

Welcome to Lent! This season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter is a solemn observance which lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays. The altar paraments change to purple, a sign of royalty and penitence. During Lent, we recall the sacrifice that the Christ made on our behalf. We take extra time to discover new ways to “Commit the rest of our lives to following the example of Jesus by serving others.” Some people give up doing things for Lent so that they can spend additional time with God. Some change their spending habits in order to give more to a mission. Some will add a new habit of devotions, Bible reading, or volunteering.

Our life’s mission is always to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to refocus our efforts and discern where God is leading us. God is probably not asking you to be a missionary to Africa or to move to the inner city in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Jesus DOES ask each of us to share the Good News where we are. Can we minister to the waitstaff at lunch today? Can we dust off our Bible and spend a few minutes alone with God? Can we remind the crying person that God loves them and we’re here for them?

“When did we see you hungry, thirsty, alone, imprisoned, sick, or naked?” the crowd asked Jesus. “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 24) Have you met *anyone* today? Have you talked to them on the phone or through the computer? If so, you have been given an opportunity to share your faith and God’s promise of eternal life. Did you take advantage of the opportunity God gave you, or was your agenda more important than God’s? Were you willing to set aside your plans in order to do what God commanded?

Sharing the Good News is more than an obligation; it is a joyful gift for us to pass on. “We love because God first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) We all need to feel loved. We often need to be reminded that God loves us—no matter what we do or what this sinful, fallen world throws at us!

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” - Amy Carmichael

John 13:34-35 - “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (NIV)

I pray that you will use this Lenten season to deepen your relationship with God and then live out your faith by serving others. “The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.” And so do we!

Live your faith, and don’t forget to **Bee A Disciple!**

Pastor Barre 