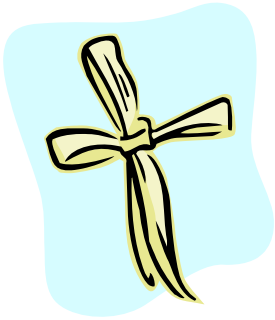


Lent at First Church

Theme: *Gratitude*



Ash Wednesday, February 17, marks the beginning of Lent—a season of self-examination, prayer, fasting and works of love.

The word "Lent" is from the Middle English verb meaning "to lengthen." In the Northern Hemisphere, the season corresponds with the lengthening of days during late winter and early spring.

During Lent, Christians prepare themselves spiritually for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. The season spans 40 days: the number 40 symbolizes spiritual journeys home, corresponding to the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert in preparation for his ministry and the 40 years Israel journeyed through the wilderness towards the promised land. The traditional color of Lent is purple. During Holy Week, red is sometimes worn to symbolize the blood shed by Jesus for the salvation of humanity. In some traditions, following Maundy Thursday's service, the sanctuary is stripped of color and ornament as a gesture which may suggest keeping vigil with Christ on the cross and in the tomb.

Schedule of Lenten Meals, Programs and Services

Please bring a canned or packaged food for Open Pantry!

Note for Potluck dinners: Please bring enough of your item to feed approximately 10 people. Rolls and drinks will be provided.

Tuesday, February 16

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall
(Reservations and a free will offering requested. See below for reservation form.)

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday Worship Services, 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 21

Lenten Adult Study "Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer and the Christian Life", 11:15 a.m. in the Buxton Room

Wednesday, February 24

Family Pot Luck, 6:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall. Last names beginning A-L please bring a main dish, M-S a side dish, and T-Z a dessert. After dinner we will do a hands-on activity based on *Gratitude*.

Saturday, February 27

Hunger Awareness Dinner sponsored by Senior YES!, 6:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall

Sunday, February 28

Lenten Adult Study "Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer and the Christian Life", 11:15 a.m. in the Buxton Room

Wednesday, March 3

Lenten Dinner: "Pizza and Puzzles", 6:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall. After dinner we will do a puzzle based activity based on *Gratitude*.
(Reservations and a free will offering requested. See below for reservation form.)

- Sunday, March 7 **Lenten Adult Study** “Lord, Teach Us: The Lord’s Prayer and the Christian Life”, 11:15 AM Buxton Room
- Wednesday, March 10 **Lenten Pot Luck**, 6:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall Last names beginning M-Z please bring a main dish, G-L a side dish, and A-F a dessert. We will play the *Gratitude Game* following dinner.
- Sunday, March 14 **Lenten Adult Study** “Lord, Teach Us: The Lord’s Prayer and the Christian Life”, 11:15 AM Buxton Room
- Wednesday, March 17 **St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef Dinner and Irish Step Dancers**, 6:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall (Tickets being sold, \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children – limited to 100 people). Tickets can be purchased during coffee hour or by calling the church office (567-6287) after February 21.
- Sunday, March 21 **Lenten Adult Study** “Lord, Teach Us: The Lord’s Prayer and the Christian Life”, 11:15 a.m. in the Buxton Room
- Wednesday, March 24 **Interfaith Potluck Dinner**, 5:30 p.m. Gathering, 6:00 p.m. Program, and 7:00 p.m. Dinner – Bailey Hall Details available soon.

HOLY WEEK

- Sunday, March 28 **Palm Sunday Worship Service**, 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, April 1 **Maundy Thursday Worship Service**, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 2 **Good Friday Open Sanctuary with Meditation and Music**, Noon-3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 4 **Easter Sunday Worship Services:** 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Childcare provided at 9 & 11)
- Sunday, April 4 **Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast**, 10:00 a.m. in Bailey Hall. Ticket information available soon.

Lenten Dinner Reservation Form

February 16, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper number attending: _____

March 3, Pizza and Puzzles Dinner number attending: _____

Name and phone number _____

Please detach this form and return it to the church office, or contact the church office to make a reservation (567-6287/mstevens@firstchurchlongmeadow.org)