

J u n e 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

PSALM 100

A Psalm Of Thanksgiving

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!
Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the LORD, He is God;
It is He who made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.

Since the beginning of history God has made Himself known to humanity. By the order of creation we see that God is in control of what He created, and from beginning to end He has a plan. Throughout the Book of Psalms there is much praise to God for all He has done to deliver His people from hardship and oppression. Actually, too much to address in a paper of this scope.

However, in Psalm 100, the writer is praising God just because He is God and that He has revealed Himself to mankind. We are God's because He created us to be His people. He created us to offer praise and thanksgiving to Him, because He is God and He deserves our highest adoration and our deepest devotion *regardless of any and all earthly circumstances!* And that is what Psalm 100 is all about.

There are many people who call themselves Christians who do not offer God praise and thanksgiving because they either take God's goodness for granted or they think their circumstances do not merit praise. Perhaps their *circumstances* do not merit praise but *God merits praise through those circumstances!*

Not only is the above true but God takes notice of those who speak well of Him: In Malachi 3:16-18 the Bible says, Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name.

"They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."

Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

I thank God for all those who serve Him with a joy-filled heart and meditate on His name; you are His jewels and my brothers and sisters in Christ; Amen!

Serving Christ and the Community, Pastor Jim

Trustee Meeting – 5/23/18

In attendance: Ralph Olney, Gary House, Tom Ingraham, Tony Callari, Sandy Strassenburgh, Frank Hoffman, Marilyn Kandrata

Pulpit Committee members in attendance: Julia Ingraham, Bev Olney and Brad Miller

Meeting was opened at 7 pm. The Pulpit Committee presented their recommendation that Rev. Walter Steenson act as interim pastor. Rev. Steenson came highly recommended by Alan Newton of American Baptist Churches. He is an experienced retired minister who is willing to stay as long as needed to guide us through the process of hiring a new pastor. The Trustees agreed unanimously to enter into a contract with Rev. Steenson as a part time interim minister to start July 1, 2018. Ralph will negotiate the contract.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Sandy made a motion to accept, Tony seconded.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. The market is starting to recover; the Endowment fund earned \$1,300 last month. The Capital Fund has a balance of \$28,000, which is mostly interest earned from the Endowment Fund that was transferred to the Capital Fund. No changes in investments are recommended at this time. Churchville Electric billed the church \$135 for generator repair. The Chicken BBQ earned \$1,038 in profit. Tops gave Sandy a \$25 gift card, which she gave to Brad Miller for the Youth Group. Westside was paid \$500 for advertising for the year. Sandy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Tony seconded.

Dan Cater would like to be baptized on June 3, 2018.

Pastor Jim Richardson would like to move his retirement date to June 10, 2018, citing health issues for the earlier leave date. Pastor Jim has been at Morton Baptist Church for 17 years. A reception will be planned for after church June 10th.

David Strassenburgh would like to donate an 8'x12' shed to the church to be used for storage of BBQ items such as charcoal. It was agreed that we could use a shed – arrangements will be made to transfer it to the back of the church.

Meeting was closed at 8pm.

The next meeting will be June 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Whom or what do you seek in prayer?
Seeking God's presence only is praying.
Seeking God's presents only is preying.
Pastor Jim

To not admit to sin and guilt is proof of both; to not repent of sin to remove the guilt is spiritual suicide. Pastor Jim

Dear Friends:

Our church has entrusted seven of our members with the task of seeking a successor to our minister, the Reverend James Richardson, who will resign on June 10, 2018. We know you will remember us prayerfully as we go about this in a responsible manner.

It may be helpful to you if we share some information as to the accepted procedures by which pulpit/search committees operate in most American Baptist churches:

1. The task of the pulpit/search committee is to study the leadership needs of our church.
2. We shall seek complete information regarding all those whose names are received from the ABC (Region, State, or City) office, our American Baptist seminaries, or any other reliable source.
3. We shall diligently compare the leadership needs of our church with the abilities of the prospective candidates and select, after prayer and mutual consent, that candidate who seems most promising.
4. We shall not present to our church more than one candidate at any time, and that only after we have given the members full information regarding the candidate.

It is our prayerful hope that the Lord will lead us to a unanimous recommendation.

Please remember that the experience of our churches shows that the search for a new minister requires a number of months. We need your patience and confidence. It is not possible for us to tell you whom we are considering lest the prospective candidate be embarrassed and withdraw his or her name from consideration. We shall be absent on certain Sundays, hearing recommended person, but do not ask us where we are going or whom we have heard.

Please understand that when we are ready to make a recommendation, all the members will be given complete information at the same time. Thank you for the trust you have placed in us. Remember us in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Olney, Chairperson

CALLING A BAPTIST MINISTER PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW

Activities Immediately After Resignation of Pastor	MEETINGS WITH REGION, STATE OR CITY STAFF			Pastoral Selection
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	
<p>A. Inform Area Minister and/or Executive Minister, P.3.</p> <p>B. Select a pulpit committee P.3-4.</p> <p>C. Arrange for meetings with Executive Minister or Area Minister, P.5.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Organize your committee, P.11. Agree upon your function, P.11. Plan to secure an interim pastor, P.4. Review procedures and resources, P.12. Receive Church Self-Study forms ABPS 101 and ABPS 102, P.12. Set date for second meeting, P.12. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize individual responses on Congregational-Goals and Leadership Needs (ABPS 102), P.13-14. Check summary of ABPS 102 with General Information Form (ABPS 101), P.14. Set date for third meeting, P.14. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Study Personnel Profile Interpretation, P.15. Review criteria for leadership, P.15. Begin process of selection, P.15. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce list of candidates, P.16. Visit with the candidate, P.16. Arrange a personal conference with the top candidate, P.17. Keep Region, State or City staff person informed, P.18. Keep the church informed concerning your progress, P.19.
<p><i>This chart describes the basic steps in the procedures for the pulpit committee. More detailed explanations are given for each item on the pages indicated.</i></p>	Activities Between First & Second Meeting		Activities Between Second & Third Meeting	Recommendation & Calling a Pastor
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secure interim pastor. Complete Self-Study Forms ABPS 101 and ABPS 102, P.12. Send completed ABOS 101 form to staff, P.13. Explain your procedure to the congregation, P.13. Secure understanding of financial compensation for next pastor, P.13. Hold names of suggested pastoral candidates, P.13. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your church informed of progress, P.14. Gather names of candidates, P.14. Prepare church profile, P.15. Develop a strategy for interviewing potential candidate, P.32. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend only one candidate at a time, P.19. Check the bylaws, P.19. Inform the congregation, P.19. Secure a church vote to adopt the committee's recommendation and extend a call, P.19. Inform the candidate, P.20. Write other candidates, P.20. Receive the new pastor, P.20. Prepare an installation service, P.20. Discharge the pulpit committee, P.21. Establish a Pastoral Relations Committee, P.26.

Pulpit Committee Update to the Congregation

Chair: Ralph Olney

Pulpit Search Committee Members: Gary House, Carolyn House, Brad Miller, Liz Pearson, Julia Ingraham, Bev Olney (until May 31st), John Cook (from May 31st on)

Progress to date:

1. Pulpit Committee formed on April 29th, 2 weeks after Pastor Richardson tendered his resignation letter.
2. Pastor Jim's last day as Pastor will be Sunday, June 10, 2018. We will have a catered lunch immediately after the Church Service in the newly remodeled McQueen Hall to celebrate Jim's retirement and honor his 17+ years of service at MBC.
3. Jim is the first Pastor in Bev and my 37+ years with the Church to retire. This is a new experience for most of us here.
4. Informed Rev. Alan Newton, Executive Area Minister for ABC.
5. Meeting with Rev. Newton to be arranged as soon as he is available.
6. Committee is using 2 documents from the ABC to guide the search for a replacement for Pastor Jim (59 page and 120 page booklets).
7. A list of requirements has been assembled in order to find an Interim Minister. Looked at over 3 pages of Interim Minister Candidates provided by the ABC and also contacted 2 potential Interim Ministers recommended by Church Members. Looked at 5 candidates in total.
8. Based on phone call interviews, the committee had a face-to-face meeting with Rev. Walter Steenson. Retired Pastor for Hilton Baptist Church.
9. On Wednesday, May 23, the Trustees approved extending an offer to Rev. Steenson to become our Interim Minister.
10. He is active in our community. He is retired Military, was the Chaplain for his Military Unit, is a substitute teacher at Kendall (which he will give up to be our Interim Minister), is in the Kendall community band with Skip Scroger and John Cook, has no interest in becoming a candidate for the permanent Pastor and has experience leading churches through transitions such as the one we are about to go through.
11. Members of our Church who know Walter speak highly of him and believe he will be a good fit for the culture of our church.
12. Walter is very experienced at leading churches through a process to find the new Pastor for our Church. He said he could be available as long as he is needed.
13. I talked to him over the phone and he is excited about the position. We are working through a final covenant (agreement) to be signed by both parties. Rev. Steenson will start on July 1, 2018.
14. The process we are using will be posted on the bulletin board in McQueen Hall for all to see where we are in the process.
15. Updates will be given periodically and there will be updates in our monthly newsletter.
16. We will also be seeking input from all members of the congregation for the final criteria we are looking for in our new Pastor before the Pulpit Committee begins the formal process of collecting resumes and going to hear the potential candidates preach.

Do any Pulpit Committee Members want to add to this update? Does anyone have any questions?

If no questions, the Pulpit Committee will be around after Church, feel free to seek one of us out with any questions/input you might have.

Thank you and God Bless, Ralph Olney

A bit of history about Pastor Jim coming to Morton Baptist Church – written Thursday, May 24, 2018:

I met with Fred Conradt through a mutual friend; the three of us had lunch together in Brockport in June of 2001.

Fred reported back to the search committee, and we agreed on a time to meet. The committee consisted of Fred Conradt, Cindy Curtis, Carol Duerr, Linda Farrow, Marilyn Kundra, Dorothea Maibaum, Ruth Rayburn, Lisa Rowley, and Richard Swanger. Lisa Drysdale was the area minister at that time.

The committee asked if I could commit to at least six years. Why six years? Because it takes at least six years to get a church back on track after a rift in the congregation.

Yes, I can commit to six years; that six years went flying by!

I preached July 1 through July 29, 2001. Someone else came and preached through August. I preached from September 2 through September 20 as full time so I could visit shut-ins and have regular office hours.

I was voted in as the permanent pastor on October 21, 2001; 100% yes, no abstentions or negative votes, which is unusual. Eleanor Reynolds laughed and said, "God had a hand in that too; He kept all the nay-sayers home!"

I will be preaching my last sermon as your full time pastor on Sunday, June 10, 2018. My time here at Morton Baptist Church has been quite a journey for me and the congregation. We have learned very much about God, and His watch-care over us, and we have learned very much about our watch-care over each other. And even though our prayers were not always answered as we might have hoped, some were answered better than we expected. The reason for that is because God has a plan and He is in charge; trust Him!

I have many and varied details about the ministry here but statistics do not make a ministry. It is the bond the Lord Jesus Christ has formed with us, and we with each other. The bond is twofold; we have an emotional bond of love that is there even if not expressed verbally.

However, there is a spiritual bond that many people do not realize exists; we are the body of Christ here on earth. Our bond with Jesus Christ will not and cannot be broken because He is the one that sealed that bond with His blood of redemption and the giving of the Holy Spirit to seal the deal. That bond supersedes any and all earthly bonds.

My reason for retiring is due to poor health. I have had a lot of heart problems, and they are not over yet. I have a heart valve that needs to be replaced, and some other minor surgery as well. However, I cannot have surgery until a year has passed since my last stent implant in December of 2017. This is due to the blood thinner I take on a daily basis. If I stop the medicine, I will get a blood clot in the stents. I also have constant pain from arthritis, fibromyalgia, and Reynaud's disease. I become so weary, I sometimes go to sleep at my desk or computer. And, like my age, there are no known cures for such things. This is just a part of life, like it or not.

Also, here is something I want everyone to fully understand; I am not being pressured by any one person or group of people to move along. The process of finding an interim pastor was quick, and that is good. It is my sincere prayer to see Morton Baptist Church find the pastor God has designed for this ministry, a pastor that loves God and God's people.

There isn't much else I can put on paper, but I want to thank everyone for their love and patience with me, my dear wife Alice, and the rest of our family. May God bless you all in rich and wonderful ways.

Serving Christ and the Community,
Pastor Jim

UPCOMING EVENTS

Retirement Reception

Please join us for Pastor Jim's final message on Sunday, June 10th. We will be having a retirement reception in honor of Pastor Jim following the service in MacQueen Hall from 12:00-2:00.



Memorial for Louyse (Lou Ann) Lee

Christine Pecorella (nee' Lee) and Jeffrey Lee along with their families invite you to join a service in celebration of the life and memory of Lou Ann Lee on Saturday, June 30th at 1:00 PM at the Morton Baptist Church. The service will be led by Pastor James E. Richardson. The family would also appreciate any members of the community wishing to share anecdotes or stories (or photos, but nothing that would embarrass Christine or Jeffrey in front of their children). Mrs. Lee's ashes will be buried at Lakeside Cemetery on Moscow Road in Hamlin immediately after the service and a reception will be held at Morton Baptist Church MacQueen Hall following the cemetery. All are invited to attend.

Kendall Fireman's Carnival

The Kendall Carnival will be held July 5th-7th. There will be a several events each day. For more information, go to www.kendallfire.com



Vacation Bible School at St. John Lutheran Church

St. John Lutheran Church is hosting its annual Vacation Bible School on July 9th through July 13th. Each day begins at 9:00 AM (8:45 AM on Monday) and ends at 12:00 PM. This year's theme is "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus". For more information, please call (585) 964-2550.



June Birthdays:

4th Katie Richardson
7th Diane Sill
9th Dale Rowley
10th Cord Sullivan
15th Alexis Knaak
25th Jerry Wahl



June Anniversaries:

4th Sue & Jim Rayburn
13th Valerie & Gregg Sill
19th Tammy & John Cook
23rd Bev & Ralph Olney
28th Ann & Mick White
30th Marilynn & Bob Kundrata



Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for June is:
Dishwashing liquid

ATTENTION!

Sunday School

The calendar for the elementary Sunday school program teachers is posted in MacQueen Hall. If you are interested in becoming a teacher, please see Brad Miller or Dan Cater.





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/ortonaptisthurchermos>).



In and Around the Community

Carolyn House had a heart valve and aorta replacement on May 10th. The surgery lasted four hours and went well. Carolyn spent a few days in the hospital, and is now home resting. We're glad to hear you're doing well!

Congratulations to Katarina Wlosinski for being inducted into the Junior National Honor Society! She joins several other youth group members.

Please keep the Bliss family and Kendall community in your prayers. Terry Bliss passed away after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Terry was actively involved in the Kendall community. Obituary:

<https://christophermitchell.com/tribute/details/2868/Terry-Bliss/obituary.html>

Congratulations to Molly Richardson for graduating from Roberts Wesleyan with her masters in school counseling!

All three Cook boys, Andrew, Robert, and Matthew graduated from college! Andrew received his bachelor's degree while Robert and Matthew received their associate's degrees. Congratulations!

Natalie Cook's uncle, Tom, passed away on the morning of May 6th. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Congratulations to Jason Miller and the unified basketball team for a wonderful season! Our church was there to cheer the team on when they played in Kendall. It was awesome to see Jason make several baskets!

Charity Villalobos' aunt, Gloria, was put in an induced coma in early May. When they tried to bring her out of the coma, she reacted horribly. She was sedated while she healed. The family is hoping she'll be able to join them for their 60th family reunion.



Katie Richardson and Jason Miller were baptized on Sunday, May 6th! It was a joy to witness! Dan Cater will be baptized on June 3rd.

A huge thank you goes out to Ralph and Bev Olney for organizing (and working) the renovations for MacQueen Hall. The room has been transformed and updated to bring a new life to our fellowship hall. Thank you to all to helped!

Skip and Kathy Scroger's grandson, Richie Swift, graduated from SUNY Brockport in May. Congrats!

Thank you to Sandy Strassenburgh for another successful chicken BBQ! We served 301 dinners total (71 dine-in and 230 take-outs) for over a thousand dollars in profit! Thank you to Nancy Walker for organizing the bake sale, which brought in \$281! Thank you to all who served, baked, cooked, and helped in general!

Bob Henry has noticed an increase in energy since receiving his pacemaker. We're happy to hear it!

Please remember the Walker Baptist Church congregation and the family of Pastor Phillip Huber in your thoughts. Pastor Huber passed away unexpectedly on April 25th. Obituary:

<https://burgerfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/616/Phillip-Huber/obituary.html>

Joyce Clements (Sue Rayburn's mother)'s great-grandson (26) was shot in Florida. He had to have his gall bladder removed and has liver damage. Please pray for a quick recovery.

Alice Richardson and her son, Jim, were able to visit Alice's brother to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary in Ohio!

Ralph Olney was hospitalized with the stomach bug and dehydration. We're happy to hear that you're home and feeling better!

Please keep the Seaman, Hardenbrook, and Scroger families in your prayers. Mary Ellen Seaman (74) passed away on May 28th after a long battle with cancer. Obituary:

<https://christophermitchell.com/tribute/details/2870/Mary-Seaman/obituary.html>

We're thrilled to have Andrew Cook back with us after several months of completing his internship in Washington, D.C.!

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.

April 30, 2018

Dear American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region:

I am pleased to announce that the Executive Board of the Region, with your help, has selected seven members to assume the task of being the Search Committee for our next Executive Minister. Each of these individuals will bring into this process their unique skills, experience, and care for this region. They have already begun their work and will be sharing updates when appropriate.

I applaud the commitment of time, energy, and effort the committee must make in order to fully complete the work of a thorough search process. I especially lift them in prayer as they seek to hold true to the ideals of the American Baptist Churches USA while preserving the unique characteristic of our ABCRGR Region in this task.

So I present to you the names and the church affiliations of these seven individuals representing us in this search for our next Executive Minister:

- Audrey Davidson – Mount Olivet Baptist Church
- Karen M Podsiadly – Mount Olivet Baptist Church
- Rev. Dwight Davidson – United Church of Granville
- Rev. Sarah Culp – Greece Baptist Church
- Rev. William Summerville – Kingdom Come Community Church
- Rev. Sandra McDuffie – St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church
- Sam Troxal – United Church of Bloomington
- Tasha Wilson – First Baptist Church of Rochester

May we hold them in prayer,
Rev. Michael Ware
Executive Board President

June

2018

"The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them."- Proverbs 20:7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	7	8	9
10 Communion Sunday Pastor Jim's Retirement Party @ 12:00-2:00	11	12	13 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00	14 Flag Day	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 Trustee Meeting @ 6:30	21 Summer Solstice	22	23
24	25	26	27 Bible Study @ 12:00 Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 .	28	29	30

Morton Baptist Church
1152 County Line Road
Hamlin, NY 14464

June 2018

