

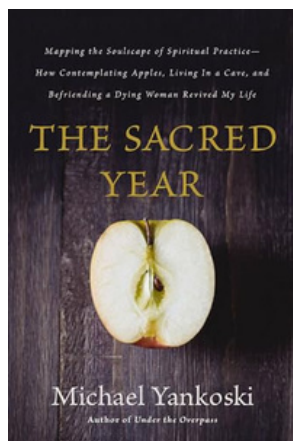
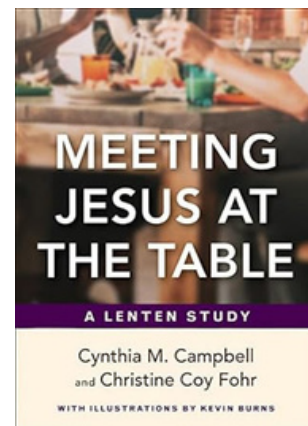
MARCH 2024

HOLT UMC

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Lent Study:

Each week through Lent we are meeting Jesus at the table. We read in the gospel stories of stories where others ate with Jesus. These stories are powerful. We see Jesus multiplying food. We see him eating with tax collectors and singers. We see meals getting interrupted. Jesus transformed some common customs of his day. Lent leads into Holy week in which Jesus had a last meal with his closest friends. We call this the last supper. As obedient Jews they called it passover. Even this sacred meal that had been practiced with intentional ritual, Jesus transforms to what we now remember and practice as communion. It is this meal that continues to transform us. So as we meet around the table, how will we encounter Jesus anew? How will we be transformed?



## Retreats: Mar 22 9am-3pm

Our church will host a spiritual retreat led by Sue Knechtges and David LaLone. This is a part of a monthly retreat series that is using the book Sacred Year by Michael Yankoski as a guide. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a needed retreat.

## NEXT STEPS

- join a small group
- read "Meeting Jesus at the Table"
- Come to the next retreat
- Join Prayer group
- Come to one of our Lent dinners

## LOOK OUT

|                             |        |            |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------|
| <b>Potluck</b>              | Mar 3  | 5-6pm      |
| <b>Winter Jam</b>           | Mar 10 | 1pm-10pm   |
| <b>St. Patty's Dinner</b>   | Mar 17 | 5-6pm      |
| <b>Palm Sunday</b>          | Mar 24 | 9:30+ 11am |
| <b>Seder Feast</b>          | Mar 28 | 5-6pm      |
| <b>Good Friday Tenebrae</b> | Mar 29 | 7pm        |
| <b>Easter</b>               | Mar 31 | 9:30 +11am |

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## **Youth Group:**

**Winter Jam** is an annual Christian concert tour with a diverse selection of artists. The youth will travel to Grand Rapids and enjoy a day of music. They will also hear the gospel and testimonies from various artists. Pray for everyone that goes to have a transformational experience.

## **Confirmation Retreat April 26-28**

Do you remember going through confirmation? I hope it was transformational. That is our hope for youth today as well. Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater, Michigan has designed a retreat model for confirmation. I anticipate this to be an intense weekend experience.

## **Kingdom Kids:**

The calendar says March and yet the liturgical church calendar says Lent. It is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for Easter. How can our Kingdom Kids practice repentance? What does Lent look like for them? How can we prepare them for the joy of Easter? I think it starts with prayer. Which is something we start with each Sunday in our lessons. We don't often expect our children to fast but they are very well capable of giving up a favorite toy or treat. The key to repentance is being self-aware of our own sin. Lent is a time of reflection. We may be surprised by children's ability to reflect.

## **Nursery:**

I have spent some more time in the nursery lately. I have to admit that it is not the age group that I feel best suited for but, I am in awe of the mind of children. My wife works with little every day. She has a passion for infants and toddlers. She reminds me of all the rapid development that happens in those first few years of life. Their brains are sponges. This reminds me of the critical ministry that happens in our nursery each week. Our nursery staff invest so much into our toddlers. The importance of play is on full display.

**Prayer group:** We changed the time to 1pm with the hope that it will be a better time for folks. We invite you to a simple time of lifting others up in prayer. Everyone is invited. There is not pressure to pray out loud. Come and enjoy the peace that comes in praying with others.

## **VERSE OF THE MONTH**

""The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;[a] repent, and believe in the good news." - Mark 1:15