

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

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YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, **masking is recommended.** In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

Fifth Sunday in Lent

In today’s gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God’s promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God’s mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.
Amen.

In today’s Old Testament reading, we hear the question, “O God, can these bones live?” It is a question that comes from feeling like hope itself may be out of reach.

In confession, we are invited to speak honestly and we are met with grace. There’s nothing we have to keep hidden from God— not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short.

Instead, we can bring our full selves to God, knowing that God is already running to meet us.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Jesus of Nazareth,

I confess that I forget you know this feeling.

I forget that you, too, have wept.

I forget that you, too, have lost.

I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.

Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel.

Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.

Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart.

Bring these bones back to life.

Bring me closer to you.

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same.

Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved.

So hear and believe this good news:

We are saved by grace through faith.

We belong to God.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn: Can These Bones Live?
(to the tune of “Praise My Soul the God of Heaven”)**

- 1 When the past is dead and buried
Lifeless in the barren ground
What good can emerge from ashes?
Where can any life be found?
Breathe in deep the rushing Spirit
Life is growing all around

- 2 When our hearts are bowed in sorrow
And the grief is newly wrought
Crying, “If you’d only been here”
Weeping for what we have lost
Resurrect our hearts and spirits
Living God whom we exalt

- 3 When our spirits feel so broken
Wrapped in linens and entombed
Without hope and without feeling
As the storm clouds ‘round us loom
Hear the words of life from Jesus
“Come out, be unbound” and bloom

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy".

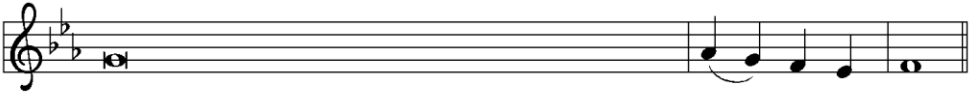
† Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



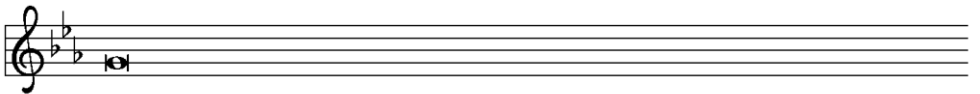
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



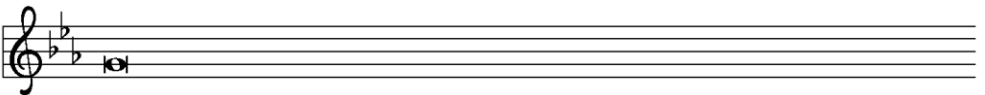
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

To put this reading into context:

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

Hear now the reading:

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Out | of the depths
I cry to | you, O LORD;

²O LORD, | hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

³If you were to keep watch | over sins,
O LORD, | who could stand?

⁴Yet with you | is forgiveness,
in order that you | may be revered.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;
in your word | is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep
watch | for the morning,
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast
love;
with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall | redeem Israel
from | all their sins.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Lenten Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† Lenten Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

The Gospel is announced. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel Reading: John 11:1-3, 32-45

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children's Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

*Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.
You're invited to reflect on the following question:*

How does hope make itself real in your life? Describe an experience of hope breaking through during a challenging time. How did the Holy Spirit bring forth hope during that experience in your life?

† Hymn of the Day: O Living Breath of God ELW 407

- 1 O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters;
O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth;

Refrain

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.
O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

- 2 O living Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth
among us;
O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew;

Refrain

- 3 O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal
waters;
O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's
birth;

Refrain

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

† Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church.
Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness especially *Peter, Helen, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Martha, Willie, Char, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Patricia, Jeanette, Archer...* and those who we lift up aloud or silently in our hearts. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministry of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

† Offering Prayer

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

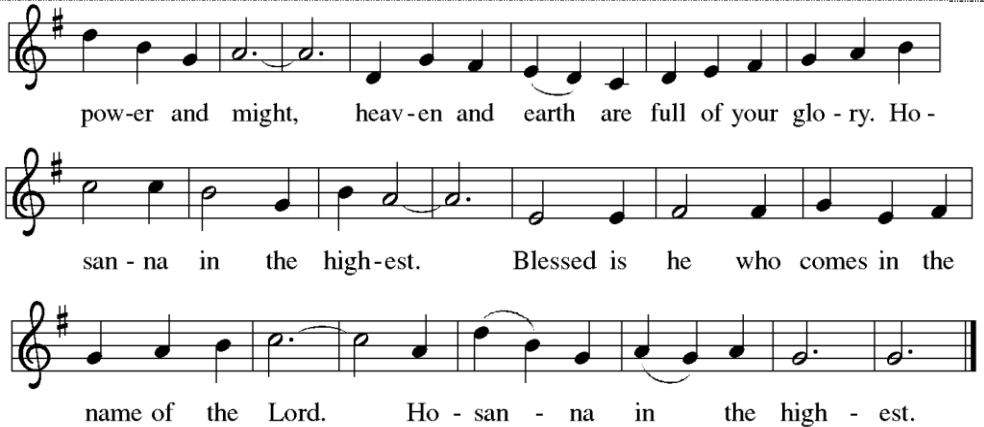
† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Praying together as Jesus first taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

† Invitation to the Table

We are all seeking something...

...Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. **Amen.**

† Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. When you

receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Graves Into Gardens

- 1 I searched the world but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
Are never enough
Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

Refrain

Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

- 2 I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws
Lord You've seen them all
And You still call me friend
'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley
There's not a place
Your mercy and grace won't find me again

Refrain

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can

Refrain

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† **Post-Communion Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.

† **Blessing**

God, the giver of love,
‡ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.

† **Sending Hymn: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** ELW 886

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

3 The name of Jesus charms our fears

and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.

4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

*The dismissal
sends us out as
Christ's Body—
fed, nourished,
and ready to
serve. Worship
has ended, and
our service
begins!*

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for
coffee hour immediately following worship.*

Coffee hour discussion question:

What “signs of hope” do you see in the natural world?

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Confession and Forgiveness and Eucharistic Prayer adapted from "Seeking: Words for Worship" by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art, LLC sanctifiedart.org

Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Trey Harrison
Ushers: Barbara Demko-Werner Sharon Hollowell	Counters: Joe Lanter Ellen Young
Online Usher: Kim Wylie	Acolyte: Sean Lanter
Livestream: Joe Lanter	Sunday School Teachers: Louise Debell (Early Learners) Mandy Forshey (Primary) Darlene Wahl (Middle Schoolers)



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, March 26, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew Evatt, Martha Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, Archer Oster.

For those celebrating their birthday:

Isaac Krankowski (Mar 26)

For those celebrating their wedding anniversaries:

Ellen & Nick Young (Mar 26), Laura & Shawn O'Neil (Mar 30)

For those celebrating their baptisms:

Sammie Forshey (3/27), Carl Bruns (3/29), Verna Fink (3/29)

Tune up your vocal pipes! Julia Alexander is forming a choir for an anthem to be sung later in Lent, probably on Palm/Passion, Sunday, April 2. Practice will be after worship on Sundays. Please email Julia at Julia.alexander@oberlin.edu if you are interested in participating.

Secret Sisters Tea TODAY! During the year women remember their "sisters" with prayer, cards, or small gifts on birthdays and other special times. Then in the spring, the ladies gather at a tea, to learn the identity of their Secret Sister from the prior year and new sisters are picked. This year's gathering is Sunday, March 26 at 2 PM in the lounge. If you wish you may bring your own tea cup.

All women are welcome. If you cannot attend and want to join, the slips to provide your information are on the table in the lounge and will be added to the basket. Plan to attend for a fun afternoon and then to give and receive prayers and surprises during the year. If you need more information please contact Sharon Hollowell, 216-538-1282 or Chris Jacobson, 440-241-4291.

LAST CHANCE for Easter Flowers For those who would like to help adorn the altar with lilies, hyacinths, and daffodils, the plants are \$8 each. You can take them home after church or leave them to be planted in the church yard. Pay via check or in cash in the offering plate or by mailing your payment to the church office. Please mark the envelope "Easter Flowers". Order by scanning the QR code on the right or by calling the church office at (440) 331-1773 no later than **Sunday, March 26.**



Attention Easter Bunny Helpers (or wannabes!) You can join the fun of filling and/or hiding eggs for Good Soil's Egg Hunt! Sign up sheets are on the board outside the lounge. Packages of small candies to fill the plastic eggs can be donated in the box in the lounge through Palm Sunday. (Overflow candy will be donated to Trials for Hope)

Seeds is a weekly e-newsletter with updates and highlights about God's action among us! Use this QR code to sign up. You can also call the church office at 440-331-1773 for help signing up. It's a great way to stay in touch with all the exciting happenings at Good Soil!



Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Mar 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour • Secret Sisters Tea • Lenten Small Group via Zoom 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 2:00 pm 7:00 pm
Wed, Mar 29	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 pm
Thurs, Mar 30	Lenten Small Group In-Person	10:00 am
Sat, Apr 1	Ladies' Breakfast – Gene's Place	9:00 am
Sun, Apr 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship – Palm/Passion Sunday • Sunday School • Coffee Hour • Secret Sisters Tea • Lenten Small Group via Zoom 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 2:00 pm 7:00 pm
Thurs, Apr 6	In-Person and Livestream Worship - Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
Fri, Apr 7	Good Friday Service at Lakewood United Methodist	7:00 pm
Sun, Apr 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship – EASTER SUNDAY • Easter Egg Hunt • Coffee Hour 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am