



Observing sabbath is one of the ways that we remind ourselves that we belong to God, but honoring the holiness of sabbath is challenging in a world that rewards accomplishment and action, rather than rest. As we prepare to enter a third Lenten season marred by pandemic many of us are weary. We continue to live in an environment where the patterns of daily life have been forced to change, which invites us to intentionally examine our patterns for work and rest, too. This Lent, we reflect on sabbath – *what does it mean and what does it look like in our lives today?* Our worship will help us answer this question as we center our prayer and praise on what is essential – God’s Word – which grounds us for navigating life in the world.

Ash Wednesday, March 2 (Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21)

Noon - Outdoor liturgy on the Perrin Street sidewalk by the church’s main entrance. In this brief liturgy (fifteen minutes or so), we will confess our sin, hear God’s Word, offer prayer, and receive ashes as a sign of our mortality. Please note: because it is held outdoors, this worship is not available virtually!

7 pm - Honest confession of our sin and our mortality mark the start of Lent and our observance of Ash Wednesday. Gather in the Sanctuary for a simple liturgy with Holy Communion or tune in virtually.

Sunday Worship, livestreamed at 8:55 am

March 6 - One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13)

March 13 - The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Luke 13:31-35)

March 20 - Jesus began to proclaim, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. (Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9)

March 27 - I will arise and go to my father and say, I have sinned against heaven and before you. (2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32)

April 3 - Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:4b-14 and John 12:1-8) *On this day we’ll be joined by Anniversary guests: Rev. Dr. Kent Garner, preacher, Dr. Mark Coffey, organ, Dr. Brandon Johnson, choir.*

Whenever possible, we have both in-person and virtual options available for worship, meetings and other BLC events. Livestream worship is available through Facebook, YouTube or on the BLC website. Zoom links for meetings and other events can be found through the Calendar of on the BLC website.

Reflections on Sabbath - Lenten Devotional

BLC members reflect on sabbath in a congregational devotional. Sign up to receive in your daily email throughout Lent at <https://blcfairport.org/lenten-devotions/> or pick-up a printed copy in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February 27.

Adult Book Study, Sundays in-person or on Zoom

Reflect on sabbath with a book/Bible study facilitated by Pastor David Gerhardt. Together, we will read portions of *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*, by Wayne Muller. This book study meets on Sundays at 10:15am (March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 10). NOTE: No session on April 3 because we will welcome Anniversary Guests with a reception at that time. **Please sign up** on the church website by March 1 and indicate whether you will obtain a copy of the book on your own (readily available at most major booksellers) or would like BLC to purchase a copy for you.

Wednesdays in Lent – beginning March 9

Noon – Pause for Prayer on Facebook Live

Beginning Wednesday, March 9 and continuing through the season of Lent, we'll host a brief (5-10 minute) midweek pause for Word and prayer. Watch Facebook and the weekly STAR for details on how to join and how to share your prayer concerns.

6:15 pm – Sabbath Conversation

Each week, Pastor Amy and Pastor Hoffman will share an article or other reading that provides a different perspective on Sabbath and then lead conversation in the sanctuary or virtually via Zoom (your choice). Reading materials will be shared in a weekly BLC Between Sundays email (see below). Come once or every week to deepen your sabbath understanding.

7 pm – Holden Evening Prayer

Share in a beloved liturgy as we worship and pray with the Bethlehem community in-person or virtually.

Ready for Worship? Each Wednesday and Saturday during Lent, we share information like the bulletin and livestream link for our upcoming worship. If you are not currently receiving our Ready for Worship emails, please sign-up at <https://blcfairport.org/>, or contact office@blcfairport.org.

Bethlehem Between Sundays

New this year, we will send a weekly email on Mondays with resources and tidbits – for further reflection, ways to put your faith into action, faith practices and more to sustain you *between Sundays*. We'll also include links to Sunday worship in case you missed it and a newly-developed podcast to listen to Sunday's sermon!

Sermon Podcast: Launching soon!

Did you miss worship? Do you want to hear the message from the sermon again? Do you want a way to dwell in God's Word while you are on the move – walking the dog, washing the dishes, commuting to work? We're launching a simple podcast so you can hear last Sunday's gospel reading and sermon. Check the website for details in early March.

Serving in Lent

Look in the Quarterly Mailer and on our website for ways to be a Hunger Activist at Bethlehem this Lent. Check it out at <https://blcfairport.org/world-hunger-appeal/>

Holy Week/Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Watch the weekly STAR and Ready for Worship emails for more information about Holy Week worship.

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Good Friday, April 15

Easter Sunday, April 17