



Volume 32  
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PROCLAIMER



### From The Heart

# HEART READINESS

The church calendar (not the calendar of MFCOG, but the calendar of the church universal) is packed with special seasons, events and occasions. While the meaning and symbolism of the events are too often trivialized and secularized, it is well for the church

to protect the sacredness of its celebrations. For example, at Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Emmanuel – God with us – we are asked the question: “Are you ready for Christmas?” Translated, it means do you have all your gifts purchased and decorating finished. Instead, readiness for Christmas should be about welcoming the birth of the Son of God.

“Have you had an epiphany?” often means “Have you had a life-changing experience?” It should mean a heart-changing experience. Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2010) is preceded by the revelry of Fat Tuesday. Lenten season is trivialized to giving up a candy bar. All Saints Day (Nov. 1) is preceded by Halloween. Thanksgiving becomes turkey day. Easter becomes egg-hunt and dress-up day, and one of two most church-attendance days.

We are into a special season known as Lent. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord. The Lenten season is a time of repentance and acknowledgement of the mortality of man. It is a time to recognize our need for and dependence upon a Savior. The God-man, Christ, hanged on a cross of agony and passion in order to redeem you and me from a pit of hell. Man, even at the most self-sufficient that we can be, are still only “dust to dust, and ashes to ashes.”

The Psalmist David cried out “Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit in me!!!” Our plea is for the same work in our hearts.

Prepare yourself in the days ahead that you may find heart-readiness for the Christ. The Christ has gone to prepare a place for you, for those who have a place in their heart for Him. ♥

**Our Purpose is to expand God’s Kingdom, as we reach, teach, disciple and activate people for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Morganton First Church of God Weekly Schedule

Communion in the Prayer Room	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School:	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday ~ Children’s Church	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evenings	6:00 p.m.
Power House Youth and Prayer Service	
Wednesday Fellowship Supper	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday Small Groups	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Adult Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Services	7:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study, KidsPlace & PowerHouse Youth	

**Our Website: [www.mfcog.com](http://www.mfcog.com)**