



Lent / Easter 2012

“Blessings Of The Cross”

Suggestions for Children

Giving something up for Lent reminds us of Jesus and his suffering for us. Try giving up TV or video games and replace it with quality family time together.

Pray and read the Bible together. You may try saying grace together before your family meals or before bedtime. Try sharing with one another the Bible story from your child’s Sunday School or Children’s Church lesson. Let the children tell you what they learned and allow them to lead in prayer as they are comfortable.

What Is Lent? The Basics

BASICS ...

What is Lent?

Lent, is a word of Germanic origin which simply means "spring." In the church it is now used to refer to that period of forty days that precede Easter.

What is the purpose of Lent? During the season of Lent, we use this time to prepare ourselves spiritually, mentally and physically for the great celebration of Easter; we remember Christ's life and ministry, suffering, death and resurrection and intentionally seek to apply it to our daily living.

Why do we need to observe Lent?

The simple answer: we observe Lent because we need to remember our human condition, our sinful nature and renew our relationship to God through intentional acts of mercy and piety. Lent reminds us of the “awfulness” of sin and “awesomeness” of grace. We need this time to repent and respond to the grace of God. God’s grace invites us to take up our cross daily and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

How do we observe Lent? Lent is a time of intense prayer, fasting and/or abstinence, and almsgiving (concern for those in need). It offers all Christians an opportunity to prepare for Easter by serious discernment about our lives, with particular attention to the word of God. These three elements are grounded in the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 6.1-6, 16-18).

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER VIGIL AND WORSHIP SERVICE - FEB. 22

Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil: 7 am to 7 pm

Come by as you are able tomorrow to the CCUMC chapel. Prayer guides will be provided.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

(Child care provided)



“Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

PRACTICING THE DISCIPLINES OF PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING (MISSION AND SERVICE)

Prayer:

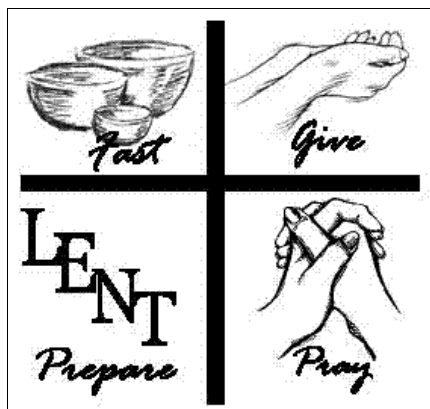
To pray is to address our thoughts, concerns, hopes, desires, and cares to God. To pray is to take some time during each day to ...

- ◆ offer praise for the goodness and love of God,
- ◆ offer thanks for the many blessings and favors we have received,
- ◆ ask for intercession for those persons or in those situations where there are serious difficulties,
- ◆ ask pardon and forgiveness for our sins.

Each Christian needs to find a form of prayer that is most helpful to her or him. This Lenten Season there will be weekly opportunities in worship and in the SON discipline (in the Sunday worship folder) to help you grow in your daily prayer life.

Fasting or Abstaining:

This is a practice that has always been associated with Lent. It is a way of disciplining the body and its many appetites for food, drink, and pleasures of any sorts, so that we can focus our minds and hearts on the love of God and the redemptive acts of Jesus.



The two main days of fasting in the Church are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in addition to the traditional practice of all the Fridays of Lent. If fasting, chose one day of the week, not necessarily Fridays) in which you take only one main meal. T, the other meals or meals of that day are not to be of equal amount, but much smaller -- if at all --making sure you till consume water to avoid getting sick. Getting sick and/or malnourished is not the intent of fasting; the intent is to recognize the God who provides for your every need; the One who “gives you your daily bread” and satisfies “your hungry heart.”

Abstinence is giving up, or not partaking in, a special kind of food or practice for the full duration of Lent. The most common form is to abstain from meat, candy or sweets, alcohol, etc... If you choose abstinence as a disciple for Lent, make sure that you replace it with an intention to focus upon God, God's blessings and how God's provides when the cravings and waves of temptation come to break your fast.

Almsgiving or Focus on Service:

This is the practice commanded by Jesus, to "feed my sheep." During Lent it is especially important for us to be mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves. Some you may consider including a missional act as part of your Lenten focus this year. These might include volunteering to work at a local soup kitchen, collecting food and packing "snack packs" for the children in our local public school system, helping with Hillcrest Ministries and offering to assist in some way to meet their most immediate needs, working with CCUMC to prepare the church lot for our gardening ministry, or offering time, talent and resources to the other ministries of CCUMC.

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee."

St. Augustine of



As Lent begins we must make a deliberate commitment to grow in relationship with God and others. You are invited to come and share the Lenten journey with other soul-journers along the way. Here is some of what CCUMC is offering for your prayerful intention this year.

HERE IS WHAT CCUMC IS OFFERING FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL INTENTION THIS YEAR.

FAST AND FORMATION OFFERINGS

Feb. 22 - March 29 SMALL GROUP

There is still time to the small group study "Love Walked Among Us: Learning To Love Like Jesus," Thursday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. for 6 weeks, **child care provided.** Jim Spears

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING 9:30 a.m.

- ◇ **Children's Sunday School with Music Program** ages 3 - 6 grade)
- ◇ **Youth (7 - 12 grade)**
- ◇ **United Methodism 101** continues in the library for February 26 and March 4.
- ◇ **Crusader/Meriweds/Adult Bible Study** "Attitude Is Your Paintbrush" by James Moore.
- ◇ Stepping Stones will continue to meet with leadership from Jim Spears.

ALMSGIVING (MISSION & SERVICE)

- ◇ **CHURCH WORK DAY** - Cleaning the church grounds for the Easter Egg Hunt (Date for work day TBA)
- ◇ **REMODEL STEPPING STONES' ROOM** - TBA
- ◇ **RACHEL RAMSEY CRUZE** - MARCH 6, 2012 6:30 P.M. A **Financial Peace University** class will be offered after Easter; registration for the class will begin immediately following the March 6 seminar.
- ◇ **EASTER EGG HUNT - March 31, 10 a.m.** Everyone in the congregation is asked to help with this event with prayer, packing Easter bags, hiding Easter Eggs, hosting, hospitality, etc ... More information on these and other opportunities to come. It will be a great fellowship time for our congregation and the surrounding community!
- ◇ **BLUE RIVER CLEAN UP - MARCH 31, 2012**
- ◇ **ASSIST WITH THE GARDEN MINISTRY** by soil and planning the seed. This is an on-going ministry.
- ◇ **VOLUNTEER TO WORK WITH HILLCREST MINISTRIES AND/OR PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY.**
- ◇ **MORE** to come

WORSHIP AND PRAYER OFFERINGS

February 22, ASH WEDNESDAY

PRAYER VIGIL 7 am - 7 pm.

In the Chapel. Come by as you are able throughout the day to pray as you remember and acknowledge the beginning of Lent. Prayer guides will be provided.

February 22, ASH WEDNESDAY

WORSHIP SERVICE 7 P.M.

Child care provided.

"BLESSING OF THE CROSS"

SERMON SERIES

New Sermon series for Lent begins, "The Blessings of The Cross," which invites us to explore God's hope and presence presented in the Word of God. Our understandings of God's transformative grace comes with our understanding the blessings of tests, risk-taking, blindness, death, the cross and finally Easter. This is a sacred time for all of us to praise God and contemplate God's redemption and new creation through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through these 40 days, we will hear the call to celebrate the blessings of new life offered through Jesus Christ. **THERE IS AN AGE APPROPRIATE CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOR ALL CHILDREN 3 - 8 YEARS OF AGE.**

PRAYER GROUP

Every Wednesday Morning 10:30

Library - Lettie Bautista

Every Friday Morning 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

Pastor Jenn - Light Breakfast included

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE - APR. 1, 10:45 A.M.
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - APR. 5, 7 P.M.
EASTER MORNING CELEBRATION SERVICE - APR. 8, 10:45 A.M.