

*You have come down to...*

# THE LAKESHORE



MARCH 2021

## PASTOR'S



# O N D E R I N



We are in the midst of another Season in the Church Year. Beginning February 17 and all of March is Lent. Once Lent begins you'll notice things look a bit more simplified in the sanctuary and we're using a lot of purple. Lent is the season which spiritually prepares us to be Resurrection people. There's always a time of preparation

for the special events in our faith journey. It really is difficult to understand the Resurrection, Easter, without everything that comes before. With the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mt Tabor (the last Sunday of the Season of Epiphany) we see the culmination of his teachings. As God, he took on human flesh, showing us unequivocally that we are saved body and soul. We are spiritual beings having a human experience. Everything that is a part of our life, including our bodies can be transfigured, transformed, into the glorious light of God, for it is God who not only is the One in whom we live, and move, and have our being, but it is God who chooses to dwell within us making us God's temple. What a wonderful understanding of God we have as Christians, Followers of the Way. You are, as Jesus said to his Jewish followers, the light of the world. Sometimes our light gets a bit dull or dusty. We need to make our light shine and Lent is the time to do that. Lent takes us to the forty-day fast of Jesus in the wilderness. Lent is a time that calls us to our home in God.

Lent originally was a short period of three days to fast from food, realizing our dependence on God. It grew to a longer period to help form those who would enter the community of faith through Baptism on Easter. Lent starts off with Ash Wednesday reminding us that we are dust and to dust we will return. Here is the schedule that we'll be following this year:

Sunday March 7 will be a **SERVICE OF ANOINTING**. The Book of James in the Christian Scriptures tells us: “Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.” This is a good thing to do in the middle of Lent.

March 14 will be **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, or Holy Thursday. It is a service of the Lord’s Supper, as Jesus instituted Communion on this day, and the Service of Shadows or Tenebrae.

MARCH 21 will be our **GOOD FRIDAY** Service. We may once again pray the Lakota Indian Way of the Cross.

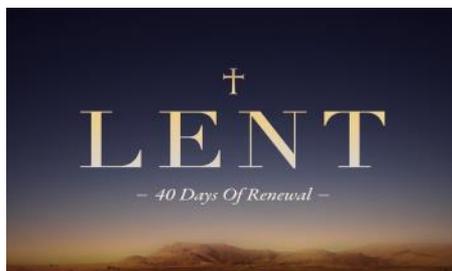
MARCH 28 Is Palm Sunday.

Come to all of these worship services and walk with Jesus in his last days and to have **A 40 DAY REMINDER TO COME HOME**. Let us nurture our souls and help to heal the world.

You may notice different type fonts this month. We have a new computer for the office and not all of the fonts I’ve been using are available. When I get a chance I’ll see about getting them. In the meantime this change is good!

Peace and Joy and a good Lenten Journey on your way home,

*Pastor David*



## ABOUT THE FEASTS

### PALM SUNDAY & HOLY WEEK

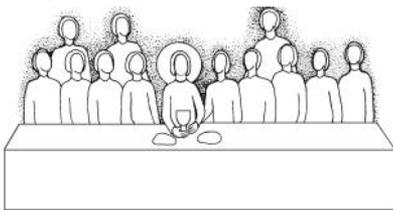
**H**oly Week or Passion Week begins the evening of the Feast of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week are dedicated to the commemoration of the last conversations of Jesus with the people and his disciples.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**O**n Maundy Thursday the church remembers the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his arrest and crucifixion. Maundy Thursday marks three key events in Jesus' last week: his washing of his disciples' feet, his institution of the Lord's Supper, and his new commandment to love one another.



This service begins the Triduum, the three-day period from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Easter Day. Most believe that the English word Maundy is derived through Middle English and Old French *mandé*, from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase “Mandatum nouum do uobis ut diligatis inuicem sicut dilexi uos” (I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.), the statement by Jesus in the Gospel According to John 13:34 by which Jesus explained to the Apostles the significance of his action of washing their feet. The phrase is used as the hymn sung during the ‘Mandatum’ ceremony of the washing of the feet.



Maundy Thursday worship naturally includes the Lord's Supper and, in some traditions, an act of foot washing or another sign of mutual love and dedication. Cele-

brations of the Lord's Supper calls attention to the many theologically rich dimensions of the Last Supper itself, including its attention to communal love and its clear eschatological orientation (its focus on hopeful anticipation of the coming kingdom). Holy Thursday reminds us of the Last or Mystical Supper, where Jesus instituted Holy Communion, as well as the washing of the feet of the disciples by Jesus, his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and his betrayal by Judas. Here at First UCC we include part of the Tenebrae or Service of Shadows on Holy Thursday instead of on Good Friday. It is the service of deepening shadows, in which each portion of the passion narrative is marked by extinguishing a candle and darkening the sanctuary.

## GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday marks the death of Jesus. It's called "good" because of what Jesus' death means for the wholeness of the world. On this day we remember the sufferings on the Cross, his death, and burial. Here once again the Lakota is loosely based on Roman Catholic service of the *Stations of the Cross* of his death bringing us closer to God. marked by intercessory prayer dating back to the early church includes the long-entire year known as the solemn intercessions. Hebrews 5.7 tells us: "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission." Perhaps we might incorporate this in the future.



at First UCC, we will use Indian *Way of the Cross*, it man Catholic service of but with an understanding us closer to one another Good Friday is also prayer. In some traditions church, good Friday worst intercessory prayer of

## PALM SUNDAY

The events framed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his resurrection are some of the most dramatic and theologically important of the entire scriptural narrative. These days feature not only the drama of the triumphal entry, trial, last supper, and crucifixion but also poignant prayers and prophetic teachings of our Lord. John's gospel devotes eight of its twenty-one chapters to this week alone! The week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday and ends with the "three days" (also called the *Triduum*, from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Easter Day), the period during which we mark Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection.



The first Sunday of Holy Week is "Palm Sunday" or "Passion Sunday." Those who call it "Palm Sunday" tend to focus on the entry of Christ into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9). Those who refer to the day as "Passion Sunday" tend to focus on Jesus' suffering. This is especially appropriate in contexts in which participation in midweek services on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday is difficult or minimal, and, as a result, worshipers would sing "Hosanna" on one Sunday and "Christ arose" on the next, with little attention to Jesus' suffering and death in between.

But even for congregations that celebrate the day as Palm Sunday, it's important to capture the irony of the day. This is the day on which Jesus entered the city in triumph, but as a part of his

journey to the cross; this is the week in which the crowd's cries of "Hosanna" would soon turn to "Crucify him!" One helpful approach to Palm Sunday worship is to begin by focusing on the procession into Jerusalem and then to concentrate on the suffering and passion of Jesus.

Worship on Passion/Palm Sunday, as well as other Holy Week services, often invites members of the congregation to think of themselves as participants in a kind of dramatic reenactment of scriptural events. Thus children or perhaps the whole congregation may be invited to process while shouting "Hosanna!" Or, in the reading of the passion narrative, the entire congregation may be invited to speak the words, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" (certainly one of the most unsettling actions in any worship service). The goal of such reenactment is to recount the narratives memorably and to help the congregation sense the significance of the narratives for what they teach us about Jesus' ministry, about God's being and character, and about the nature and scope of redemption in Christ.

*The Worship Sourcebook*

Here at First UCC we worship this day as Palm Sunday, the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. The palms, pussy willows, forsythia and other early spring growth are used as symbols of the victory of Christ over death. They remind us of our own future resurrection as well. In ancient times a king was met with green branches when returning in triumph after victory in war. So we hold in our hands the branches of the first blossoms of spring to glory the Messiah as the Victor over death for he raised the dead and voluntarily entered Jerusalem to begin his path towards death and new life.



## THE CHURCH MOUSE

What a wonderful Valentine's Day!! It happened to fall on a Sunday this year. Kelly Kinnaird brought in red carnations for everyone and Peter Herrin made valentine cookies for us. He tried to find some chocolate covered cheese for me but was unsuccessful. Cookies are good.



Celebrating birthdays in March include: Tom Grahek, Joan Burke, Mary Lanham, Suellen Springer, Allen Kellogg, Dolores Tolhurst, Merry Rumbold, Joan Bendix, Becky Gahagan and Joan Bailey.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, here is an Irish blessing:

Always remember to forget the things that made you sad.

But never forget to remember the things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget the friends that proved untrue.

But never forget to remember those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away.

But never forget to remember the blessings that come each day.

*Words of wisdom:* The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.

Erin Go Bragh,  
The Church Mouse



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Spiritual Life Ministry

**Easter Flowers:** There will be order forms on the back table, This year we will be getting only Lilies. Prices will be announced as soon as we know.

## Facilities Ministry

**Heater**— The old heater in the main office has finally gone kaput. We've been smelling it for awhile. On Thursday Theology and Youth Spiritual Study, it made a pop sound, then there was smoke then there were three fire fighters!



**Towel Dispenser**—The new touchless towel dispensers for the restrooms have arrived. They'll be installed shortly. The old ones are down.

## OCWM

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** This annual collection will be on March 14.

## Church Council Meeting

Sunday after worship, March 21. All are welcome. If you want something on the agenda, please let Diana Kurzawa know by March 10.

## Theology Thursday

## Holy Living: A Youth Lenten Study

Each Thursday in March beginning at 6.30.



A true picture from our parking lot.  
It is not doctored nor was it made into this shape!

God loves!

# STILL-SPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

**Feel-Good Church**

**Rev Vince Amlin**

*“You are the light of the world. ... No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:14-16 (NRSV)*

There’s this dating advice offered by misogynists that says the way to get someone’s romantic attention is to insult them, to make them self-conscious. It’s called negging, as in negativity.

It’s hard to imagine a philosophy more opposed to the gospel than that. Except that so much of Christianity looks similar. Trading on a sense of inner ugliness to open folks up to relationship.

A church member told their longtime friend about the loving and supportive community they’d found in our congregation. Troubled, the friend asked, “But are you being challenged to grow? Or is it just a feel-good church?”

The implication was clear. Feeling good and spiritual growth don’t go together. To progress in our faith, we need to be somewhere that isn’t so supportive, that isn’t so positive. We need a community that isn’t afraid to mention our spiritual muffin-top. Or tell us that we could stand to lose a few ... sins.

It’s an attractive idea. (At least according to misogynists.) It tends to hook folks in.

But it’s not a path to growth. In my experience, growth comes when I’m in a relationship or community where I feel loved enough to try something new and difficult, when I feel good enough to risk failing. Or when I find enough acceptance in myself to leave a community that tries to tell me otherwise.

**Prayer**—Deliver us from negativity masked as care.

# PRAYER CHAIN

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective*

*James 5.16*

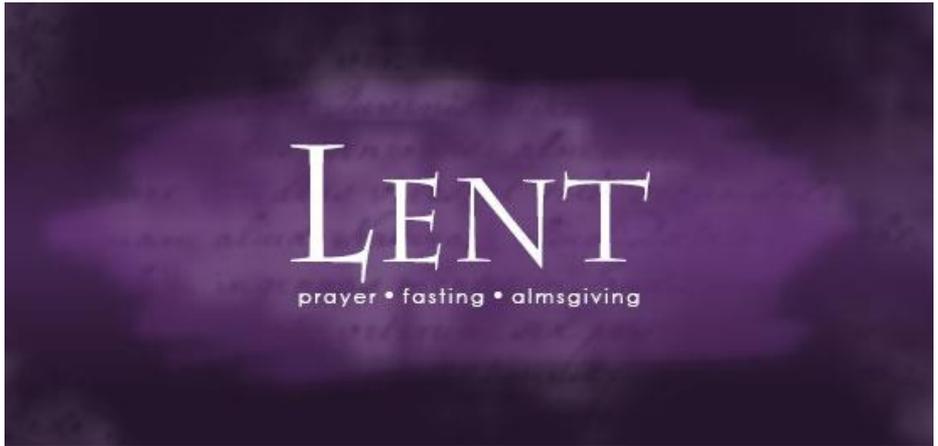
**D**o not hesitate to call any member on the prayer chain with any request you may have. We are grateful for the opportunity to pray with and for you. God's blessing to you each day.

## YOUR PRAYER PARTNERS

Betsy Taylor — 440.667.1533

Suellen Springer — 440.946.0915

Sandie Besett — 440.478.3349



**I**t is both an honor and a privilege to minister in this way. We are here and always willing to add anyone or any need to our prayer list. Please know that all requests are confidential and are kept only within the chain unless the person requests otherwise. Never hesitate to call anyone on the chain with a request. It will always make the full circle. Your Praying People pray.



Instead of our Right Hand of Fellowship and Passing the Peace, we now bow to one another and say: Namaste.

The divinity in me  
Greets the divinity in you.



## Time Change Song

*Spring:* God of sleep, and God of slum-ber, help us not be late, we ask:  
*Fall:* God of ev - ery cho - ir mem-ber, we need sleep to sing our best.

chang-ing clocks one for - ward num-ber, may we not for - get this task.  
Help each sing - er to re - mem-ber: take that ex - tra hour of rest.

Choir di - rec - tors, preach - ers, teach - ers, all will bless your ho - ly  
Change those clocks one back - ward ho - ur: don't ar - rive at church too

name, if to Sun-day church on time we came.  
soon, or the an - them by your - self you'll croon.

WORDS: Dean McIntyre, 1995  
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA  
87.87.89

Change your clocks before going to bed on March 13.  
Sunday March 14 begins Daylight Savings time.  
And all will bless at the same time!

**MARCH WORSHIP &  
SCRIPTURE READINGS  
FROM THE LECTIONARY**



**March 7—3rd Sunday in Lent**

**BEAUTIFUL LAW**

**Exodus 20.1-7**

**Psalm 19**

**1 Corinthians 1.18-25**

**John 2.13-22**

**March 14—4th Sunday in Lent**

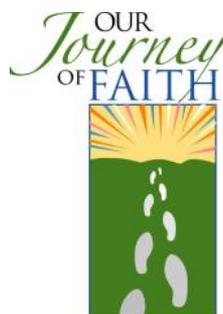
**NO MATTER WHAT**

**Numbers 21.4-9**

**Psalm 10**

**Ephesians 2.1-10**

**John 3.14-21**



**March 21—5th Sunday in Lent**

**DEEP IN OUR HEARTS**

**Jeremiah 31.31-34**

**Psalm 51**

**Hebrews 5.5-10**

**John 12.20-33**

**March 28 —Palm Sunday**

**INTO JERUSALEM**

**Psalm 118.1-2.19-29**

**Mark 11.1-11**



Make the Food Pantry  
a part of your Lenten Life

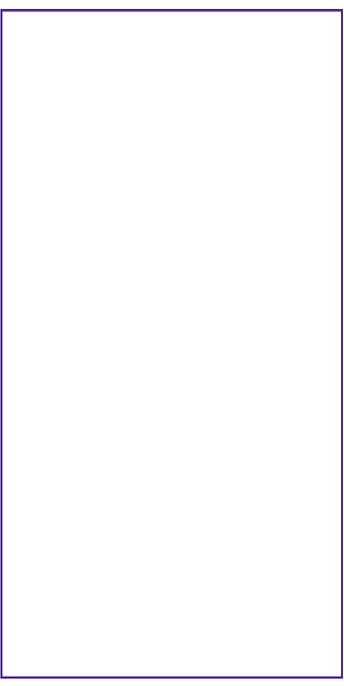
*If you would like to have a pastoral visit in your home, or simply need to talk, please call Reverend David at the church office at 440.951.0291 or on his cell at 216.832.3453 or by email at [pastorfirstucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfirstucc@gmail.com).*

*He will be pleased to meet with you.*

**THE LAKESHORE**  
**First United Church of Christ**  
36721 Lake Shore Blvd Eastlake Ohio 44095



First Class Mail



**No matter who you are or where you are  
in life's journey, you are welcome  
and wanted here!  
And we mean it!**

