

**“Embracing Our Lenten Journey Together: Guided to the Cross”**

Greetings All,

As we stand on the threshold of the Lenten season, we are invited to embark on a profound journey—a journey not marked by miles but by moments of deep reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal. This year, under the theme "Guided to the Cross: A Lenten Journey with Jesus Leading to the Resurrection," we are called to walk closely with Christ, tracing His steps through the valleys and hills of sacrifice, love, and ultimate redemption.

Lent is a time for us to contemplate the immense love and sacrifice of Jesus, who willingly walked the path of suffering and death for our salvation. It's a period for us to reflect on our own lives, recognizing areas where we can grow closer to God and embody the love and compassion of Christ in our interactions with others. As we journey through these 40 days, let us be guided by the light of Christ, allowing His teachings to shape our thoughts, actions, and attitudes.

We encourage each one of you to participate fully in this season of grace. Whether through fasting, prayer, attending services, or engaging in acts of kindness and charity, let every action draw you closer to the heart of God. Let us also look out for one another, sharing this journey as a family of faith, supporting, and uplifting each other in prayer and deed.

Our Lenten journey does not end at the cross but leads us to the glorious resurrection of Easter Sunday, a testament to God's unfailing love and the promise of new life. As we walk these coming days, guided by our faith and the example of Jesus, let us hold fast to the hope and joy that Easter brings.

May this Lenten season be a time of meaningful reflection, spiritual growth, and renewed commitment to follow Christ more closely. We look forward to sharing this sacred journey with you, guided to the cross, where we find the full expression of God's love for us all.

Regards and Blessings,

Pastor Mark

**March Calendar**

Services	Events	Birthdays This Month
3/3 – Communion and Installation of Mae Pfeiffer	Bible Study – Guided to the Cross 1 PM Wednesdays	March 4 <sup>th</sup> John Chapman
3/10 Guided to the Cross Week 4 10 AM	March 4 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM Worship Committee	March 5 <sup>th</sup> Helen Brewster
3/17 Guided to the Cross Week 5 10 AM	March 4 <sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM Fellowship Committee	March 15 <sup>th</sup> Marion Canary
3/24 Palm Sunday 10 AM	March 5 <sup>th</sup> Finance Committee 1 PM	March 23 <sup>rd</sup> Clement Birkelback
3/28 Maundy Thursday 4 PM	March 7 <sup>th</sup> Consistory 1:30 PM	
3/29 Good Friday – To be Announced	Elders Meeting TBD	

3/31 Easter Sunday 10 AM	Fellowship Coffee Hour March 10 <sup>th</sup> after Service	
	Keswick Hymn Sing Thursday March 7 <sup>th</sup> , 9:30-12:30	

### **Announcements for Today:**

Pastor Mark will be at a Classis Retreat from 10 AM tomorrow until 3 PM Tuesday.

We are finishing handing out 2023 Giving Statements today. Those that have not been picked up will be mailed out Wednesday morning.

The Finance Committee welcomes Bill and Barbara Herget, who have volunteered to be on the finance committee.

**We have a nursery available in the fellowship hall. Beverly Poyner has volunteered to start this new program for parents bringing children into the church. This is new for us and look forward to this being an important ministry for us.**

Upper Room for March has not been delivered yet. Pastor Mark will be researching this week, and we hope to have available by next Sunday. We have Guided to the cross Lenten devotionals still available.

Today's flowers are donated by the Babinsky Family in honor of Carol Babinsky, who passed away earlier this month and the service was yesterday. I thank our fellowship team for their assistance in setup and cleanup for this service.

There is a signup sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary for those that would like the Spire Letter sent to them monthly. This will help reduce any confusion in the important events that are happening. Don't forget we have two church sites that have event listings, <https://www.whitingcrc.org> and <https://whitingcrc.churchtrac.com>. Information for these sites are on the bulletin board on the side of the church.