



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 10) and lasts 40 days (not including Sundays). These 40 days are associated with the 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai, Israel's 40 years wandering in the wilderness, and Jesus' 40 day fast in the desert. The word Lent means "lengthening of days."

As Jarrod McKenna writes, "Lent is not about feeling gloomy for forty days...It's not even about giving things up for forty days. Lent is spring time. It's about preparing for that great climax of spring time, Easter: new life bursting through death. Lent is a time," McKenna writes, for "sweeping and

cleaning the rooms of our own minds and hearts so that the New Life might really have room to come in...and transform us at Easter." (*Sojourners* blog)

Because Lent is a time for searching and reexamining who Jesus was and is, and because this search for Jesus is often wrought with questions and uncertainty, Sundays in Lent will focus around the question: Why (why not) Christian? Each Sunday will consist of Rainbow individuals doing some "public soul-searching" as we consider what it means and doesn't mean to be a Christ follower today.

Please see reverse side for more information about our Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 10, 5:45-6:30 pm in the sanctuary

During this contemplative service of prayer and song, the imposition of ashes will be offered either on the forehead or hand. Our ashes come from the burning of palms used last year on Palm Sunday. The ashes are a gesture of being authentically human before God, releasing us from illusions of perfection or immortality.

Lenten Vespers

Sunday evenings during Lent beginning at 5 pm
(February 14, 21, 28 and March 6, 13, 20)

A time for contemplation, prayer, and song.

Maundy Thursday agape meal

March 24 from 6:30-8 pm in Fellowship Hall

This gathering will include sharing of communion and supper around tables. Please RSVP to the church office.

Easter egg decorating

Friday, March 25 at 6:30 pm to prepare for the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the playground on Saturday the 26th. More information about these events will be coming soon.

Good Friday vigil

The Sanctuary and Sunflower Room will be open 9 am-9 pm on March 25 for individual reflection and prayer.