

From everything I read, God says it comes down to love, the hard work of love. The love that means we are in a committed relationship: with God and with one another. The love that takes action as we respond to the events in Iran, midterm elections, rising prices, and differing views on our climate? Love that attends to matters of race and injustice? Love that is in conversation about the issues of matters of human sexuality? Love that looks deeply at immigration or climate control?

But what does that love look like when we have strong feelings about these and other topics? What does love look like when something happens that causes us to start to feel annoyed or defensive? What does love mean then? Love means taking on actions that will equip the world to move toward justice and mercy. Yet, the actions we each choose may look very different...so, there must be more to it.

Love also means staying in relationship. It means maintaining active care and concern about one another. **That is the challenge of love...**remaining in relationships while living in a divisive and divided world. This is the work of the Church! We are called to live our lives grounded in a love that engages in the hard work of a self-giving *relationship*.

Love presumes it is not all about me.

Love presumes a relationship.

Love presumes a conversation.

Which translates to what we say we are as a church and as a denomination, **“all are welcome here.”** If that is true, there are no qualifiers. Just—all are welcome here. And elsewhere we name the fact that it is God’s grace that grounds us. Thus, we are saying that we are a community not built on uniformity of agreement or experience, but a community built on nothing more **and nothing less** than the love of God. So, as people grounded in God’s love, we do not run from the hard topics but rather stay in the conversation as an act of love.

And when we find ourselves drawn, as we all do at times, to judging another person’s perspective, we must then trade in judgment for curiosity, seeking to understand why that person sees life as they do. And when we find ourselves drawn to anger, as we all do at times, we need to stop and ask: Why am I angry? Is there something in this that has made me feel threatened? Of what am I afraid?

This hard work is our job as Christians, as brothers and sisters in the family of God, as United Methodists working through our Social Principals. Our diverse and complex and anxious world makes loving a challenge, thus why we as Christians need to lead the way. Which means we must stay in relationship – open and connected to God and to one another, because we are called to love as God has loved us.

In closing, I share these words of The Rev. Jeremy Troxler:

*Perhaps God has God’s own purposes in putting us very different people,
with our dueling Facebook posts and our rival news sources,
all together next to each other in the pew.*

Perhaps one of those purposes is to learn the meaning of love.

*Perhaps it is only by learning to love people we disagree with,
only by learning to love people who we know are wrong,*

only by learning to love sinners that we learn what love, Christ-like love, really is.

So, dear Church Family, I look forward to “seeing” you in church as we gather in person and online to dig deeper into understanding what Christian love looks like in this 21st Century, while exploring our United Methodist Social Principals, and while listening to our various differences. May God’s grace continue to bless and keep us growing together in our faith. Amen.



In the next few weeks, we will continue to dig deep into each social principal, looking to learn, grow and understand more about who we are as a United Methodist and how we engage new lives of resurrection faith into action.

- May 10 - Faith In Action: Social Community... *Matthew 5:43-48*
- May 17 - Faith In Action: Political Community...*Jeremiah 22:13-17 & Romans 12:14-18*
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- May 24 – We will pause our series.
- May 31 - Faith In Action: Embodying Our Principals... *Romans 12:1-2*

"See" you in person and online for worship! *Jill*

Conference opportunities

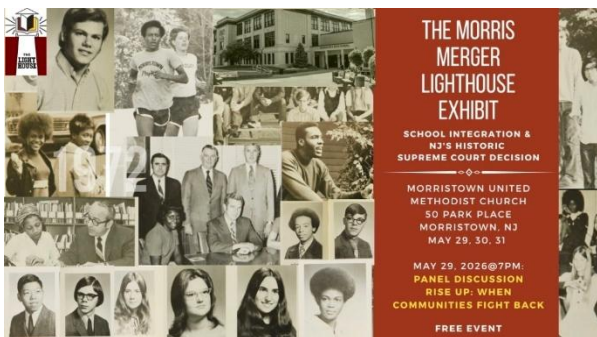
Morristown UMC presents *Supernatural: The Play*

A staged reading of collected monologues sharing Black women's experiences surrounding natural hair, identity, beauty, bias, and belonging.

When: May 23, 3pm & 7pm shows

Where: Fellowship Hall, Morristown UMC (50 Park Place, Morristown)

Cost: \$20



The Lighthouse: The Morris Merger

A free traveling art installation telling the story of eight courageous local plaintiffs who challenged segregation in Morristown's public schools, helping shape a more just community.

May 29: Kick off at 6pm kick off, Panel discussion at 7pm

May 30: 1-3pm, 5-7pm

May 31: 1-3pm

Where: Morristown UMC (50 Park Place, Morristown)

Summer Book Club



Summer is a great season to enjoy the beautiful weather and take in a new book. So, in the summer months of June, July, and August; Jill invites you to come together on the 1st Wednesday of each month at noon for conversation and sharing. Bring your lunch if you choose and your thoughts on the book of the month. The book for June is: *Joyful Anyway* by Kate Bowler.



Faith-filled Fieldtrips: Jill is introducing a new opportunity to explore faith in new locations. This new ministry begins with a trip to the Cloisters in Manhattan on June 11th. Please RSVP to the church office if you are interested, so we can arrange transportation. There is a cost for entrance into the Cloisters.



FEMININE HYGIENE COLLECTION

During the month of May, the Outreach Commission will be collecting feminine hygiene items to be donated to Mercy Center. These items are not covered by SNAP benefits and are a necessary expense. You may drop off items to the church office.



**6th Sunday after Easter
May 10, 2026**

Counters: Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

Greeter: Barbara Gruezke

Usher: Scott Danielson

Acolyte: Bonnie McNamara

Lay Reader: Soon Hur

Fellowship Hosts: Scott & Russel Danielson

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Kay Longstreet & Katherine Miller by Pam Miller.
Given in honor of Glenn William Henderson's birthday by his family.



**Ascension Sunday
May 17, 2026**

Counters: Randy Danielson, Jane Gittines

Greeter: Pamela Lynch

Usher: Buster Stoll

Acolyte: Ian Furda

Lay Reader: John Montgomery

Fellowship Hosts: Pamela Lynch & Jeff Danielson

Altar Flowers

Given in loving memory of Lou Sama by Peg Kuchen.
Given in loving memory of Jean Gillette by Diane Maher & Joy More.



MERCY CENTER

The Outreach Commission thanks you for your continued support of the Mercy Center food bank. Here are the current needs: canned meats, canned fish, beans, lentils, rice, pasta, oats, whole-grain cereals, low-sodium soup, canned fruits, canned vegetables, peanut butter, powdered milk, & nonperishable oils.

5th Sunday



May is a 5th Sundry month. An offering is collected during these months to contribute to the cost of snow plowing, landscaping, and more. Please use the yellow envelopes for your offering.

Tsedalech, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of May by Len & Barbara Gruezke in honor of Avery Fallon's 1st birthday.



WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

May 10-May 16



Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14: 15-21

COFFEE & COMMUNITY

JAVA WITH JILL
May 26 10 a.m.

Join Pastor Hubbard-Smith and friends at the Blue Swan Diner for an informal gathering to share conversation and perhaps a treat of your choosing.

Please be Praying for...

Our homebound: Bev Itell, Virginia Haydu, Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens, Carey Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Elaine Gould

Jersey Shore Care Center: Dave Miller

Sunnyside Manor, Wall: Nancy Burt

Our church family worshipping at a distance: Barbara Novick, Laura Eble, Jack & Caroline Chesbro



Coffee Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Do you have what it takes to be a fellowship host? YES, YOU DO!

Please sign up in the upstairs kitchen. The very simple requirements to be a fellowship host are posted

on the poster board. Or you may speak with Bonnie McNamara.

OUR MAY COMMUNION OFFERING BENEFITS UNITED MEHODIST COMMUNITIES



The next free community spaghetti dinner will be on May 17th at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal and community.

The Little Free Pantry



Please think of stocking shelf-stable milk, powdered milk, soup, stew, chili, whole grain cereal, toiletries, hygiene products, baby food, applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned tuna, canned salmon, SPAM, canned ham, canned vegetables, olive oil, canola oil, crackers, dried herbs, spices, canned fruit, dried fruit, granola bars, instant mashed potatoes, meals in a box, nuts, pasta, peanut butter, & rice.

A good idea this week:
Dryer sheets

Beaded Crosses for Sale to Benefit Keswick Ministry.

Debbie Eckert (Old First UMC) is making & selling these small, beaded crosses to support the Keswick ministry. Keswick provides a program for addiction recovery that costs approximately \$11,000.00 yet they only charge the participant \$600.00.

By providing a donation to this life changing ministry, you will receive a handmade beaded cross from Debbie. They are available from Debbie on Sunday mornings.

