

Wednesday, March 13, 2019



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Greetings,

I hope you find this  
devotional helpful in  
your daily journey.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

## Reflection: Lent

Greetings,

We have entered the Lenten season. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lenc-ten*, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts, then later became a time for penance by all Christians. Because Sundays are always "little Easters," the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

Last Sunday, we began with a non-traditional reading which summarizes all the law in one word: love. (Romans 13:8-10) The reason for starting with this is that I have found that it is easy to forget that the gift of Lent is based in love. Throughout the Bible, stories underline

that God's actions stem from concern for all of creation, which is borne out of love. Even our devotional Lenten disciplines, such as fasting, and prayer, are gifts; gifts to help draw us closer to God and to each other. However, like any tool it can be used for what it is intended or not. In this regard using the tools of Lent with the motivation to grow in greater love for God and others, I believe, is the appropriate use. To be resentful, to seek more what it does for you – in other words, an ego boost - is a misapplication and misunderstanding of God's intention. So I pray that if you find yourself drawn to enter into a Lenten discipline, may it truly bear fruits of God's Spirit, which will transform you into a more peaceful and compassionate person.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

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## Upcoming Dates

**Monday: Bounty Food Bank:** 9 am to Noon, Volunteers welcome.

**Friday: *Bounty Food Bank* needs Volunteers every Friday for food pickup and storage help. Call 253-335-7860.**

**Next Sunday: Worship Service 11:00**

**March 14th: *Finance/Trustees: 6pm/7pm***

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Please keep in your prayers...

Judy Egan & her family

Dee Baker

Danielle - and family

Liz Best

Gail Rocheleau

Mary Egeland

James & Jenifer Angus

Rev. Barbara Brown

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Anderson-Gammel family

Spring & her family

Please keep our U. Methodist church in your prayers as we reflect on what occurred at the Conference in St. Louis.