



**weston
christian
church**
(Disciples of Christ)



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A note from Cindy...

Lent 2020: New Perspectives on Old Traditions

Lent is the season of the church year devoted in a special way to prayer, fasting and doing spiritual works of charity. The word "lent" is from the Middle English "lenten," meaning springtime. Traditionally, the Lenten season honors the time that Jesus spent in the desert - 40 days and 40 nights - before the events which led to his murder and eventually to his resurrection.

Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday. This year it is February 26 and ends on Easter Sunday, which is April 12.

Some of us grew up with a rather dark version of spiritual disciplines, emphasizing our sinfulness and especially our complicity in the death of Jesus Christ. While we can not deny the suffering of Jesus on the cross, there are many other ways to understand his death and its meaning for us. We will take up some of these themes during our adult Sunday school classes in upcoming weeks. We will also introduce some additional suggestions to help us grow in our relationship to Jesus and to one another.

So what will we do here at Weston Christian Church during Lent? How will we honor this sacred time before Easter? We will begin with a Fat Tuesday (Mardis Gras) dinner/party on February 25. We hope this will be an especially joyous time of welcoming some new faces into our community.

On Ash Wednesday this year we will have a Service of Ashes that evening at 6:30 p.m. On the following Wednesday mornings during Lent, we will begin a focused time of centering prayer and meditation. These Wednesday morning prayer times will begin at 9:30 in the church.

The Sunday school class (also 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings) will begin reading the book: [How Good Do We Have to Be?: A New Understanding of Guilt and Forgiveness](#), by Harold Kushner. You may purchase this book ahead of time on your own, or we will have some copies available for sale (\$10.00). Even if you are unable to attend these study sessions, it is highly recommended that you join us in prayerful study on your own.

During Holy Week we will have a Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday is a community wide celebration here in Weston. We will share these details as we get closer to the time. Holy Saturday we will have a 24 hour prayer vigil, both for those who would like to pray here at church or to pray in their homes. This gives us the time to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter morning.

I'd like you to consider these words from Karoline Lewis, a Scripture scholar from Luther Seminary in Minnesota:

"Lent needs to be not what you will give up, but what you will live for. . . I have called into question the notion of giving up something for Lent and instead, invited a decision on something to embrace. Not something "to do" but something "to be." Something that gives you joy, that nurtures you. It's okay to have joy during Lent.

It's okay to think about how you will take care of yourself during Lent. It's okay to imagine a Lent that does not have to have as its primary mood that of sacrifice. Your starting point for Lent matters. You can suffer through Lent. Or, you can choose to move through Lent from a place of wonder and gratitude: wondering where God might show up, what God might reveal in this dormant time, this time set aside so as to anticipate life, a time that looks forward to glimpses of new creation. Gratitude for the certainty of the resurrection when much of life seems devoid of its truth."

Maybe Lent should be a time to practice what living in the hope of the resurrection might look like and feel like in the present and not only that which is secured for our future. Believe me, this is not meant to discount the suffering caused by betrayal, denial, pain, and death. But Lent reminds us that in the midst of these sober truths of human existence, resurrection is the greater truth."

With all of this in mind, let's begin to prepare our hearts, to dig in to the depths of what really matters most in our spiritual journey. Blessings and joy to each one of you.

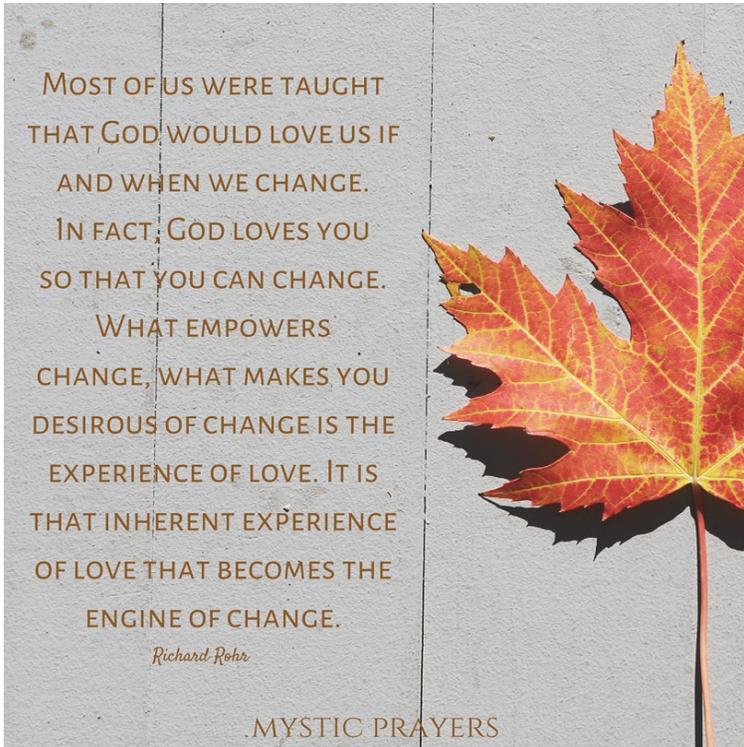
-Cindy

Our identity statement:

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for *wholeness* in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

**Sunday
Service
10:30 am**

"There is not a flower that opens, not a seed that falls into the ground, and not an ear of wheat that nods on the end of its stalk in the wind that does not preach and proclaim the greatness and the mercy of God to the whole world. There is not an act of kindness or generosity, not an act of sacrifice done, or a word of peace and gentleness spoken . . . that does not sing hymns to God."
 ~ Thomas Merton



February

Sundays, 9:30 am - Adult Sunday School
 Sundays, 10:15 am - WCC Church Zoom Meeting
 Sundays, 10:30 am - Worship Service
 Tuesdays, 6:30 am - Men's Bible Study
 Wednesdays, 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

2/3 4:30 pm - Micah Ministry at IBCC
 2/12 2:30 pm - "Christ and a Cup of Coffee" Bible Study at Weston Coffee Roastery

2/14 Valentine's Day
 2/17 President's Day
 2/19 10:00 am - "In His Service" Soup Ministry
 2/25 6:00 pm - Fat Tuesday Dinner
 2/26 2:30 pm - "Christ and a Cup of Coffee" Bible Study at Weston Coffee Roastery
 6:30 pm - Service of Ashes

February Sermons

Feb 2
 "The Promises of God's Reign" - Matthew 5:1-12

Feb 9
 "Facing the Darkness" - Matthew 5:13-20

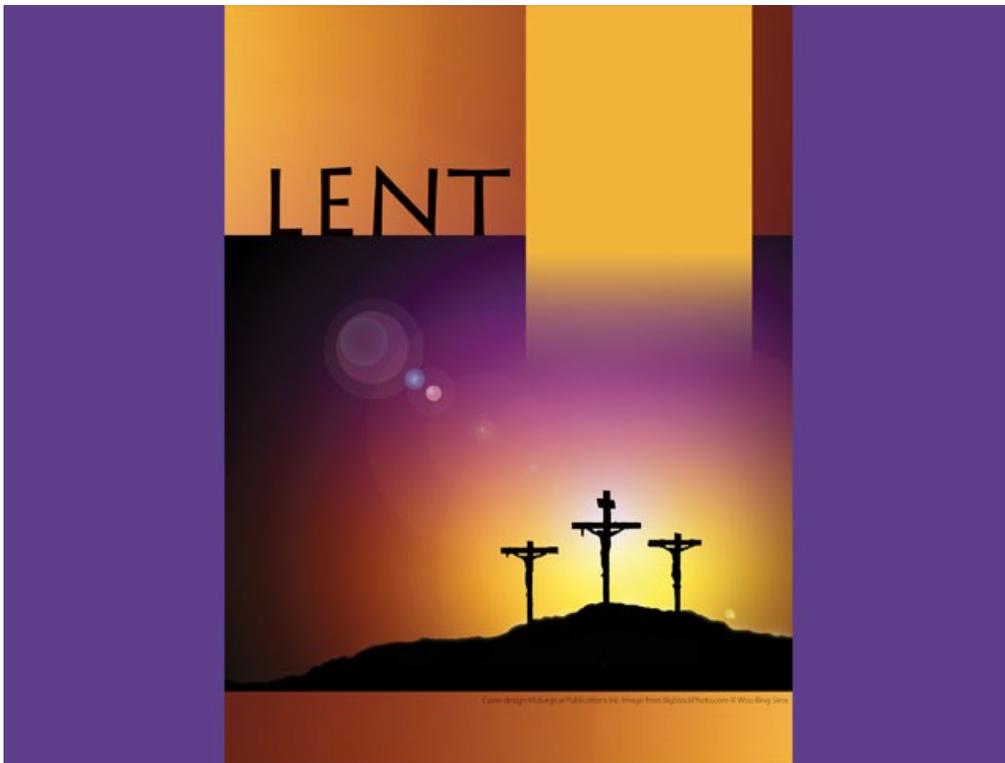
Feb 16
 "Choices" - Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Feb 23
 "Souls Housed in a Body" - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17



Quaker pastor Philip Gulley summarizes how we must rebuild spirituality from the bottom up in his book, *If the Church Were Christian*. This is a quick overview of what he sees emerging in Christianity today:

1. Jesus is a model for living more than an object of worship.
2. Affirming people's potential is more important than reminding them of their brokenness.
3. The work of reconciliation should be valued over making judgments.
4. Gracious behavior is more important than right belief.
5. Inviting questions is more valuable than supplying answers.
6. Encouraging the personal search is more important than group uniformity.
7. Meeting actual needs is more important than maintaining the status quo.



April 21, 2020
Stormont Vail Events Center
Topeka, KS

Groups of 10+ qualify for a group discount*

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**certain restrictions apply*

February Church Calendar

Today
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February 2020
Month
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service	27	28 6:30am Men's Bible Study	29 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30 9am All-pro 9 AM	31	Feb 1
2 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service	3 4:30pm Micah Ministry at IBCC	4 6:30am Men's Bible Study	5 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8
9 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service	10	11 6:30am Men's Bible Study	12 8:30am WMA - Ministers' Breakfast 2:30pm "Christ and a Cup of Coffee"	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service	17 Presidents' Day (regional holiday)	18 6:30am Men's Bible Study	19 10am "In His Service" Soup Ministry 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 10:15am WCC Church Zoom Meeting 10:30am Worship Service	24	25 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6pm Fat Tuesday Dinner	26 Ash Wednesday 2:30pm "Christ and a Cup of Coffee" 6:30pm Service of Ashes 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29