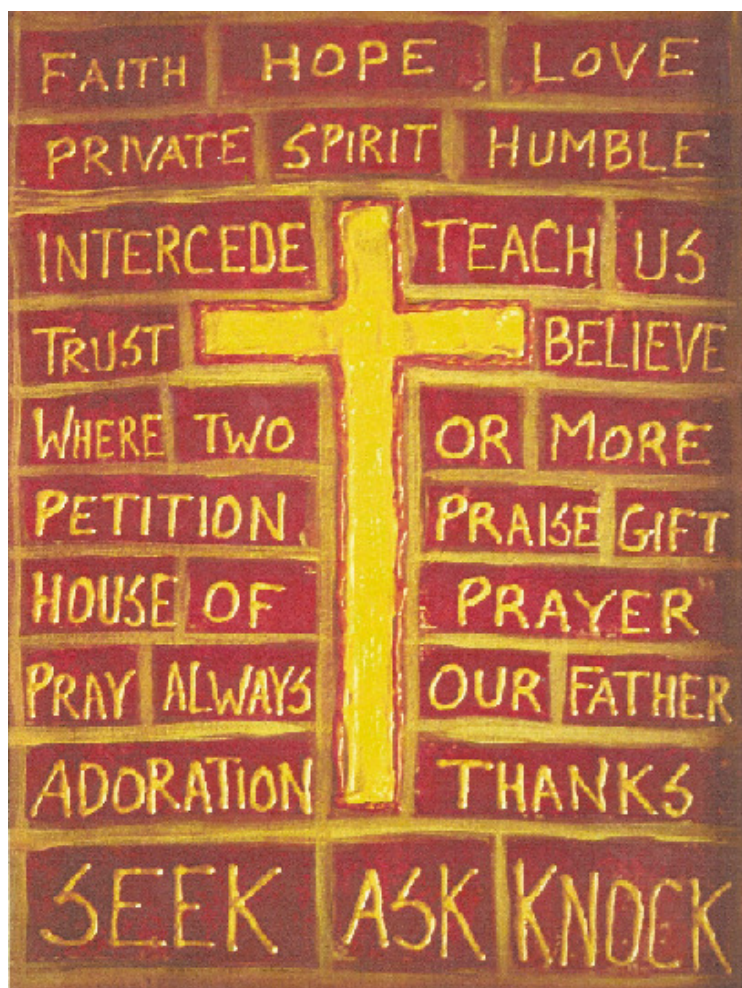


40 DAYS OF PRAYER: *Our Focus for Lent*



He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." – Luke 11:1

Teach us to pray. The desire to pray is nothing new; the disciples of the New Testament would attest to that. The desire to know and understand prayer burns within the hearts of Christians. This spiritual discipline is at the heart of our relationship with God. Still, prayer creates a paradox of emotions for many: fear, apprehension, anxiety; peace, calm, reassurance. Prayer is a place where we encounter 'God with Us' in moments of mystery and awe. Sometimes, we simply do not understand how to listen for the voice of God in the midst of silence, or how to understand or accept His will for us.

During the season of Lent, we invite you to strengthen your focus on prayer. We will explore several ways to pray as well as offer you ways to deepen your prayer life. We will offer opportunities to be in prayer for our congregation and its leadership; for those who reside within our building (for instance, the Child of God Preschool, and the New-Ark Area Emmaus Community); for those in our Newark community; as well as for those around our world. Our hope is that this season of focus offers you a springboard for a more disciplined prayer life.

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 a.m. – First Word Informal Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Sermon Series: "For We Are Bold To Say ..."

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>
February 21 st	Luke 4: 1-13	"Lead Us"
February 28 th	Luke 13: 31-3	"Challenge Us"
March 7 th	Luke 13: 10-13	"Heal Us"
March 14 th	Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32	"Forgive Us"
March 21 st	John 12: 1-8	"Remind Us"
March 28 th	Luke 22: 14-23	"Deliver Us"
April 4 th	Luke 24: 1-12	"For the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory are Yours Forever!"

Sunday School

Sunday School for all ages is available from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Children's Church (ages 4 through 4th Grade) occurs during the 11:00 a.m. worship hour. During this Lenten Season, Children's Church will be asking kids the question "Were You There?" Children's Church is located on the second floor in Rooms 210 & 212. Children's Church begins when the children depart from worship after the Children's Moment.

Special Events During the Season of Lent

A Lenten Prayer Journal is available in the Gathering Space, church office, and on our website. Prepared by Dr. Mary Lutz, this prayer journal offers you a scripture focus and reflective quotes as well as space for you to write your own prayer or reflection. Use the prayer journal to deepen and discipline your prayer life during this time of Lent.

Journey the Labyrinth Walk as you reflect on the season of Lent. This labyrinth is on loan to us from a church in Columbus for the weekend of March 26th – 28th. Invite your Sunday School class to walk the Labyrinth. (Note: The labyrinth is reserved for the youth Sunday evening, March 28th.)

The Lenten Prayer Chapel is open throughout the Lenten season. Come spend time praying in the intimacy of our beautiful Chapel. On Sundays, contemplative music will be offered in the Chapel from 8:15 - 8:30 a.m. and again at 10:30-10:45 a.m. for prayer and reflection.

The 6 Stations of Prayer offers a special focus on prayer in the Chapel the two weeks before Easter (March 23rd – April 3rd). Self-guided meditations will be offered at each station.

- Station One: prayers of listening
- Station Two: prayers in times of dryness
- Station Three: prayers for our world
- Station Four: prayers of intercession
- Station Five: prayers of repentance & reconciliation
- Station Six: prayers of praise and thanksgiving

On Good Friday there will be a special self-directed meditation available for prayer in the Sanctuary or Chapel.

The Family Easter Egg-stravaganza! is happening on Palm Sunday, March 28th. Join us after the 11 a.m. service for a light lunch, and crafts and activities for the children, concluding with the popular Easter Egg Hunt.

Make Servant Leadership Part of Your Lenten Discipline

- Participate in the Blood Drive sponsored by the UMM on Fri., March 5th
- Participate in the ongoing Habitat for Humanity Community Build (contact Pastor Mark (mchow@firstumcnewark.org) for details)
- Participate in the Community Dinner on Wednesday, March 10th
- Sign up to help with the Nursery during the season of Lent (contact Anita Snow (asnow@firstumcnewark.org))
- Support and/or pray for the upcoming Men's and Women's Walk to Emmaus weekends on February 18th-21st & March 18th-21st
- Write a letter to someone who has touched your life in a special way
- Visit our homebound during the Lenten season
- Bring food for the Food Pantry every Sunday during Lent



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28th

We will join our neighbors from St. Paul's Lutheran and St. Francis as we 'Bless the Palms' on this Palm Sunday. Members of our church will process along with our choir to the front steps of St. Francis Catholic Church for this time-honored ecumenical tradition. The procession leaves the front doors of First Church at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

Join us at 7:00 p.m. for "A New Commandment". This service of Holy Communion will feature the Sanctuary Choir, the Sacrament of Holy Communion in an Upper Room setting, and a re-enactment of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Childcare will be offered for infants and young children.

Good Friday, April 2nd

"Words from the Cross" is offered noon until 3 p.m. in 25 minute segments. People may come and go during the service. This ongoing service is held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church with area clergy participating. The offering benefits the Licking County Jail Ministry.

Easter Sunrise Service at the Midland Theater, April 4th

Join the larger Newark community as we celebrate the Good News of the empty tomb! The Easter Sunrise service begins at 6:30 a.m. and the morning offering will benefit the Licking County Jail Ministry.

Easter Morning Services at First United Methodist Church, April 4th

Join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. and again at 11:00 a.m. as we celebrate and proclaim together "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!" Glorious music, Holy Communion, and God's Word proclaimed! Remember to invite friends and neighbors who may not have a church home.

Special Easter Offering

Our special Easter Offering will go to support the outreach ministries of SOWER and the First Church Ministers' Discretionary Fund.