

Lent 2026

Walking in the Way of Jesus:
A New Way





In the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Church in Corinth, he writes, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

If you're familiar with Microsoft Excel, you know there's a formula tab that gives you the option of adding an "if/then" statement to your spreadsheet. We have an "if/then" formula in Paul's writing too: **If** Christ is in us, **then** everything old has passed away.

With Paul's words in mind, the Forest Lake Presbyterian family is invited to think about this "formula" during Lent, Holy Week, and beyond. We're being asked to think about what it means to walk in the ways of Jesus. What are some of the "old ways" that hold us back from walking in the "new" Jesus way?

Each Sunday, we'll focus on a "new" way that reflects the love that God has for each of us. These words are listed at the top of the next several pages in this guide, and you'll see that we've added reflective questions for each Scripture reading. You'll no doubt find these readings challenging, which really shouldn't be a surprise. Walking in the ways of Jesus is challenging, too!

In addition to reflecting on the Sunday Scripture reading, you're invited to participate in two additional things:

- The next two pages are a **Lenten Prayer Practice**. Over the next forty days, we invite you to pray for the entire Decker Boulevard community, including residents, business, schools, and houses of worship.
- **Drive for 584**: Did you know that the food pantry at Rehoboth Methodist Church served 584 families in January 2026? Their goal is to give each family at least one jar of peanut butter and one jar of jelly each time they visit the food pantry. Therefore, FLY and JV FLY are introducing a "drive for 584" to collect a **MINIMUM OF 584 jars of peanut butter AND 584 jars of jelly** by Easter. More information can be found in the following pages.

See you soon at FLPC as we talk about "the new way" over the next several weeks.

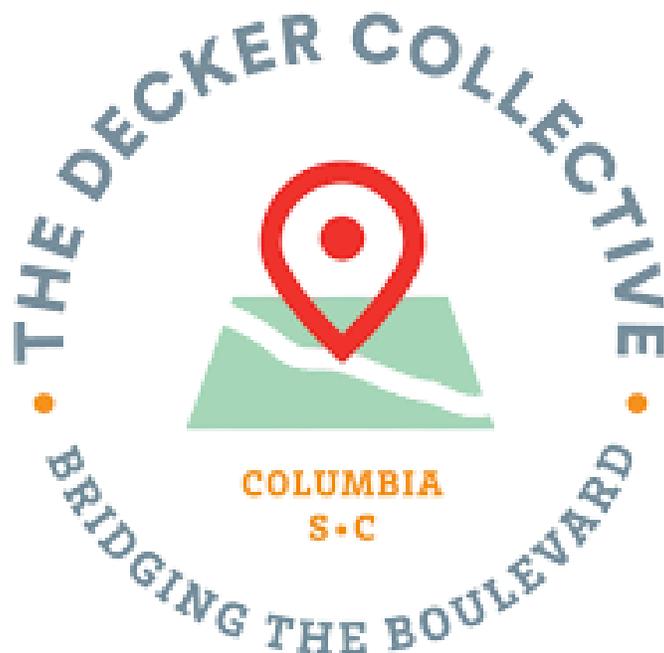


Lenten Prayer Practice

Our congregation has been working on a community partnership with the non-profit, Serve and Connect, for five years. The purpose of our partnership – The Decker Collective – is “to promote safety in the Decker boulevard community by building trust, strengthening connections, and increasing access to local resources.” Building relationships and connections between neighbors, especially those separated by Decker Boulevard, is not easy. Earning each other’s trust can be difficult. There is much wealth and much poverty in our community, and often neighbors don’t know each other.

So, this Lent, because we love and serve our community, we ask that you pray for our whole community on both sides of Decker Boulevard. The list on the next page contains suggestions for your daily prayers beginning with Ash Wednesday. If you don’t know one of these locations, consider driving by and praying for them as you do. If you’d like to send them an email or card and let them know you prayed for them, that would be great, also. But mostly, we ask that you pray that we will become neighbors, and that through our congregation and the work of The Decker Collective, our whole community will be blessed.

Please see the list on the next page



Lenten Prayer List

1. Serve and Connect – Staff and Greg’s Place – 8131 Brookfield Rd 29223
2. Conder Elementary School – Students, Teachers and Staff – 8040 Hunt Club Rd 29223
3. Jackson Creek Elementary School – Students, Teachers, and Staff – 7150 Trenholm Rd. Extn. 29223
4. Richland Northeast High School – Students, Teachers and Staff – 7500 Brookfield Rd 29223
5. Forest Lake Elementary School - Students, Teachers, and Staff, 6801 Brookfield Rd, 29206
6. Satchel Ford Elementary School – Students, Teachers, and Staff, 5901 Satchelford Rd, 29206
7. Dent Middle School - Students, Teachers, and Staff, 2721 Decker Blvd, 29206
8. Richland County Council Member, District 3, Tyra Little, little.tyra@richlandcountysc.gov
9. Richland County Council Member, District 8, Tish Alleyne, alleyne.tish@richlandcountysc.gov
10. Richland County Council Member Cheryl English, District 10, english.cheryl@richlandcountysc.gov
11. Columbia Fire Station 33 - 5645 Old Forest Dr. 29206 - 803-545-3700
12. Columbia Fire Station 14 – 7124 Fire Lane Drive 29223– 803-543-3700
13. Columbia Fire Station 32 – 9213 Two Notch Rd. 29223 – 803-543-3700
14. Richland County Emergency Services, 911 personnel, 1410 Laurens St, 29204
15. Woodfield Park Neighborhood
16. Greater Woodfield Neighborhood
17. Businesses on Decker Blvd
18. Restaurants on Decker Blvd
19. Grocery stores on Decker Blvd
20. Richland County Central Magistrate Court, 2500 Decker Blvd, 29206
21. Arcadia Lakes – Mayor, Council and Town Residents
22. Forest Acres – Mayor, Council, and Town Residents
23. Richland County Sheriff’s Department, 5623 Two Notch Rd, 29223
24. Capt. Russell Brewton, RCSD – Community Action Team, District 2
25. Forest Acres Police Department, 5205 Trenholm Rd, 29206
26. Mill Run Apartment Complex, 7502 Hunt Club Rd, 29223
27. Quail Run Apartments, 3509 Lake Ave. 29206
28. The Reserves Apartments – 2000 Faraway Dr, 29223
29. Tanglewood Apartments, 7400 Hunt Club Rd, 29223
30. Dira East Apartments, 7501 Brookfield Rd, 29223
31. Arcadia Park Apartments, 2400 Kneece Rd, 29223
32. Point Arcadia Condominiums, 6905 Cleaton Rd, 29206
33. O’Neil Pointe Apartments, 612 O’Neil Ct, 29223
34. Alpine Regency Mobile Home Park, 2928 Alpine Rd, 29223
35. Sandy Oaks Mobile Home Park, 2212 E Boundary Rd, 29223
36. Powells Mobile Home Park, 702 Percival Rd, 29206
37. Richland Library Northeast Branch – staff and patrons – 7490 Parklane Rd.
38. Richland Library Cooper Branch – staff and patrons – 5317 N. Trenholm Rd.
39. Jackson Creek Greenway Project – Richland County Greenway project
40. U.S. Army Fort Jackson Community

Drive for 584

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church has been a longtime supporter of the food pantry at Rehoboth Methodist Church, which is an invaluable ministry in our community.

On February 16, FLY and JV FLY students spent the morning working at the food pantry (pictured below) and learned something that sparked an idea:

Did you know that the food pantry at Rehoboth Methodist Church served 584 families in January 2026? Rehoboth's goal is to give each family a jar of peanut butter and a jar of jelly, but when we visited, we noticed more is needed! There were only a dozen or so jars of peanut butter (and less of jelly) on the shelves.

Therefore, we're introducing a "Drive for 584" to collect a MINIMUM OF 584 jars of peanut butter AND 584 jars of jelly by Easter. The "Drive for 584" goal is to boost the amount of available peanut butter and jelly at Rehoboth AND help more families have access to these needed goods.

Throughout Lent, please drop off your peanut butter and jelly in the wagon upstairs or the collection bin downstairs.





February 22: Humility

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

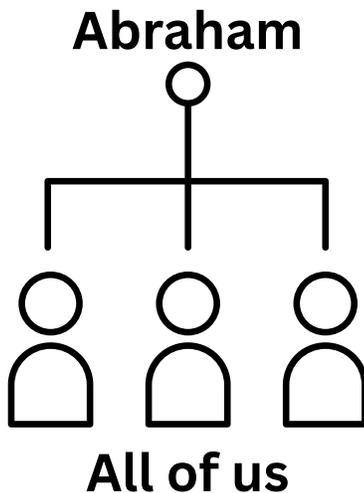
For Reflection...

- How do you define the term “humble?” Are there certain characteristics of someone who is “humble?” Who do you know that you consider “humble?”
- How do you think we see ourselves? Do we see ourselves the same way that others may see us?
- How did Christ humble himself? Hint: Read Philippians chapter 2 in your Bible.
- As we begin Lent, what are some of our temptations? Is there bad “fruit” that we have a hard time resisting?
- For fun, type “Indiana Jones: Why Did It Have to Be Snakes” in the YouTube search bar and watch the scene. Do you think this is how Adam and Even ultimately felt about snakes after being tricked?

Memory Verse: *Genesis 3:4-5: But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

March 1: Believe

Scripture: Romans 4:1-5; 13-17



What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

For Reflection...

- Read Genesis 12.
- How did Abraham live out his faith in God?
- Have you had a time in your life when you’ve had to completely place your trust in God? Was it easy or hard?
- Read Mark 9:14-28. How do you react to the phrase, “I believe. Help my unbelief.” Have you ever felt yourself uttering something similar?



Listen to and read the hymn, “To Abraham and Sarah: I Will Be Your God, which is hymn #51 in the FLPC hymnals. Do you hear/read anything from Romans 4 in this hymn?

Memory Verse: *Romans 4:16: For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham.*

March 8: Endure

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

For Reflection...

- Are you in a season of “living life” or “enduring life?”
- Think about the hard times in your own life. Do you agree with Paul that affliction produces endurance?
- Why do you think Paul frequently uses the word “boast?” How can we “boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God?”
- What does Paul say about Christ's death? If Christ died for the ungodly, is Paul saying we're ungodly? If so, does that surprise you?



Listen to and read the hymn, “Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed,” which is hymn #212 in the FLPC hymnals. Do you hear/read anything from Romans 5 in this hymn?

Memory Verse: *Romans 5:8: But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us*

March 15: Truth

Scripture: John 9:1-41 (Read this one in your Bible.)

For Reflection...

- In this story, who is really blind?
- Why do you think the disciples thought the blind man had sinned?
- Are there people you now “see” that you didn’t see before? Who are they?
- Do you have any “blind spots?” Who or what do you still have a hard time “seeing” due to opinion, stereotype, or prejudice?
- Have you ever thought you know and understand but then found out there was a lot you didn’t know? How did you react?
- Do you think we’re ever “blind” to God’s work in our lives? Do we always see God at work? If not, what are some steps we can take to recognize God?
- Why do you think there’s so much emphasis on sight and sin in this particular story?



Memory Verse: *John 9:30: I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.*

March 22: Centered

Scripture: Romans 8:6-11 (CEB translation)

The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. People who are self-centered aren't able to please God. But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.



For Reflection...

- No one wants to think of themselves as selfish or self-centered, but the Apostle Paul invites us to take an honest look at ourselves and ask this question: Who or what serves as the center of our lives?
- Do you agree or disagree that "the attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace?" (v. 6)
- If the spirit of selfishness comes from having ourselves at the center of our lives, what kind of spirit/living happens when our lives are centered on God?
- What stops you from making God the center of your life?
- When you have to make a big decision, whose advice do you seek? If you wanted God's advice, how could you find that?

Memory Verse: *Romans 8:6: To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

March 29: Testify (Palm Sunday)

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 (Common English Bible Version)

As Jesus came to Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he gave two disciples a task. He said, “Go into the village over there. When you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say, ‘Its master needs it.’” Those who had been sent found it exactly as he had said. As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They replied, “Its master needs it.” They brought it to Jesus, threw their clothes on the colt, and lifted Jesus onto it. As Jesus rode along, they spread their clothes on the road. As Jesus approached the road leading down from the Mount of Olives, the whole throng of his disciples began rejoicing. They praised God with a loud voice because of all the mighty things they had seen. They said, “Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.” Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, scold your disciples! Tell them to stop!” He answered, “I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout.”

For Reflection...

- The disciples are told to say, “Its master needs it” if anyone questions why the colt is being untied. What does Jesus need **you** to “untie” and bring to him?
- Why do you think Jesus sent more than one disciple to untie the colt? What does that say about things you may need to “untie?” Can you do it alone?
- When is your voice loud for Jesus? When has it been quiet when you knew it needed to be louder?
- What do you think of Jesus’ response to the Pharisees when he says, “If they were silent, the stones would shout?” What do you think he means?



Listen to and read the hymn, “A Stable Lamp is Lighted,” which is hymn #160 in the FLPC hymnals. Do you hear/read anything from Luke 19:28-40 in this hymn? If you have a *Glory to God* hymnal, read the study notes at the bottom.

Memory Verse: *Luke 19:38: They said, “Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.”*

Lent/Holy Week Calendar

Wednesday, February 18: Ash Wednesday: We will do a “drive-thru” imposition of ashes beginning at 4 PM. In addition, all are welcome to come to the sanctuary beginning at 6 PM for prayers and the option of participating in stations. At 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, we’ll have a brief service for the imposition of ashes.

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday: We begin worship with a palm processional. All children who wish to participate in the palm processional need to meet Ellen Skidmore in the narthex at 9:45 AM before 10 AM worship. We also will have a covered dish meal and an Easter egg hunt for our preschoolers.

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday/Upper Room Communion service (4-6 PM drop-in): In addition to sharing the Lord’s Supper together, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in several worship stations, including foot washing.

Friday, April 3: Good Friday sanctuary service (6 PM)

Sunday, April 5: Easter! The Lord has risen! We will have two Easter morning worship services (with Communion). Our first one is at 7:00 AM in the parlor (no nursery), and the second one is at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Join us!

What is...

Lent: The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in the time period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

Ash Wednesday: The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one's forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Palm Sunday: Passion/Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed. The palm procession with ringing Hosannas symbolically foreshadows the Hallelujahs of God's promised future when the risen Jesus will lead his people into a new Jerusalem. Interwoven with such liturgical experiences are the stories of the passion of Christ. Thus, the eight-day week from Passion/Palm Sunday to Easter Day is framed by resurrection and death on one side, and death and resurrection on the other.

Maundy Thursday: On Passion/Palm Sunday, we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem...and then turn with him to face the cross, where he gave his life for us and our salvation. Tonight we remember his new commandment to love one another even as he has loved us. We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Communion.

Good Friday: On Maundy Thursday, we remembered his new commandment: to love one another even as he has loved us. This evening, we turn to the cross, remembering Jesus' last words.

Easter: On Good Friday, we witnessed the tragedy of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, where he gave his life for us and our salvation. Today, on the first day of the week, we gather at the tomb...only to discover that the stone is rolled away, and the grave is empty. Today we celebrate the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ is risen!

Sources: <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year> and <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/three-days>