

# THE WORD

*Experiencing, Growing In & Sharing God's Love*

**Goldendale United Methodist Church**

**September 2020**



**Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Parking Lot Gathering**

Join with others from the congregation for a time of gathering including coffee hour, communion, and prayer. Please bring your own lawn chair - goodies, coffee, iced tea and lemonade available. We will be masked and safely 6 feet apart. Stay for a minute or the hour. Let's stay in touch during this pandemic. We will stay safe because we are in this together!! Also, join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for a Zoom coffee hour...

We are putting together a team who will be working to get ready for in person worship. If you are interested, let the office know!

## **Sunday at Home Coffee Hours**

Join friends from church at 9:30 a.m. for a Zoom Coffee Hour. We will meet each Sunday starting on Sunday, September 6th. We will send out emails on Thursdays with the link to join.



## **The Chosen – a New Series on YouTube!**

A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt. A troubled woman wrestling with real demons. A young tax collector ostracized by society. A religious leader questioning his faith tradition.

Mary Gosney has recommended the series, The Chosen, found on YouTube. Find the first episode here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=craeyJdrCsE>

Based on the Gospel of Matthew it has a companion book to use with the videos and the devotion for 40 days. The 8 hour-long episodes are well done and very engaging. You will find a new understanding of the stories of Jesus.

## **September Calendar**

**T/W/Th** Community Meals  
5:30 p.m.

### **Sundays**

Zoom Coffee Hour 9:30 am

### **Zoom Council Meeting**

**Wed. Sept. 2nd**  
**5:30 pm**

**RUMMAGE  
SALE**

## **Church Rummage Sale UMW Rummage Sale**

We are still accepting items you might want to donate. Someone will be at the church on Mondays from 1 to 3 pm.

Questions?  
Call (509) 773-4461



## Chasing the Wild Goose

Pastor Joyce O'Connor-Magee

Years ago there was a great book called ***Love in the Time of Cholera***. This column could be called ***Learning in the Time of COVID***. As the Bishop states in her message—who knew 6 months ago what life would be like the first of September? Love is still love. Black lives still matter. Politicians need to be civil. We should listen to science. We need to protect the vulnerable. We need to see the real super heroes - care givers, nurses, doctors and teachers!

But I have been learning other things. I am learning to do crosswords - not in ink, but still. You can waste a lot of time playing solitaire, and those online games where you win big bucks isn't real money. I have learned that there are many 1960s reruns that can be watched, even in the middle of the night. I have learned if you are spending more time at home don't bake cookies because, well, someone in the house eats them. I have also learned more about Winston Churchill, pandemics, and children's books I missed as a child. I have learned more about the life of John Lewis and the civil rights movement.

I am also finding I can learn through YouTube, on line learning, as well as picking up those books that have been piling up on my Kindle. I have signed up for a webinar on Women in Methodism - it's on Thursday but there's still time to sign up! (I also learned earlier this season to check to see the right time - it's from Texas, they all think everything is Central Time!) I was delighted when Mary called and pointed me to the YouTube show, THE CHOSEN, the story of Jesus in a new production. I am delighted Joy felt it was time for a book group even if it is held outdoors. What are you learning? We might not need a new box of crayons but it's time to find new discoveries in books, movies, on line and in the treasure trove we know as the Bible.

## A Message from Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky

Yesterday was the six month anniversary of my first pastoral notice regarding COVID-19. We didn't know much about the coronavirus and the pandemic it would cause on February 27. We didn't know we would celebrate Easter online. That General Conference in May would be postponed, Annual Conferences in June cancelled, Jurisdictional Conference in July.

We couldn't imagine movie theaters closing. Restaurants open only for take-out. Loved ones being isolated from visits in hospitals or nursing homes. We didn't imagine that we would pass spring and summer and enter fall with restrictions on social gathering, travel, economic activity and schools. We find ourselves in a wilderness. The bible knows what wandering in the wilderness is like. The bible is full of stories, laments, encouragements, admonitions, guidelines for people who, from time to time find themselves wandering, discouraged, uncertain, lost. So, people of God, listen up. God has not abandoned us.

### ***DON'T STOP LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF***

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."  
– John 15: 12-13*

The risk from the coronavirus isn't behind us. While the spread of the disease is declining in some areas, it is increasing in others, as waves of community spread carry it into previously untouched rural communities and some experts predict new spikes this fall in areas where schools and other social gatherings restart in person. And as temperatures drop, people move indoors and another cold and flu season begins.

***Continued on next page...***

At the same time, an “increasing numbness to the virus’s danger” means that our collective sense of risk is abating and leading to careless behavior that promotes spread of the disease. This is a predictable, natural occurrence: “The more we’re exposed to a given threat, the less intimidating it seems.... Because risk perception fails as we learn to live with COVID-19,...researchers...see... strict social distancing, enforced masking outside the home and stay-at-home orders as perhaps the only things that can protect us from our own faulty judgment....Our tendency to view risk through the prism of emotion...hurts us during a pandemic.”

This numbing to the reality of risk has combined with an emphasis on individual rights to fuel rebellion by some against restrictions on social gathering, refusal to wear face coverings and calls for removal of public officials who advocate such measures. Individual liberties activists even carry guns to protests and to government offices to make their point.

Developing tolerance to risk is a good coping strategy if you have a crippling fear of heights or crowds or closed spaces. It is dangerous if it results in risky behavior that causes more community spread of a virus that leads to further spikes in cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

See the full text by going to:

<https://greaternw.org/episcopal-address-part-i-and-covid-19-notice-no-8/>



**"Women in Methodism"  
with  
Priscilla Pope-Levison**

**September 3, 2020  
11:30 a.m. Pacific Time**

Priscilla Pope-Levison serves as Associate Dean for External Programs and Professor of Ministerial Studies at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.

This and other webinar opportunities are available at:

<https://www.smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms/Webinars>

**\$15 advanced registration is required. CEUs available.**



**Birthdays**

- Sept. 5 Linda Hay
- Sept. 9 Sharon  
Gangwish
- Sept. 10 Shirlee Case
- Sept. 23 Rachele  
Williams
- Sept. 27 Mavis House
- Sept. 29 Sandy Bernier



- Sept. 8  
Chuck & Mary Rice
- Sept. 12  
Dwayne & Sharon  
Williams

**CHURCH  
OFFICE HOURS  
Monday to Thursday**

**9am - noon**

509-773-4461

M/W Lynn Wanless

T/Th Elsie David

M-Th Pastor Joyce

509-389-1406

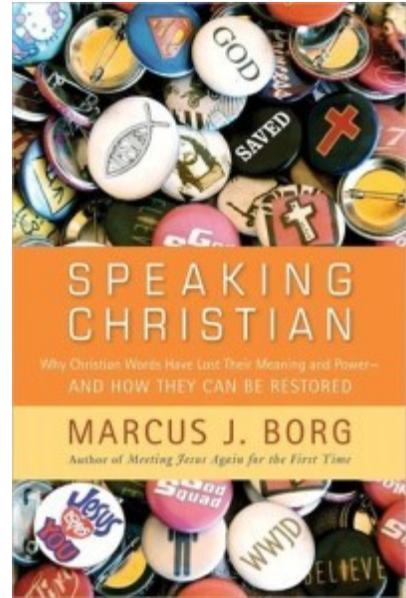
## A New Book Group is forming!

### Speaking Christian by Marcus Borg

A new book group is being formed under the leadership of Joy Bradley. Starting on September 23rd at 10 a.m. the group will discover the original meaning of the words Christians use all the time. The group will be meeting outdoors until the weather forces us indoors!

*Marcus Borg takes some of the key words in the Christian dictionary and exposes the negative and unhelpful connotations they still carry today. At the same time, he goes back to the Bible and unpacks their meaning in a way that is both more faithful to the teaching of Jesus and more relevant to his followers today.*

**Let Joy know you are planning on joining!**



**The Word**  
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