

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 12:2-6 (Pew Bible, p.631 OT)	Rylee Ray
Anthem	<i>“Cherish That Name”</i>	Choir
Children’s Lesson		Stacey Burris
Old Testament Lesson	Zephania 3:14-20 (Pew Bible, p.877 OT)	
Sermon	<i>“The Joy of the Lord”</i>	Kevin Seymour

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† Hymn	<i>“Joy to the World”</i> (verses 1 and 4)	UMH No. 246
Announcements		
Prayer of Thanksgiving		
The Lord’s Prayer		
Presentation of God’s tithes and our offerings		
Offertory		
† Doxology	<i>(to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)</i>	
	Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.	

Sharing our prayer concerns

Musical interlude, Prayers for the Church and the world

SENDING FORTH

† Hymn	<i>“Angels We Have Heard on High”</i>	UMH No. 238
† Benediction		
† Postlude	<i>†The congregation is invited to stand, as you are able.</i>	



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

The Rev. Connie Mitchell Shelton Raleigh Area Bishop	The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour Pastor
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A Service of the Word

December 21, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

God's promises of new life and healing echo through the scriptures. Isaiah prophesies the Lord's coming salvation, and how God's people can trust in God's good plans, with shouts of expectant praise. The prophet Zephaniah speaks words of joy, reminding the people of Isreal that God is in their midst, promising them salvation and flourishing.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ring the Church bell

Greeting

Prelude *"Christmas Lullaby"* **Leslie Orlovsky**

Choral Praise *"Light the Advent Candle"* **Choir**

† **Call to Worship** *Isaiah 7, Matthew 1, and UMH No. 211*

Hear this, O house of David, the Lord will give you a sign.

Come and save us, O Lord, our God.

The young woman shall bear a son. He shall be called Emmanuel.

Mary was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom came forth from the mouth of the Most High.

Come now dear Lord and teach us the way of prudence.

The root of Jesse stands as a sign for all people.

Dear Lord do not tarry. Come now and deliver us.

Joseph named him Jesus because he came to save us.

Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia and Amen!

† Prayer

We call upon you Almighty God, by your great mercy purify our conscience by your daily visitation, that when your Son our Lord comes he may find us in a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Grace of God is coming,
Bringing salvation to all!

Light the first, second, and third candles

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God.

Paul reminds us of the importance of being called to the cause of Jesus Christ. Who are those who are set apart? Make no mistake...it is all of us! We are the family of God. The grace brought (and bought) for us is God's child, our savior, brings us to wholeness, not once a year, but 24/7. A baby in a manger, a child nurtured by loving parents, a youth with vision and hope, an adult with fears of the future -- are all welcome in God's amazing presence. Wherever children gather in the house of the Lord, God sends forth hope for the future. God provides!

Come and experience the wonder of God's presence. Our God has loved us forever without beginning or end. Our hearts are open to receive love, peace, and healing. Share God's love with all you meet. Let us l always be ready to serve. May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Light the fourth candle

† **Hymn**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH No. 230

WELCOME TO MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

~ I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" ~

This week at Morris Chapel

Wednesday – Christmas Eve service, 4 PM.

Sunday – Worship service @ 930 AM; Fellowship & Sunday School, 10:45.

For the good of the church

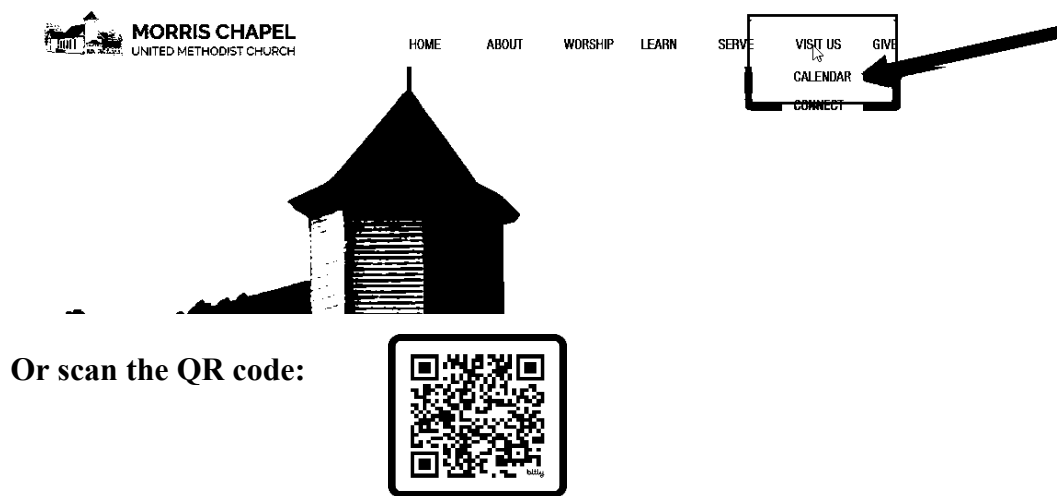
As we come to the close of 2025, I ask you to prayerfully consider a year-end gift to Morris Chapel. Your generosity supports worship, missions, discipleship, children & youth ministries, pastoral care, and the daily work of sharing the love of Christ in our community and around the world. – *Pastor Kevin*.

Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion will be at 4pm.

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 speak to Lou Millar.

Church calendar online: www.morrischapelumc.org/events

Events and activities are kept current. Visit Morris Chapel's website and find the calendar as shown:



Upcoming

Jan. 4. Bring non-perishable food items & seasonings for the food pantry at Love Grove AME Zion Church.

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

Jan. 7. Children and Youth night, 6-7 PM.

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.

Jan. 19. Church Council, 7 PM.

Keep these in your prayers

New this week: Rena Shry, Katie & Walter Woods.

Families of B. Chapman, Linda Gallucci, Betty Whitehurst.

Morgan Baker Ernestine Black Sue Buie Jeff Cummings Mandy Dalrymple Peggy Daniels Warren Edwards Bill Farwick Katie Garcia Hinson Baby Samson Hinson	Casey Goldberg Crystal Hall Elva Hall Dennis Hartman Lewis Hartman Bryant Hickman Edith Howard Nancy Johnson Warren Lewis	Dano Linehan Maude Maloney Landon Massa Nancy McDuffie Linda McNeill Rhonda McNeill Robert Mudd Kathy Pembroke Berky Perkins	Susie Pierce Ron & Peggy Scott Donna Sloan Phil Spivey Shelby Truelove Dave Whitney Bob Woolston Sandy Woolston Betty Zann
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Send prayer requests & to Pastor Kevin @ 919-802-8286, kseymour@nccumc.org,
or use the yellow prayer card request found in your pew pocket.

Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

Attendance last Sunday: 119

2025 Budget - Needed to Date:	\$ 195,283.58
2025 Budget - Received to Date:	\$ 200,550.40
Running Surplus /(Deficit)	\$ 5,266.82

Do good, be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. 1 Timothy 6:18

Serving in Worship

	Acolytes	Children's Lesson	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
Dec. 21	Paisley Kilmer Teagan Kilmer	Stacey Burris	Rylee Ray	Drew Burris Gary Rosser	Marian Huepper	
Dec. 28	Rylee Ray Callen Morris	Krystle Ray	Jason Kilmer	Donnie Carter Ian Carter	Danny Baker	
Jan. 4	Calleigh Baker Lincoln Brewer	Stacey Burris	Calleigh Baker	Daniel Baker Bryson Baker	Donnie Carter	Krystle Ray Morgan Baker
Jan. 11	Jase Burris Cole Burris	Krystle Ray	Isabelle Sturgill	Jason Kilmer Dan Wissinger	Crystal Burichin	
Jan. 18	Calleigh Baker Rylee Ray	Stacey Burris	Drew Burris	Ron Mercer George Orlovsky	Gail Thomas	

**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.