

LENTEN COMMUNICATOR

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lenten Sermon Series
Small Groups
Holy Week Services
Special Events



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17th 7:00 pm digitally

As Lent begins, we're invited in—to community, to this season, to our own spiritual journey, to true transformation. We're on this journey together, but we're invited to turn inward. Therefore, spiritual practices are not for show. Matthew 6 and Isaiah 58 remind us that performative acts (of piety and justice) are not the way.

Our virtual service will be at 7 pm on Wednesday Feb. 17 with music by Lindsay Drake and Jason Janssen.

SERMON SERIES

Again and Again
Sundays at 10:00 am digitally

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: AGAIN AND AGAIN

- Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday: Again and Again We Are Invited In; 7 pm digital service.
Music by Lindsay Drake/Jason Janssen
- Feb. 21: Again and Again God Meets Us – Mark 1: 9-15; Genesis 9: 8-17
- Feb. 28: Again and Again We are Called to Listen – Mark 8:31-9:1; Psalm 22: 23-31
- March 7: Again and Again We are Shown the Way – John 2: 13-22; 1 Cor 1: 18-25
- March 14: Again and Again We Love God First – John 3: 14-21; Ephesians 2: 1-10
- March 21: Again and Again We are Reformed – John 12: 20-33; Jeremiah 31: 31-34
- March 28: Again and Again We Draw on Courage – John 12: 1-19
- April 1: Maundy Thursday: Again and Again We are Held Together; 7 pm digital service.
Music by Stephanie Scherbart and Jane Kennedy
- April 2: Good Friday: Again and Again We Find Ourselves Here - Stations of the Cross;
7:00 pm digital service. Music by Lindsay Drake
- April 4: Easter: Again and Again the Sun Rises – Mark 16: 1-8

This theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. Our sub-theme, A Lenten Refrain, speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. "Refrain" also reminds us that Lent is a season of abstaining from certain practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits.



SMALL GROUPS

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation

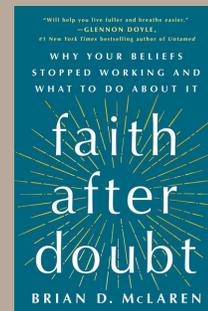
Join Pastor Mary via zoom on Sunday evenings (7pm) starting Feb 21st for a thoughtful conversation, using Brian McLaren's new book, Faith After Doubt. In this book, Brian McLaren suggests a four stage model of faith development: Simplicity, Complexity, Perplexity and Harmony. He offers a path to follow that can lead us in our Lenten journey as we come "again and again" to our doubt, which McLaren argues can actually help us intensify our commitment to what matters most. The book provides a basic framework for developing an expansive faith that helps us meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Books may be purchased online from your favorite retailer.

Sign up today <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-seasonal-groups/lenten-small-group-with-pastor-mary-faith-after-doubt-by-brian-mclaren>

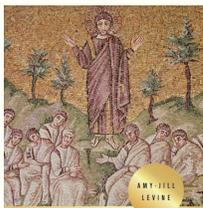
FAITH OVER DOUBT

with Pastor Mary



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine



SERMON *on* the MOUNT
A READER'S GUIDE TO THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5-7, or better known as the Sermon on the Mount, are some of Jesus' most profound teachings. Explore how those listening to Jesus may have heard his words, as well as how his teachings speak to us today. This group will meet on Facebook. Reading the chapters and watching the videos can all be done at your own time each week, and regular discussion questions will be posted to a private Facebook group for discussion. This is a great option for those of you/us who are Zoomed out. All are welcome to join. The group will begin meeting on Feb 21st and continue through Lent. For more information or to sign up, visit <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-seasonal-groups/sermon-on-the-mount-by-dr-amy-jill-levine-study-group> To purchase your book, click here <https://www.cokesbury.com/Sermon-on-the-Mount-4>.

As we journey through this season of Lent together, you are invited to focus intentionally on the spiritual discipline of evaluating what the heart treasures. Some are physical treasures we can touch, hold, store, and give. Some treasures are invisible, yet still greatly matter and guide our lives. By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, we will reflect on what kind of treasure matters to us, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives. Starting on Sunday, February 21st at 5:00 pm on zoom we will gather weekly for a time of scripture, reflection, discussion questions, activity, coloring page, and prayer. For more information or to sign up visit <https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-seasonal-groups/all-ages-lenten-small-group-reflections-on-the-heart>

If you have any questions please email Lauren Loonsfoot (lauren@cwames.org).

AN ILLUSTRATED LENT FOR ALL AGES

Reflections on the Heart





HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation



PALM SUNDAY *March 28th*

We hope you will join us for digital worship at 10:00 am on Palm Sunday. Our theme will be Again and Again We Draw on Courage – John 12:1-19. On Palm Sunday, we remember that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was not a risk-free, palm party. It was a protest parade—a protest against those in power, a parade to prepare the way for a different kind of king. And this was all happening with plots to kill Lazarus (and Jesus) building in the background. We're reminded that the crowds were brave to show up that day, and that Jesus drew on courage to face his journey to the cross. The root of courage is "cour," meaning "heart." Courage is deep within us; drawing on courage is both internal and external. We often find it when we most need it, when everything else has been stripped away. We will enjoy a digital palm parade and music from the bell choir.

MAUNDY THURSDAY *April 1st*

On Maundy Thursday we will discover that Again and Again We are Held Together. Footwashing is a practice of radical vulnerability, of being seen and known. Jesus loved the disciples "to the end." In this act, we remember that God holds all of our pain, vulnerability, doubts, and sufferings. As we venture toward the cross, we can lean into God's everlasting arms, knowing we are held. Our Maundy Thursday service will be digital at 7:00 pm. Music will be provided by Stephanie Scherbart and Jane Kennedy.

GOOD FRIDAY *April 2nd*

Good Friday: Again and Again We Find Ourselves Here -Stations of the Cross. Again and again, we find ourselves at the foot of the cross, at the pit of despair, in the face of death, in the grip of state sanctioned violence. "Here" is an emotional place. "Here" is grief. "Here" is the reality of sin and brokenness. On Good Friday, we are called to sit in the silence of death, knowing that God is here. We will join digitally at 7:00 pm. Music by Lindsay Drake.

EASTER SUNDAY *April 4th*

Easter- Again and Again the Sun Rises– Mark 16: 1-8 According to Mark, on the first day of the week, the women rise with the sun and buy spices to anoint Jesus' body. They are shocked to find the tomb empty, and leave in fear and terror. Mark's resurrection story is less triumphant than the other Gospel testimonies (as scholars believe the remainder of Mark's gospel was a later addition). In Mark's version, we are reminded that Easter comes to us, again and again, even if we don't know what to make of God's resurrection ways. Again and again, the sun rises. And some days, that is enough. More information to come about worship times and formats.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Friday, April 2nd- Sunday, April 4th

Last year we had a lot of fun with our community Easter egg hunt. We are doing it again this year! Here's how it works:

If you would like a cardstock egg to decorate and color please let me know how many by emailing me at Lauren@cwames.org, I can drop them off or email you a digital copy. If you're willing to be on a map where others can drive by and see your Easter eggs hanging somewhere visible, a window or maybe your garage really any space that is visible by driving by, please let me know by Wednesday, March 31st. I will put together a map that has folks from Collegiate Wesley participating to send out in the weekly email. I would also love pictures of your decorated eggs for a digital Easter Egg hunt that folks can watch. Thank you for helping spread the love!



ASH WEDNESDAY BAG PICK UP

February 14th 1-2 pm

The holy season of Lent is almost upon us. As a way to usher in this season, an Ash Wednesday bag is being put together for all who would like to come pick one up or have a bag delivered. Ashes, devotionals, Lent small groups, Holy Week information, and other material will be included in these bags to use on Ash Wednesday and throughout the Lenten season. Come pick up your bag on Feb 14th from 1-2 at the west door. Simply roll down your window and we will place it in your vehicle. If you would like one delivered, sign up here (<https://cwames.churchcenter.com/groups/digital-seasonal-groups/ash-wednesday-bag-delivery-request>) and a bag will be delivered on the same day. Contact Lindsay Drake (lindsay@cwames.org) with questions.