

## Weekly Connector: What do you do with Lent?

February 13, 2018

Hello, Church!

Today is Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season, or simply, Lent.

The season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to Easter - a total of 46 days. By church tradition, these weeks are to be spent in self-examination, self-denial, and reflection. Most who observe Lent often commit to fast from a habit, or a specific food or drink. As we "go without" something and practice a form of self-denial, we reflect upon our relationship with Jesus - His birth, life, death, and resurrection - as we prepare for Holy Week and the Sunday of His Resurrection!

While I know how beneficial it is to "go without" or fast from something for a time, I also recognize how very important it is to "go with" something, too. What do I mean by that?

During Lent, we can build up a discipline of Bible reading, studying, and memorizing. We can begin a daily journal during this time as we reflect on a passage of Scripture, jot down how Jesus is leading us to take action, and record the results. With both of these disciplines formed during this concentrated time, at the end of the six weeks we will have developed a habit that may just stick with us as we continue to "go with" Jesus in a deeper, more foundational Way.



While Lent is not commanded in Scripture, fasting and prayer are. So, this year, as the Lord leads, consider a fast to "go without" something as you also consider actions that allow you to "go with" Jesus in a closer Way.

This Sunday, the Youth will present the results of their Winter Retreat held last month at Camp Fitch, Northwest Pennsylvania. We prayed for them as they prepared for and engaged in the retreat. Now, we get to learn the results of those prayers. Come early and do not miss their testimonies and praises.

Last Sunday, we approved the budget and ballot of leaders in our business meeting. I remain so thankful for the Lord's leading of our church. Please keep praying for His unity through His Son and by His Spirit!

As you consider the important weeks leading up to Easter and the opportunities therein, consider this very good news:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good *so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:2-4*

Take some time this Lenten season to draw closer to the One who offers such incredible benefits to all who fear Him! (Ps. 103:11-14)

I love you, Church!

Pastor greg