

J a n u a r y 2 0 1 7

The

Connection

Morton Baptist Church

Pastor Jim's Phone: 585-880-6433
Church Telephone: 585-659-8459
mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com

Sunday Service: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: Wednesday at 12:00
www.facebook.com/273938523674

WHO IS IN CONTROL?

During this last election cycle many people found out they are not in control. There was so much bad press it was somewhat over the top. And after the election? People throwing tantrums and needing counseling, demonstrating and making threats to leave the country?

Well, that is a privilege that people have in a free country. In many countries such demonstrations of frustration would be put down by force of arms. But not here. And if anyone has a deep desire to leave the country, they are also free to do that as well. In fact, some goodhearted folks might take up a collection to help them reach their goal of a new beginning. But none of it will change anything; "THEY" are not in control, whomsoever "THEY" may be.

Who is in control? God, the One who created the universe and all it contains. The Bible is filled with events that God controls, and governments are also under His control. Here are a couple of examples: The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand: that I will break the Assyrian in My land, and on My mountains tread him underfoot. Then his yoke shall be

removed from them, and his burden removed from their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back” (Isaiah 14:24-27)?

Yes, God is the one who allows governments to thrive or not. It is to His discretion that anything comes to pass or not. For that reason it does not pay to get too excited about who our president or anyone else will be. They will be there for a certain length of time and then someone else will show up to undo what they have done, for good or ill.

In Revelation 11:15 the Bible says, “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and forever!’”

God knows what we need for our lives here on earth as far as our physical beings are concerned but that should not be our primary focus. Jesus said to, “Seek the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:31-34).

Do not fret, it only causes harm. Do what you can to make 2017 a better year for someone else; not because they deserve it but because they need it and they need your love. Worship God in Spirit and in truth and you will be standing before Him today!

Serving Christ and the Community with love; Pastor Jim

TRUSTEE MEETING 12-14-16

In attendance: Ralph Olney, John Curtis, Dale Rowley, Bev Olney, Gary House, Pastor Jim Richardson, Marilyn Kundrata

Meeting opened at 7:40pm

The Financial Report was reviewed. The Endowment Fund is up. The check from Jim Bliss's memorial was received, \$12,500 will be deposited into the Endowment Fund. All accounts are up to date. Gary made a motion to accept the Financial Report as written, Bev seconded.

The 2017 Budget is ready for review at the Annual Meeting.

Gary House will do an in-house audit of the financials, on December 19, 2016.

The Stewardship letter was in the December newsletter.

It was agreed that in lieu of monetary Christmas gifts to Church Committee members that the money would be donated to the Youth Group. Dale will present the check on Sunday, December 18, 2016.

Ralph received a bill from Pat Seaman for \$550 for mowing for 2016.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Ralph, Jim Richardson and Dan Cater will replace the fans in the sanctuary. Gary made a motion to accept the minutes, Bev seconded.

The church was inspected by the Fire Inspector. Signs that say "Fire Extinguisher" need to be posted above fire extinguishers. Emergency lights need to be replaced. CO detectors have been installed. The inspector will return in March to re-inspect.

Tom Ingraham and Gary House have agreed to be the emergency contacts if there was a 911 call regarding the church.

Nominating Committee – Tom Ingraham and Sandy Strassenburgh have agreed to be Trustees. Ralph and Brad Miller will be on the Pastoral Committee, there is still an opening for a female church member on the committee. We need two Deacons and someone for the Kitchen Committee.

Meeting was closed with prayer at 8:05 pm

Jeremiah 17:9; The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?
Jeremiah 17:10; I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

1 John 1:8; If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:9; If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:10; If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Human beings are prone to give credit to the devil for their own doings. I do not doubt the influence the devil has on people, especially nonbelievers. However, the devil would not be as effective as he is if human beings did not cooperate as well as they do.

Self-deception is justification of evil in one's own life. It is the acceptance of the world system in place of God's system.

Pastor Jim

2 Corinthians 12:9-10, NKJV

And God said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

I thank You Lord for last year
And the infirmities that came,
That makes me more aware of You
And Jesus' precious name.
Before we get into next year
I thank You ahead of time,
For all the healing power
That You have all in line.
May I remember the sacrifice
When Jesus saved my soul;
Even though it's difficult
Now my life is whole.

I ask You Lord for courage
To face this coming year,
So I don't miss the blessing
Of Jesus being near.
Help me rejoice in suffering
And in Your blessings too;
Help me to be Spirit led
That I may honor You.

In Jesus Name, Amen
Pastor Jim

LEARNING TO TRUST

John 11:25-26; Jesus said unto her,
"I am the resurrection, and the life;
he that believeth in Me, though he
were dead, yet shall he live.
And whosoever liveth and believeth
in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?"
Believing in Jesus, as He has said;
But will I witness raising the dead?
Trusting in Jesus, and that is all;
But can I trust Him, as other men fall?
What of our children who've gone their own
way;
Will You turn their night back into day?

Will You strengthen me to shepherd Your flock,
And give me the key, their hearts to unlock?
Trusting in Jesus, through night and day;
Will He answer me, when I stay up to pray?
The issues of life are too much to bear;
Has He given me more than my share?
The world is filled with struggle and strife;
Why was I chosen for its Spiritual life?
I've many more questions I cannot make rhyme,
So I'll finish this work some other time;
But I'm trusting in Jesus, as I turn off the light,
As the Spirit watches over me, throughout the
night.

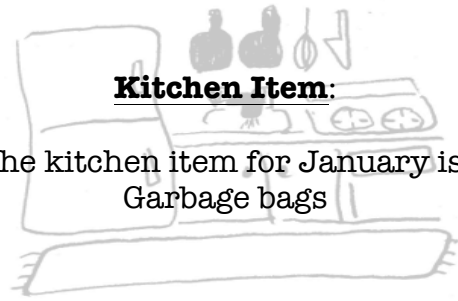
Pastor Jim

January Birthdays:

1st Tammy Cook
6th Dan Cater
Kevin Rowley
7th Skip Scroger
8th Larry Richardson
28th David Strassenburgh
31st Kaitlyn Curtis

Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for January is:
Garbage bags



ATTENTION!



Kitchen Committee

We are in need of a new kitchen person to take over in January, after the annual meeting. Bev Olney has been in charge of the kitchen for many years (Susan Miller asked her to take over for her quite awhile ago!) and now is a good time to pass it along to someone else. Please see Bev or call (349-1817) if you are interested.

Pledges

If you didn't receive new pledge envelopes and would like some, please see John Curtis. For those who are unaware, John gives a copy of your pledge/donations at the end of the year for tax purposes.



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 Supplies

The church is in constant need of **paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, any size Ziplock bags, and trash bags (13-gal and 30-gal)**. If we all could contribute a little it would take the burden off those who are constantly purchasing these things for the church. These items go fast, and we all use them so if you're able, please contribute. If you'd like to contribute money for these items please see Dan Cater. Thank you!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th following the church service. **All yearly reports are due to Kaitlyn Curtis by Sunday, January 15th and will be available January 22nd**. You can email your reports to the church email address or put the reports directly in my mailbox. Thank you!



In and Around the Community

If you wish to make donations to the clothing closet at the Concordia Lutheran Church, please contact Tony or Mary Calleri.

Please remember the Zittle family in your prayers. Lisa Zittle's mother passed away in early December.

Rosemary Mintz has travelled back to Florida for the winter. We'll miss you and hope you have a great trip!

Katie Kundrata made her way back to Malaysia after a month-long visit home. She travelled over 36 hours on her travel back. We loved having you home!

Please keep the Johncox family in your prayers. Amanda's grandfather passed away in December. In addition, their son Curtis lost two friends in late November.

Skip Scroger's brother, Tom, has been diagnosed with cancer. They are awaiting further test results.

We received a thank you from the Kendall Food Cupboard for donations given throughout the holiday season. They were able to pack over 50 bags of gifts and numerous more for food.

The Trustees took time to thank members who give their time to the church throughout the year. It was decided to forgo individual gifts and instead to provide a donation to the youth group.

Please keep two Kendall teachers in your prayers. Michael Billotti, English teacher, has been having kidney problems, which has kept him out of school for the past month. Mark Driesel had planned kidney surgery in mid-December. Both plan to return to school by January in good health.

A special thank you goes out to all who give donate their time to organizations that help families in need. It is greatly appreciated.

Remember Tammy Cook's aunts in your prayers. Her Aunt Yvonne is having a rough time as well as her Aunt Wendy.

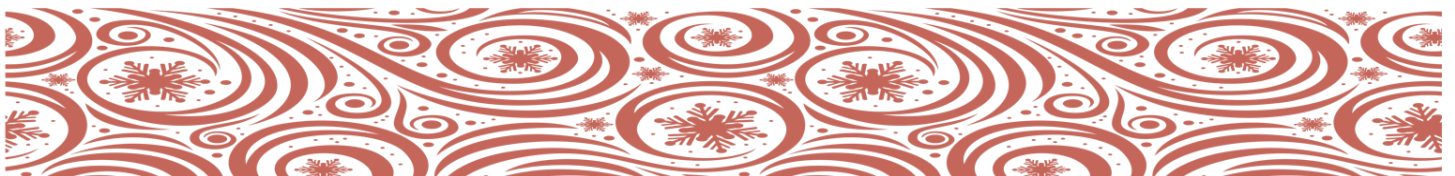
The church service on December 18th, was filled with music as the choir sang four anthems and the congregation participated in a hymn sing. It was wonderful to hear all of the Christmas music!

Please keep Joan Purvee's daughter, Melanie, in your prayers. She has a blood clot in her leg and was not allowed to travel home for the holidays as planned. Hopefully it will be resolved without further issues, but complications could be serious if they can't dissolve it quickly.

We're thrilled to hear that Amanda and Jason Johncox had a healthy baby girl! Olivia Paige was born on December 29th at 10:06 AM. She weighted in at 7 pounds 1 ounce and is 18.5 inches long. December 29th also happens to be Novalee's birthday! She turned 6. Congratulations to the whole family!



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



To Start A New Year - Anonymous

“A new year is unfolding - like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good - with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help, and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible - with Your help and guidance.”

Recipe for a Happy New Year - Anonymous

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor, and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past - have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing - don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

A New Year's Prayer - Anonymous

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;
A work to do, which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;
An understanding heart;
A sense of humor;
Time for quiet, silent meditation;
A feeling of the presence of God;
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,
With the wisdom to recognize them when they come. Amen.

Office Hours and Support Groups in Kendall
3rd Thursday of each month

A Care Coordinator will be available in person to help assess your family's needs and discuss care planning, home safety, and any other concerns. Appointments are appreciated but not required.

Kendall Town Hall
1873 Kendall Road, Kendall, NY 14476
9:00 am-12:00 pm

Support groups create a safe, confidential, supportive environment or community and a chance for participants to develop informal mutual support and social relationships. They also educate and inform participants about dementia and help participants develop methods and skills to solve problems.

Concordia Lutheran Church
1769 Kendall Road, Kendall, NY
1:00pm-2:00pm

Please contact the Alzheimer's Association at
(585) 760-5400 for more information.

These services are supported by a grant from the New York State Department of Health in partnership with Lifespan of Greater Rochester.

January

2017

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day Communion Sunday	2	3	4 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	12	13	14
15 Annual Reports are due	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	19	20 Inauguration Day	21
22 Annual Reports are available	23	24	25 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Morton Baptist Church
1152 County Line Road
Hamlin, NY 14464

January 2017



HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:11