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



Third Sunday in Lent March 12, 2023 9:30 a.m.



20300 Hilliard Blvd Rocky River, OH 44116 (440) 331-1773 The Rev. Marissa Harrison pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

Worship & Music Coordinator Julia Alexander julia.alexander@oberlin.edu

> Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org Facebook: goodsoillutheranministries Instagram: goodsoilchurch YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

<u>Welcome</u>

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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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, <u>masking is strongly</u> <u>recommended</u>. 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).

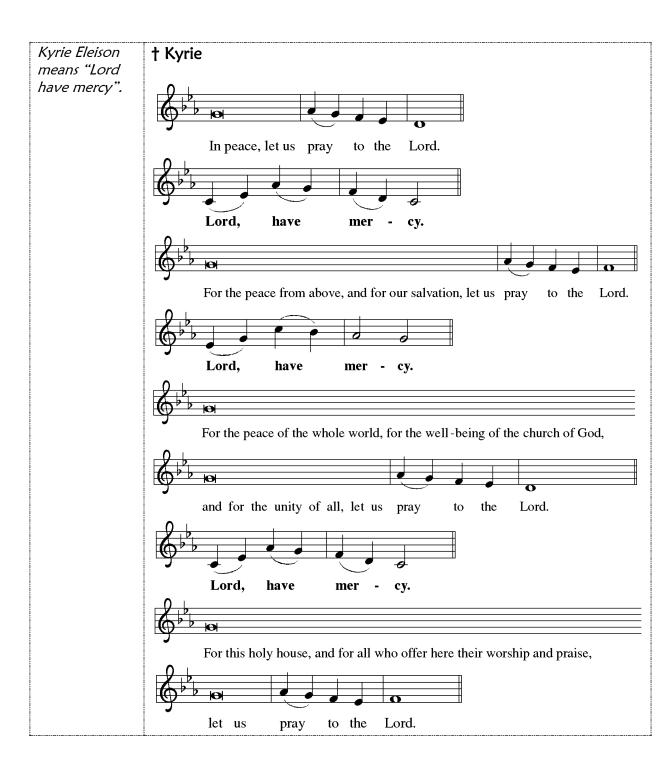
Third Sunday in Lent

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

<u>-</u>	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. Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. Silence is kept for reflection.

Today we hear the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. As your people, we have been on every side of this story. We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well.
So today we wonder: How often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors? How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change? How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work?
Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day. It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, amen.
Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine: we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God.
This is the good news of the gospel: God's grace is deeper than any well. We are seen, loved, and forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.
 Gathering Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ELW 332
 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast." I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad; I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.

	 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live." I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him. 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright." I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.
The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2 nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.	† 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.



	Lord, have mer - cy. 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 Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
	<u>The Word</u> God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 To put this reading into context:
	Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.
	Hear now the reading:

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people guarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you guarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites guarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-7



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* \tilde{S} 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

²Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.

³For you, LORD, ¹ are a great God, and a great ruler a- ¹ bove all gods.

	⁴ In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.
	⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
	⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
	⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
We welcome the gospel by singing the	† Lenten Acclamation
<i>Lenten Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation</i>	Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.
of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.	Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.
The Gospel is announced. Following the	Gospel Reading and Children's Sermon John 4:5-42 (Sparkhouse story bible version)
reading of the Gospel, we	To put this reading into context:
give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is	Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.
revealed to us through the Gospel reading.	Tired from walking a long way, Jesus was resting at a well in a place called Samaria. His disciples went to get food while he rested. The sun was high in the sky. Whew! Jesus was hot. His tongue was as dry as a wad of sheep's wool. He was very thirsty.

A Samaritan woman came to the well to get water. "Will you give me a drink?" Jesus asked. She gave him a puzzled look. Jesus was a Jew, and she knew that most Jews didn't like people from Samaria.

"Why are you asking me for a drink?" She asked. "If you knew who I was," Jesus answered, "you would ask me for living water...Now the woman was really puzzled! "Sir," she said as she pointed to the well, "the well is deep and you don't have a jar. Where will you get this living water? Jesus smiled. "Everyone who drinks from this well will be thirsty again. But the water I bring lasts forever!

What the woman didn't understand was that Jesus wasn't talking about water you drink. He was talking about living water – love that forgives and life that lasts forever with God. The woman became more and more interested. She wanted to hear more. So Jesus told her more... lots more. Jesus knew all about her--about where she came from and what she believed.

As they talked, the woman's eyes began to twinkle. "I know that the Messiah is coming," she said. "I've heard all about him." Jesus smiled and put his hand on the woman's shoulder. "I am the Messiah," he said gently. The woman was so surprised; she nearly spilled her water jar!

As the disciples came back with food, the woman rushed past them. She was so excited to tell everyone about what Jesus had said. The woman ran all over town telling people about what she had seen and heard. "There's a man at the well who says he's the Messiah. He has amazing things to say! Come and see him for yourself!" she said. The people came running to see Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus because of what she told them that day.

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
<i>Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.</i> <i>You're invited to reflect on the following question:</i>
What are you thirsting for in this season? What is the world thirsting for?
Last week's reflection question:
Describe a "new beginning" you experienced in your life. What was that like and how was God present? (from 3/5)
† Hymn of the Day: We All Come Thirsty (to the tune of "The King of Love My Shepherd Is")
1 We all come thirsty to the well To seek the living water With wounds and pasts we'd rather hide But letting our hearts soften
2 Through differences our hands can reach To care and hold each other There are no strangers for they are Our siblings, sisters, brothers
3 We care for God's community Our mutual aid shared freely To all we give as we receive With grace and loving deeply
Text: Rev. Anna Strickland

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

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

† Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

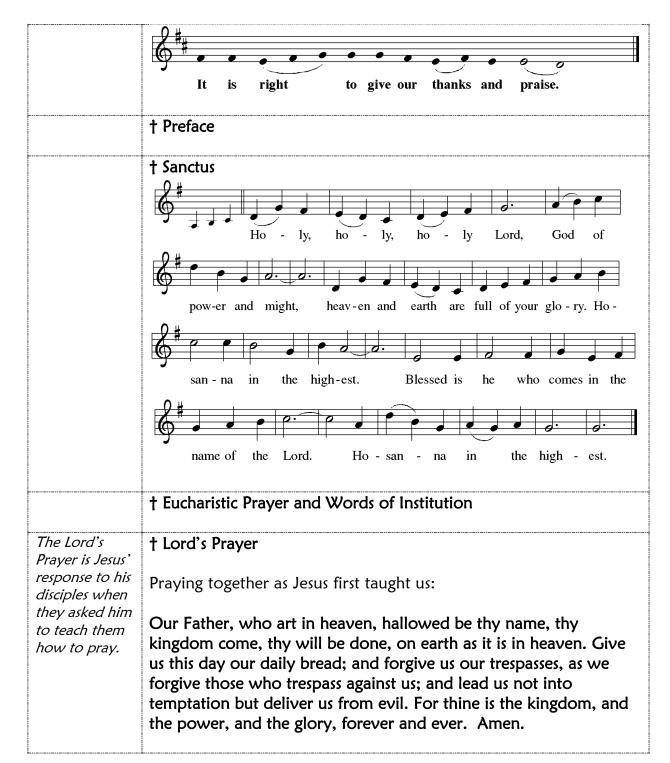
We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness especially Helen, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Willie, Char, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Jeanette, Andrew, Patricia . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. Give them your living water always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

We pray for this congregation, especially those preparing for baptism. Nurture their faith and pour your love into their hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in their lives. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

	We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. 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.OfferingGod'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. <i>Refrain</i> 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. 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.



† 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: Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty ELW 777
1 "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give. If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live."
<i>Refrain</i> Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.
2 "Come to me, all trav'lers weary; come that I may give you rest. Drink the cup of life I offer;

	at this table be my guest." <i>Refrain</i>
	3 "Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.
	Come, receive the gift I offer,
	turn to me and seek my face." <i>Refrain</i>
	4 "Come to me, repentant sinners;
	leave behind your guilt and shame.
	Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name." <i>Refrain</i>
	turn to me, i can your name. Kenam
	5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
	I would be your trusted friend.
	Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend." <i>Refrain</i>
	come, you open nands extend. Kenam
	6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
	lonely ways no longer roam.
	Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home." <i>Refrain</i>
	iet me make in you my nome. Kenam
	Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374
	† 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
blessing of	
God, we go out to live as	God, the giver of love,
Christ's body in	+ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
the world.	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: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove. 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come"; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
	 Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood. 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.
	Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body— fed, nourished, and ready to	† Dismissal Go in peace. Serve in love. Thanks be to God.

serve. Worship has ended, and	
our service begins!	
	Postlude

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

Coffee hour discussion question:

Share a memorable story about a water experience from your life.

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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: Bill Fink	
Ushers: Bill Wahl	Counters: Bill Fink	
Darlene Wahl	Barbara Munch	
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey	
Livestream: Trey Harrison	Sunday School Teachers:	
	Louise Debell (Early Learners)	
	Mandy Forshey (Primary)	
	Darlene Wahl (Middle Schoolers)	



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, March 12, 2023

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

For those celebrating their birthday:

Linda Maxwell (Mar 13), Mike Benewiat (Mar 15), Mikey Benewiat (Mar 16)

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries:

Stan and Joan Zeager (Mar 15)

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.

Volunteer Opportunity! On Saturday, March 25th at New Covenant, the church that Vicar Scott Wylie is serving in East Cleveland, there will be a Produce give away for the community. We would love volunteers to help get the Produce off the truck, organize it and distribute it to local residents. The truck will arrive between 8-8:30 am and people of the community will come between 10 am-12 pm to pick up the produce. If you would like to volunteer please contact Chris Jacobson at <u>lcjacobson@sbcglobal.net</u> or (440) 333-0014.

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 <u>Sunday, March 26</u>.



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)



Hungry for deeper connection with God and your faith community? So are we! All members and friends of Good Soil are invited to participate in small groups for the duration of the Lenten season.

Each group will meet once a week for the next 3 weeks to check in with one another, deepen relationships, and grow in faith together. Each group will be led by a lay leader and meet at a different time of the week, so sign up using this QR code for the day of the week and time that works best for you! ***Please also reach out to the facilitators directly if you sign up after Sunday, Feb 26^{th***}

Sundays via zoom at 7pm led by Deb Yandala <u>debyandala@gmail.com</u> Wednesdays via zoom at 7pm led by Ellen Young <u>eebeese@hotmail.com</u> **Thursdays in-person at 10am** led by Bill Fink <u>bfink06@yahoo.com</u> (meets at Panera on Center Ridge Rd)

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 12	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.
	Coffee Hour	10:30 a.m.
	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Tues, Mar 14	GS Executive Team Mtg	7:30 p.m.
Wed, Mar 15	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Thurs, Mar 16	Lenten Small Group In-Person	10:00 a.m.
Sun, Mar 19	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.
	Coffee Hour	10:30 a.m.
	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Tues, Mar 21	GS Council Mtg	7:30 p.m.
Wed, Mar 22	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Thurs, Mar 23	Lenten Small Group In-Person	10:00 a.m.

