

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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Lent is a good time to think about the quality of your spiritual life. Do you think about God often ... or rarely? Do you pray often ... or occasionally? How well do you know the Bible? The Commandments? The Beatitudes? The lives of biblical heroes and heroines?

During Lent, commit to spending more time in prayer. Also consider selecting a book of the Bible or a particular Bible character to study in-depth during this period.

Some people give up particular items or habits during Lent. If used wisely, this discipline can help you abandon things that have been interfering with your relationship with God.

Seek out devotions and books that can help strengthen your spiritual life. There are many books available in our church library for your use. There are several Bible apps accessible for your phone or tablets that provide daily devotions.

SUGGESTED DISCIPLINES FOR LENT 2021

1. Instead of watching that television show which probably has no spiritual value, call some lonely, elderly, or sick person.
2. Write a daily or weekly note to encourage different persons during the Lenten season.
3. Look for positive attributes in your “sandpaper” person. Intentionally pray for those persons with whom you have problems or even ones whom you think may dislike you.
4. Surrender negative talk. Let your speech be soft and gentle. Cultivate a life of gratitude.
5. Sacrifice pleasure reading for spiritual reading. Spend more time reading the Bible. Learn to meditate on scriptures.
6. Commit scripture to memory. Memorize a verse or verses each day, week, or other established time frame.
7. Set aside quiet time with God!
8. Purchase only essentials for yourself. Give the money saved to someone in need or to some other Kingdom-of-God cause.
9. Discipline your eating habits. Eat for fuel and not for fun or pleasure. Omit in-between-meal snacks.
10. Do a John Wesley fast one day a week. (This would be water only until 3:00 p.m.)
11. Do a partial fast (liquids only) for a day, two days, three days, or even a week.
12. Add some type of physical activity to your day/week.
13. Schedule fasting from cell phone use and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or other forms of social media.
14. All fasts should be accompanied by prayer, study, or service.
15. Volunteer your service where you discover needs such as Manna House or Boys & Girls Club.
16. Develop trigger points for prayer. For instance, say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your email. Before you text someone, pray for them.

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 5:00 p.m. Bible Study Millie's home
- 6:00 p.m. Missions Committee

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 6:00 p.m. Emmaus meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir
- 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



26. Kathryn "BeBe" Lafferty
Wanda Simmons

2. Lois Russell
Will Skinner Allen



Kathy Coker

Dr. & Mrs. Jack Varner

Mary Stigler Thompson

Dr. & Mrs. Jack Varner

Leigh & Jack Webb

The Joy of Jesus



The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



This Sunday is the final lesson in our series called *Power to Serve*. In this week's lesson, "Prayers of Care," we will talk about the apostle Paul, and the way he continued to show the Ephesians how he cared for them. Paul was in prison, but he wrote letters to them and let them know that he was praying for them. Praying for others is a way that we can show that we care because we are talking to God about those we love.

W.O.W. Wednesday

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6th resumed in January and begins at 5:30 p.m. The Bible Study will continue to be Bible-in-Crafts. The children have enjoyed learning about so many of God's faithful followers in the Book of Genesis while creating crafts and activities. We are currently learning about the life of Moses.



Special Testimony

Our Youth have been invited to Whitehall Baptist Church in Louisville, MS to hear Tanner Allen share his testimony. Tanner is a former Mississippi State Baseball player, who now plays outfielder for the Miami Marlins. This event will be this Sunday February 25 at 5:00. Whitehall will be feeding us after the service. We will leave the church around 2:30 p.m. on that day.

Youth Bible Study and Small Group:

Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group will begin a new study. We will be talking about entertainment, music, and social media. We will be discussing the progression of the types of entertainment throughout the past decades and how we have been manipulated to accept, become numb to, or just ignore the fact that wrong is being presented as right. We will connect scripture to these facts and talk about how/what we can avoid being too pulled in.

M28 CAMP

Sign up for M28 Camp at Lake Junaluska has begun. The youth are asked to sign up ASAP due to limited availability. Sign-up includes a \$50 deposit to secure their spot. Camp dates are Friday, July 5- Tuesday, July 9. The total cost is \$350.

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Greeters	Diane Vaughan/Molly & Bill McNair
Scripture	Luke 8:40-42, 49-56
Sermon	“Raising the Dead”
Flowers	Mary Kay & Chat Phillips

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY & MARCH

25. 2nd Sunday in Lent	Luke 13:31-35
26. Journeying in faith	Hebrews 11:1-10
27. The wisdom of hope	Lamentations 3:24-33
28. To God be the glory	Jude 24-25
29. He believed the Lord	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
1. Whom shall I fear?	Psalms 27
2. Citizens of Heaven	Philippians 3:17-4:1