



March Worship - Season of Lent

- March 6 First Sunday in Lent
Lectionary: Duet. 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Focus Texts: Psalm 91:1-6 and Luke 4:1-13
Sermon: You Will Not Fear
- March 13 Second Sunday in Lent
Lectionary: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Psalm 27; Phil. 3:17-4:1;
Luke 13:31-35
Focus Text: Luke 13:31-35
Sermon: Courage and Vulnerability
- March 20 Third Sunday in Lent
Lectionary: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; I Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
Focus Text: Luke 13:1-9
Sermon: Beyond What's Fair
- March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Lectionary: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21;
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
Focus Text: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
Sermon: A Weird Family

HOLY WEEK - WORSHIP

April 10 @ 9:45am: Palm Sunday and a Fellowship treat after worship - details TBA

April 14 @ 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service

April 15 @ 7pm: Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 17 @ 9:45am: Easter Sunday & Kids Egg Hunt





The Season of Lent

Lent means “spring” and is the season of the church year that encompasses the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before Easter (excluding Sundays). The season echoes the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and praying before the culmination of his ministry that took him to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week.

Lent as a season of the church year dates to the third century of the Common Era and is thought to have been institutionalized when the Council of Nicea met in 325 CE. Following the example of Jesus during his time in the wilderness, the season of Lent encourages Christians to fast, to pray, and to give alms to the poor. Lent is a time of “going inward,” of taking time to reflect on one’s own life considering Jesus’ invitation to discipleship.

While Lenten fasting has not been a widespread practice among Presbyterians, the other ancient disciplines of the Lenten season have been embraced by our tradition: prayer, mission work, and setting aside time each day during Lent for introspection and reflection. The use of daily devotional resources has been an integral part of the Lenten journey for Presbyterians.

This year I am inviting you to join in the disciplines of Lent using *Living into Lent*, a Lenten devotional guide written by Presbyterian theologian Donald McKim. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2, *Living into Lent* takes you through each day of the Lenten season with scripture readings, prayer, reflection pieces, and an invitation to express your faith in concrete ways. Copies of *Living into Lent* are available in the Narthex for \$13 and the book is also available electronically on Kindle. The church has funds available to cover the cost of the book for those who need it.

In addition to the daily devotional, I will be leading two discussion group options each week as we share our reflections and insights with one another:

- **Sundays** at 11:15a in person in the church lounge beginning March 6
- **Thursdays** at 6:30p via Zoom beginning March 10 (link will be in Thursday announcements)

I know the pandemic has created enormous stress and challenges for all of us. This Lent can be an opportunity to reflect on our lives during these extraordinary times as we seek to be faithful to Christ. I invite you to join us this year on the Lenten journey.

Yours in Christ,
Scott Anderson, Pastor

Wednesday Bible Study

You are still welcome to join the Westminster Bible Study class which is studying the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of Luke is prominent in the upcoming lectionary passages. All interested in a layered approach to the Gospel of Luke in both worship and Bible Study are encouraged to join us for our study using New Testament scholar N.T. Wright’s *Luke For Everyone* study guide resource. Westminster’s Spring Bible Study class will take place weekly on Wednesdays, from 12:30-2 pm, via Zoom, through mid-May. Please let Katie know if you would like to join and need a book at 238-3121 or info@westminstermadison.org.

Lent in a Box

Amy will be delivering “Lent in a Box” for all of our preschool families. This is a fun way for kids to connect to the Season through play. Feel free to contact Amy with any questions amy@westminstermadison.org.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people face challenges to obtain food, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. For more than 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided a way to share God’s love with our neighbors to help meet these hardships.

Your OGHS gifts will support Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) Grants, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Programs (PDA) and Self-Development of People (SDOP) Grants. These programs and grants work to serve individuals and communities from initial disaster response to ongoing community development. For example, 94 grants totaling over \$1 million and impacting 20 countries were given through the PHP. This helped purchase food, animals, land, water and seeds to help alleviate hunger and support sustainability. In 2019, 5,676 volunteers served on PDA work teams and in 2020, \$6.5 million was granted in the US and 56 countries for disaster relief, over half of which was for COVID-19 response. The SDOP committee works with economically poor communities around the world to overcome oppression and injustice. Since SDOP’s began, over 5,000 projects have been supported that have worked to aid communities to find their own solutions to challenges and improve their lives.

The OGHS offering will be collected in March through Easter Sunday. *When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.*

Agrace Offers In-Person and Virtual Grief Group Options in March

In March, Agrace is offering professionally led, in-person and virtual (accessible with a tablet, computer or smartphone) grief support groups.

Family Grief Support Program is for families with children aged 5 to 18 who are grieving the death of a primary caregiver or child. It meets in-person every other Tuesday, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Agrace Grief Support Center. For dates and to register, call (608) 327-7135.

Journey Through Grief is a six-week grief support group series for adults. It meets Tuesdays, March 22 to April 26, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Agrace Grief Support Center.

Bridges is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held every other Wednesday.

- Virtual meetings are March 2, 16 and 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

In-person meetings are March 9 and 23, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Agrace Grief Support Center.

Spouse/Partner Loss Support is a six-week grief support group series for adults whose spouse or partner has died. It meets online Mondays, March 15 to April 19, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

There is no fee for these programs if a participant’s family member was in hospice care in the past 12 months; fees for others can be lowered or waived, if needed. Pre-registration is required; call (608) 327-7118 with questions or to register

Agrace Adult Day Center Offers Daytime Care

Do you care for or know an older adult who cannot—or chooses not to—stay alone all day? The new Agrace Adult Day Center in Madison gives seniors the reassurance and comfort of having others with them throughout the day. It's especially helpful for people who have dementia or trouble with their memory. It's a welcome break for family caregivers, too. Learn more at (608) 327-7303 or Agrace.org/AdultDayCenter.



Please keep the following members and friends in your

prayers: Kelly McCann, Judy Braucht, Nancy Prine, Jerry Donnell, Gordon Bischel (Dorothy Schroeder's nephew), Steve & Cathy Wilkins (Gay Didriksen's daughter and son-in-law), Connie Dettloff

Session meeting highlights, Feb. 22, 2022:

The Session adopted the following motions at their meeting:

Due to the sharply falling rate of Covid infections and hospitalizations, effective March 6:

- Coffee fellowship will be reinstated in Fellowship Hall; masks will be required unless eating or drinking while seated;
- Worship leaders in the chancel area will be allowed to remove masks at their discretion while speaking;
- Tape will be removed from the pews in the front section of the church but remain in the back section; social distancing will be encouraged.

The Lent and Easter schedule of services proposed by the Worship Committee was approved:

- No Ash Wednesday service will be held this year because of COVID;
- Holy Week services will be: Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM; Good Friday Tenebrae services at 7 PM; one Easter Sunday service offered at 9:45 AM

A workshop led by Pastor Scott and Joe Chrisman about the "hows and whys" of Presbyterian worship will be offered in March— more information regarding this event will be coming soon.

Small groups are allowed to meet again at church if they so choose (observing covid policies). Please schedule any meetings with Katie in the office.



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ron Behling 03/01
Betty Bush 03/04
Wally Douma 03/05
Agnes Dako 03/07
Pat Mullin 03/09
Nell Seiberlich 03/10
Connie Jones 03/14
Sam Fletcher 03/14
Rick Dettloff 03/15
Kathy Key 03/15
John Wright 03/19
Sam Buffat 03/20
Kathy DePaul 03/21
Jerry Tarr 03/21
Karen Stephens 03/24
Julia Sherman 03/25
Judy Thompson 03/25
Kate Fletcher 03/26
Scott Anderson 03/28
Claire Tanke 03/29
Nanci Bjorling 03/30

