



Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | March 2022

STUDY, WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP LEADING TOWARD DISCIPLESHIP

I'm looking forward to Lent this year. It is a season for introspection and prayer, a time for self-reflection and study; I feel a need to engage deeply this year. Lent is a season of preparation in which we steady ourselves for the difficult work of moving with Jesus toward the cross, with the hope and the glimmer of light that propels us forward toward the joy of resurrection. This month there are so many ways we can grow in our faith and continue to practice discipleship.

There are going to be opportunities for all of us to explore the seasonal themes. There are study opportunities on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings with "Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times" as well as Wednesdays at noon with our Lectionary Lunch group. Exploring and reflecting on Biblical texts is an excellent way to equip your heart and mind for the Lenten journey.

There are, of course, opportunities for meaningful worship on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings. Each Sunday morning, we will be discerning God's Word for our lives in the sacred text, in beautiful music and holy praise and prayer. Wednesday evening Vesper Worship services will seek to bring comfort and sustenance as we walk together with the Spirit. All of our communal worship services seek to inspire, challenge and comfort each of us as we grow in discipleship. Worship builds on the foundation of the Biblical text and together they nurture our faith in the shadows of Lent.

Fellowship and building up the personal connections and bonds of friendship in our faith community is another practice of the Lenten Season. Coffee hours after worship, evening meals and potlucks, youth game nights are not only fun and filled with warmth and good humor, but crucial in creating a community that loves one another.

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...STUDY, WORSHIP continued...

The relationships we nurture with one another help strengthen our relationship with God, strengthen our ability to be disciples and strengthen our identity as the Body of Christ at work in the world. Our fellowship is another way we practice our faith during these forty days of Lent.

Finally, this month is an opportunity to step forward in service to our church family and the community in which we live. As our minds are encouraged in study, our souls are moved with praise in worship, and our hearts are filled to bursting with fellowship, we respond with action in discipleship. Everyone is going to be encouraged to engage with the "Ministry Options" survey either online or on paper at church. There are over 65 different ways your church and community are in need of your time and talent. Fill it out and consider the ways you might be able to respond to all of God's gifts this Lenten Season.

May Christ walk beside you as we journey together through Lent.

Peace,

Pastor Scott



Lent will quickly begin this month, on Wednesday, March 2, with our Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:00 pm. Let's begin our forty days of Lent together in the sanctuary with a moving and meaningful evening service. Ash Wednesday worship is a simple, yet profound service of scripture, song, prayers, and the imposition of ashes as a sign of our frail humanity. It is a service in which we acknowledge our faults and failings, in order that we might truly experience God's acceptance and overflowing love.