

Lenten Challenge for 2025

When Jesus came down from the mountain after the transfiguration the disciples were having problems casting out demons. Jesus said that certain healings won't happen without **fasting** along with prayer.

Fasting can be quite intimidating especially when we think it has to be no food for 40 days, but there are more than one kinds of fasts in the Bible.

Jentzen Franklin pastor of a growing 10,000-member church says simply the bottom line is; "When you fast, your spirit becomes uncluttered by things of this world and amazingly sensitive to the things of God. There are countless answered prayers, rewards and blessings that follow."

Wendy and I invite you to join us for the 6 weeks of Lent in a one meal fast at least once a week. If you are on medication and need to not miss a meal, you could deprive yourself of a favourite indulgence and still choose a block of time that you spend in prayer.

Pray for

Week 1 The Search Committee

Dick Hamilton, Sandra Harding and Keith Rae that they will have wisdom and discernment in their interviews

Week 2 The worship leadership. Gordon, Bill, the Choir, Aiden, Greeters and refreshment providers

Week 3 & 4 Printout or get a printout of the Council and committee members on page 1 of the Annual Report. Divide the list in half. Talk to them and ask if there are specific needs for each committee. Note the multiple times some names appear and vacancies.

Week 5 Persecuted Christians around the world The [World Watch List \(WWL\) 2025](#) shows that "more than 380 million Christians face high levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith. Far from receiving equal protection as citizens, in too many cases they are denied basic legal rights in societies hostile to their faith".

Week 6 For yourself that God will draw you closer to Himself and heal any broken relationships.

Remember Jesus' words from the cross. "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing."

Lenten Theme for 2025

Exploring implications of The Cross for us.

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” *Matt. 16:24 NIV*

An ancient commentator named Jerome used the cross as a symbol of God’s love. He said that the upper arm of the cross reaches up to include the holy angels. It reaches down to include the evil spirits in hell. Its length includes those who have embraced the grace of God and its breadth cover those who are wandering away. Nobody is outside the love of Christ and no place is beyond its reach.

You are invited to bring a cross that means something to you and place it on the Communion Table sometime during the 6 weeks of Lent.

Scriptures are provided for you to read ahead to prepare for each Sunday

March 2 Ashes and Pretzels

Joel 2:12-17, Matthew 4:1-11 and Matthew 6:1-7

March 9 Lent I Abrahams Cross

Genesis 15:1-6, 17:1-9, 22:1-13

March 16 Lent II Lent I Mary’s Cross

John 12:1-8

March 23 Lent III Sidestepping the Cross

Luke 18:18-30

March 30 Lent IV The Healing Cross

Mark 5:21-34

April 6 Lent V What About Your Cross?

Luke 14:25-35

April 13 Lent VI Palm Sunday/Seder Communion

Mark 14:12-31

April 20 Easter Sunday

The Cross is in the Form of a Plus

Mark 16:1-13, Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18