



Becoming God's Beloved Community. Changing Lives. Transforming Communities.

Vol. 22, No.9 Advent 2021

The Spire

Morristown United Methodist Church 50 S. Park Place, Morristown, NJ 07960 | www.morristownumc.org

FROM PASTOR LUANA

My daughter, Amy, loved the children's show Dinosaur Train when she was younger. Have you seen it? It's brilliant. It has a train system run by talking dinosaurs that can time travel through the entire Mesozoic Era, passing through a magical time tunnel to the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous time periods. What's not to love? We loved it so much that when the Boris the Tyrannosaurus 24" interactive talking figure came out on Black Friday in 2010, we *had* to have it! We waited in line outside of Toys-R-Us in the cold night hoping for a chance to grab one before they sold out.

Our foster daughter at that time was an older teenager and had gone with me. Once we were inside she spotted the display before I did and pulled an acrobatic maneuver around other shoppers and displays to grab one of the large boxes holding the prized dino. I remember her holding it up in the air like a trophy. We had gotten a Boris for Amy for Christmas! We were triumphant! We still laugh about the adventure today. I still have Boris. I keep him in my basket of toys for kids to play with if they are visiting my office with their families. He reminds me of fun times of Amy's youth but also reminds me that once I got caught up in the Black Friday frenzy of consumerism.

Then in 2011 a book came out by Mike Slaughter called: [Christmas Is Not Your Birthday: Experience the Joy of Living and Giving like Jesus.](#) Well, the title says it all, and Slaughter goes further to teach that overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration. Too often the focus of Christmas is about getting stuff, when as Christians it is about the celebration of the Incarnation of God: Emmanuel, God with us.

You might have seen the Bloomberg [article](#) from October of this year titled: *Supply Chain Nightmares threaten to Ruin Christmas*, or any of the other articles with a similar story that Christmas was somehow contingent on spending *money on items*. Bah-humbug! I found these headlines, and the sentiment that goes with them, offensive and heartbreaking. Christmas will happen regardless of the supply chain of toys and jewelry and what-not that you are told make Christmas special. The birth of Jesus Christ will be remembered, celebrated, and we will lift up His name as our Savior and our God. Nothing on earth has the power to cancel or ruin that.

And that's worth celebrating *together for JOY!!* The staff, church leadership, and I are working hard to provide ways for us all to have a meaningful and sacred Christmas. In this newsletter you will find information on our upcoming Advent sermon series *Those Who Dream* which will lead us to dream of our future as followers of Jesus and as a church community. And you will also find a robust selection of **ALTERNATIVE** way to gift-give this year with our **ADVENTures in Mission!** Each gift will get you a card to present as a representation of a donation to a worthy mission.

Not feeling it? Well, that's what the season of Advent is for! It's to prepare our hearts and minds for to celebrate the birth of Christ, and sometimes that means looking at how a consumer culture has changed the way we think. Let's enter into this season of spiritual preparation together.
Blessings,



UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY IS NOVEMBER 28

The United Methodist Student Day celebration is a time when we celebrate our United Methodist students and receive an offering to provide scholarships for their college education. When you give to the United Methodist Student Day (UMSD) offering, your gifts support the Gift of Hope Scholarship program. Gift of Hope scholarships are awarded to deserving United Methodist students annually.

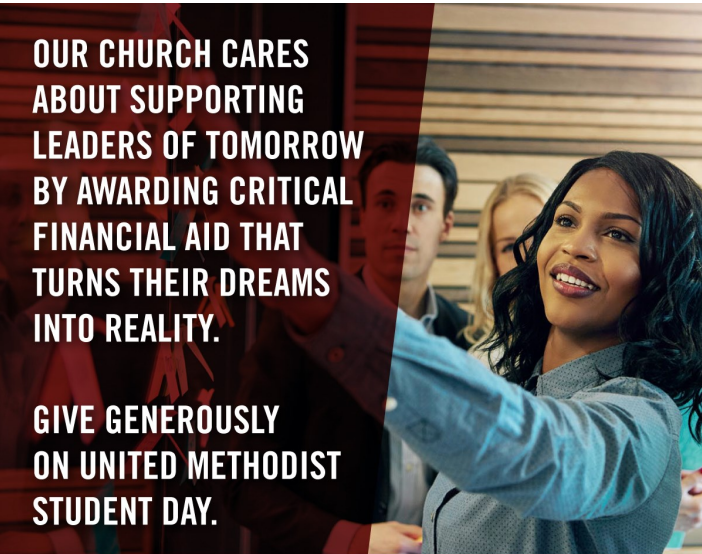
As a congregation we have been in prayer with students who are away at college. They are not always with us in person, but we know that we are still connected as the body of Christ. We give thanks for their leadership and pray for them to have what they need to do well and to go into the world equipped as agents of change.

On November 28, we will have an opportunity to lift up these students during worship. On United Methodist Student Day, we give thanks for who they are and the ways they are growing into strong leaders. We are excited to announce that three of our Drew Theo students will be leading the service as we Hope.

We are mindful that many students struggle financially, spiritually or emotionally. They are preparing themselves to face a world that in many ways is broken and hurting. Together we can support them and remove some of their anxiety to make space for them to experience God's peace.

We will also join with other churches in the denomination to receive a special offering. While many young people have the privilege and resources to attend college, many others do not. On United Methodist Student Day, we will come together as a community to invest our resources in education.

We are indeed one body, but investing in our individual members will take us to the next stage in building the beloved community. When you support United Methodist Student Day, you make it possible for students to change the world in the name of God's love—to live out their dreams for a better world.



**OUR CHURCH CARES
ABOUT SUPPORTING
LEADERS OF TOMORROW
BY AWARDING CRITICAL
FINANCIAL AID THAT
TURNS THEIR DREAMS
INTO REALITY.**

**GIVE GENEROUSLY
ON UNITED METHODIST
STUDENT DAY.**

**We give thanks for the students of our faith
community and remember them in prayer for a
successful, stress-free end to their semester.
May they know they are never far from our
hearts and minds.**

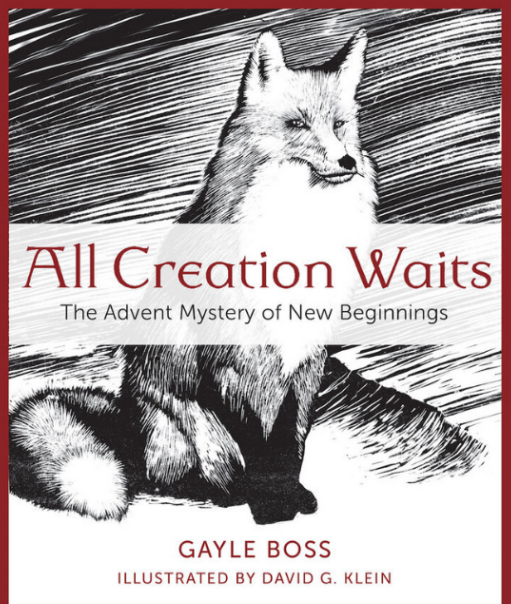
Ashe Gobin
Austin Puma
Bennett Miller
Caroline Macaluso
Charles Lawrence
Danielle Long
Domonick Batchi
Genesis Gobin
Hayoung Kang
Jack Tironi
Jacqueline Quinn
Kayla DeCicco

Lucas Miller
Lucy DeCicco
Matthew Moran
Natalie Palacio
Nicolette Long
Paige Dinneney
Paola Marquez
Samantha Schuetz
Sarah Quinn
Tommy Dinneney
Victoria Cattano

ADULT EDUCATION ADVENT STUDY

ALL CREATION WAITS BY GAYLE BOSS

In this study, 25 portraits depict how wild animals of the northern hemisphere adapt when darkness and cold descend.



11/28 @ 8:30AM - Wesley Room
Author Gayle Boss will join our class for an introduction to this four week study.

Sessions on December 5, 12, and 29, will begin at 11:30 AM in the Wesley Room.

If you wish to participate in this study, please contact Mary Ann Scharf by Nov. 21 so she can give you a book.

COMING UP FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Sunday, December 5th after worship service there will be a **blessing for our new children's faith formation and sacred play space**. Previously known as the Asbury room, this room now has a full wall mural of the Sea of Galilee and a large wooden boat for climbing and role-playing the disciples. We are sensitive to the realities of the pandemic and will be providing private time in this room for families that do not yet feel they are ready to return to Sunday School and Sunday Services.

Each Sunday in Advent we will have **pre-recorded Children's Sermons** on the website to help your little one stay engaged and to prepare them for the birth of Jesus Christ.

There will be a full pre-recorded **Christmas Eve Children's Service** available to you on the website. We will have a gift bag that you can pick up or receive via mail with coloring-book bulletins, crayons, kazoo's, party hats, and glow sticks to use as you watch the service. Let's celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

November 28 / First Sunday of Advent

Those Who Dream...Keep Awake

December 5 / Second Sunday of Advent

Those Who Dream...Prepare the Way

December 12 / Third Sunday of Advent

Those Who Dream...Sow Joy

December 19 / Fourth Sunday of Advent

Those Who Dream...Are Not Alone

Christmas Eve (7:30pm)

This Night, We Are Those Who Dream

December 26 / First Sunday after Christmas

Those Who Dream...Will Not Keep Silent

January 2 / Epiphany Sunday

Those Who Dream...Persevere



Throughout Advent, use the Those Who Dream Advent Devotional for your prayer and meditation. Available in hard copy and online.

ADVENTure in Mission 2021

Alternative Gift Giving for Christmas

Look for the table in Fellowship Hall with the brochure of gift options supporting both local and international mission ministries during Advent.

Let the gift of giving help you celebrate a spirit-satisfying Christmas!



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

As the holiday season begins, we acknowledge that sometimes it's hard to maintain the "joy of the season" when our hearts are heavy. Gather with us to pray and lament, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our own lives, as well as for our country and our world. Our Blue Christmas Service is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth."

Thursday, December 2 at 6pm



ANGEL TREE

SUPPORTING
CHILDREN ON THE
GREEN,
SPRING HILLS
NURSING HOME, &
NJ AIDS SERVICES

ONCE AGAIN WE WILL HAVE AN
ANGEL TREE TO HELP PROVIDE
HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR PEOPLE IN
OUR WIDER COMMUNITY WHO
HAVE FEWER RESOURCES.

THE TREE WILL BE LOCATED IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL AND HAS ALL OF THE
INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE.

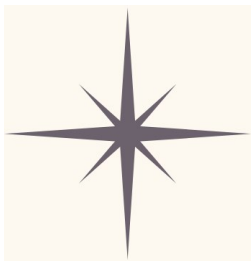
GIFTS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

A Reverse Advent calendar is one where you give instead of receive. We encourage everyone to collect a food item each day of Advent to support the Interfaith Food Pantry. Bring your collected items to church on Christmas Eve!

- 
- December — 1 box of cereal
 - December 2 — peanut butter
 - December 3 — canned tuna
 - December 4 — canned beans
 - December 5 — macaroni and cheese
 - December 6 — canned fruit
 - December 7 — instant potatoes
 - December 8 — hamburger helper
 - December 9 — canned soup
 - December 10 — applesauce
 - December 11 — canned vegetables
 - December 12 — package of rice
 - December 13 — canned meals (ravioli, hash, etc)
 - December 14 — shelf stable milk like Parmalat
 - December 15 — 100% fruit juice
 - December 16 — package of oatmeal
 - December 17 — package of pasta
 - December 18 — spaghetti sauce
 - December 19 — canned chicken or salmon
 - December 20 — box of tea bags
 - December 21 — baby food
 - December 22 — baby wipes
 - December 23 — baby formula
 - December 24 — boost or ensure



WALK TO THE MANGER

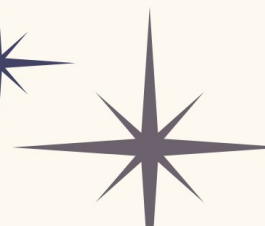
A Pathway to Love

Open Sunday, Dec 19 after service

Mon-Thurs 6pm to 8pm

Christmas Eve, and the two following Sundays.

(alternate times available by contacting Pastor Luana directly)



Christmas Poinsettias

Members and friends of our congregation may honor a loved one by placing a poinsettia on the altar for Christmas Eve.

The deadline for ordering is December 15.

The cost is \$10.00 per plant.

Please check the email with this Spire for the order form.

Morristown United Methodist Church presents
Music at Noon featuring

THE CHRISTMAS SINGERS



DECEMBER. 16 AT 12 NOON
FREE ADMISSION



Join us as we celebrate
the season with festive
songs, welcoming our
long-time friends, The
Christmas Singers.

Laura Zupa D'Avella, soprano
Patricia Ruggles, alto
Robert Long, tenor
Wayne Walters, bass
Jennifer Yang, accompanist





Parsonage Open House

Sunday, Dec 12, 1pm-3pm
12 Chimney Ridge Dr, Morristown

Light refreshments will be served.

Please note - there are two cats and a one-eyed dog that live with the parsonage family. Please wear a sweater, as the windows will be opened slightly to circulate air.



Sunday, December 18 After Worship

Christmas Caroling on the Green

Join us for a light lunch of soup and bread made by
Jean Stubaus before heading out to sing!



Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us for our traditional service which includes our chancel choir, hand bell choir, beautiful organ music, the infancy narrative, preaching, singing together, and the most important thing—the gift of Jesus Christ! Please wear a mask to keep each other safe and well.



*Friday, December 24, 2021
7:30pm*





News from EarthAware, the new environmental awareness and climate justice ministry at Morristown United Methodist Church.

TIPS FOR CELEBRATING A SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY SEASON

- ***Ditch the wrapping paper for reusable boxes and bags.*** Use the same boxes and bags to store your decorations in the off-season. Use your fabric stash or tea towels for wrapping. If you're going to use wrapping paper, stay away from those with coatings, foil and glitter, as they cannot be recycled.
- ***Consider not buying new holiday decorations this year*** and instead take advantage of the excellent antique and second-hand shops in the area to add to your collections.
- Participating in a Secret Santa with friends or coworkers? Encourage a switch ***to Alternative Gifts like donations to favorite charities.*** It's a great way to keep things out of landfills AND offers a chance to get to know people a little better when you ask them why that charity is meaningful to them. (We have lots of options with the MUMC ADVENTure in Mission Alternative Gift program!)
- ***Send electronic Christmas cards instead of paper ones.*** If you send paper cards, choose ones made from recycled paper and stay away from those with glitter, foil and special coatings so they can be easily recycled. Save your Christmas cards to use for gift tags and for other crafts in the future.
- Using a live tree? ***Cut it up to use for mulch for your garden in coming seasons.*** If you have an artificial tree, ***use it for as long as you possibly can.***
- Time to replace holiday lights? ***Don't throw away old lights!*** They can be recycled through special programs, and we'll help! Starting December 1, bring your broken and unusable strings of Christmas lights to the church and EarthAware will ship them to a recycler.
- ***Make the switch to LED lights.*** They cost a little more upfront, but they last longer and save energy. Be sure to turn off all lights before you go to bed to save energy.

COMING SOON FROM EARTHAWARE

Our new Church Recycling Center where you can recycle plastic film, used pens, and used electronic equipment. Details coming in December!



ADVENT @ MUMC

11/26

9am-3pm Hanging of the Greens

11/28 | First Sunday of Advent

United Methodist Student Day

11/29

10am Breakfast Bag Assembly

12/2

6pm Blue Christmas Service

12/3

6pm Youth Fellowship

12/4

9:15am-12pm UMW Advent Celebration, Fellowship Hall

12/5 | Second Sunday of Advent

11:30am Blessing of Children's Room

12/9

Yarners

12/10

6pm Youth Fellowship

12/12 | Third Sunday of Advent

Blessing of Our Giving Intentions for 2022

1pm-3pm Parsonage Open House

6:15pm Trustees, Online

12/15

Church Office Closed at 12pm

Staff Christmas Party

12/16

12pm Music at Noon | Christmas Singers

12/17

1pm-7pm Blood Drive

6pm Youth Fellowship

12/18

9am-3pm Walk to the Manger Setup

12/19 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:30am Christmas Caroling

12/21

7pm Council on Ministries Meeting, Zoom

12/24

7:30pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Wednesdays at 7pm

Handbell Rehearsal,
Fellowship Hall

Thursdays at 7pm

Chancel Choir
Rehearsal, Music Room

**Walk to the Manger
Open**

6pm-8pm
12/19 through 1/2

Adult Discipleship in Advent

11/28: 8:30am
12/5, 12/12, 12/19: 11:30am
Wesley Room

The Staff meets for prayer and planning Wednesday afternoons at 2pm.