

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. - Romans 12:2



The season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 5. Depending on your own church background, this may or may not carry a lot of spiritual weight. I grew up semi-Catholic

(Episcopalian) and we'd have a riotous Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper just before launching into a season of fasting and penitence, usually translated into giving up coffee or chocolate.

In a broader sense, Lent is supposed to be a time of self reflection. It's a time where we honestly recollect the places where we have fallen short and identify areas of growth. So, in this 40 days before Easter, I invite you to take time to reflect upon the areas where God can heal your broken places, and renew a life of joyful obedience. Happy journeying!

A blessed Lenten Season to you,



### **KEEPING YOU INFORMED:**

- **CINCINNATI CHILI NIGHT!** Come join us at John & Diane Grefer house on Friday, **Mar. 21**, 6 pm. Sign up for a chili side-item with Diane, 513-850-8712. Don't miss out on this unique gastronomical experience! (*If the weather is bad, we'll meet at the Church.*)
- Mark your calendars: The Ladies of The Rock are Hosting a Ladies' Brunch @ \$10.00 per person on Saturday April 26th from 11am-1:30 pm at the DrummondTownship Hall. Theme is EXPRESSIONS OF JOY! featuring guest speaker Laneen Hoover - LaPointe.
- WINTER FUNDS APPEAL V: Please prayerfully consider a special donation

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to help us through the financially lean winter months. Your Special Gift is very much appreciated! THANK YOU for investing in Jesus' GOOD NEWS!



**Keryx** is a weekend to renew and re-energize your walk with Christ. It focuses on learning to be joyfully surrendered to God in the context of a

loving faith community. There are gatherings coming up at Pickford Global Methodist Church: *Women's* Weekend, April 3, 2025 5:00 pm – 6, 2025 3:00 pm, and *Men's* Weekend: April 10, 2025 5:00 pm – 13, 2025 3:00 pm. Pray about this opportunity! If interested, click <u>HERE</u> or give Chris Muter a call @ (906) 493-5606.

Our **2nd Quarter Mission's Focus** takes us to the amazing outreach ministries of <u>Healing</u> <u>Art Missions</u> supporting children and families in Haiti. We will also be lifting up <u>Love Matters</u> <u>Most</u>, an effective medical outreach to the poor in Kenya. Check them out and save your missions money for the **March 30** Sunday ingathering.

# RECHARGE

## Lent: A Time to Recharge, Renew & Draw Closer to God

All are from the dust, and to dust all return. —Ecclesiastes 3:20 (ESV)

This morning my husband and I drove through our old town, past our old house that I'd loved and nurtured for almost a decade. We inched forward slowly, but not slowly enough, to catch up to all the memories.

Then we passed the local grocery store, where I shopped every day for years. I loved the (Over)



man who worked there stocking shelves. Brian always greeted me with a heartfelt "Hello there!" as if he hadn't seen me in months. I learned from a friend he'd had a car accident in high school. He spent a long time in a coma and was lucky to be alive. And though he'd made a miraculous recovery, he never fully regained all of his abilities.

Once I had an awful day at work. I was exhausted and starving as I snaked through the aisles, picking up something for dinner. When I reached for a jar of spaghetti sauce, I lost my grip and it shattered on the shiny linoleum floor. Looking at the mess, I broke down and cried.

Brian ran over. "It's okay. Accidents happen." I noticed his forehead had a smudge of something as he got a mop. "Rough day," I sighed.

"Ash Wednesday," he said. I had totally forgotten. Brian went on. "Beginning of Lent. Forty days to get ready. Jesus saved me, you know. He saves me every day." As he mopped up the broken jar, I took his words to heart.

Dear Lord, it's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day of my life and forget what a blessing it truly is. Help me to use this special time to recharge and renew and draw closer to You.

- by Sabra Ciancanelli

(From: <a href="https://guideposts.org/daily-devotions/holiday-devotions/lent-a-time-to-recharge-renew-draw-closer-to-god/">https://guideposts.org/daily-devotions/holiday-devotions/</a> <a href="https://guideposts.org/daily-devotions/holiday-devotions/lent-a-time-to-recharge-renew-draw-closer-to-god/">https://guideposts.org/daily-devotions/holiday-devotions/</a> <a href="https://guideposts.org/daily-devotions/holiday-devotions/lent-a-time-to-recharge-renew-draw-closer-to-god/">https://guideposts.org/daily-devotions/holiday-devotions/</a>

## MOVIE REVIEW: THE SOUND OF FREEDOM

What an eye opener! It made me realize just how big and awful the child trafficking industry is. It's a real story of a cop's search for a girl and her brother who had been taken from their father. They didn't just take the kids across the state line. They took them out of the country to the

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farthest parts of a jungle-like setting. What a horrible experience for these children to be sold and resold and to be expected to do awful things. This policeman brought down a large child trafficking operation. These are millions of dollars involved in selling our children.

- Gerry & Shirley Hollister

### **March Birthdays**

- 7 Chris Muter
- 10 Connie Buxton
- 24 Mary Titus
- 27 John Grefer

#### **March Anniversaries**

4. Chuck & Collieen Barko

(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)

Pearls of Wisdom "Who I Am In Christ" I can do all things through Jesus Christ. See: Philippians 4:13 ♥Ruth Wise



Remember that, if you are on the island, you can borrow **ice skates** from the church! Spread the word before the ice melts!

ARTICLES FOR THE <u>APRIL</u> NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY: <u>TUESDAY</u>, MAR. 25<u>th</u> (Email, if possible.)



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