



The Spire

Morristown United Methodist Church 50 S. Park Place, Morristown, NJ 07960 | www.morristownumc.org

FROM PASTOR LUANA

Dear Church Family,

How do you mark the passing of time?

My grandmother used to keep a daily journal in which she would log the weather. She would note the high and low temperature, as well as any rain or snowstorms or anything of significance. I was always fascinated and comforted by her consistency when I was visiting and saw her diligently writing in her journal. It wasn't until recently I realized she did this because she lived off the land most of her life, and knowing the weather cycles was very important. Knowing when the first and last frosts were each year was critical for crops that would later be harvested and canned for the winter.

My life is very different than my grandmother's.

I remember once when I lived in the city that I had a moment of confusion where I couldn't remember what season it was because I was so far removed from nature. And even today I sometimes will rely on an app on my phone to tell me if it's raining or cold outside instead of actually stepping outside to see for myself. And I don't mark the passing of time in a tangible way like my grandmother did, which leads me to perpetually be shocked at how fast times go by.

Ash Wednesday is February 22, and it begins a season of reflection called Lent. (How can it already be here?) I invite you to mark the passing of time during Lent with me using the poems of Mary Oliver in a collection called *Devotions*. The book can be purchased [here](#). (It can be quicker and cheaper to purchase from Amazon, but check out this link and see if you feel compelled to support them.) The book will be used with a printed Lenten companion provided by the church called *The Poetry of Lent*.



Pastor Luana's Grandparents, Maggie and Luther Horn



Pastor Luana's mother and grandmother

(Continued on page 2)

If you want to mark the time of the days of Lent with Mary Oliver and me, please let me know via email or phone and I will print out a copy of the *Poetry of Lent, A Lenten Companion to Mary Oliver's Devotions* for you. I'll pray over your *Companion* and get it to you personally on a Sunday, or hand deliver it to you if you worship from home.

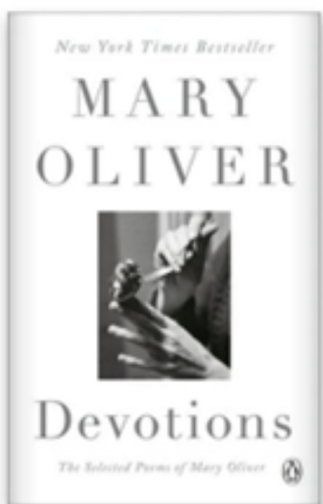
But you also don't have to wait for Lent to find a way to mark the passing of time that benefits you and your spiritual health. Is January a difficult month for you with the cold and dark? Sometimes all it takes is a quick record of our daily highs and lows to help us understand ourselves a bit better, so we can care for ourselves a bit better, and grow in our faith a bit more.

Let's journey together to a new place.

Blessings,

Pastor Luana

Mark the time of Lent through the poetry of Mary Oliver



Purchase book of poetry by Mary Oliver.
Need help with the purchase? We'd be
happy to purchase one for you.

Let Pastor Luana know if you want a Lenten
Companion and she will print it out, pray over it,
and hand deliver it to you.



seeking:
*Is this the fast
that I choose?*

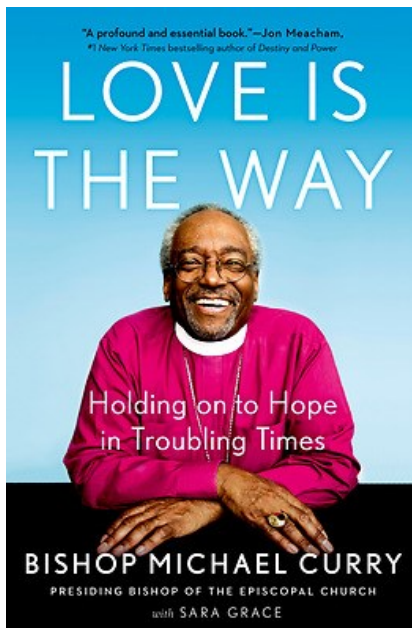
ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVANCES

February 22, 2023

Imposition of Ashes
12 noon -12:30pm
Front Vestibule (Entrance by the Green)

Service with Imposition of Ashes
7:00-7:30 pm
Sanctuary

UWF UPDATE



Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further. This is the book for the February United Women in Faith's book club meeting on Tuesday, February 28th in the Wesley Room in person or via Zoom from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If you would like to participate, please email Kristin Moran at Morankristin@gmail.com. The discussion will be led by Mary Ann Scharf.

Upcoming events for the United Women in Faith are monthly Book Club Meetings and the May Tea Party focusing on "Gutsy Women!" Who has helped shape you? Bring her story or better yet, come dressed as her or in you Sunday best for Tea Time! This will be on

Saturday, May 13th in Fellowship Hall at the church, 11:30-1:30 pm. Also, future books for Book Club are for March: "Adamant: Finding Truth in a Universe of Opinions" by Lisa Bevere. This discussion will be led by Brenda Leary. April's book is "#Notyourprincess: Voices of Native American Women," edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale. This discussion will be led by Jane Rehmke.

LENT SERMON SERIES

To help frame our communal Lenten experience, we're using a series called "Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith." The stories that we'll hear in worship are stories that teach us important lessons about God's kin-dom. Here's what the people who crafted our series have to say about it:

"These stories are often about someone who is also seeking an encounter with the Jesus they've heard about. Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night; he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows. Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. Throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. We hope this series will help us unpack some of those big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. Throughout this season, we hope you will continually ask yourself: what am I seeking? What is God seeking? This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

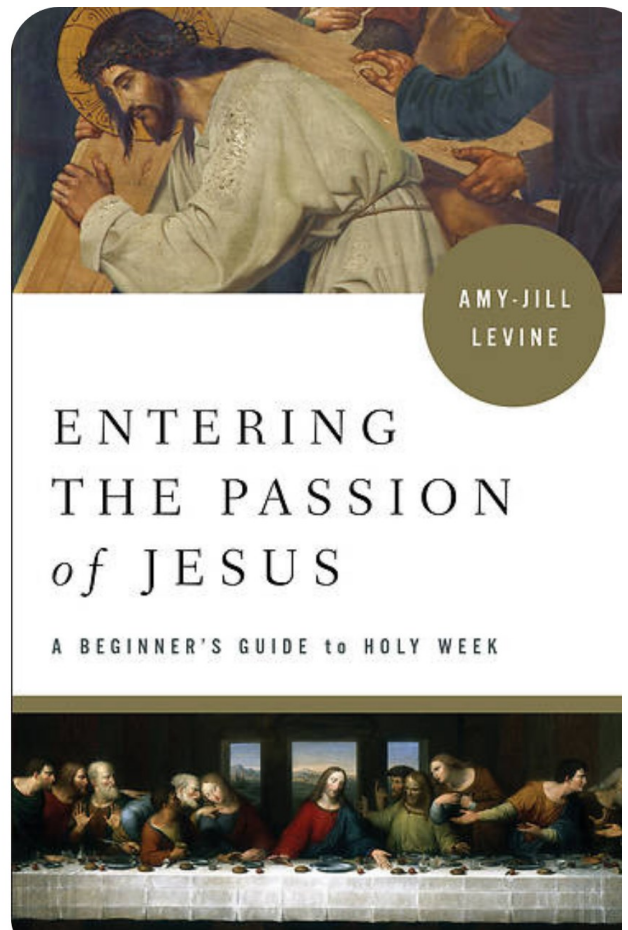
Sunday Morning Adult Study for Lent

Jesus's final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

**Sunday Mornings at 9am
Wesley Room
Starting Sunday, February 26**



IMPORTANT BUILDING NEWS

We have exciting news to share!

Over the next month, we hope to begin important structural repairs to the church building. These repairs will be lengthy projects and will affect access to the church building and parking lot. We'll do our very best to minimize disruption to the congregation. We'll communicate important news about these repairs through the Sunday bulletin and Sunday Spire, so please keep an eye out for these announcements.

Please contact Andrew Cattano if you have questions.

SUPPORTING THE INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY NETWORK



Congratulations, Morristown UMC! In 2022, we **donated over 3,000lbs. of food** to the Interfaith Food Pantry Network, which is 500lbs. more than the goal we set for the year! Let's do it again! We've got a great start on 2023 with 580lbs. donated through our Reverse Advent Calendar challenge. Our next challenge is the Souper Bowl of Caring!

What if every person watching the Super Bowl this year gave just one can of food to local food charities? Since 1990, the SOUPER Bowl of Caring has transformed the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need. For the third year in a row and in our

continued support of the **Interfaith Food Pantry**, we are asking to bring these items to the church through the month of February.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FOCUS ITEMS

Cans of soup specifically needs "low-sodium" and "Heart Healthy" of both condensed varieties and hearty varieties.

Peanut Butter - 15-18 oz preferred

Rice

Tuna fish, salmon and other canned fish

Tomato products (sauce, crushed, whole, diced, paste, puree, etc.)



ASP 2023

TEAM MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

12 NOON, YOUTH LOUNGE



RUMMAGE SALE 2023

Morristown United Methodist Church

50 South Park Place Morristown NJ

SAT. April 22nd: 9AM-2PM

WED. April 26th: 10AM-2PM/5PM-8PM

SAT. April 29th: 9AM-2PM

Call: 973-538-2132

E-mail: rummagemumc@gmail.com

or visit us at www.morristownumc.org for more info

All Proceeds Benefit Our Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip





RUMMAGE SALE 2023

Morristown United Methodist Church
50 South Park Place Morristown NJ

ACCEPTING DONATIONS STARTING MARCH 1ST, 2023

Donations We Accept:

Household items, dishes, utensils, appliances, toys, children's furniture, books, holidays, glassware, antiques, office supplies, linens, furniture, electronics, DVD's, CD's, records, phones, lamps, sports equipment, computers, vases, picture frames, jewelry, baskets, tins, tools, pet supplies, TV's (LED's only).

Please DO NOT donate the following:

Cribs, Car seats, Washers/Dryers, /Stoves/Refrigerators, Mattresses,
Gas powered equipment, Clothes, Big Screen/Tube TV's

*Please make sure that your rummage is in good enough condition to resell. It costs us time and money to throw out things that are damaged or broken.
We reserve the right to refuse any items that are not in good condition.*

**Call: 973-538-2132 E-mail: rummagemumc@gmail.com
or visit us at www.morristownumc.org for more info**

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