



Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | March 2023

LENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Season of Lent started on February 22 with Ash Wednesday and continues all the way until Easter on April 9. The Lenten season has been observed in the Christian Church since the 4th Century (the Council of Nicea in 325!). It was the Church's practice to baptize new converts on Easter morning and those who were preparing for the sacrament would receive special instruction and fast for 40 days (not including Sundays) prior to being brought into the Church. Their fellow church members started to join them in solidarity by fasting and praying for them as they also prepared their hearts and minds for the big Easter celebration. Eventually, the practice was adopted throughout the whole Church.

Over the years, different Protestant Churches have varied in their observances of Lent, but over the last 40 years, most have "rediscovered" that it can be a valuable way to mark this period of time as we move through the calendar year. Please read through this month's newsletter and you will see a number of special events, classes, worship services, and fellowship activities that all work toward helping us ready our hearts and minds for our own Easter celebration.

Please join us every Wednesday evening at 6:30 as we gather for a special Lenten Vesper Worship service with prayer, scripture, and proclamation by candlelight. And/or join the Book Study that meets immediately after the Vesper Worship (it's not too late!). "Growing Spiritually" will continue meeting in-person and online Wednesday evenings at 7:00, discussing a chapter of the book "Soul Feast" until the end of April. Be with us each Sunday morning in March as we focus on different stories from John's Gospel for our worship themes at the 8:00 and 10:00 services. There are special events like the Dr. Seuss Breakfast Celebration on March 4, Spring Card Making Workshop March 12, and Bells Test Drive on March 19. There are lots of ways to prepare for Easter all month during Lent.

Yours In Christ,
Scott