

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Sharing the bread and the cup

Prayer following Communion

UMH No. 9

SENDING FORTH

† Hymn

“We Three Kings”

UMH No. 254

† Benediction

† Postlude

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

During the Epiphany season, we witness the manifestation of God among us. Jesus came to earth to pattern a life lived of forgiveness, reconciliation and hope for peace on earth and good will among all people. The waters of our baptism identify us as the ones who offer grace and love to the world as representatives of Christ and his way. God’s grace will be sufficient for us to break through the barriers that would inhibit us from witnessing to him. Let perfect love cast out fear. ~*Pastor Kevin*~

The Mood of Christmas – by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among people,
to make music in the heart.



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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 Word and Table

Epiphany Sunday
January 5, 2025 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 12 days of Christmas. The term *epiphany* is Greek and means “to manifest” or “to show.” Today’s lesson from Isaiah foretells the light of the Christ that will rise 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 child 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 “We Three Kings” Leslie Orlovsky

Choral Praise

† 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

O God, it was by a star that you manifested your son to the peoples of the earth; Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face. Grant us the diligence to follow your light, and the wisdom to worship you in all that we do. **Amen.**

† Hymn of Praise “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” UMH No. 203

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6 Jason Kilmer

Anthem “Tell It Everywhere”

Children’s Lesson Krystle Ray

† Gospel Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon “In Whose Time?” Kevin Seymour

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† Prayer of Confession

God of new hope and the author of promise for the coming year, forgive us for not yielding our whole lives to Jesus. Like Herod, we have come to fear what the authority of Jesus means for the use of our time and our resources. O Wisdom from on High, lead us from far away places of our own choosing to the feet of Jesus. Forgive us, O God, for our many faults, and restore us to the only gift that restores what really matters: salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

† Words of Assurance

† Pardon In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

† The Peace May the Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Glory to God, Amen!

† Hymn “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” UMH No. 229

Sharing our prayer concerns

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!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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

Today – Missions Committee meeting, 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday – Choir practice, 6:30pm.

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

For the good of the Church

Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 pm.

Church Council will meet on Monday, January 20 at 7 PM to begin planning Morris Chapel's ministry for 2025.

Altar flowers -- A new sign-up sheet for you to provide flowers has been posted in the Fellowship Hall.

Please refrain from applause in worship. The music shared in our worship services is praise to God instead of entertainment, so please refrain from applause. A hearty Amen works fine, but clapping to give applause makes the musicians and other worshippers uncomfortable. Thank you for understanding.

Missions and Outreach

The Missions Committee will meet today at 2 pm. All are encouraged to contact Karen Rosser with questions about Morris Chapel's missions and outreach ministry.

Growing in Faith

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.

Pastor Kevin's class "Sunday's Coming" will resume January 14 at 10 am. All are welcome.

Fellowship

Refreshments after worship -- Please consider volunteering to provide light refreshments on a Sunday morning. The sign-up poster is on the wall next to the kitchen counter.

Stay tuned for Fellowship Meals coming next year. Questions? See Carol Martell.

Keep these in your prayers

New this week: Josie Weiss, Madelyn Weiss, Bob Woolston.

Condolences: Families of Jimmy Badgett, Jimmy Womack.

Ongoing Concerns:

Jeff Brewer Peggy Danielsen Baby Dutton Deb Callodonato	Donna Callodonato Richard Campbell Edwin Foushee	Richard Campbell Henry Hall Maude Maloney Rhonda McNeill	Susie Pierce Valerie Robertino Pam Vaughan Jorge Zuluwaga
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Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

Attendance 12/29/24 **63**

Tithes & Offerings as of: 12/29/2024	
2024 Budget - Needed to Date:	\$ 192,298.30
2024 Budget - Received to Date:	\$ 222,607.70
Running Surplus /(Deficit)	\$ 30,309.40

Thanks to your generosity, our revenues exceeded our budgeted needs in 2024. Thank you, Morris Chapel.

Serving in Worship

Dec.	Acolytes	Children's Message	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
Jan. 5	JC Ray Bryson Baker	Krystle Ray	Jason Kilmer	Drew Burris Gary Rosser	Marian Huepper	
Jan. 12	Rylee Ray Bryson Baker	Stacey Burris	Peggy Baker	Richard Angel Wayne Stack	Donnie Carter	
Jan. 19	Jase Burris Cole Burris	Gillian Hubley	Leslie Orlovsky	Danny Baker	Richard Angel	
Jan. 26	Ian Carter Belle Sturgill	Richard Angel	Jason Kilmer	Carolyn Saucier Danny Baker	Crystal Burichin	

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.