

Artwork by Bethany Tobin



Lent 2026

February 18-April 5

Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for an active, life-giving ministry of healing, blessing and teaching.

Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The wilderness can give us space to prepare for the work ahead.

Our texts this Lent are all from Matthew, and while Matthew has quite a few texts that include the teachings of Jesus, we've chosen action texts: Jesus shows his followers what it means to be agents of love in the midst of the wilderness, stormy seas, and the state-sponsored violence of his arrest and execution.

Lent is a time of preparation. What is your own work? Are you called to be more intentional about spaces of quiet? Or is there a new challenge or task that you feel called to try? What storms in your life need calming? What new places do you want to step out in faith? What loving and faithful actions make sense for you during this time of disorientation?

Mark your calendars for these special events in Lent:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: February 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us on Tuesday for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper at 5:30 p.m. Pancakes and sausage provided. Please bring your own plates and utensils.

Ash Wednesday Service: February 18 at 7 p.m.

Joint worship service and imposition of ashes with Faith Mennonite.

Wednesday evening Soup and bread suppers: Feb 25, March 11, 18, 25 at 6 p.m.

Gather around tables for a simple meal of soup and bread followed by a 20 minute time of worship based on the Soil and Seed Project Matthew resources. We'll have two small groups for worship: an intergenerational group in the MP space and a more contemplative group in the worship space. Play time for toddlers will be provided in the library. Sign up to bring bread, soup or watch young children on the sign up in the gathering space.

Maundy Thursday: April 2 at 6 p.m.

Join us for a simple meal around tables with communion and footwashing/handwashing. Sign ups in AssemblyLine and [here](#).

Good Friday: April 3, 7 p.m.

Joint service with Faith Mennonite, Tenebrae service of music, scripture and silence

Easter service: Sunday April 5, 9:15 a.m.

Sunrise Service: TBD

9:15 a.m. Finger Food Breakfast (This is a change from past years).
 Bring a (nut free) finger food to share for the Easter feast BEFORE the service.
 10 a.m. Worship - Bring fresh flowers for flowering the cross during the service.

date	theme/text	preacher	special extras
2/22	Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus tempted	Scott Coulter	
3/1	Matthew 8:5-17 Jesus heals	Michael Miller	Communion
3/8	Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus calms the storm	Avery Lamb, <i>Creation Justice Ministries</i>	
3/15	Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walks on water	Moriah Hurst	
3/22	Matthew 18:1-5; 19:13-15 Jesus blesses the children	Miriam Miller Avelar	Anointing
3/29	Matthew 21:1-17 Palm Sunday	Karl Shelly	Palm Processional
4/5	Easter Matthew 28:1-10	Anna Yoder Schlabach	Flowering the Cross and Feast

During Lent adults will have several options to choose from for second hour:

Some Assembly Required This classic Assembly elective is for all newish attendees, along with anyone newly curious about how Assembly works and its unique practices and history. Facilitated by Scott Coulter. (Location: Room 14 (Karl's Office), in the northwest corner of the building)

The Bee-Eye-Bee-EL-EEEE, What's that got to do with me? Why even bother with the Bible in a post-truth world? The Bible-curious are invited to join Paul Keim and various co-facilitators to discuss ways to engage these worthy, intriguing, and yes, even accessible texts. (Location: Multipurpose Space, in the southwest corner by the exit)

Reflecting with The Soil and The Seed Project on Matthew In this elective a leader will guide us through a reflective time using The Soil and The Seed resource on Matthew ([The Soil and The Seed Project](#)). We will have times of silence, song, hearing scripture and reflecting together with guided questions and short discussion. Some weeks we will reflect on the same text from worship and some Sundays we will explore other parts of the Gospel of Matthew. This is a resource you can take home to use in your own reflective practice or with your family.

This is Not the Wilderness: engaging Lent creatively and playfully Each week this elective option will do creative and playful activities through song, poetry, or visual art. Some weeks will focus on the Voices Together hymnal, other weeks might involve haiku or getting out the paints. Want to get involved in helping lead or co-lead an activity? [Contact Michael mmmiller@goshenpl.org](mailto:mmiller@goshenpl.org) to discuss.

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