

Finally, realize that you will not accomplish all of the above challenges perfectly. None of us will do all we want to do during Lent. That is the human reality. Allow your Lenten lapses and failures - whatever they may be, to serve to increase your dependence upon God. The point is not to be good enough but instead, to increase your capacity to love God with all of your heart and to love your neighbor. Lent should be a time to learn how to love more fully God and others. Let's make that the real goal of the season called Lent!



Things to Do During Lent

Lent is a time period of 40 weekdays and 6 Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and culminating on Easter, April 20. In repentance and thanksgiving, the church remembers, proclaims and responds to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, dying on the cross for our sins.

Here are some things you can do this season of Lent, which are intended to give you a clearer vision of the Risen Christ and to celebrate His victory over sin and death.

Wednesday Soup and Devotional

On March 19, 26, April 2 and 9, the church will offer Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by a devotional at 6:30 p.m., which will be led by one of our Lay Members.

PRAYING

Our **church's challenge** is to make Lent an intensive time of Prayer. We will be providing Prayer Sheets as an outline, beginning on Sunday, March 16. People will be challenged to pray for 5 people, 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week, for 5 weeks, leading up to Easter, April 20.

ACTS OF WITNESS

During the Season of Lent, we want to emphasize the importance of being a church that invites others and thinks creatively about sharing the love of God with others. Our **church's challenge** is to invite people to church, either in person or online, during the Lenten Season leading up to Easter. The important thing is not whether they choose to come or watch or not, but whether you make the effort to extend the invitation. We hope to fill our church on Easter, in person and online, with guests you have invited.

LENTEN CROSSES

This year, during the Season of Lent, people of the Parchment United Methodist Church are invited to bring a cross to display during worship on the Sundays leading up to Easter, which is the celebration of Jesus Christ rising from the dead.

The cross has deep meaning as a symbol of our Christian Faith. It is the primary symbol for the way Jesus Christ defeated sin, hatred, and death. The symbol of the cross marks our willingness to follow Jesus. It is a pledge of our unity with Christ and His Church and His immeasurable and saving love for us.

BIBLE READING

There is wisdom, insight, encouragement, comfort, grace and a whole lot more in God's Word. Our **church's challenge** is to take part in a study of God's Word. These can include our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study led by Terri Shaler or finding another Bible Study, either in person or online. Contact Pastor Joe if you are interested in a Bible Study and need help finding one. Taking part in these Bible studies can be life changing. We also encourage individual Bible reading and Bible study.

ACTIONS OF HELP AND COMPASSION

Our **church's challenge** is to make Lent a season of doing actions of help and compassion. This can include actions that are helpful to your family, your friends, and those in need. These actions can include feeding the hungry, or helping fill the Blessing Box at our church, or visiting the lonely and the sick, or caring for the grieving. During Lent, we will be offering the March Fresh Food Distribution on Wednesday, March 26. We can always use helpers. If you need assistance in discovering someone that you can help, contact Pastor Joe or the Church Office, who can suggest people to help or ways to help.

SACRIFICE

Lent is a time often associated with sacrifice. Some people choose to sacrifice something in their lives throughout the season of Lent. Our **church's challenge** is to make Lent a season of Sacrifice. We encourage you to try tithing (Biblical Giving of 10%) during the Lenten Season.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

We hope you can make it to church, either in person or online, every Sunday during Lent. We will offer a special Holy Week Maundy Thursday Service of Communion combined with the Otsego United Methodist Church at their Church in Otsego on April 17. More information will be shared about this combined service as the date gets closer. We also encourage you to join our church for a Good Friday Worship, April 18.

We also want to **challenge our church** people to make Easter Sunday, April 20, a high attendance Sunday, either in person or online. Be present, either in person or online, and invite a friend.