

The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour
Pastor

A Service of the Word

August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 124 gives thanks and praise to God protection, while the people of God ask where we'd be if not for the presence of the Lord. In Matthew's Gospel, Peter makes the declaration of faith that Jesus is the long-awaited messiah. Jesus affirms his faith by proclaiming that Peter will be the rock on which the church will be founded.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ring the Church bell

Greeting

Prelude	<i>"Praise the Lord"</i>	Leslie Orlovsky
Choral Praise	<i>"Open Our Eyes, Lord"</i>	Barbara Lewis & Steve Huepper

† Call to Worship	George Orlovsky
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From all that dwells below the skies,
Let God the Father's praise arise.

Through every land and every tongue,
Let Christ the redeemer's name be sung.

To Trinity now our voices raise,
And fill the world with loudest praise. Amen!

† Prayer

Lord Jesus, you have come to us as God's Messiah—God with us and God for us. And yet, you meet us in grace as a savior to be followed. Help us to receive you today as you truly are and not as we wish you to be. Give us grace, Lord Jesus, to speak your name and to walk in your steps.
Amen.

† Hymn	<i>"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"</i>	UMH No. 731
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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalter Lesson	Psalm 124 Pew Bible p. 572 OT	Evan Deminski
Anthem	<i>"Only By Grace"</i>	Barbara Lewis & Steve Huepper
Children's Lesson		Kevin Seymour
† Gospel Lesson	Matthew 16:13-23 Pew Bible p.18 NT	
Sermon	<i>"Life's Most Challenging Question"</i>	Kevin Seymour

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† Hymn of Response	<i>"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"</i>	UMH No. 514
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† Prayer for teachers and students

God of Eternal Wisdom, we praise you for blessing our lives with teachers. We give you thanks for those who offer opportunities every day for young students to make discoveries, gain understanding, and dare to dream of what may come to be. We ask that safety, good health and joyful days fill the school year for the teachers, coaches and staff who guide and care for the students in their care. Help all of us see ways we can help and support learning and growth in this community. Let your light shine in every hallway and in every classroom.

† The Lord's Prayer



MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOVE GOD, FOLLOW JESUS, & SERVE OTHERS

This week at Morris Chapel

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

Saturday – Fellowship Committee Meeting @ 10 AM.

Back to School means Back to Church! As we head back to church, let's re-connect and never forget to invite others to join us on the life-changing journey of discipleship and ministry.

'Tis the season of commitment, and so new opportunities are here for us to grow in faith and loving service.

Missions

School Supply Drive – Until Aug. 31

Wide-ruled composition book, 12 colored pencils, 10 small Crayola markers, pencils, disappearing purple school glue sticks, 24-count Crayola crayons, Expo dry erase markers, erasers for pencils, small white tube socks (for dry erase board). Bring these items to the Fellowship Hall. See Karen Rosser. Let us do all the good we can.



Why does our church support education in local schools and with our scholarship ministry?

As a people called to love the Lord our God with our hearts and our minds, we are a people of equal parts compassion and reason. It is our belief that the positive influence of education on civil society stands in second place only to the Christian faith. We pray that our prayers and our efforts will be blessed by God that they may be foundational in raising up tomorrow's leaders in this, our Father's world. – Pastor Kevin.

Morris Chapel continues to supply blankets to the Children's Advocacy Center in Lillington. These blankets offer comfort and security to children who've been neglected or abused.

On the Horizon

Children & Youth Night, September 2. 6-7 PM.

Tuesday mornings with Pastor Kevin will resume on September 8. We meet at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to join us for a study on the Book of Isaiah and discussion of our life together at Morris Chapel.

The Discipleship Path of Morris Chapel: INVITE – WELCOME – EQUIP – SEND

Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

Did you know? One of the biggest reasons a person will decide to attend worship is because they've been INVITED by someone they know.

The church calendar and worship bulletins are on our web site: www.morrischapelumc.org

Let us all invite others to come and experience the love of God in fellowship with us.

Keep these in your prayers

New this week: Al Martin, Billy Myrick, Gregg Pulley.

Family of Fred Spivey – 1620 Windsor Run Lane Apt. T.7 Matthews, NC 28105

Ting Baucom Peggy Daniels Kevin Fannin Libby Hubbard	Rhonda McNeill Susie Pierce Hal Price Melvin Rosser	Phil Spivey Marilyn Stevens Marla Stewart Denny Summers	Joyce Thomas Shelby Truelove Pam Vaughan Bob Woolston Sandy Woolston
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Attendance last Sunday – 61

Tithes & Offerings as of 08/16/2026	
Needed Each Week:	\$ 4,049.40
Received Last Week:	\$ 2,279.92

The amount needed each week is based on the 2026 church budget.
These funds enable us to pursue God's mission in the neighborhood and around the world.

You may support the ministries of Morris Chapel by giving online at
www.morrischapelumc.org/giveplus

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21

Serving in Worship

Serving Communion Sept. 6 – Rylee Ray and Calleigh Baker.

	Acolytes	Children's Lesson	Lectors	Liturgists	Ushers	Greeters
August 23	Rylee Ray Callen Morris	Kevin Seymour	Evan Deminski	George Orlovsky	Ron Mercer George Orlovsky	Linda Dilley
August 30	Jase Burris Cole Burris	Krystle Ray	Isabelle Sturgill		Jake Wissinger Dan Wissinger	George Orlovsky
Sept. 6	Calleigh Baker Rylee Ray	Calleigh Baker	Drew Burris	Drew Burris	Justin Ray JC Ray	Danny Baker
Sept. 13	Callen Morris Jase Burris	Stacey Burris	Inge Hersman		Drew Burris Gary Rosser	Marian Huepper
Sept. 20	Ellie Kilmer Teagan Kilmer	Rylee Ray	Blair Pace	Loyda Sykes	Jake Wissinger Dan Wissinger	Donnie Carter

**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.