

FIRST PRESS

LENT 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH KERRVILLE



A letter from Pastor Jasiel

Lent is often characterized as the season or time in the year when we deny ourselves those things and cravings we usually love. Many people use this season to give up on sweets, TV, social media, and many other practices or behaviors that are not particularly productive or fruitful in our lives.

While I do not want to discourage you from doing so, I must warn you that quitting something for forty days (or so) does not always result in a radical change. According to research, it takes an average of 66 days for a new behavior to become a new habit.

My point here is that change (for the better) takes time and requires a great deal of responsibility. Change is not something we suddenly achieve but rather a journey we accept and commit to work on day after day.

This is what Lent ultimately reminds us - that once we begin the process of denying ourselves, of ridding ourselves from those things, behaviors, and practices we acknowledge as unhelpful, unhealthy, and unwise, we must continue on such a journey beyond these limited forty days.

Change is possible when we fully deny ourselves and choose to follow Christ to the cross and beyond.

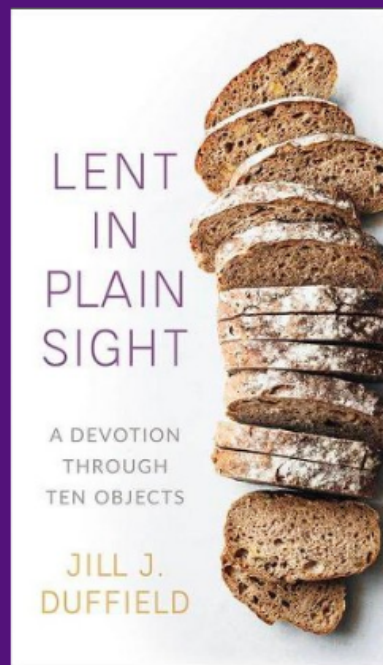
May this season of Lent provide you with a space to reflect on that which you must let go in order to follow Christ. Amen.

Wednesday Night Series

"Lent in Plain Sight"

Take the night off from cooking and focus on faith, family, and fellowship during our Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Series.

We will begin our time together by sharing homemade soup and bread for dinner. After dinner, children will go to the FLC for fun activities and adults will stay in Ryan Hall for communal learning as we read and reflect on the book, **"Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects"** by Jill Duffield.



Schedule

Feb. 21: Bread

Feb. 28: Cross

March 6: Coins

March 13: Shoes

March 20: Oil

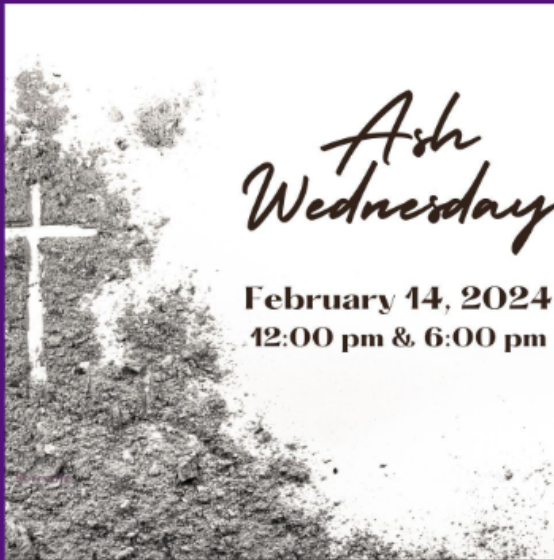
Time

6:00 pm
to 7:00 pm

About the Book

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. The book, "Lent in Plain Sight," draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

Worship Together During Lent



Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith.

Join us for a service of contemplation, repentance, sacred music, and imposition of ashes. Both services will be held in the Sanctuary. Livestream at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Schedule

Feb. 18

Lent in Plain Sight: **Bread**
Psalm 22:23–31, John 6:35–40

Feb. 25

Lent in Plain Sight: **Cross**
Psalm 25:1–10, Mark 8:34–38
Sacrament of Baptism

March 3

Lent in Plain Sight: **Coins**
Psalm 19:1–9, 14, Mark 12:13–17
Holy Communion

March 10

Lent in Plain Sight: **Shoes**
Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22, Mark 6:6b–13

March 17

Lent in Plain Sight: **Oil**
Psalm 51: 1–12, Luke 10:30–37

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

March 24 - 31



PALM SUNDAY

SANCTUARY

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

5:30 P.M.

All Church Dinner followed
by a Service of Holy Communion



GOOD FRIDAY

SANCTUARY

7:00 P.M.

Tenebrae Service

EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 A.M. Sunrise Service

Neal Courtyard Garden

9:30 A.M. Brunch Benefiting Youth

Ryan Hall

11:00 A.M. Festival of Easter

Sanctuary



FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE



Sacred Sips

Join other adults from FPC for a time of fellowship on the first Thursday of the month. We might change the location each month to explore new places in town. This is an informal gathering. Come as you are! Childcare provided at the church.



Pop- Up Food Bank Market

Make a difference in our community as we provide food for those in need. Rain or shine, we are always ready to serve!

Saturday, February 17 & March 16
8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. / Main Parking Lot



Dinners for 8

Sign-up to enjoy meals with new and old friends from your church family. Your group can choose between meeting at homes or restaurants. Please fill out one of the "interest" forms located in the Narthex or church office by February 18.



All Church Game Night

Bring your favorite board game (it must be easy to teach and appropriate for most ages). Dinner will be provided!

Sunday, March 17, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

SPECIAL EVENTS



Hill Country Chorale Classical Music Festival

Saturday, March 2 at 4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary, First Presbyterian Church



Bach's 339th Birthday An Organ Concert

Saturday, March 16 at 3:00 p.m.
Sanctuary, First Presbyterian Church
Led by Dr. Sabrina Adrian



What is FPC working on? Our Vision for 2024

Deacons and Elders met a few weeks ago for their annual officers' retreat at Schreiner University. During this retreat, this group engaged in discussion, discernment, and vision-casting exercises to help FPC become a more vital, welcoming, and sustainable congregation. Below are some of the highlights and projects for this year.

Ministries that are functional and serving a clear purpose:

11:00 a.m. worship / Hopes Kitchen and Pop Up Market / Wednesday Night Suppers / Congregational Care and the Diaconate. **Highlights:** Over the last few months, we have seen an increase in worship attendance, families and youth participating more, and people responding more generously to our needs as a congregation.

Ministries/places where we need to invest more time and energy (starting this year):

Children's Ministries / Fellowship activities / Stewardship (expanding the committee's role and developing better leadership) / More variety in Adult Education choices and more interactive ways to worship together / evangelism and inviting more people to be part of our community.

Ministries that require new energy and/or changes to make them more vital:

8:30 a.m. worship / Facilities rental and usage of space / Personnel costs (restructuring the staff model and cutting costs) / Children's Corner operations and costs.

The most urgent needs:

Reducing costs in our annual budget or increase giving. Begin the process of looking at our buildings and how to lease them to other organizations.



Interested in joining FPC?

If you have been attending FPC and are now more curious about our ministries and membership, we invite you to join us for lunch on **March 3rd at 12:00 p.m. in Ryan Hall.**

We are excited to get to know you!

PASTORS

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Susan Montoya

Parish Associate

MINISTRY STAFF

Dr. Sabrina Adrian

Organist

Emily McAllister

Director of Family Ministries

Seth Lafler

Choir Director

Shannon Tuschak

Director of Care

SUPPORT STAFF

Roy Jones

Facilities Manager

Alicia Martin

Administrative Asst.

Wes Lane

Media Specialist

Mary Stone

Financial Asst.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Ann Reynolds

YES Center Director

Scott Russell

Children's Corner Director

SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

You may give online by visiting www.fpckerrville.org/give. You may also present your offering during our worship service or as you visit the church office. For more information contact the church office at 830.257.3310

NOTES

Cover Art from Stushie Art Website.

