

Connected

Lent/Easter 2016



Let the Hunt for Meaning Begin!

What are you searching for this Lent?

Lent is almost here! It begins on February 10, which is Ash Wednesday. Peek inside these pages to find out about special Lenten programming, including a pre-party with all-you-can-eat pancakes at the Mardi Gras dinner on Shrove Tuesday, February 10.

Save the Dates!

FEB.

9

MARDI GRAS/SHROVE TUESDAY
6pm, Pancake Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

TUES.

FEB.

10

ASH WEDNESDAY
8pm, Ash Wednesday - Worship in the Sanctuary

WED.

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Embarking on the Hunt for Meaning

Thoughts on Lent from Pastor Brad Motta

Most of the world's major religious traditions set aside a special time each year for people to reflect on their lives and values. For Christians, that period of time is Lent. But just what does the Lenten season mean, and why should we care?

The observance of Lent began informally in the 4th century with practices of prayer and fasting. Over time, as various Christian traditions adopted Lenten observances, Lent grew into a season of self-reflection along with traditional prayers and fasting. Today, many Christians use Lent as a time to reflect on their lives and where they may be heading. Some people mark the season of Lent by giving something up while others add things to their lives like meditation, prayer, study, or service. There are no rules for Lent – and the season shouldn't be about feeling guilty. Rather, Lent is a special time when we can slow down and, with the support of our faith community, reflect on how we can live our lives more fully.

Here at Morrow there will be many opportunities for self-reflection. On February 10, Ash Wednesday, we'll gather in the sanctuary at 8pm for an hour of wonderful music and inspiring readings. Every Wednesday in Lent, beginning February 17, we'll have a light dinner and conversation on the meaning of life according to John, held at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. On Sundays we'll continue "the hunt for meaning" as we look at what it means to live a life of meaning and purpose.

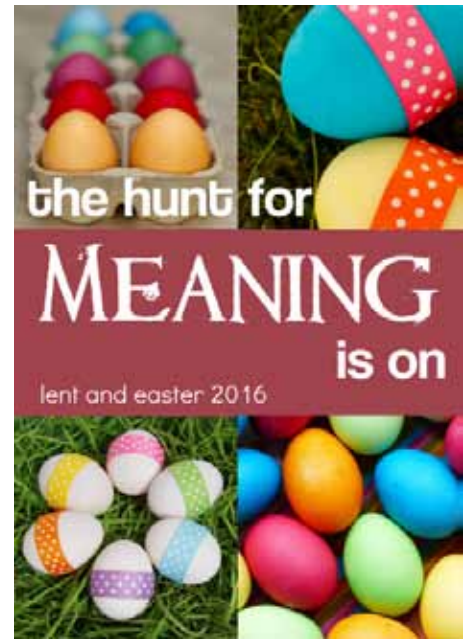
On Thursday, March 24, we'll observe Maundy Thursday with a seder at 8pm in Fellowship Hall. The following day, on Good Friday, March 25, we'll reflect on the meaning of the crucifixion at 8pm in the sanctuary. Then, on Sunday, March 27, Lent will end with the pageantry of Easter: beautiful flowers, inspiring music, and a celebration of new beginnings.

So why bother with Lent? It is a reminder that life is a gift. The more we explore ways to make it more meaningful and fulfilling for ourselves and for each other, the more enriching that gift becomes. So whether you give something up this Lent or add something to your life, do it with your Morrow Church community. We're on this hunt together!

In Christian love,



Rev. Dr. Bradford L. Motta,
Senior Pastor



And the Hunt for Meaning Begins...

Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday)

FEB.
9
TUES.



We'll celebrate Mardi Gras with a traditional dinner of pancakes served with ham. Join us at 6pm in Fellowship Hall as we gather for food, games, & fun for the whole family.

Also, pick up your "Hunt for a Caring World" Lenten boxes (for kids in Pre-K through Grade 5)!

Ash Wednesday

FEB.
10
WED.



February 10, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent.

Gather with us at 8pm as we begin our Lenten journey together with an hour of music and reflection.

Lenten Wednesdays

Explore the Meaning of Life Over Dinner with John



Join us during Lent as we gather from 7pm-8pm on Wednesdays for dinner, fellowship, and scripture study in Fellowship Hall.

Beginning February 17 (the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday), we'll have "Dinner with John," a light dinner and conversation about the meaning of life, according to John.

Each night we'll gather for an opening conversation, then watch a short video about the day's lesson and reflect on scripture in small table groups as we eat dinner. The evenings will be led by Pastor

Brad and church member Bill Ehlers.

Middle school and high school students will have their own table groups to discuss and reflect on scripture together. Childcare for younger children (which includes dinner) is available if needed.

"Lenten Wednesdays: Dinner with John" will meet on February 17, February 24, March 2, March 9, and March 16. Mark your calendars!

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 24
8pm in Fellowship Hall



On Thursday, March 24, we'll commemorate Maundy Thursday with a seder at 8pm in Fellowship Hall. (Please note that the food consumed during this event is symbolic; it is not a meal.)

Good Friday

Friday, March 25
8pm in the Sanctuary



On Friday, March 25, we'll commemorate Good Friday with a worship service in the sanctuary. Join us for music, readings, and the stripping of the altar as we remember the crucifixion of Jesus.

Celebrate Easter Sunday!

The Hunt Is Over...



On Sunday, March 27, we'll have two worship celebrations as our hunt for meaning during Lent draws to a close.

Join us for a contemplative celebration at 8:15am during Worship in the Chapel. Or come to our main celebration, Worship in the Sanctuary, at 10:30am, with beautiful flowers, jubilant music, a message of celebration by Pastor Brad, and other traditional elements from the United Methodist tradition.

Please note that there will be no Community Breakfast or Learning Celebration on Easter Sunday.

Youth & Family Ministry Events

MAR. JYF - Nightwatch at St. John the Divine

4
FRI.

Junior Youth Fellowship (grades 6-8) will join the youth of St. John the Divine for Nightwatch, a spiritual education program. The overnight will be held at St. John the Divine from Friday, March 4, at 7pm, until Saturday, March 5, at 12 noon.

MAR. JYF & MYF - Holocaust Education

6
SUN.

On Sunday, March 6, middle school students and high school students will gather at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church (217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ 07079) from 7am-9am for a community-wide educational event about the Holocaust.

MAR. JYF & MYF - Nothing But Nets Fundraiser

11
FRI.

The annual "Nothing But Nets" Fundraiser, hosted by our Junior Youth Fellowship and Methodist Youth Fellowship, will be held on Friday, March 11, from 5pm-9pm, and on Saturday, March 12, from 8am-9pm. More details coming soon!

Christian Outreach Project Sunday

Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show on February 28



On Sunday, February 28, our Methodist Youth Fellowship will host the annual Christian Outreach Project Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show, a fabulous night of feasting and entertainment to raise funds for their COP mission trip this summer.

The dinner and talent show will begin at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

Through their work with the Christian Outreach Project, MYFers help repair homes for homeowners who do not have the means or ability to make the repairs themselves.

If possible, please sign up in advance through the online events calendar at www.morrowchurch.org/calendar or by contacting the church office at (973) 763-7676 or opendoors@morrowchurch.org.

A Glimpse of Christmas Past...

Find more pictures from Advent and Christmas 2015 online at our Flickr gallery!



FEB.

9

TUES.

MARDI GRAS
SHROVE TUESDAY
6pm, Pancake Dinner

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEB.

10

WED.

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment
4:30pm, Cherub & Wesley
Choir Rehearsals
5:30pm, Route 45
6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal
8pm, Worship in the
Sanctuary

FEB.

14

SUN.

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9am, Community Breakfast
9:15am, Learning Celebration
10:30am, Worship in the Sanctuary
11:30am, Fellowship Hour
11:45am, Staff-Parish Relations
Committee Meeting

FEB.

17

WED.

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment
4:30pm, Cherub & Wesley Choir
Rehearsals
6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal
7pm, Lenten Wednesdays:
Dinner with John

FEB.

21

SUN.

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9am, Community Breakfast
9:15am, Learning Celebration
10:30am, Worship in the
Sanctuary
11:30am, Fellowship Hour
7pm, MYF - Laser Tag

FEB.

24

WED.

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment
4:30pm, Cherub & Wesley Choir
Rehearsals
6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal
7pm, Lenten Wednesdays:
Dinner with John

SUN.

28

SUN.

**INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY
NETWORK HOSTING BEGINS**
8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9am, Community Breakfast
9:15am, Learning Celebration
10:30am, Worship in the
Sanctuary
11:30am, Fellowship Hour
11:45am, Global & Community
Outreach Meeting
5:30pm, COP Spaghetti Dinner &
Talent Show

MAR.

2

WED.

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment
4:30pm, Cherub & Wesley
Choir Rehearsals
6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal
7pm, Lenten Wednesdays:
Dinner with John

MAR.

6

SUN.

7am, MYF - Youth Holocaust
Education Event
8:15am, Worship in the
Chapel
9am, Community Breakfast
9:15am, Learning
Celebration
10:30am, Worship in the
Sanctuary

MAR.

9

WED.

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment
4:30pm, Cherub & Wesley Choir
Rehearsals
5:30pm, Route 45
6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal
7pm, Lenten Wednesdays:
Dinner with John

MAR.

13

SUN.

8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
9am, Community Breakfast
9:15am, Learning Celebration
10:30am, Worship in the
Sanctuary
11:30am, Fellowship Hour
11:45am, Global & Community
Outreach Meeting

MAR.

16

WED.

3:15pm, STEM Enrichment
4:30pm, Cherub & Wesley Choir
Rehearsals
6:45pm, Youth Choir Rehearsal
7pm, Lenten Wednesdays:
Dinner with John

MAR.

24

THUR.

MAUNDY THURSDAY
9:30am, Sisters in Faith
7:45pm, Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
8pm, A Seder with Jesus

MAR.

25

FRI.

GOOD FRIDAY
8pm, Good Friday Worship in
the Sanctuary

MAR.

27

SUN.

EASTER SUNDAY
8:15am, Worship in the Chapel
10:30am, Worship in the
Sanctuary
11:30am, Fellowship Hour

We seek to live as a diverse, inclusive, multigenerational, Christian community where lives are transformed.



MORROW MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
600 Ridgewood Rd, Maplewood, NJ 07040

Daily Lenten Activities for Kids in
Pre-K through Grade 5



Make Your Commitment Today!

Have you made your commitment to a progressive Christian movement yet?

Your financial commitment represents what you value most about our faith community: vibrant children's programs, diverse and inspiring music, engaging worship celebrations, meaningful opportunities for education, and effective outreach to local and global communities.

Join with us now in making a financial commitment to support Morrow Church in 2016.

Return your commitment card today!

Thank you to those who have already made a commitment for 2016.

Pick up your Lenten boxes at
the Mardi Gras party on Tuesday, February 9!