grove AME Zion Church to help feed hungry neighbors.

The 2024 Flower Calendar is posted in the Fellowship Hall on the left bulletin board just as you enter. Please sign in for the Sunday you have chosen and notify the bulletin preparers of the wording for the announcement. Thank you!

New Site: Accessing Sunday Sermons is as easy as going on Facebook. Refresh your memory, rethink the messages, be enriched again. May God bless your interest and devotion! Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MorrisChapelUnitedMethodistChurch>

PARISH NOTICES

Please check out nccumc.org for listings of programs and offerings beginning in January 2024 through early March. Included are: Conference Wide Leadership Training, Local Church Treasurer Training, What Does Church Look Like Now?, Safer Sanctuaries and Faithful Ministry in a Chaotic World.

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

After Worship treats are provided by the Janice Holder and Danny Baker. Thank you!!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Adams Family baby Family of Robin Anderson Danny Baker Sherry Baucom Family of Bobby Branch, Sr. Maryann Bell Rick Billings Bobby Branch, Sr. Brethen Family Joey Campbell Kristie Casterlin Congregational Unity Deborah McNeill Cox Shelton Crutchfield	Mary Ann Feavel Henry Hall Ron Hartman Ron Height Connie Hickman Mark Hickman Wayne & Mary Hudson Teresa Ingram Ann Jackson Evan & Leslie Johnson Nancy Johnson Family of Sandi Kankelfritz Jeff Ludewig	Charles Maddox Maude Maloney Ann McLeod Maxine McLeod Rhonda McNeill Sandra Norris Leslie & George Orlovsky Peace on Earth Susie Pierce Crosby Price Danielle Rahko Anna Sanfilippo Ron & Peggy Scott	Kyle Smith Nathaniel Smith Cynthia Spivey Kenneth Spivey Joey Stewart Joyce Key Thomas Debra Underwood United Methodist Church United States of America Pam Vaughan David Wagner Bob & Sandy Woolston
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Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

Attendance 12/24/23 120

Tithes & Offerings	
December Goal to Meet the 2023 Budget	\$ 7,849.26
Needed Each Sunday in December	\$ 4,675.25

NOTE: December Giving will be subtracted from the goal each Sunday.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Worship Volunteers-- you are respectfully asked to arrange for a substitute in the event that you cannot fill your assigned slot. Thank you.

Dec	Acolytes	Children's Message	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
31	Paisley Kilmer Teagen Kilmer	Krystle Ray	Manuela Seymour	Ron Mercer Jack Harper	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	
Jan 7	JC Ray Rylee Ray	Stacey Burris	Doug Currin	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	Doug Currin Donna Maddox	Kevin Seymour Manuela Seymour Donnie Carter Sandra Carter
14	JC Ray Bryson Baker	Gillian Hubley	Gary Maddox	Jack Harper Janice Holder	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	
21	Jason Morton	Richard Angel	Drew Burris	Greg Vorholt Gary Maddox	Janice Holder Jack Harper	
28	Rylee Ray Bryson Baker	Krystle Ray	Inge Hersman	Carolyn Saucier Danny Baker	Hank Richards Margaret Spivey	