

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Grace to you and peace!

It's hard to believe Lent is just around the corner! If you are new to the Presbyterian Church, USA or the Christian faith, you may be wondering what Lent is and why it even matters. Lent is a liturgical season that many Christians around the world observe in the six weeks leading up to Easter Sunday and begins on Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter (40 days of fasting, plus six Sundays). The 40 days are symbolic of the 40 days Christ spent in the desert wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13). Every Sunday is a "miniature Easter," celebration of Christ's resurrection as the foundation of our faith, and as such not included in the 40 days of Lent.

Some Christians choose to give up some type of luxury item during Lent, like fancy coffee drinks or chocolate to serve as a reminder in their cravings of all that Christ has sacrificed for us. Other Christians may choose not observe Lent, at all. Still other Christians may add a spiritual discipline to their daily routine - I heard of a congregation one time that encouraged its members and friends to commit to having a "meager meal" one night a week during Lent and the money that would have been spent on meat or going out to dinner would be collected and given to the local food pantry. There are countless ways to make a difference and have a meaningful Lenten season individually and corporately.

Here are some upcoming worship, faith formation, and fellowship opportunities First Presbyterian Church is offering to help make a difference and create a meaningful Lenten experience, we hope you will join us:

- **Saturday, Feb. 13 10AM-Noon:** Drive under the portico to pick up your Lenten supply bag, including ashes, communion sets, etc. (bags will be available in a sealed storage container for pickup outside if this date/time does not work for you).
- **Lenten Devotional:** This resource will include daily Scripture readings, reflections and a prayer, submitted by members and friends of FPC and will be available online. Please let the church office know if you or someone you know would like to receive a hard copy.
- **Ash Wednesday with communion on Zoom, Feb. 17:** Sign or call in at 7:00PM. A link will be emailed by February 12 but if you don't receive it, please let the church office know. This will be the same link for Lenten Wednesdays - you may also call in from your telephone (this goes for all Zoom meetings)
- **Sunday Morning Study in Lent on Zoom (Feb. 21 & 28, Mar. 7, 14, & 21)** - Join us from 9:00 - 9:30AM for an intergenerational discussion based on Rabbi Evan Moffic's book, *What Every Christian Needs to Know About Passover*. The book is not required for participation.
- **Sunday Morning Worship at 10AM (with communion on Mar. 7 & 28)**- You can connect with us on [Facebook](#) , [YouTube](#) , or [our webpage](#).
- **Lenten Poetic Journey, Sundays on Zoom (Feb. 21 & 28, Mar. 7, 14, & 21):** From 3:00-3:30PM, let's explore faith through poetry throughout the Lenten journey. You can request a Zoom link by emailing [lakarabel@gmail.com](mailto:lakarabel@gmail.com).

- **Lenten Wednesdays with communion on Zoom (Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, & 24):** Zoom in for a unique worship opportunity from 7:00-7:30PM, we will use the same link from Ash Wednesday.
- **Holy Week**
  - **Palm Sunday Worship online at 10AM (Mar. 28):** Connect with us on [Facebook](#) , [YouTube](#) , or [our webpage](#).
  - **Palm Sunday Parade at Noon:** Wear your mask, and let's meet in the church parking lot, practice physical distancing, pickup a palm frond, and continue to the walking path across the street, waving our palms celebrating the day our Savior arrived in Jerusalem.
  - **Palm Sunday Lunch, following the parade:** Congregational Life invites us to meet under the pavilion and will provide a brown bag lunch (*bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on*).
  - **Prayer Labyrinth:** A prayer labyrinth will be available under the pavilion to walk beginning Palm Sunday and will be available for your convenience throughout Holy Week.
  - **Maundy Thursday with communion on Zoom, Apr. 1:** Join us at 7:00PM as we journey to the cross. A Zoom link will be sent before Holy Week begins.
  - **Good Friday, Tenebrae:** on Zoom, Apr. 2 at 7:00PM. A Zoom link will be sent before Holy Week begins.
- **Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday, Apr. 4**
  - **Sunrise Service at 7AM with communion:** in-person, under the pavilion or on the lawn (*bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on*).
  - **Online worship at 10AM with communion:** Connect with us on [Facebook](#) , [YouTube](#) , or [our webpage](#).

In God's Grip,

Pastor Kim