

LENTEN

2021

CONNECTIONS

We invite you to journey through Lent with your church and with one another! We have planned ways to connect and engage with God, our congregation, and the wider community. These materials are available as a packet, we encourage you to pick one up at church (available in the Little Free Library and in the entryway). That way you can hang up the Lenten Calendar, have the donation lists handy, and your Prayer Chain paper strips ready to be connected!

WEEK 1

Register for the **UCC Daily Devotional** (go to ucc.org and scroll to middle of page on right side) and/or "like" the page on Facebook (*Stillspeaking Daily Devotional*). Share your favorites with others, click to the right of the DD to either email it, post to Facebook, or print.

WEEK 2

Fill a bag with items for **The Food Pantry** in Port Washington and drop off at church. We remain committed to supporting those in need within our local community. Please see their request list on our website. Together we can help stock their shelves!

WEEK 3

Let's make **Congregational Connections** with our church family! Church School kids can pick up pre-addressed cards to decorate, write and send. We invite everyone to take a moment to reach out to those we miss seeing at church. Whether by phone, email or note - let your church friends know you're thinking of them.

WEEK 4

Help the Church School kids keep the tradition going of supporting **Family Promise of Ozaukee County** with a Paper Goods Drive. A list of requested items is on the website. Fill a bag and drop off at church!

WEEK 5

Love Your Neighbor with Easter Gifts - Consider making a financial donation to support local service organizations and/or *One Great Hour of Sharing* (one of the UCC's special mission offerings) in celebration of Easter. Donations can be received in cash dropped off in the office, a check in the mail, or, by utilizing our new PayPal online giving option (coming in March)!

WEEK 6

Plan to drive-thru the church on Palm Sunday, March 28, for your palm, and also receive a warm cinnamon roll and a **Holy Week Prayer Guide**. In the guide, Pastor Scott will provide a scripture reflection and prayer for each day of Holy Week.

VESPER WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS VIA ZOOM

February 24 - March 3 - March 10 - March 17 - March 24

“Vesper” is a Latin word that means evening. Vesper worship comes from the practice of monastic communities and their evening times of prayer and scripture reflection. The season of Lent is the perfect time to gather for a mid-week, evening worship service; and with the continuing pandemic, we will conduct our worship online via Zoom. **Each Wednesday evening at 7:00**, beginning February 24, members and friends are invited to connect via Zoom as Pastor Scott leads a brief worship service of prayer, scripture reading and reflection. We hope you will be able to participate and enjoy a “live” experience of worship each week as we move closer to our celebration of Easter. The Zoom link will be emailed out each Wednesday.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY **Sunday, March 28**

We celebrate Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Drive-thru the church in the morning to pick up your palm before or after you view the online service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY **Thursday, April 1**

The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service will be a virtual worship service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. “Tenebrae” is the Latin term for shadows. This night we remember the shadows lengthening as Jesus celebrates the Last Supper with his disciples, the betrayal, arrest and trial.

GOOD FRIDAY **Friday, April 2**

Please join us for our online Good Friday worship service. The mood of the service is rather solemn, but there is also hope, as we look forward to the great celebration of Easter. We will lift the story of the passion using readings from all four gospels, including the passages known as the seven last words. This important worship combines scripture and prayer so we may all hear again “the old, old story of Jesus and his love.” At the time of printing, we hope that there will also be a virtual ecumenical, community Good Friday worship.

EASTER SUNDAY **Sunday, April 4**

The moving narrative of Jesus’ trials and sufferings recalled during Holy Week makes the glory of Easter morning even more wonderful and triumphant! We hope everyone can join online for our special celebration of Easter. As the women witness the empty tomb and begin the joyful proclamation, “He is risen! He is risen, indeed!”—we too, will know the joy of Jesus’ resurrection!

LENTEN CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

FILLED WITH ARROW PRAYERS

Feb. 18 - "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

Feb. 19 - "You have called me, strengthen me to answer."

Feb. 20 - "God of grace and love help me live in peace."

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
FEBRUARY 21 CONNECTIONS WITH GOD AND OTHERS	22 "In God I trust, I am not afraid."	23 "Creator God, thank You for all Your gifts."	24 "Lord, help me trust in Your steadfast love."	25 "Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil."	26 "Open my mouth, that I might speak Your praise."	27 "Give ear to my prayer, O God, do not hide."
28 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	MARCH 1 "Merciful God help me speak the truth in love."	2 "Holy God, open my eyes that I might truly see."	3 "Grant me courage, grant me wisdom, O God."	4 "Help me, heal me, send me forth in Thy name."	5 "To believe is to care; to care is to do."	6 "Your Grace washes my soul whiter than snow."
7 CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS	8 "Help my heart to know your quiet peace."	9 "Loving God, lift me, as on the wings of eagles."	10 "Answer our prayers, O God, in your time."	11 "Lord, teach me to love as you have loved us."	12 "I breathe out my sins; I breathe in Your grace."	13 "May there be less of me, and more of Thee."
14 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	15 "God, my strength, I will watch for You."	16 "Guide me to serve Your beloved children."	17 "See my faith and bless my faithfulness."	18 "Fill my heart with an abundance of Your love."	19 "Forgive my impatience and grant me wisdom."	20 "God of light and truth, show me Your path."
21 LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR CONNECTIONS	22 "Let me hear joy and gladness, gracious God."	23 "Give us this day our daily bread."	24 "Grant me vision to see through Your eyes, O God."	25 "Come Holy Spirit enlighten me with your gifts."	26 "Lead me to do small things with great love."	27 "Holy Spirit, lead me to serve with a heart like Jesus."
28 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY HOLY WEEK CONNECTIONS	29 "Pick up your cross and follow."	30 "For God so loved me; I am forgiven."	31 "I have called you by name, you are mine."	APRIL 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY "With God all things are possible."	2 GOOD FRIDAY "Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on my soul."	3 "Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

April 4 - Easter Sunday "Alleluia! He is risen!"



LENTEN PRAYER CHAIN



Enclosed in the Lenten Connections packet is forty strips of paper, for the forty days in Lent (not including Sundays). We invite you to, day by day, connect the paper strips to create an old fashioned paper chain.

You may write down the **arrow prayer** of the day (see calendar), other prayers, or simply ponder and leave the paper strip blank. When complete, drop off your Prayer Chain at church. The chains will be displayed at church for all to see when we are back together again!



ARROW PRAYERS



Arrow prayers are quick, one sentence little prayers that we can send out to God anytime, or multiple times as we go through the day; sitting in traffic, waiting in line, at lunch, down-time at work or while washing dishes.

Pastor Scott put these arrow prayers together, they are grouped together by our weekly themes and activities during the season of Lent. Let it become your daily mantra! Perhaps, write them on the paper strips for your Prayer Chain.

We hope you will join with your fellow church members in bringing our praise, our hopes and dreams, our needs and concerns before the God who loves each of us!

We hope you find these weekly themes and activities meaningful and, at the end of this Lenten journey, may we feel more connected even while we are apart. If you have any questions, please reach out (262.284.2022, office@portucc.org).