



## FAIRHOPE UMC ~ LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

We would like to hear from YOU this year!!

The season of Lent will soon be upon us! During Lent this year, we have a goal of sending daily devotionals out to our congregation written by YOU, the good folks who are part of our church family.

Proverbs 27:17 says: *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

Let's claim these words from scripture during our days of preparation leading up to Easter!

Some of you may not be familiar with the custom of recognizing Lent as part of your spiritual practice. This description from the UMC website may be helpful:

*Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.*

**If you feel God calling you to share in this way, please follow the link and sign up for one of the 40 available slots on Sign-up Genius.**

Here are the guidelines:

1. All devotionals are due in our office by **Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**.
2. Please submit your devotional as a Word document.
3. The suggested length is between 200 and 700 words, as the Spirit leads.
4. The content may be varied! You may describe what the season of Lent means to you, you may offer encouragement to others in their walk with Christ, or generally share anything you believe may be helpful as our readers seek a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.
5. We suggest you include a key scripture verse and end with a brief prayer (a couple of sentences.)

6. You may include a photograph that relates to your devotional if you have one that is suitable. Photos should be submitted as a jpeg. (Please note, we are not asking you for a photo of yourself. If you are writing a devotional where the subject is a tree, feel free to send a photo of a tree!)
7. Email your submissions to [laura.parker@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:laura.parker@fairhopeumc.org) by February 25<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me if you have any questions!!
8. We may do minor formatting on your submission to provide uniformity in the way our devotionals are presented to the congregation. We may do minor edits of spelling or grammar if necessary. If we have any questions that impact content or understanding of your submission, we will contact you prior to publishing.