

Devotional Materials



Spirit Tending

First Sunday in Lent: *Tending Mercy*

Second Sunday in Lent: *Tending Fidelity*

Third Sunday in Lent: *Tending Wisdom*

Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Tending Steadfast Love*

Fifth Sunday in Lent: *Tending New Life*

The theme *Spirit Tending* is taken from the texts we will be hearing from the lectionary throughout the season. Our desire is to focus on both the attributes of God as One who is trustworthy in making and keeping covenant with us and on our life of discipleship as we are drawn to become like this One who pursues us.

For Adults: *A Wondrous Love*

Two of the most widely read and respected spiritual writers of the 20th century, Henri Nouwen and C.S. Lewis, are brought together in this Lenten daily devotional booklet. Nouwen and Lewis offer their deeply personal insights, understanding and pastoral sensitivity in this booklet that is an ideal accompaniment for the holy season of Lent.

For Youth: *Sent into Lent*

Throughout Scripture, God sends his faithful servants to work. This Lent, teens will learn more about those sent servants and will be encouraged to answer Christ's continued call to action in their lives. Daily action prompts are provided with each brief devotion.

For Families with Older Children:

Led by Christ: Action Begins in the Heart

This Lenten family devotional leads families into discussions about the decision they are making and how those choices compare to those the Scripture urges us to make. This shared time together in prayer and discussion enriches and prepares your family for the Easter celebration.

For Families with Young Children:

Look Around Jerusalem

Each weekday in Lent the family will read a short devotion and Bible verse, place a sticker on the Jerusalem centerpiece, look for hidden images, and follow Jesus on his journey through Jerusalem on this way to the cross. The children will be reminded of the people Jesus was with and important objects around him right until Easter Sunday and the image of the risen Savior.



The Season of Lent
at
HOPE CHURCH
2015





Wednesday Evening Series

Hope Church will be offering four Wednesday evening worship services during the season of Lent, starting with the Ash Wednesday service on February 18. The following three services will incorporate spiritual songs, testimony, silence, and communion. Our focus will be directed by the gospel texts as we let the more difficult aspects of love turn us toward God—trial, rebuke, and anger.

Ash Wednesday, February 18*

6:00 p.m. Simple Meal for all ages

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Worship in the sanctuary will include scripture, music, prayer and meditation. The imposition of ashes is an ancient symbol that calls us into this season of reflection.

February 25*

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Love and Trial

Mark 1:9-15

March 4*

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Love and Rebuke

Mark 8:31-38

March 11*

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Love and Anger

John 2:13-22

**Nursery care will be provided.*



Worship During Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 29*

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Palm Sunday Celebration

11:00 a.m. “Worship for the Way of the Cross”

We begin the journey through Holy Week with dramatic reading, liturgical dance, and music.

Maundy Thursday, April 2*

6:00 p.m. Family Seder Dinner

This traditional Jewish meal remembers the events of the Passover told in the book of Exodus. There will be a pot luck meal as part of the Seder so please bring a dish to pass. Sign up for the Seder in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office (392-7947).

7:45 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)

The service follows the path of Jesus’ passion through the Last Supper and crucifixion and includes communion, prayer, scripture and music.

Good Friday, April 3

12:10 p.m. Community Good Friday Service

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Hosted at Hope Church and co-sponsored by First United Methodist Church, Third Reformed Church, New Community Fourth Reformed Church and the Washington School Neighborhood Connectors.

Easter Sunday, April 5*

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service

9:40 a.m. Easter Brunch

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Celebrate the risen Lord! Gordon Wiersma, preaching, and Jill Russell, liturgist; with choirs and brass under the direction of Brian Carder. *Church School will not be held.*



Additional Opportunities

Sunday, March 22: Healing Prayer Service

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry, in conjunction with the Health Ministry, offers Healing Prayer Services several times a year. People are invited to share in this liturgy of healing prayer and are offered the opportunity to come forward to share in prayer with one of the elders or pastors if desired. People are also invited to write down prayer concerns in the weeks leading up to the Service and those concerns will be included in the litany for healing.

The Cross Shop: Finding Healing at the Intersection

During Lent you will find a “Cross Shop” sitting on a table. The cross has become a symbol within our faith for the intersection between our need and God’s promise of healing and salvation. The Health Ministry offers this space during Lent for people to take a cross and write a word or name that represents a place in your life or someone you know who needs healing, hope, forgiveness, guidance, or grace. As you leave that cross in the cross shop for the season, the community will be lifting those needs up in prayer knowing that when our needs intersect with God’s promises we receive healing even if we cannot know or name what that healing will look like.