

The 40 Days of Lent

A season of special opportunities
and experiences for 2022



PRAYER FOR LENT

LORD AND SAVIOR, as we undertake this Lenten journey, we seek to know your merciful love in all that you have done for us. May we face our sins squarely, assured that you know and love us as we are. May we always be confident that your mercy is far more powerful than our miserable sins and that you draw all people to yourself. Help us to turn to you in sorrow and to praise you in joy, knowing that you hold all things in your hand. **AMEN.**

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*Those who drink of the water I will give them,
will never be thirsty. (NRSV)*
John 4: 14

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown
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For by grace you
have been saved
through faith, and
this is not your
own doing; it is the
gift of God
(Ephesians 2:8)

The Meaning of Lent

*"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones.
Let me find you again. Amen."*

Henri Nouwen

The 40 days of Lent have historically been a time of fasting, prayer, and study for those wishing to grow closer to God. It can be a time for personal and collective reflection and transformation. We look honestly at ourselves and are reminded of who we belong to while aligning with Christ's sacrifice. In scripture, the number 40 is significant as the Israelites spent forty years in the wilderness preparing for the promised land, and Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days to prepare for his ministry. These two stories show us that God can use Lent to help us make new choices and begin a new direction for our hearts and lives.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday March 2nd and the five Sundays in Lent are March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3. Palm Sunday is April 10th.

Lent Schedule 2022

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

12:00 noon Drive Through Ashes (Parking Lot)
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship (Lord's Supper)

March 6 ~ First Sunday in Lent (Lord's Supper)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

March 13 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

March 20 ~ Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

March 27 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

April 3 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

April 10 ~ Palm Sunday / One Great Hour of Sharing

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

Adult Spiritual Formation 9:45 a.m.

No Children's Sunday School

One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks returned in both services

April 17 ~ Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service, 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship,
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

No Children's Sunday School or Adult Spiritual Formation

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Lent Sermon Series

“On the Way, Praying”

Our pastoral staff presents the Lent sermon series “On the Way, Praying” which begins the First Sunday in Lent, March 6, and runs through April 17, Easter. Pastors Spencer and Allen preach a series of sermons on the centrality of prayer as taught and modeled by Jesus in Luke’s Gospel.

The series connects to FPC Moorestown’s church-wide Lenten Study of *The Way of a Pilgrim*. Luke, the author of the Gospel that bears his name and the book of Acts, heavily emphasizes prayer and seeking God continually. New Testament scholar David de Silva notes, “Jesus models the need to keep ourselves close to the heart of God and refreshed by God’s presence so that our [activities] will flow from God’s power rather than consume us.” Seeking a life of prayer, as exemplified in the Jesus Prayer, is the pathway to becoming a disciple of Jesus.



Per Capita Giving for the larger church

Please return by February 28

In February, information was mailed to member households regarding our annual Per Capita giving. As Presbyterians, we are a *connectional church*. This “per member” contribution of \$38.75 per member above one’s pledge, is paid annually by churches to support our General Assembly, Synod and our Presbytery For Southern New Jersey.

Congregation members are asked to help provide the \$38.75 for themselves and/or their member children (if able). Or you may [submit an “opt-out” request](#) if you do NOT wish this portion to be paid. You must alert the church office. Your response and support is most appreciated and will assist the church in paying this assessment. For questions please contact Norman Vandergrift in the church office at 856.235.1688, Ext. 112 or nvandergrift@fpcmoorestown.org.

Ash Wednesday March 2nd

Drive Through Ashes; Evening Worship

We begin the Journey of Lent on Ash Wednesday March 2nd. Like last year, we will again feature our COVID-friendly **Drive Through Ashes** event at 12 noon. Participants may drive safely into the main parking lot and be greeted for prayer and, if desired, to receive the imposition of ashes, either on the forehead or the back of the hand. Please wear masks.



That evening we will gather in person or virtually for **Ash Wednesday Worship** at 7:00 pm. Seminary intern Paul Savage will preach the Word. Communion will be served. If watching at home, please have a Communion serving for yourself and those with whom you are worshiping.

Scheduling Note: On Ash Wednesday, there will be no Kingdom Kids or Crossing Zone so families may worship together. Middle School Youth Group will meet at the regular time and plans to attend the brief service. For choir rehearsal schedules, contact [Joel Krott](#).

Praying the Jesus Prayer (Zoom only)

Thursdays in Lent, March 3-April 7

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me."

The Jesus Prayer (above) is the centerpiece of our Lenten Study, *"The Way of a Pilgrim."* The book describes the prayer and its many benefits. We also learn from the book how to pray this ancient, Biblical prayer. Each Thursday in Lent, Pastor Spencer offers a 30-minute Zoom seminar on the Jesus Prayer. He'll provide additional background and teaching before leading participants in praying the prayer. Please register through the [Events Page](#) on our website. There's no cost; and friends outside the church are welcome.

To join us via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81934312431?pwd=VVY4YnRnRm42UDFFZmQzekdxbXBmZz09>

Meeting ID: 819 3431 2431

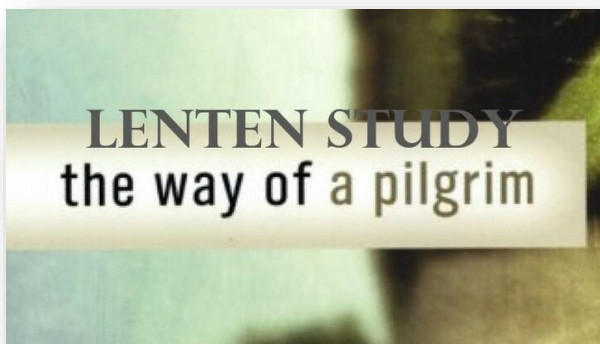
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Church-wide Lenten Book Study

“The Way of a Pilgrim” by R.M. French

This year we embark on a spiritual journey as we read *"The Way of a Pilgrim"*, a 19th-century novel about a Russian drifter's quest to understand what it means to “pray without ceasing” as I Thessalonians 5:17 instructs. It is engaging and easy to read. These chronicles follow the author as he travels through mid-nineteenth-century Russia and Siberia, visiting monasteries and the shrines of the saints in order to “pray without ceasing.” His journey leads him to a *staret*, a Russian spiritual master who teaches him the spiritual discipline known as the Jesus Prayer - the uninterrupted mantra-like invocation of the name of Jesus. This extraordinary account brings to the West the soul of Eastern Christianity.

We are preparing a Leader's Guide and a Participant's Guide. Groups begin meeting the week of Ash Wednesday, and books are available in the church office for \$11.00. You may also buy them online at your favorite retailers or Christian bookstore (aren't backorders fun?). For questions please contact Wes Allen or Alison Mackey in the church office at 856.235.1688. You may sign up at church in the Commons Lobby, [on our events page](#) or website.

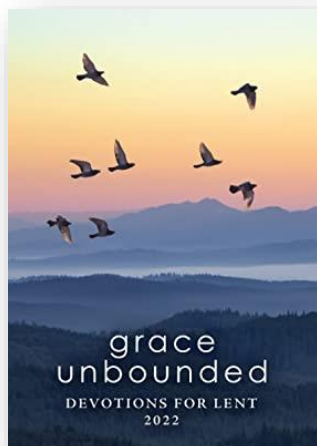


Lent Devotional: “Grace Unbounded”

Purchase for \$3.00 at church

As a beautiful companion piece to the Lenten study, *Grace Unbounded* provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of Luke (the gospel focus for 2022). The writers then bring unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

You can purchase your copy online with Amazon, or through the church office, which has a limited quantity for \$3.00. Please reach out to Alison Mackey at 856.235.1688, Ext. 113 to receive your copy.



New: Sweet Fundraiser for our Preschool

Order Stock's Pound Cakes by March 3rd

Help support Step by Step Preschool by purchasing delicious pound cakes for you, your family and friends. Six delicious flavors to choose from! Stock's famous pound cakes freeze well, so stock up for St. Patrick's Day or Easter! Price is \$16 per cake. **Order forms are due on or before March 3rd** with cash or check made out to First Presbyterian Church. Cakes will be delivered to the preschool on March 16th for you to pick up. Please reach out to Amy Delgado at adelgado@fpcmoorestown.org with any questions.

“Lent in a Bag” for families

Creating meaningful memories together

Lent is the season before Easter where we try to "journey" with Jesus. [We invite families to take a Lent Bag](#) and follow the weekly instructions for a meaningful experience during this most holy of times. Week 1 should start the week of Ash Wednesday (March 2). On the back of the outer bag is an overview of the readings and activities for the seven weeks leading up to Easter. This activity is meant to equip families with symbols to help have conversation and prayer at home. There are specific connections with the *Jesus Storybook Bible* listed but please use whatever version/translation of the Scripture is best for your family.

Each outer bag inside has seven bags marked weeks 1 through 6 with the last bag labeled "Holy Week." Choose one day each week to gather with your family, take out that week's devotional and contents and follow the detailed instructions. There is a bonus on each weekly instruction page for older children at the end of each devotion. These devotions and activities are suggestions; we encourage you to modify each lesson to fit your family's spiritual needs. [Read more on our current events page and website.](#)

For questions contact Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org or cell/text 609.273.7465. Bags will be available beginning Sunday, February 27 in the Commons Lobby and on Ash Wednesday at the Drive Through Ashes.

Sock it to Me

Throughout this Lenten Season and Easter, Presbyterian Women are collecting white socks for the Christian Caring Center. Drop off your donations to the box in the Commons Lobby. Cold, wet feet add to the misery of the homeless. Please help bring some relief!

Spring Easter Flower Sales

Orders Taken March 20, 27, April 3

During the Easter season, congregation members may remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing Easter flowers to be placed in our two worship spaces on Sunday, April 17, 2022. Order forms will be available in *Connections* and online on **March 20, March 27 and April 3**. Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary and Miller Commons on Easter Sunday, April 17. Plants being taken home will be available after the 11:00 a.m. worship on Easter or may be picked up at church later that week. Can you help the deacons deliver to those who may have trouble coming to worship? Sign up on your order form. Orders and payment are due on or before **Sunday, April 3rd**.

Palm Sunday Offering April 10

One Great Hour of Sharing

The three programs supported by [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) -- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People -- all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

[Gifts may be made online](#) using the One Great Hour of Sharing drop down, and special pew envelopes for the offering will be available. In Sunday School and their Lent-in-a-Bags, children will be given One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Boxes as a means of charitable monetary collections and giving during the weeks before Easter. The completed boxes will be collected during both Palm Sunday services on April 10th.

Education Hour 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Palm Sunday / Easter

- There will be no Children's Sunday School on Palm Sunday April 10. The One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank offering may be turned in on Palm Sunday April 10th at both services.
- There will be no Children's Sunday School on Easter April 17th.
- Adult Spiritual Formation will meet on Palm Sunday April 10th. There will be no Adult Spiritual Formation on Easter.

Special Palm Sunday Event:

C. Harry Knowles Memorial Concert

"In Memoriam: Requiems – Fauré and Rutter"
In loving memory of C. Harry Knowles

The West Jersey Chamber Chorale and Orchestra and the First Presbyterian Church Adult Choir join to perform Gabriel Fauré's Requiem, as well as John Rutter's setting of the same mass, in celebration of the life of C. Harry Knowles (1928-2020.) The beloved husband of FPC Moorestown member Dr. Lucy Rorke-Adams, C. Harry Knowles was an inventor, entrepreneur and philanthropist, and left a legacy of improved lives via the technology he created, the jobs he provided, the teachers and students he inspired and through nurturing his family and a wide circle of friends.

The event is fully underwritten, so there is no cost to attend and no free will offering. The pieces are appropriate both as a memorial and as part of the celebration of Lent and Palm Sunday.

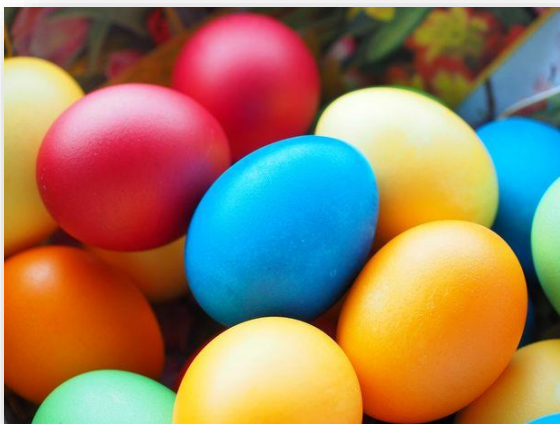
Children's Easter Celebration

Saturday, April 9 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Save the Date! The Children's Easter Celebration will be **Saturday, April 9** from 10:00-11:00 a.m., and weather permitting, we will be outside. Celebrate the joy of Easter with an Egg hunt for children ages 2-10! There is no charge; canned food for the food pantry as an entrance will be welcomed.

If it rains, we will cancel and reschedule at a later date.

Don't forget your basket!



Holiday Office Schedule

The church office will closed at 12 noon on Good Friday, April 15th.
The church campus will be closed on Easter Monday April 18th.

Spring Recess Schedule

Fellowship Group Easter Break

Wednesday, April 13

No Kingdom Kids
No Crossing Zone
No Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, April 17

No CREDO Confirmation Class
No High School Youth Group

Wednesday, April 20

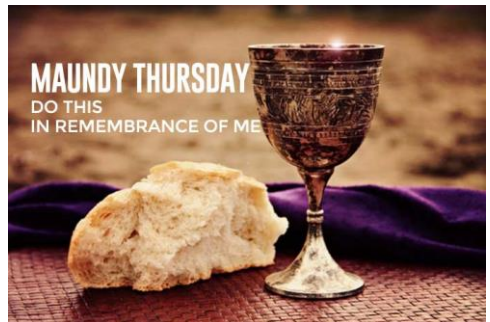
No Kingdom Kids
No Crossing Zone
No Middle School Youth Group

For choir schedules, contact Joel Krott at
jkrott@fpcmoorestown.org or 856.235.1688, Ext. 109.

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 14 ~ 7:00 p.m.

A poignant Maundy Thursday worship and communion service will be held in the sanctuary on April 14 at 7:00 p.m. and via live stream, commemorating the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples. Rev. Wes Allen preaches and brings the Word.



Good Friday Tenebrae Worship

Friday, April 15 ~ 7:00 p.m.

"Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness." The service of Tenebrae is characterized by a gradual extinguishing of candles and a "strepitus" or "loud noise" taking place in total darkness near the end of the service. Seminary intern Paul Savage leads this service on Good Friday evening.

The story of the suffering and death of Jesus from John's gospel is divided into separate readings. After each segment of the story is read, a candle is extinguished. After the last reading, which confirms that Jesus had died on the cross, the last of the lit candles is extinguished or taken away, and a loud sound (*strepitus* in Latin) is made to convey the sense of total loss of God's presence and the effect of the death of Jesus on the universe. The final story of the burial is read in near darkness. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.



Special Easter Giving

Easter is an opportunity to share our church's ministry through the lens of the cross and resurrection. Jesus gave everything for us, including his very life. Your Easter donations, given above your regular tithes and offering, support our programming and connection to the greater community. This support will fortify funding needed to compensate our associate pastor and future youth director in 2022.

Donate easily from the Church Center app, online at www.fpcmoorestown.org, mail in your check or leave in the offering box at either worship service. Easter offering envelopes will be available in the Sanctuary pews, in Miller Commons and also in boxed envelope sets.

Offerings will not be collected at Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday Tenebrae services.

