



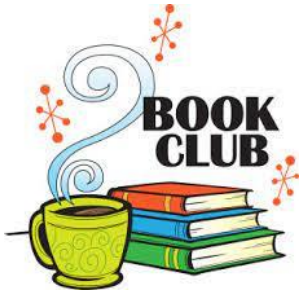
Did you know, that Lent is often seen as a time of repentance, of turning away from sin and turning toward God and God's goodness? In some churches, if you attend worship on Ash Wednesday, you will hear the minister or priest say, "Repent, and believe in the gospel." The word *repent* means to turn around and *gospel* means good news. So Lent is about turning to remember the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Lent is also a time of wonder. It's a time to walk alongside Jesus as he makes his way to Jerusalem, exploring our lives through the lens of his life. As we journey together, we learn and grow in faith and understanding. During Lent we are like seeds beneath the earth, caterpillars in the chrysalis, the fetus in the womb, awaiting God's great revelation and new life.

During Lent we hear stories, we pray, we study, we might even fast or let go of something, or pick up a new practice all to get us ready for this new way of being. The practices of Lent help us to wonder and be transformed. That's why people were often baptized or confirmed on Easter Sunday at the end of 40 days of learning and growing. On Feb. 21st we begin our Lenten journey with Shrove Tuesday and on Feb. 26th the first Sunday of Lent. I pray our journey together this year will truly be one of wonder, growth, and transformation.

Blessings,
Rev. Carrie

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you'll go.....Dr. Seuss



Book Club meets the last Thursday each month.

February 23 -The Strangers by Katharena Vermette

March 30- Five Wives by Joan Thomas

For more information contact Sue Nelson 204-822-6357

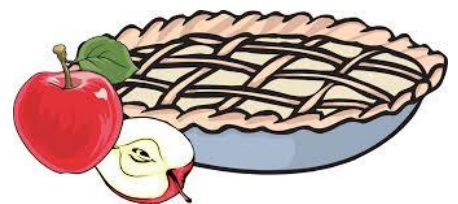


Soup and Dessert Lunch

Raises funds for local outreach projects

Friday February 17 11:30am-1pm

Friday March 17 11:30-1pm
\$10.00/person



Annual Congregation Meeting—Sun Feb 26th

We will be having a joint worship service at St Paul's at 11am which will be followed by potluck finger food lunch and the Annual meeting.

There will be a number of vacancies as some folks will have completed their terms. These are:

3 spots on Leadership Team

1 spot on Ministry and Personnel (M&P)

3 spots for Regional Council Reps

Youth Rep at St Paul's and at Zion-Calvin

2 spots for Rock Lake Camp Reps

1 spot for Zion-Calvin Trustee

1 spot for St Paul's Trustee

3 spots on Worship Interest Group

Mission and Service – United Church of Canada Mission and Service invites donations to help the people of Turkey and northern Syria devastated by earthquake. We partner with the Middle East Council of Churches, ACT Alliance, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Humanitarian Coalition in efforts to provide emergency shelter, blankets, mattresses, clean water, food, and hygiene items. Click on the link to donate.

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/earthquake-turkiye>



The books are in for our **Lenten Book Study!** The study is set to run from Feb. 22-Mar. 29, 7-8:30pm. Books can be picked up in the office and are \$22.

If cost is prohibitive, please speak with Rev. Carrie and we'll make alternative arrangements.

The seasons of Lent and Easter

Feb. 21 – Pancakes and Ashes!

All are invited to participate in a sacred mash-up of Pancake Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The evening will begin with feasting, then move into song, colouring an Alleluia banner, and some games. Near the end we will shift to Ash Wednesday as we roll up our Alleluias to be "buried" until Easter and receive the sign of the cross in Ashes (for those who want to participate). Please contact the church office by Feb. 19th if you think you will attend. We are just looking for rough numbers for the purchase of food.



Feb. 26 – Lent 1 and the AGM: Under God's wings

Mar. 5 – Lent 2: With Jesus we learn

Mar. 12 – Lent 3 and PIE day!: Welcome at the well

Mar. 19 – Lent 4: Seeking in the dark

Mar. 26 – Lent 5: Growth, how does it happen?

April 2 – Palm Sunday

April 7 – Good Friday

- **10am - Interactive Storytelling Event for all families (location: St. Paul's)**
Message Laurie at the office if you would like to join in this interactive event. All families are welcome to join Rev. Carrie in these 7 storytelling stations taking us through Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter. This is not a drop-off event, parents/caregivers are asked to be active participants so that you and your children can learn to experience these stories in an age-appropriate ways together. Yay footwashing!
- **7:30pm Good Friday Service of Remembrance (location: St. Paul's)**
All are invited to a service of reflection on the seven last words of Jesus including readings, congregational song, ensemble music, and piano solo.

April 9 – Easter Sunday service at Zion-Calvin and St. Paul's (9:30 and 11am)

Our Easter Sunday service will include a joyous celebration of communion. Other Easter details will come closer to the date.



Fun Facts about Lent & Easter

Why Easter Eggs? Eggs have been seen as ancient symbol of fertility, while springtime is considered to bring new life and rebirth.

Chocolate is still #1. In a study done in 2014, 72% of adults knew what Lent was, and 88% of those participating in Lent were giving up some item of food for 40 days. Chocolate was the number one food most people were willing to give up during Lent.

Chocolate companies don't like Lent.

Candy and coffee companies dread it too.

Lent doesn't actually end on Easter; it ends on Good Thursday, the day Jesus has The Last Supper. Good Friday is when Jesus dies on the cross, and on Easter Sunday, he rises from the grave.

Since Sunday's aren't included, Lent technically lasts 46 days.

Lent comes from the Middle English word "lente," which means springtime.... it's not the fibers in your dryer...that's "lint"