

F e b r u a r y 2 0 1 8

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

The book of Jonah is a book of many miracles: God calling a Jew to go and evangelize Gentiles, the great storm because of Jonah, the casting of lots that fell on Jonah, the calming of the storm when they threw Jonah overboard, Jonah being swallowed by a large fish and then vomited up on the beach, the message from God through the mouth of Jonah, and the greatest mass revival the world has ever seen at one time in one place, the East wind sent by God to remind Jonah who was in charge, and the gourd vine that came up overnight and the worm that destroyed the vine, and God using one of the most hardheaded and stubborn prophets that ever lived; all for God's honor and glory.

As we read this narrative of a great revival, we must keep in mind the great faith Jonah had in God. Jonah knew what God's plans were and went about to try and short-circuit those plans. He thought if he took longer than he was supposed to, God would go ahead and destroy Nineveh; the Jews hated the Nineveites!

As great as this narrative is, it did eventually have a tragic end. The great revival did not last; in less than two hundred years the wickedness of Nineveh resurfaced, and God sent other countries to Nineveh that totally destroyed the city and its inhabitants.

The question has often been asked why such a great revival could go down so quickly. Well, the only thing that is different about that revival and those in more modern times is because that revival happened so suddenly. We have had some great revivals in the United States of America that reached into the British Isles and Europe; what happened to them?

Revivals do not last when the religious fervor wears off. People become complacent. The economy picks up. People are busy about *their* business instead of God's business. Parents do not teach their children at home; instead, they leave religious teaching to the church. But the children are only in church a very few hours a week but in secular school many hours a week. So the children learn the ways of the world and so do the parents. So long revival. That is where we are right now in this country and many other countries besides.

Most Christians think they have nothing to do with evangelism and revival. The thought is to let the professionals do that kind of work. Nothing about Christianity could be further from the truth. An evangelist is one who presents Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in a very public forum. The pastor of a church presents the same message to people in a more intimate forum, the local house of worship. The individual Christian presents the Gospel to another person; it is called personal evangelism.

Having crusades for mass evangelism is important because many people come just for the music and the excitement of a large crowd. However, some of those people, even those who think they are Christians, come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ because the Holy Spirit is at work in such a venue.

At the same time, it is up to the local church to do follow up work with these new believers and this is where personal

evangelism comes in. The lifestyle of a Christian is a great demonstration of how real Jesus Christ is in the believer's life. It will be either a positive sign or a negative sign. If your friends and relatives know you are a member of a certain church but you are seldom there then they will assume that Jesus Christ is not very important to you.

If you seldom miss a Sunday of church, that is a good sign but not good enough. If you never talk about your faith outside of the church building, other people will not know why you go there. You may think that people will not listen to you, but God has a message for other people through you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember how Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh and God had to rough him up a bit? But, if you read the narrative, you will see Jonah had great faith through the whole thing. If you have faith enough to believe you are a born again Christian then you have faith enough to share the Gospel with someone else. And if you do share your faith with someone else, it just might be at the right time for God to begin a great revival. How would you like to be part of that?

2018 got here very quickly, and it will be gone just as quickly. With that in mind, we each have 365 days in which to share the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray that it will be so, to God's honor and glory; Amen!

Serving Christ and the Community, Pastor Jim

Love is patient,
love is kind 
1 C O R I N T H I A N S 13 : 4

THE OUTWORKING OF THE BEATITUDES AT MORTON BAPTIST CHURCH, FROM MATTHEW CHAPTER FIVE

- 1) When Jesus saw the people in disarray, He went to Troutburg, and after He sat down, the Mortonites came to Him.
- 2) Then He began to speak, and taught us, saying:
- 3) Blessed are the poor in spirit; you have recognized your spiritual poverty.
- 4) Blessed are you that mourn; your hearts have been touched by other people's grief.
- 5) Blessed are the meek; you understand the value of people.
- 6) Blessed are you that do hunger and thirst after righteousness; you have been using yourselves up for other people.
- 7) Blessed are the merciful; you share what God has given you.
- 8) Blessed are the pure in heart; you have no ulterior motives.
- 9) Blessed are the peacemakers; you are a very rare breed.
- 10) Blessed are you who are persecuted for righteousness sake; Jesus Christ has become real to you.
- 11) Blessed are you , when people revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for the sake of Jesus Christ; your life has made Jesus Christ real to other people.
- 12) Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad; for you have just learned how to worship God, like the prophets and apostles of old.
- 13) In so doing you are a disciple of Christ; the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Pastor Jim



February Birthdays:

- 2nd Valerie Sill
- 4th Rick Zinsmeister
- 12th Barbara Miller
- 15th Audrey Dobbins
- 20th Edith Lehr
- 21st Steven Walker
- 26th Karen Bond (Sill)
- 27th Chap Fabry



February Anniversaries:

- 8th Todd & Eileen Young
- 28th Pat & Ann Polasek

Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for February is:

Toilet Paper



ATTENTION!



Recorded Messages

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

Volunteer's Needed!

We continue to need people to sign up to make coffee and cookies for **coffee hour** after church. Sign-up sheets are in McQueen Hall. We also need volunteers to be **greeters** (see Carolyn House) and **lay readers** (see Pastor Jim).



Church Email Address

The church email address (mortonbaptistchurch@yahoo.com) is being utilized as the source for the electronic monthly newsletter, prayer chain, and emergency closing information. If you would like to add your email address to the list, please send an email to the above address.

Church Directory

A huge thank you goes out to Tammy Cook for organizing the creation of our new church directory and to Joan Purvee's daughter-in-law, Tracy, for taking the photos and putting together the directory. They look great! Tammy has copies of the directories available for \$10.00.



Hospice Flower Sale

It is time for the annual Hospice flower sale! If you would like to purchase flowers, please see Kathy Scroger. The bouquets are \$9.00 each and will be available by the end of February.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lion's Club Chicken BBQ

The Annual Kendall Lions Club Chicken BBQ will take place on Saturday, February 3rd. Pickup at the Kendall United Methodist Church from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM with a \$9 donation. Tickets are pre-sale only. Contact a Kendall Lion to purchase tickets.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4th following the church service. The Deacons will be providing the lunch and dessert. Annual reports are available in the narthex of the church.

Annual Baby Bottle Drive

The Care Net Center in Albion began their annual baby bottle drive on January 21st. Please take a bottle, fill it with loose change (paper money and checks also accepted), and return your bottles to church by Sunday, February 18th.





In and Around the Community

Andrew Cook arrived safely and has settled in for his 16-week internship in Washington, D.C. He is working in Congressman Chris Collins's office at the Capitol. We wish you the very best!

Please continue to pray for Joan Purvee's grandson's girlfriend, Rachel. She is not doing chemotherapy, but is doing better. Her employer is allowing her to work on a gradual basis as she continues treatments.

Please remember the family and friends of Ray Hardaway in your prayers. He passed away on December 16th. He was a youth pastor at the Lakeshore Community Church in Greece, which is the church where Natalie Cook grew up in.

The first round of edits is completed for the Christian romance novel written by our own Luann Henry. The manuscript is now back with the publishers. We can't wait until it's published!

Brad Miller's father, Paul, is suffering from ongoing health problems. He has substantial leg pain, which restricts his exercise and movement. Please keep him in your prayers.

Pastor Jim and Alice's niece, Sandy, has several significant health issues. She was told that she only has a few months left to live. She is going to get a second opinion in hopes that she has further options. Please pray for her and the family.

Please remember Kevin Foley in your prayers. Doctors found something in his scans and need to have an MRI to determine what it is.

Congratulations to David and Barbara Higgs who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 28th!

Natalie Cook's grandfather, Henry, is declining quickly. He is not receiving any more chemotherapy treatments for his brain cancer. In addition, Natalie's other grandfather has been diagnosed with cancer again. Keep them in your prayers.

John and Tammy Cook's niece, Courtney, had to take her spring semester off due to bladder problems that remain undiagnosed. She is having a hard time keeping her spirits up.

Retired Kendall teacher Mrs. Benfer's husband had a stroke and spent time in the hospital recovering.

Please keep Eileen Young's aunt, Cora Bissell, in your prayers. She suffered from a stroke in January.

Charity Villalobos graduated from nursing school last May and is studying for the boards. We pray for a passing mark!

Dave and Sandy Strassenburgh's address was incorrect in the new church directory. Their address should be: PO Box 115, Morton, NY 14508.

Please keep the family of Kevin Banker in your thoughts and prayers. Kevin passed away unexpectedly on January 4th. He was an active member of our community and loved spending time with his family. He was Eileen and Todd Young's nephew. He is survived by his wife Heather and six children.

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

February

2018

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." - John 15:12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Lion's Club Chicken BBQ from 12 - 2 @ the Kendall Methodist Church
4 Annual Meeting	5	6	7 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	8	9	10
11 Communion Sunday	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	15	16	17
18	19 President's Day	20	21 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00			

Morton Baptist Church
1152 County Line Road
Hamlin, NY 14464

February 2018

