



It's...Lent.

AAAHHHH.....

Lent is the season of the liturgical year between Epiphany and Easter. It is a time to reflect upon our relationship with God, and an opportunity to take penitential action to improve that relationship. One of the best known actions of Lent is the "giving up." People give up bad habits (like over-eating, lack of exercise, smoking, drinking, etc.) for the forty days of Lent; though, I've never been exactly sure what is supposed to happen when the forty days are up. (One of my most memorable Lenten disciplines was when I gave up sugar, and my supervisor in the government office, joined me. The day after Easter Sunday, the unit surprised us with a yellow cake and a chocolate cake. Decorating the top of one cake were the words, "Thank God!" and on the other cake, the words, "It's Over!" I let you draw your own conclusions.)

But this Lent feels different. This Lent feels like it began a year ago, and everyone has given up something whether we wanted to or not. So, I have a suggestion: instead of giving up more, why not "take on" something?

You're already encouraged to pray for our fractured country every day at four p.m.; why not do so if you've not already? I offer you my simple prayer: "Merciful God, bless the United States of America. Guide us to peace and patience with one another. Give us healing and hope. And remind us that we should forgive one another as you have forgiven us. Amen." That brief prayer has evolved into deeper, longer prayers over time. Perhaps it might do the same for you.

Or maybe you crave a guided devotion. The Upper Room is an excellent daily devotional guide if you're just getting started, and we have them available at the Church. Maybe you're missing Bible Study (I know I am!). Take heart! If you've participated in Bible Studies with me in the past you will soon be receiving a self-directed, weekly Bible Study that gives you a Scripture and several questions for reflection. Then, when we all have our vaccinations and it's safe to assemble again, we will pick up where we left off in our interrupted study.

These are just a few suggestions, and they are not meant to be exhaustive. You might want to contact one of our local missions and ask them what type of food or clothing donations they need. Picking up extras during a personal shopping run, then dropping them off, is simple.

I pray you have a holy Lent, and to that end I'll leave you with this Scripture: "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, **and lead me in the way everlasting***" (Psalm 139:23-24). Amen.

Ann
Dr. Ann Hitt

The picture above is of "Snow-mageddon 2021" taken on February 17, Ash Wednesday.

Go to our Facebook page or YouTube channel on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and join us for worship!

Please be in prayer for...

All who are ill
All who mourn
Those who are fearful
Those who have lost their job
Our Church
Our country
The world
Yourself
Me

Even in these difficult times, our ministries continue, so we need your financial support. Please mail your gifts to the church address shown above or use the give online button on the website. And thank you!