

Dear Siblings in Christ -

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, and last for forty days. It is a season to reflect on the cross and Christ's suffering, but it is also a time of preparation and anticipation—the cross is not the end of the story. Easter Sunday is coming!

During Lent, you are invited to pause, reflect, and be intentional about spiritual practices. Below are some of the things happening in our Community during this special time:

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Lake Merritt UMC will be observing the first day of the Lenten season by hosting a self guided prayer walk for our community and Methodist circuit churches. Our Sanctuary will be open from 12:00 to 1:30 and from 5:00 to 7:00. Through a series of prayer stations, you are invited to slow down, remember our shared humanity, name what is broken, and open yourself to God's grace and renewal. The prayer walk typically takes about 30 minutes, though you are welcome to move at your own pace and linger as needed. *Greeters are needed for both time frames, please contact Laurel Williams if you can assist.*

Wednesday, February 25th

Lake Merritt UMC is hosting a Centering Prayer service at 7:00 pm for the Oakland Churches Together (OCT) community, which Lake Merritt UMC is a part of. Doors will close at 7:15 pm.

Wednesday, March 4th

St. Paul Lutheran Church (1658 Excelsior Ave.) is hosting a Holden Village Evening Prayer service at 7:00 pm for the OCT community.

Wednesday, March 11th

Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church (4101 Park Blvd) is hosting a Quaker Friendship Circle service at 7:00 pm for the OCT community.

Wednesday, March 18th

Corpus Christi Catholic Church (322 St. James Drive, Piedmont) is hosting a Prayer service at 7:00 pm for the OCT community.

Wednesday, March 25th

St. John Episcopal Church (1707 Gouldin Rd) is hosting an Immigration Court Liturgy at 7:00 pm for the OCT community.

Good Friday, April 3rd

An evening service will be held at New Bridges UMC in Alameda at 6:00 pm, for our Methodist circuit churches, hosted by Chinese Community UMC. Fellowship will be offered at 5:30 pm.

Easter, April 5th

Join us at Lake Merritt UMC at 10:15 am for an uplifting Easter Service. Please bring fresh cut flowers from your yard for the children to use to decorate the cross. Our Easter offering will go towards the Operations Manager position supporting the mission and all the ministries of our church.

Let us prepare our hearts for the risen Christ!

Rev. Sunae Cho, Lead Pastor
Laurel Williams, Worship Team