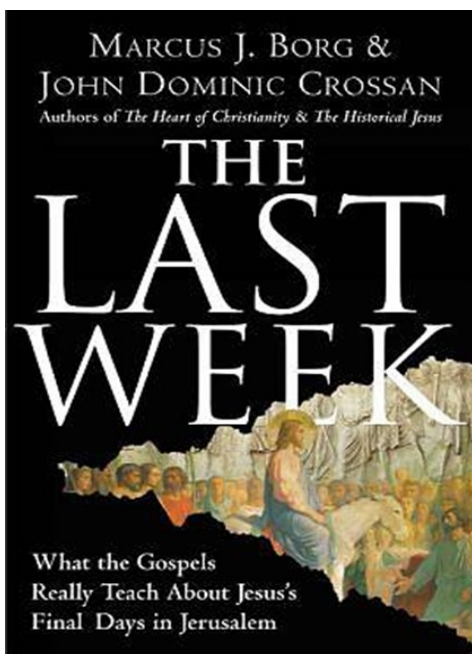




March 2025



# THE MORAN MESSENGER



Often we have treated Holy Week as the celebration of Palm Sunday one week followed by the joy of Easter Sunday. Have you ever wondered what happened between these events? Pastor Joyce will be using a very insightful book called *THE LAST WEEK* by biblical scholars Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan. These scholars have taken a deep look at each day of Holy Week according to the Gospel of Mark. While it might seem odd, we will begin by looking at the actions of Jesus on Palm Sunday on the first Sunday of Lent. There is an interesting background story of not only Jesus but what else was happening in Jerusalem that day. The next Sunday will feature what Jesus and his disciples did on Monday, and so on. Pastor knows that we will become a people really prepared for Easter as we understand what happened during Holy Week.

## **The Last Week - A Lenten Sermon Series**

Based on *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

- March 9 Palm Sunday - Two Parades
- March 16 Monday - On the Following Day
- March 23 Tuesday - In the Morning
- March 30 Wednesday - Two Days Before Passover
- April 6 Thursday - The First Day of Unleavened Bread
- April 13 Friday - The Last Day & Sabbath
- April 20 Easter Sunday - The First Day of the We



### **March Birthdays**

- 3/02 Penny Herold
- 3/02 Stephen Owen
- 3/05 Jane Johnson
- 3/07 Stephen Sterk
- 3/12 Scott Kendall
- 3/14 Vivian Boston
- 3/14 Alicia Steed
- 3/18 Merle Davis
- 3/19 Danette Malcom
- 3/19 Rev. Barbara Caviezel
- 3/23 Heidi Johnson
- 3/29 Carol Bethel
- 3/29 Patricia Boston
- 3/29 Eve Montgomery

### **March Anniversaries**

- 3/28 Ed & Shirley Malcom
- 3/31 Harry & Janet Burcalow



### **Coffee and Fellowship**

*Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall*

Come early or stick around after worship on Sundays to spend time catching up with your church family and enjoying some light refreshments.

### **Worship With Us!**

*Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.*

We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Nursery Care is offered in the Noah's Ark room and Children's Sunday School (during the school year) is offered during the worship service in the Carpenters Room.

*Our worship service is also live-streamed at 10:30 am on ([www.moranumc.org/live](http://www.moranumc.org/live)), and our YouTube page ([www.youtube.com/@moranchurch](http://www.youtube.com/@moranchurch))*

## Chasing the Wild Goose

by Pastor Joyce

Christians are an odd people! Well, we are. On Ash Wednesday we begin the season of 40 days of Lent. Christians are known by the cross in ashes imposed on our foreheads. If you go to Safeway on your way home with your ashes you may get odd looks. But you might also get some lovely smiles as you are recognized by others who also are taking this lenten Christian journey.

Ashes on our foreheads remind us of our sinful nature but also our humility. Humble comes from the same root as humus. It reminds us we come from the earth and in the end we will return to it. Being humble is not a bad thing - it is a human thing. We can rejoice in the soil that nurtures us, feeds us. The next time you see the dirt poking out of the snow remember that is where our potatoes and tomatoes and beans come from. Soil is to be tended, respected and honored. Our souls are also to be tended, respected and honored. These 40 days are a time to decide who we will be. Jesus experienced that in the wilderness. So should we.

And then there is this fasting thing. Growing up my brother and I always gave up martinis. Granted we never had tasted one so it was easy to give it up. (when I was a grown up I did taste one so I found it even easier to give up.) It might seem an odd thing but fasting gives us time and space to be closer to God. Giving up chocolate, TV, coffee, or Amazon shopping might help find out who you really are! I now prefer taking up something for Lent. We no longer have those folders where we put a quarter in each day. We could put that much aside each day in a designated cup and make it your extra Easter offering. For me I will spend time "releasing" clothes I never wear so someone else can have them. So if you give something up, or take something up, make your Lent a holy one.

### 2025 PENNY AUCTION CORNER

#### Celebrating 25 Years!

As we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year of holding our Penny Auction, we are looking forward to our first Basket-Making gathering on **Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the gym**. Here's what we need to get started: **YOU!!!** We need your participation on the 6th, basket items, and large empty baskets. If want to work from home, we have numbers ready to cut and bows that need to be made. Numbers and bow supplies can be found in the Fellowship Hall or call Penny Snider or Jacque Davis if you need them delivered to your home or have any questions. Gather friends and have cutting or bow-making parties.

Let's get ready to roll!!!

## Office Volunteers

Our past year has been one of many changes as we have worked hard to determine our church and membership needs and move ahead. All this as we wait for a pastoral appointment. We feel that now it is not a matter of "if" but "when" it will occur even though it might turn out to be different from what we were thinking it would be. We know we have been able to go through much more than we would have imagined a year ago and gotten stronger. Now we have an opportunity to make positive changes such as freshen our church (that means clean), getting rid of things stored for a long time and could be used by others. We have talked a long time about hiring an administrative assistant. The SPPRC is in charge of hiring staff and a committee has been formed to look into our office needs. The first step was to find out if there was money available to do so. Our financial committee, who are fortunately very frugal keepers of our money, felt that at this time with a possible appointment for us it would be best to start with office volunteers and if that was not successful, we could look again at our finances and hiring an administrative assistant. That seems like a good idea. The advantages of both proposals is that we would put in place those who actually know what is needed to run the office. That would be such a help for all of us but especially for a new pastor coming to our church. Right now, we are trying to determine office needs such as what church members to call for printer problems or where to order paper and other supplies. Other needs as where to distribute mail and who is available for help with possible emergencies etc. We have a lot of people who are very helpful and trying to fill the gaps but unfortunately many are doing the same things. We want to be more organized and efficient.

A committee of Theresa, Eunice and Harriet with the help of others have put together a possible list of office volunteer duties. It is suggested that those who sign up for two hours on Tuesday and Wednesday plus back up people for each day would meet with either one or all of the committee to look at and possibly add to the list of duties. The list will soon be available for sign up but in the meantime talk to any committee member if there are questions. It is most important to say now, thank you for considering this opportunity and add to the ease of the life of our church.

Harriet Van Wyck



## CHURCH COUNCIL MARCH NEWSFLASH

Moran UMC Mission Statement: *Empowered by the Holy Spirit to embrace, inspire, and serve, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.*

I was so honored to be surrounded by your ministry team leaders who met at our first church council meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> with unique perspectives and a heart full of purpose. Throughout this newsletter, you will read about all the faith journeys offered through Worship, Hospitality, and Mission teams. The administrative and support teams reported positive financial numbers, progress on staffing, and the need for a Facility Use Guideline from the Trustees. As we all collaborate as a Lay-Led congregation, we are trying to work “outside the box” in some areas of need. For instance, sometimes supplies come up short. There is now a Supplies Needed List located in the office (for office supplies) and on the kitchen bulletin board for kitchen, hospitality and janitorial supplies needed. Look at these, and if you’re headed shopping and want to pick up an item, simply cross out that item on the list and sign your name. Done! Coming in March, many Ministry Teams will be working to complete some Spring Cleaning INSIDE the church. Can you help?

Enjoy the Tides of March as we remain open to the Holy Spirit’s leading in seeking His Will.

### January Financial Report

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	\$16,838.01	\$16,838.01
Expenses	\$11,474.87	\$11,474.87
Net Income	\$5,363.14	\$5,363.14

Thank you for your continued support.

Dennis Kifer & Angie Hughes

Co-Treasurers



**April** newsletter articles are due by Thursday, March 20th. You can email your articles to [morannewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:morannewsletter@gmail.com) or [sprizeman@comcast.net](mailto:sprizeman@comcast.net).

## ASH WEDNESDAY



Lent begins on Wednesday March 5. As is our tradition we will have an Ash Wednesday service at 4 p.m. At the end of the service we will have the imposition of the ashes. Between 7 and 7:30 Pastor Joyce will be available at church to impose ashes for those who couldn't make it at 4.

See other articles about this and other Lenten services.

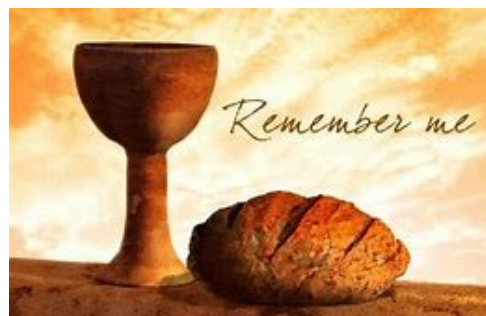
## LENTEN DEVOTIONS

This year a devotional booklet will be made available for everyone in the church. It is called "Lift Up Your Voice" Singing Through Lent and Easter. We don't often think of Lent as a time for singing but it is! Each week there will be a Sunday Devotion that will include songs to sing and use as mediation. Each week Pastor Joyce will send out a link for the songs suggested for the week. So sing along - maybe with a lone guitar or with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir! As United Methodists our hymns reflect our theology. Please pick one up this coming Sunday - and join us for the Ash Wednesday service as we journey into Lent.



## OTHER LENTEN SERVICES

We will be having a Maundy Thursday Soup Supper/Service on Thursday April 17th at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Joyce with us one of her traditions for this special night. We will start at tables sharing soup we have brought (in crock pots is best). Closer to the time we will have sign up sheets. Instead of a sermon she will have a first person monologue which we hear is engaging. Then we will end with communion at the tables. Save the date and the time.



Empowered by the Holy Spirit to Embrace, Inspire, and  
Serve, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the world!

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We as a church follow Paul's admonition to "rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep". If you have a prayer request, please text or call Rev. Betty Smith of the Congregational Care Team at 509-951-8347 or email Jeanie Cook at [cooks\\_den@msn.com](mailto:cooks_den@msn.com). Only with your permission will these requests be forwarded to the Prayer Chain and included in the Sunday bulletin.

