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The

Connection

Morton Baptist Church

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Sunday Service: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: Wednesday at Noon
www.facebook.com/273938523674

And He (God) said (to Moses), "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me and live." And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen" (Exodus 33:14-23).

I used to envy Moses because of this special encounter with God. But not any more; since the birth of Jesus Christ, we have this same intimate relationship with God if we avail ourselves of what He has said in the Scriptures. In light of this truth please consider the following Scriptures.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:1-5).

Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves" (John 14:6-14).

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are

complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power (Colossians 2:8-10).

According to Scripture, the birth of Jesus Christ was not to give us a holiday, but a holy day and a holy life. God came to earth so we could see Him face to face and still live to tell about it. Do you tell about your face to face encounter with the Creator and Savior of all mankind? If we know Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord we have found grace in God's sight and He knows us by name.

The vain philosophy and empty deceit are those religious philosophers who say that all people will be saved from their sin, and that all religions lead to God. In John 3:3 Jesus said to a religious leader, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

To be born again is not a magic formula. It is confessing our sins to God and asking forgiveness of those sins in the name of Jesus Christ. We then have the power to repent, or turn away from our sins and lead a new life in Christ. Christmas is not about anything else. And if anyone thinks they can have Jesus Christ and Santa Claus incorporated into this sacred time, it means that neither Jesus Christ or Santa Claus are necessary for salvation.

Just think; we do not have to climb a mountain to see God's back like Moses did; God came here on that special night long ago to meet with us face to face right here where we live! What an amazing God we serve! What an immeasurable amount of love has been poured out on us!

It is my earnest prayer that each and all of you will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ as a most holy day.

Serving Christ and the community, Pastor Jim

11-24-15 TRUSTEE MEETING

In attendance: Ralph Olney, Dale Rowley, Bev Olney, Sandy Strassenburgh, Fred Conradt, Pastor Jim Richardson, Marilyn Kandrata

Meeting was opened with prayer at 7:00 pm.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Pam Dutton's current church does not send letters of transfer. Pam will be reinstated as a member of Morton Baptist Church. Bev made a motion to approve the minutes, Sandy seconded.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. The stock market has rebounded and the Endowment fund earned \$7,000 for the month of October. Ralph suggested moving some money now while the market is up to cover future bills. The checking account balance is \$1,500. The budget is on track. November is a 5-paycheck month for employees. Sandy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Bev seconded.

The 2016 Budget was reviewed. Ralph spoke to John Cook and Brad Miller about Vacation Bible School. No other churches have donated money for VBS. In the future we will suggest a 3 way split of expenses. \$600 will be budgeted for 2016. The overall budget is \$2,200 (3%) less than last year. Fred made a motion to approve the budget, Sandy seconded.

The current proposal will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Gifts for employees/committee leaders were discussed. Many who have received gifts in the past have declined future gifts. Dale will discuss this with each individual.

Missions will be distributed the same as last year: United Missions \$200, Fairport Baptist Home \$200, World Missions \$25, America for Christ \$35, One Great Hour of Sharing \$35.

We have not received a bill for lawn service. Don Robinson will plow for \$55/trip and \$55/salt.

Tammy Cook requested the use of McQueen Hall on January 21st, approved. The Mason's would like to use the kitchen/McQueen Hall for their Pork Dinner on December 5th, approved.

Ralph would like to purchase a new accounting program, Quick Books, for the church. Ralph and Bev offered to pay \$100 towards the purchase price of \$170, approved.

We will need 2 Deacons and 2 Trustees for next year.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 7:38



In and Around the Community

There were **seven** children baptized on October 25th (a misprint in the November newsletter). The seven included Lizzie Pearson, Alycia Davenport, Mazie Carpenter, MacKenzie Jenks, Lauren Miller, Kylie Davenport, and Kayla Mosher.

If anyone is interested in being a bell ringer for the Salvation Army, please contact Tom Ingraham.

Thank you to everyone that donated turkeys or money to the Kendall Food Cupboard for Thanksgiving. The Food Cupboard was able to pack 60 boxes! If you would like to donate money for Christmas, please contact Julia Ingraham. Thank you!

Unfortunately, there wasn't a veteran's luncheon at our church this year. The veteran's were not able to get transportation.

Please continue to pray for Libby Jurs and her family. Libby has been battling with cancer for several years and retired from Kendall Central School district this past month. She was the greatly loved school nurse at the high school for numerous years.

Please keep the Steffen family in your prayers. Debbie Steffen lost her long battle with cancer on November 2nd at the age of 62.

The Fall Feast and worship service at the Kendall Methodist Church was truly a great time! There were attendees from all over.

We're thrilled to hear that Alycia and Kylie Davenport's cousin, Rhonda, has been cleared of

cancer! She was able to visit them and is going very well.

Brad Miller's father has had his kidney stone removed and had his gall bladder removed. The surgeries went well, but despite these improvements, he continues to have problems with his foot. Regardless, he still is looking forward to hunting! We're glad you're keeping your spirits up!

The Kendall High School hosted its annual Dessert Cabaret on November 13th. Numerous youth group members were involved. It was a great show filled with talent and delicious desserts.

Tony Callari fell off the top of his tractor-trailer truck and broke several vertebra and ribs, in addition to hurting his head. Despite his fall, he was still able to be in church the following Sunday! We're glad to see you're up and about and pray for a quick recovery!

The Kendall Community Choir hosted their last concert on December 20th. It was an evening filled with fun and energetic music with appearances by the Morton Baptist Bell Choir and Andrew Cook.

Please keep the Seibert family in your prayers. Craig Seibert passed away suddenly on November 21st. Craig and his wife Barb are longtime members of the community. Craig was actively involved in the Morton Fire Department while Barb works at the Kendall Central School and is a member of the Community Chorus. Remember the family in your prayers through this difficult time.



We continue to remember in prayer: the Ashberry family, Jim Bliss, Fred & Wilma Conradt, Chap & Jan Fabry, Helen Mattern, RoseMary Mintz, Ralph Olney, Ed & Joan Purvee, Eleanor Reynolds, Larry & Sandy Richardson, Pastor Jim, and the youth group. Cards, notes, and visits are always welcome.

“If” ...and so Forth

1. If God did not create all things as described in Genesis, then the rest of the Scripture can be called into question.
2. If the validity of Scripture is determined by scholars instead of the Holy Spirit, then reading the Bible and going to church is climbing fool's hill.
3. If mankind is not made in the image of God there is nothing to redeem.
4. If Jesus Christ was not God incarnate, He was not a redeemer nor was He a good man.
5. If man did not have a free will he could not sin nor could he love because both assume a choice.
6. If we did not have the capacity to love God, we would not be worth redeeming.
7. If we were not redeeming we could have no dread of future punishment because hell would be unfair.
8. If Scripture is not true, the world would not care what Christians believe.
9. If Scripture is not true, the unrighteousness of non-Christians would not be exposed by the righteousness of Jesus Christ and born-again believers in Christ.
10. If The Scriptures are true; every other way is a lie.
11. Either you believe or you do not believe.

Pastor Jim

UPCOMING EVENTS



Kendall Tree Lighting

The Kendall Tree Lighting Ceremony will begin at the Kendall Gazebo at 7:00 PM on December 2nd. The Kendall Community Band and the Lawn Chair Ladies will be performing at the Fire Hall starting at 7:30 PM.



Life Ladies

The Life Ladies will meet at Cindy Curtis' house right after church on December 6th for their annual Christmas party. Please bring a snack to share!

Brockport Christmas Parade

Brockport will be having its annual Christmas parade on main street on December 6th at 5:00 PM. Come support our Lawn Chair Ladies!



Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve service will be held at the church on December 24th at 7:00 PM. Come listen and enjoy the Christmas story told by Pastor Jim and the choir in a musical contata.

ATTENTION!



Recorded Messages

The church services are recorded every Sunday and are now can be accessed through the church Facebook page and can be downloaded from Soundcloud (<https://soundcloud.com/ortonaptisthurchermons>).



Church Email Address

The church email address (mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com) is now being utilized as the source for the electronic monthly newsletter, prayer chain, and emergency closing information.



December Birthdays:

2nd Austin Wakefield
3rd Angela Cater
17th Todd Young
19th Lank Dobbins
25th Alice Richardson
28th Ann Bartel



December Greeters:

6th The Ingraham Family
13th Brad Miller
20th Dale & Lisa Rowley
27th The Cook Family



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for December is:
Ziplock bags

The Gold and Ivory Cloth

At Christmastime, men and women everywhere gather in their churches to wonder anew at the greatest miracle the world has ever known. But the story I like best to recall was not a miracle—not exactly.

It happened to a pastor who was very young. His church was very old. Once, long ago, it had flourished. Famous men had preached from its pulpit, prayed before its altar. Rich and poor alike had worshiped there and built it beautifully. Now the good days had passed from the section of town where it stood. But the pastor and his young wife believed in their run-down church. They felt that with paint, hammer, and faith, they could get it in shape. Together they went to work.

But late in December, a severe storm whipped through the river valley, and the worst blow fell on the little church—a huge chunk of rain-soaked plaster fell out of the inside wall just behind the altar. Sorrowfully the pastor and his wife swept away the mess, but they couldn't hide the ragged hole. The pastor looked at it and had to remind himself quickly, "Thy will be done!"

The joyful purpose of the storm that had knocked a hole in the wall of the church was now quite clear.

But his wife wept, "Christmas is only two days away!"

That afternoon the dispirited couple attended an auction held for the benefit of a youth group. The auctioneer opened a box and shook out of its folds a handsome gold-and-ivory lace tablecloth. It was a magnificent item, nearly 15 feet long. But it, too, dated from a long-vanished era. Who, today, had any use for such a thing? There were a few halfhearted bids. Then the pastor was seized with what he thought was a great idea. He bid it in for six dollars and fifty cents.

He carried the cloth back to the church and tacked it up on the wall behind the altar. It completely hid the hole! And the extraordinary beauty of its shimmering handwork cast a fine, holiday glow over the chancel. It was a great triumph. Happily he went back to preparing his Christmas sermon.

Just before noon on the day of Christmas Eve, as the pastor was opening the church, he noticed a woman standing in the cold at the bus stop.

“The bus won’t be here for 40 minutes!” he called, and he invited her into the church to get warm.

She told him that she had come from the city that morning to be interviewed for a job as governess to the children of one of the wealthy families in town but she had been turned down. A war refugee, she had imperfect English.

The woman sat down in a pew and chafed her hands and rested. After a while, she dropped her head and prayed. She looked up as the pastor began to adjust the great gold-and-ivory lace cloth across the hole. She rose suddenly and walked up the steps of the chancel. She looked at the tablecloth. The pastor smiled and started to tell her about the storm damage, but she didn’t seem to listen. She took up a fold of the cloth and rubbed it between her fingers.

“It is mine!” she said. “It is my banquet cloth!” She lifted up a corner and showed the surprised pastor that there were initials monogrammed on it. “My husband had the cloth made especially for me in Brussels! There could not be another like it!”

For the next few minutes, the woman and the pastor talked excitedly together. She explained that she was Viennese, that she and her husband had opposed the Nazis and decided to leave the country. They were advised to go separately. Her husband put her on a train for Switzerland. They planned that he would join her as soon as he could arrange to ship their household goods across the border.

She never saw him again. Later she heard that he had died in a concentration camp.

“I have always felt that it was my fault—to leave without him,” she said. “Perhaps these years of wandering have been my punishment!”

The pastor tried to comfort her, urged her to take the cloth with her. She refused. Then she went away.

As the church began to fill on Christmas Eve, it was clear that the cloth was going to be a great success. It had been skillfully designed to look its best by candlelight.

After the service, the pastor stood at the doorway; many people told him that the church looked beautiful. One gentle-faced, middle-aged man—he was the local clock-and-watch repairman—looked rather puzzled.

“It is strange,” he said in his soft accent. “Many years ago, my wife—God rest her—and I owned such a cloth. In our home in Vienna, my wife put it on the table”—and here he smiled—“only when the bishop came to dinner!”

The pastor suddenly became very excited. He told the jeweler about the woman who had been in church earlier in the day.

The startled jeweler clutched the pastor’s arm. “Can it be? Does she live?”

Together the two got in touch with the family who had interviewed her. Then, in the pastor’s car, they started for the city. And as Christmas Day was born, this man and his wife—who had been separated through so many saddened Yuletides—were reunited.

To all who heard this story, the joyful purpose of the storm that had knocked a hole in the wall of the church was now quite clear. Of course, people said it was a miracle, but I think you will agree it was the season for it!

December

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Bible Study @ noon Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 Kendall Tree Lighting @ 7:00	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday Life Ladies @ Cindy's after church	7	8	9 Bible Study @ noon Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Bible Study @ noon Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Bible Study @ noon Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 Newsletter items due	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service @7:00 PM	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Morton Baptist Church
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December 2015

