

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Lent is the period preceding Easter that in the Christian Church is devoted to fasting, abstinence, and penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays). It culminates in the church's celebration of Easter, next month.

Traditionally, Lent has been a season when many Christians opt to "fast." More recently, many Christians choose to observe Lent not so much as a time to "give up," but rather as a time to "take on" something. That might be making extra time for prayer, or reading a devotional, or performing acts of kindness and service.

Holy Week is the seven days immediately preceding Easter Sunday. It begins with Palm/Passion Sunday, includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and ends with the Great Vigil of Easter on the Saturday before Easter.

Here is a list of Holy Week 2025 events:

Sunday, April 13: Palm / Passion Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. It commemorates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Sunday, April 13: Easter Egg Hunt for children. Sponsored by Kids Reaching Out to Christ's Kingdom, a fellowship group for elementary schoolers.. Donations of treats are most welcome — a bin for donations of candy is in the breezeway stairwell.

Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday combined worship service with Community in Christ Presbyterian Church, at **7 p.m.**, at CIC. Communion will be served. Feet will be washed.

Friday, April 18: Good Friday combined worship service with Community in Christ Presbyterian Church, at **7 p.m.**, at APC. Church offices will be closed on Good Friday, **April 18**; and on Easter Monday, **April 21**.

Easter: The simple standard definition is that it is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the Spring Equinox. If that full moon falls on a Sunday, then Easter is the next Sunday.

Easter is a "movable feast." It doesn't happen on the same date from year to year. In the Gregorian calendar, it is always observed on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter 2023 is on **Sunday, April 20**. Worship that day will be at **10 a.m.** in the sanctuary. Bring blossoms from your gardens to adorn our flower cross.

Questions with Kyle: A Sunday school class that dares to ask big questions and discuss all the possible answers.

Pastor Kyle teaches this class. It begins at **9 a.m.** and ends at **9:35**. The class meets in the Parlor — near the kitchen in the Gathering Room — because that room is very close to the coffee pot.

- **March 16: Where are you getting that? Part the Second:** In an increasingly-divided political climate, more and more our faith seems to come up to justify political positions. Is that justifiable?
- **March 23: Where are you getting that? Part the Third:** In an increasingly-divided political climate, more and more our faith seems to come up to justify political positions. Is that justifiable?
- **March 30: How do you know this is from God?** People claim all the time that God has shown them the truth, or asked something of them. How do we know that God is talking to them? How do we know they aren't just talking to themselves?

