

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Lent. I hope it will be a profoundly spiritual time for you, as you are inspired by worship and then meditate on what you have heard, as well as other scriptures and readings, during the week. Each week, I will give you a verse to focus on, if you need one.

For week ending March 17: *Luke 17:⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."*

For week ending March 24: *Luke 17:²⁰ Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; ²¹nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."*

All prospective confirmation class participants have been sent invitation letters this week. We hope to have a good group to study together, then join the church this fall on Rally Day - an extra special "oomph" to the day! Please be in prayer for them as they prepare, and also be willing to talk with them, as some of them may contact you to talk about your own life of faith.

This Sunday we will go to Manor Care, and it happens to be St. Patrick's Day. PLEASE let Pastor Leigh know in advance that you are able to go, so that we can coordinate and know how many we will have. Hopefully, we will have some green ice cream (or lime sherbet) and cookies!

In the April newsletter I will include sermon topics for April 28 - June 2, the 6 weeks after Easter. Please ask friends to come on those Sundays if any of the topics are yours or challenge you! That is the way a church grows: by "each one ask one."

Lenten blessings,

Pastor Leigh