



The Main Street MESSENGER

VOLUME 67 | NO. 2 | FEBRUARY 2021

Are You Ready? Lent is Coming Quickly

We just got Christmas put away and barely remember our New Year's resolutions. The Super Bowl is now the big event. It definitely seems much too soon to begin thinking about the next holy season in the church liturgical year.

But we actually can do a few things to get our hearts and minds ready for the Lenten Season. Below you will find 3 simple practices to consider trying during Lent.

First, what is Lent?

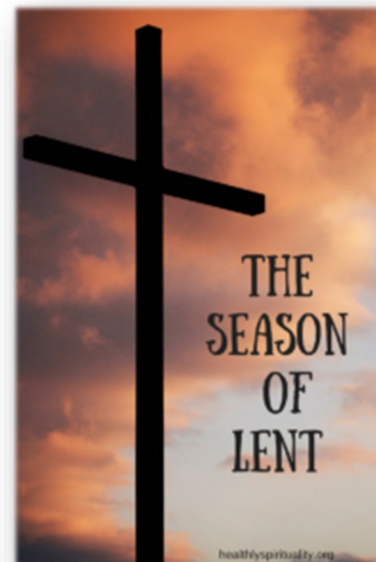
The 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays, comprises the season of Lent. It begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on February 17. Our tradition has been to have a church pancake supper on Fat Tuesday, but of course we will not be able to do that this year.

However, we could all prepare pancake suppers at home and have our own personal Fat Tuesday!

The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "*lencten*" meaning spring. The symbolism of 40 days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry and being tempted by Satan. Many people associate this season with giving up something or some type of self denial. Lent also gives us the opportunity to give, serve, and pray more, too.

Traditionally Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. We are invited to reflect, remember, and ponder the story of Christ and what it means for our faith. In early Christianity, this was the time to

prepare for baptism which symbolizes our relationship with God; and today, it is a time to deepen our relationship with God and subsequently with each other.



Traditions of Lent that we can "DO"

Prayer

Prayer accompanies fasting as an historic tradition of Lent. We should pray to improve our communion with God and strengthen our spiritual discipline during the preparation for Easter Sunday.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." ~ [Philippians 4:6](#)

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ~ [Matthew 26:41](#)

Fasting

Fasting is a well-known aspect of Lent, inspired by the fast of Jesus while he spent 40 days in the wilderness. Christians partake in fasting to increase their self-control over worldly desires, such as food.

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ~ [Matthew 4:1-4](#)

Giving

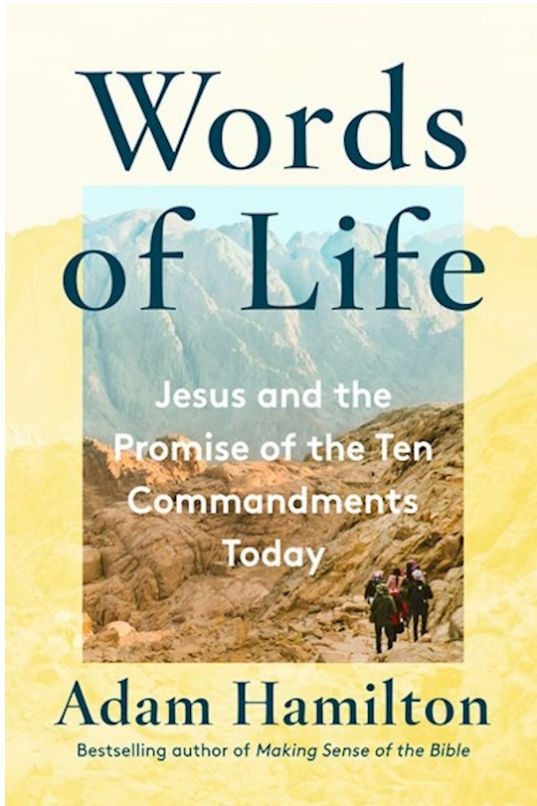
Helping others is also a tradition of the Lenten season, inspired by the command of Jesus to "love your neighbor as yourself." While we should likewise give to others in love throughout the entire year, an extra emphasis is added during the time of Lent.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." ~ [Hebrews 13:16](#)

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." ~ [Philippians 2:4](#)

STEWARDSHIP 2021

FEBRUARY | LIVING OUR WITNESS THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

FEBRUARY 24—MARCH 24

Each lesson will include a video session with Adam Hamilton followed by discussion. Order your book now from Cokesbury or Amazon.

In this book of scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most famous set of rules in history, recovering the Ten Commandments as more than just a set of onerous prohibitions. He considers the commandments in their historical context, unpacking the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, how Jesus reinterpreted them, and how Jews and Christians have understood them over the millennia. He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

Gifts of the Spirit - "Doing"

Romans 12: 6-8 *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

Occasionally, we ask you to consider discovering your spiritual gifts. Over the years, many of you have taken the time to take the spiritual gifts assessment that can be found online at

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>

When we discover our spiritual gifts, each of us is given the power to live into God's call as the Holy Spirit shapes our understanding of ourselves. Because conversion is the process of *letting go* of the things that hold us back and *putting on* the spirit of God that renews and gives life, the use of our spiritual gifts is life changing for us and for others. Spiritual gifts help us live out our call.

Please consider doing the spiritual gifts assessment listed above. You may be surprised where your strengths and gifts appear!

Gifts are great, but it's more important to know how to love. God has given us His love as a gift. We love because He loved us first. Without love all the actions supposing to be gifts are empty.

Even during Covid there are things we can "DO":

- ⇒ **Join a Sunday school class** - The McLemore Bible Class meets each Sunday at 10:00am via Zoom. This is a great time for sharing, praying and receiving a wonderful lesson taught by great teachers. Email Nancy Webb at nanwebb74@gmail.com
- ⇒ **Reach out to others** - Send cards or notes, make phone calls especially to those who aren't well connected via the internet
- ⇒ **Help with the Care and Concern Committee** - Call Laura Solomon at 539-3932 to see how you can help with meals, etc.
- ⇒ **Use your musical talents** - Play handbells or other instruments for our virtual services. Call Chris Ward at 334-1049
- ⇒ **Volunteer to teach a class** - If you have read or studied interesting topics during this time, share your knowledge with others. Call Barbara McPhail at 539-8751

FEBRUARY 2021 [BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

[BIRTHDAYS]

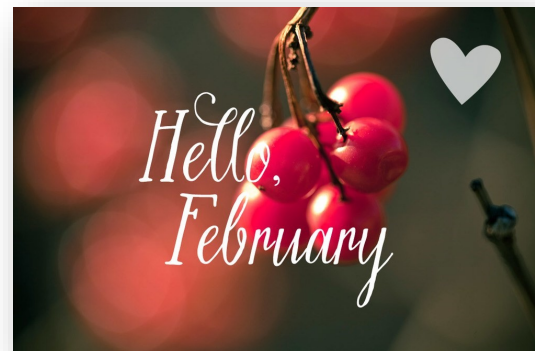
2/1 Bob Zedler	2/10 Mary Scott
2/1 Nikolai Seleznev	2/10 Benjamin Cutchin
2/1 Reed Oliva	2/11 Karen Graham
2/1 Patricia Kraft	2/12 Marjie Wills
2/2 Sandra Birdsong	2/12 Kelly Baker
2/2 Ryan Johnson	2/12 Rita Drier
2/3 Arlene Palmer	2/13 Brianna Barnes
2/3 Sarah Hewett	2/13 Jack Johnson
2/4 Charlotte Bauer	2/14 Amy Farley
2/5 Linda McClure	2/15 Yriah Smalls
2/6 Amy Lee Davis-Adams	2/16 Danny Andrews
2/8 Collin Hoy	2/17 Morgan Wilson
2/8 John Barnes	2/18 Herman Terrell
2/8 James Brown	2/19 David Birdsong
2/8 Ford Totten	2/19 Tyler Casey
2/9 Ute Borthwick	2/20 Will Crow
2/9 Bruce Hines	2/20 Glenn Drier
	2/20 Lynn Nelson
	2/20 John Shappell

2/21 Brandi Tyeryar

2/21 Billye Walton
2/21 Irene Fisher
2/21 Kade Gagnon
2/22 Nathan Hill
2/22 Connor King
2/23 Lucy Holland
2/24 Sharon Slate
2/25 Kelly Holland
2/26 Austin Mills
2/28 Tom Williams
2/28 Mary Virginia Fink
2/29 Matthew Agnese

[ANNIVERSARIES]

2/5 David Askew & Joanne Wunderlich
2/8 Roy & Cara Brinkley
2/15 Nathan & Kelly Hill
2/15 David & Laura Michael
2/15 Top & Arlene Palmer
2/19 Bob & Darla Spiker
2/26 Jerry & Anne Branch
2/26 Robert & Laura Solomon
2/27 Bin & Natalie Parker



PRAYER LIST UPDATE

RECENT PRAYER: 1/27/21: Cheri Harrell Anthony, all those affected by COVID-19, Matthew Agnese, Tom Buxton, Lydia Duke, Bob Callis, CAPS Night Stay Program; Pastor Rich and Colleen; Sandra Wilson; Rev. Sylvia Meadows; Liz Wilson; Amy Davis Adams; Anne Cabell Pearce; Randy West; Liam Grant; all who are without insurance, enough food and a warm, clean place to live; Allison Mayo; Aislin Skye Congdon (6 months old); Pat Huber; the Fisher family; Sue Spring, Harold & June Barrett; Robert Blair; Rev. Ellen Comstock and the congregation of Franktown UMC on the Eastern Shore; the Joe Driver family; Karla Dessimoz; Nathan; Ernie Stout; Michelle Horton; Charlie O'Dea; Carolyn Hurst

SYMPATHY: Family of Edmund Clark (Nancy Verdirame's brother); Family of Lorraine Cliffs (Jim Decker's cousin); Family of John Sanders (friend of Morgan Wilson)

ONGOING: Steve Clark, Sylvia Funkhouser, Heather Lawrence, Leila & Bob Tompert, Michael McPherson and Family, Lucas Lawrence, Joseph Medeiros, Stan Waterfield, Trenton Bishop, Juanita Colley, Carolyn Davis, Bobby Cullop, Pamela Edwards-Jones, Christi Bastion, Melissa Benscome

CANCER: Pam Askew, Linda Argust, Ray Holland, Al Bremer, Diane Liles, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, David Hollowell, Rod Rodrigues, Melaine Medeiros, Carol Coleman, Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Kelly Grier (Ferguson) Coston, Julie Nance, John Nodeen, Richard J. Peko, Nancy Pike, Roland Word, Thelma Johnson, Shannon Rivera, Juel Carr, Nancy Spring Parker, Anita McLemore, Gary Graham, Marion Barrett Murphy, Glen Harrell

SKILLED CARE: Bill Gallant, Doug McPhail

HOMEBOUND: Melanie French, Jean Sutphin

ASSISTED LIVING: Colette Ballard, Susan Rivenbark, Ray Shamburger, Frances Kelly

OUR NATION AND WORLD: Military Troops & Families: Chris Smith, Anthony Hickler, Hunter Pietrowski, Adam Waddell, Kent Brooks, Bryanna Grant, James Russell III, Kristi Kilborn, Wesley Linder, Duncan Bevan, Hayley Burton, Jonathan Burton, TJ Argust; First Responders; CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk); Our Schools; Main Street Day Care & Preschool; Workplaces & Homes; social justice, unity and peace; students, parents, teachers and administrators in local schools; safety and well being of our college students and professors; our President and national leaders

Church Staff & Contact Information

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DAY CARE/PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Julia Farmer | julia@mainstumc.org



The Main Street MESSENGER

OF MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Lessons for Lent: Our Children and the Journey to Easter

The message of Easter is the best news our children can ever hear!

Mark your calendar and plan to be with us on Zoom as we learn about Easter and its importance in our lives. Included will be a story, music, and a craft for each week as we study Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and on to Easter morning. **We'll begin at 9:15 a.m. and conclude by 9:45 a.m. via Zoom on March 7, 14, 21 and Palm Sunday March 28.** While we're still a month away from the start, planning has begun. Please contact Nancy Webb at (757) 620-5402 (call or text) or email at nanwebb74@gmail.com and add your child/ren to the list so materials can be readied. You can also leave your information with the Church office. As with our Advent Lessons, a packet will be prepared for each participant and delivered to you prior to the first week.



More details will follow for those who sign up to be part of the group.

Don't ever forget the message of Easter - it's the best news we can ever hear!