



Lent 2010

Disciples Christian Church

HOLDING ON AND LETTING GO

Growing as Disciples



The season of Lent that begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday is, by tradition, a time of reflection, sacrifice, and going deeper into our faith. It is a 40-day period plus Sundays. During this time, we hear the stories of Jesus from the initial temptation in the wilderness, to his death on the cross, to the celebration of the empty tomb and his resurrection. Like those first disciples, we follow him: watching what he does, listening to what he says, learning about who he is and who we are in relation to him.

Holding On and Letting Go is the theme for Lent 2010 at Disciples Christian Church. Throughout these 40 days plus Sundays, we will give thanks for the pieces of our faith and traditions that are worth *holding on* to, the values we hold, and what is it that we return to when we fall away. And, we will explore what it is we need to *let go* of in order to walk more closely with our God. What is it that gets in the way of further growth as Jesus' disciple?

We hope you will use this programming guide that includes worship, outreach, fellowship, youth/children/and family, study, giving, and prayer opportunities to see where you will offer your time, talents, and resources. We challenge you to involve yourself in opportunities that will help you to grow in your discipleship.

SHROVE TUESDAY – *February 16th – 5:30 until 7:30 p.m.* Come to the “last party” before Lent begins and allow *Pastor Tim* to serve you his famous pancakes! Traditionally, pancakes are eaten the night before Lent begins to say good-bye to all of the rich foods that many of us give up - or fast from - during Lent. Juice, coffee, sausage and fruit will also be provided. Join us when you can and leave when you must on this final day of celebration before the fast of Lent. There will be video games and crafts for children to enjoy. Then, as you leave the party and prepare for the beginning of Lent, pick up and make your Week of Compassion coin box that can serve as a part of your “Lenten Challenge”.

WORSHIP

ASH WEDNESDAY – *February 17th - 7:00 p.m.* Join us for this service that begins the period of Lent with readings, music, communion, and the mark of ashes on your forehead. We wear the mark of ashes to remind us of our humanity, our identity as God's creatures, and our mortality, while also receiving the gifts of God's forgiveness and grace at the communion table. A good way to begin your Lenten commitment.

FIRST SUNDAY – *February 21st – 10:00 a.m. - Preparation*

Luke 4:1-13 (Jesus tested in the wilderness)

Featuring the music of Henry Purcell

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WORSHIP – *February 24th – 7:00 p.m.* On five Wednesday evenings, February 24th through March 24th at 7:00 p.m., we will gather in the Sanctuary for an opportunity to refresh, to refocus, and to be renewed. This 30-minute worship service will expand on the previous Sunday's theme in music, word, prayer, and communion, in a quiet and intimate setting.

SECOND SUNDAY – *February 28th - 10:00 a.m. – Motivation*

Luke 13:31-35 (Jesus as a mother hen)

Featuring the music of W.A. Mozart

The Homeless Stand-down at the Convention Center today will involve many Disciples members, including Pastor Kris, Pastor Tim, and a number of our youth. Our Elders will be leading worship at Disciples.

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WORSHIP – *March 3rd – 7:00 p.m.*

THIRD SUNDAY – *March 7th - Self-Awareness – 10:00 a.m.*

Luke 13:1-9 (A fig tree that does not bear fruit)

Featuring our Chancel Choir singing music of Copland

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WORSHIP – *March 10th – 7:00 p.m.*

FOURTH SUNDAY – *March 14th – Reconciliation – 10:00 a.m.*

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (Story of the Prodigal Son)

Featuring our Chancel Choir singing music of Marcello

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WORSHIP – *March 17th – 7:00 p.m.*

FIFTH SUNDAY – *March 21st – Generosity – 10:00 a.m.*

John 12:1-8 (Mary Magdalene pours oil on Jesus' feet)

Featuring our Chancel Choir singing music of Pasquet

FIFTH SUNDAY: CONNECTIONS WORSHIP – *11:30 a.m. - Casual and Contemporary*

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK WORSHIP – *March 24th – 7:00 p.m.*

PALM SUNDAY – *March 28th – 10:00 a.m. – Contradictions*

Luke 19:28-40 (Jesus triumphant/tragic march into Jerusalem)

Palm Procession and Pastor's Class baptisms

MAUNDY THURSDAY – *April 1st – Love – 10:00 a.m.*

John 13:1-17, 31-35

(By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another)

GOOD FRIDAY – April 2nd – Noon until 3:00 p.m.

You are encouraged to attend all or any part of the Community Service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church: "Seven Last Words of Christ"

EASTER SUNDAY! – April 4th – 10:00 a.m.

STUDY

A PRAYER PRIMER - Led by Pastor Kris – Following each Wednesday Mid-week Worship
"What comes next?" Pastor Kris asked in a recent sermon. Her answer was *prayer*. That opened a floodgate of questions, including: *How do you know when to pray and for what? Am I supposed to pray every day? How do I begin? What words should I say? How am I supposed to respond when someone tells me they are praying for me? Does prayer work? Will I be any good at it? How do I learn?*

Lent is an excellent time to begin asking these questions, and the best way to learn about prayer is to experience it and to practice it. Pastor Kris will offer "A Prayer Primer" on Wednesday evenings following our mid-week worship (starting around 7:40 p.m.) beginning February 24th. Together, with her guidance, we will explore these questions and more, while learning to actively pray with and for each other and for the concerns of our community and our world.

Because we will be both learning about prayer *and* praying, this is an opportunity for all persons, those just starting out and those already practiced at it. We will learn from each other as we are guided by God's Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY MORNING DURING DISCIPLES' HOUR – 11:30 a.m.

February 7th and 14th:

In the Chapel: Amy Campbell and Toni Laurenson will facilitate an exploration of Spiritual Gifts

In Pastor Kris' Office: A Small Group study led by Kim Ehrlich and Mark Ritchey based on materials by Rob Bell

February 21st: Connections Worship

February 28th: Janice Ziegler will lead a Lenten Study in the Chapel

MEMBERSHIP OR ADULT BAPTISM OPPORTUNITIES: If you have not been baptized, Pastor Kris will arrange for a time to meet with you to discuss preparation for a profession of faith and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) beliefs about baptism. If you have already been baptized and are considering membership in this congregation, Pastor Kris is available to meet with you to answer your questions about our church and our denomination. For either opportunity, contact Pastor Kris at the church or pastorkris@discipleschristian.org.

PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP: Beginning Sunday, February 21st, the Elders of our church will be praying for you immediately following 10:00 worship. Two elders will meet each week in Pastor Kris' study. There will be "prayer cards" available each Sunday for you to request prayer for yourself, someone you care about, our church, or our world. The elders will pray for these petitions as well as the concerns we have lifted in worship. You are invited to join them in the study if you would like them to pray with you in a more personal setting, or if you would like to be an active participant praying for the needs of our people.

A PRAYER PRIMER - *Led by Pastor Kris – Following each Wednesday Mid-week Worship*
(Please see the "Study" section on the previous page for more information)

PASTOR KRIS' LENTEN PRAYER DISCIPLINE: If you were participating in the life of Disciples Christian Church this time last year, you may remember that, as part of Pastor Kris' spiritual discipline during Lent, she prays for every person in the congregation. If you are new to us, Pastor Kris considers this practice a wonderful way to be intentional about her relationship with us as pastor and congregation. She prays for each of us as individuals. She has developed a form that we can complete to help guide her prayers the day she prays for us. No one else sees it; whatever is shared is kept with strict pastoral confidentiality. If you do not receive one of these letters, please go to our website to get a form! You may download and complete it and mail it to Pastor Kris or you may email it to her, pastorkris@discipleschristian.org.

DISCIPLES' PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Since its inception in 1998, The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to grow, extending its message of hope around the world. Countless volunteer knitters and crocheters now take part in this exciting tradition of faith. It is their work that sustains a tidal wave of caring as they turn yarn into wraps that are interwoven with prayers. Those who receive these handmade expressions of love are buoyed by the spiritual comfort they experience while wearing their prayer shawls. Perhaps you would rather make a baby blanket or a lap robe. That would be fine. As we work, we will think about and pray for the person who will receive the finished piece. We will pray happy memories into our knitting along with thoughts of strength, peace and healing. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd at 1:00 p.m. in The Chapel. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, please come anyway. We have several members who can teach these skills. We are hoping that this new ministry will help us discover all the ways that our creativity can bring healing, joy, and comfort to others.

TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN: This ongoing ministry offers an opportunity to enlist others to pray for people and situations that can use the prayer support of many. Prayer requests can be made by calling Donna Beckner at 216 382-0527.

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN: This new ministry will allow those with email access an opportunity to both request prayer (by sending an email to the Prayer Chain Group) and to

offer prayer (based on the email prayer requests they receive). If you wish to be a part of this new ministry, send an email to Amy Campbell, amy@discipleschristian.org, requesting that you be added to the chain.

CHILDREN/YOUTH/FAMILIES

PASTOR’S CLASS AND BAPTISMS: Pastor Kris will offer “Pastor’s Class” for students who are in at least the fifth grade on Sunday mornings at 11:30 in the 5th grade classroom in Oak Ridge beginning the week of February 28th. This class is preparation for a profession of faith and baptism. Baptisms will be on Palm Sunday, March 28th. If you are interested in enrolling your child, contact Pastor Kris at the church or via pastorkris@discipleschristian.org.

PEACEJAM: CYF Youth are invited to become a part of the PeaceJam club that will meet on the fourth Sunday of every month beginning January 31st. Pastor Tim has completed his training and now it is time for “Peace Jammers” to prepare for the trip to PeaceJam April 16th through 18th.

ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOMELESS STAND

DOWN: *Sunday, February 28th* - While many adults from Disciples will also be a part of the Stand Down, Youth will be doing a special service project there. A “wind down” activity will follow for Youth.

YOUTH LOCK-IN: *Friday night, March 19th until Saturday morning, March 20th* – All Youth in sixth through twelfth grade are invited – more details soon available.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH AND EGG HUNT: *Sunday, March 28th* – Everyone is invited to the Palm Sunday Brunch in our Fellowship Hall immediately following worship to celebrate the baptisms and our newest members. Following the brunch, our children in nursery through fifth grade will be treated to our annual Egg Hunt. It will be a fun filled event and we hope you will plan to be there. Mark the date on your calendar now and look for sign up sheets soon.

OUR CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE – YOUTH AND ADULTS: rehearses every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Bill or Susan Schoeffler.

OUTREACH

WEEK OF COMPASSION: So much suffering in so many places! Right now the needs of the people of Haiti occupy the headlines and overwhelm us in scope - but we live in a world filled with people who need our support! Several articles later in this newsletter offer many

ways – through Week of Compassion and other organizations - to be Christ's hands and feet in a world that needs to feel his touch through us.

MEET THE NEIGHBORS – OUR FREE COMMUNITY MEAL: *Thursdays February*

25th and March 25th – Our outreach to those who are in need of a meal and/or companionship occurs twice during Lent. As always, those who will provide food or assistance with set-up, serving, and cleanup are necessary to the success of this ongoing ministry. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board immediately inside our kitchen – take a look and see what is needed for these upcoming meals! And cash donations to support purchased items are always needed!

HOMELESS STAND DOWN SPONSORED BY INTERACT CLEVELAND: *Sunday*

February 28th - Disciples Christian Church will serve the Mid-Day Meal to 700 people from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Convention Center, 500 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland. How can you be a part of this ministry? We need 35 people to each donate enough homemade meatloaf to serve 20 people. We need 150 dozen cookies and brownies. And we need many volunteers to put on a RED shirt and Volunteer to: warm food in Kitchen; serve food; serve beverages; help guests to seats; clear tables and to clean up. For more information about the event go to www.interactcleveland.org.

HEIGHTS EMERGENCY FOOD CENTER: The need keeps increasing – more families are coming every month. Whether you have time to donate to help with the operation of the Center, located within our building, or are able to donate food or financial support, you will help to sustain the hungry in our community. **THE CLEVELAND FOOD BANK**, with which HEFC is affiliated, can also use your time and your support. Call them for more information.

A GARDEN OF BLESSINGS: Disciples has always supported the Heights Emergency Food Center with donations of food, time and money. But, we can always do more. We currently have an unutilized space outside of our kitchen (that once housed our playground). The ultimate plan is to use this space as a vegetable garden. The produce would go to the Hunger Center for their clients so that they can enjoy fresh vegetables. Planting can't begin until further into the spring, but we can start planning and building now. If you are interested in the new Disciples Vegetable Garden, please let Amy Campbell know. This is a project that will get underway during this Lenten Season and will need many hands to get up and running.

POWER IN THE BLOOD: *Maundy Thursday, April 1st* - Disciples Christian Church is once again participating in the Red Cross Program called "Power in the Blood". On Maundy Thursday, 3:00 - 7:00pm, we will be doing our part in a partnership with approximately 300 churches in Northern Ohio to host a blood drive and encourage our congregation to join in the life-saving mission. Please mark your calendar and tell your friends so that we will be successful in this mission. The power of Jesus' blood washed our sins away - the power of one pint of your blood can help save the lives of up to three people.

CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME WALK AND RUN FOR THE KIDS: *Saturday,*

March 3rd – Participate in the annual 5K Walk & Run for the Kids at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo! This event will include a timed 5K course that winds through the Zoo grounds. Come run, walk, roll or stroll to benefit the programs of Cleveland Christian Home. Details at <http://cchome.org/>

AND, NOW THE LENTEN CHALLENGE 2010

IT IS THREE-FOLD:

Will you give something up for Lent? Daily trips to the coffee shop? Alcohol? Cans of pop? Candy? Movies? New clothes? Will you give that money away? To the Haitian relief effort by Week of Compassion? To support the monthly Meet the Neighbors meal? To the Heights Emergency Food Center? To the new Garden of Blessings here? To help support our ministry at the Homeless Stand Down? Choose at least one.

Will you take something on? Will you recycle your time by cutting back on your television watching, Internet surfing, Facebook time, and countless other things and use that time instead to serve others or to work at growing in your discipleship? Will you commit to perfect attendance in worship? Add a mid-week service? Come to a class? Wash dishes at Meet the Neighbors? Walk or run for the Cleveland Christian Home? Plant seedlings for the garden? Church Life is full of opportunities for you to get started.

Will you be intentional in this effort and record your “recycled” time – and/or – pledge money in sponsorship of those who make a special commitment of their time? In Fellowship Hall throughout Lent, there will be a calendar where we urge you to record your hours of service – here at Disciples and in other places. Next to the calendar, will be a place to note a monetary pledge for the number of hours other Disciples give in service. You might pledge an amount for each hour that is served – or a dollar amount for every 10 or 20 or 50 hours served. And you can designate where your contribution is to go – perhaps to our Meet the Neighbors meals; or to our planned Blessing Garden; or to the Heights Food Center; or to Week of Compassion; or to a scholarship fund for our Youth to attend PeaceJam. The possibilities are endless and the choice is yours.

This Lenten Challenge is for all ages from 3 to 93!

Join us. Get involved. Grow, and help others do the same.