

## LENTEN CALENDAR FOR CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

*A guide for reflection, action, and prayer*

LENT comes from the Latin word, "*Lencten*," meaning "spring." In the early days of Christianity, it was a time of preparation for new converts - a period of repentance, fasting, spiritual cleansing and prayer before their baptism at Easter. Many traditions have grown up around Lent since that time, and different churches observe it in different ways - and some not at all.

At the least, I think this season calls for us to be extra kind, extra attentive to our neighbor, and extra diligent in our own spiritual growth. This calendar contains a variety of celebrations, tidbits of information, and suggestions for Lenten activities, prayers, giving, and service. It is offered as a supplement to your own devotional life, as I know some of you may follow your own Lenten calendars.

You may follow them day-by-day or select those that have special meaning to you. Allow yourself to be challenged to do something outside your usual routine. Add your own disciplines. Let God guide you as you prepare your hearts to receive the wondrous, miraculous, life-changing event - the resurrection of Christ.

May you walk close to the Spirit during these very special days!

\*\*\*\*\*

March 6 - ASH WEDNESDAY - select a book of the Bible or an inspiring book to read during this season.

March 7 - March is "Music in our Schools" month. Thank God for the gift of music, and those who teach it.

March 8 - Focus today on dropping a bad habit, or picking up a good one. Ask God for guidance.

March 9 - Set your clocks ahead one hour tonight - ask God to help you use time wisely during these days.

March 10 - Come to worship with your church family and sing your favorite hymns! Invite a friend to this special service..

March 11 - March is also "Women's Health Month." Thank God for the special women in your life.

March 12 - Birthday of the Girl Scouts. Do something special for a favorite girl/woman.

March 13 - Earmuffs were invented 142 years ago today. Pray for those who are in need of warm clothing - go thru your closet and give some clothes away.

March 14 - Birthday of Albert Einstein. Thank God for scientists who keep searching for answers.

March 15 - "Incredible Kid Day" - thank God for our incredible kids! Pray for their growth in Christ - be a guide and encourager.

March 16 - Come to the Community Pancake Breakfast at church tomorrow. Yummy pancakes starting at 9:00!

March 17 - Wear green, even if you're not Irish - and find more ways to be "green" (environmentally) this year.

March 18 - Make plans to visit a sick or homebound friend this week - then do it.

March 19 - Spend an extra 15 minutes with God today.

March 20 - Today is the first day of Spring! Take a walk and look for signs. Thank God for the beauty of creation and the change of seasons.

March 21 - J.S. Bach was born 334 years ago today. Thank God for those who bless your life with music - start with Jeanne, Merian and the choir!

March 22 - Birthday of famous mime Marcel Marceau. Give thanks for those who show us how to celebrate without words.

March 23 - "Give me liberty or give me death" was pronounced by Patrick Henry 244 years ago. Pray for those who do not yet live in freedom.

March 24 - Put an extra \$1.00 in the offering plate today. You won't miss it.

March 25 - Re-read a favorite Bible story or chapter this week.

March 26 - Call a faraway parent/child/friend - just to say hello.

March 27 - Spend some time sitting in silence before God. Ask God to speak to your heart. Listen. Don't talk back.

March 28 - Make plans with someone to go out for a meal and talk - even if it's your spouse.

March 29 - The last U.S. troops left Viet Nam 46 years ago. Pray for peace!

March 30 - Do something nice for someone - anonymously.

March 31 - Come to table worship today and join in a mini Bible study with your church family. (There will be coffee!)

April 1 - Plan a nice April Fool's surprise for someone.

April 2 - "International Children's Book Day." Find a child (or grown up) to read to, and thank God for the gift of reading.

April 3 - April is "Alcohol Awareness" month. Say a prayer for someone who needs to be free from alcohol or drug addiction.

April 4 - Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed 51 years ago. Pray for the end of violence in our country.

April 5 - Invite someone to come to worship with you this Sunday. Offer to pick them up.

April 6 - Put a few food items (or a bagful) aside for the food cupboard tomorrow - pray for those who are homeless and hungry.

April 7 - World Health Day. Do something extra to promote your good health.

April 8 - Take a friend shopping, or visit someone who is lonely this week.

April 9 - Birthday of W.C. Fields. Celebrate the gift of laughter.

April 10 - "National Siblings Day" - do something special for someone in your family.

April 11 - Jackie Robinson became the first black player in major league baseball. Pray for an end to racism.

April 12 - Send a note to someone who blesses your life. Tell them so.

April 13 - Come to the spaghetti supper fund raiser for Cystic Fibrosis at the church. Prayer for a cure.

April 14 - Join the Palm Sunday procession - Holy Week begins!

April 15 - Read the passion story from one of the Gospels this week. Take some time to reflect on its meaning.

April 16 - Send a special Easter gift to your favorite charity - or your church!

April 17 - Say a prayer for our missionaries and military who will be celebrating Easter far from home.

April 18 - Celebrate Maundy Thursday communion - invite a friend to come with you.

April 19 - Find a meaningful way to observe Good Friday. The path to Easter goes right through it. No short cuts.

April 20 - Pancakes again! Bring someone to enjoy breakfast with you. Give thanks for those who are there every month cooking for you!

April 21 - A BLESSED RESURRECTION DAY! (It begins at sunrise!)  
Celebrate Easter with your church family!

\*\*\*\*\*



### PUT AWAY THE TINSEL

When Lent comes,  
you have to put away the tinsel;  
You have to take down your Christmas tree,  
and stand out in the open.....vulnerable.

You either are or you aren't.  
You either believe or you don't.  
You either will or you won't.  
And, O Lord, how we love the stable and the star!

When Lent comes the angels' voices  
begin their lamenting,  
And we find ourselves in a courtyard  
where we must answer  
whether we know him or not.

Ann Weems, Kneeling in Jerusalem