LENT & EASTER 2025 DEVOTIONAL CARDS

Lent Begins: MARCH 5, 2025

This Lenten season, what are your intentions? Do you have any hopes for these six weeks?
PRAYER

God of all beginnings, as I enter into this new season, give me the wisdom and the courage to begin again. If there are things you need me to learn in these next six weeks, make them clear. If there are things you need me to do in these next six weeks, give me the courage. If there is truth I need to uncover, show me how. Let your intentions guide my actions. ~ Amen.



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Week of Ash Wednesday: March 6, 2025 What keeps you from taking action? PRAYER

Holy God, you are a God who acts. You create. You see.
You listen. You heal. You move. You meet us where we are. I want to do the same. I do not want to sit on the sidelines of my life. I do not want to wait when there is good work to do. Please give me some of your courage. Clear my mind. Show me the next right step. ~ Amen.



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Week of Ash Wednesday, March 7, 2025

Create a mantra for yourself this Lenten season. Between now and Easter, what words would you like to repeat?

Prayer

God be with me here. God be with me there. Show me love along the way. ~ Amen.



Week of Ash Wednesday, March 8, 2025

Who in your life lives with intention? How does it impact their days? What do you admire about them?

Prayer

Teaching God, you have surrounded me with wise, compassionate, intentional people. Help me learn from them. I know that being a Christian cannot happen in a vacuum. We need each other. So do not let me miss the teachers in my midst. ~ Amen.



GOOD SHEPHERD

MARCH 9, 2025

Who are your neighbors? Do you know their names?

Prayer

Creating God, you know every hair on my head and every word on my tongue, so surely you know all my neighbors' names. Surely you know their fears and their dreams, their prayers and their hopes. In a lonely, fastpaced world, help me see the people around me. Help me to learn about and love them as you do. ~ Amen.



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 10, 2025

How do you feel when a stranger approaches you? How might you learn from and transform those feelings?

Prayer

Gracious God, we have been trained to make quick assumptions, to reach for fear in the face of the unknown, to assume that minimal conversation is best when talking to strangers. Was it meant to be that way, or did you have another plan in mind? Remind us that every stranger to us is loved by you. ~ Amen.



March 11, 2025 What are the attributes of a good neighbor? Are you a good neighbor?

Prayer

With-Us-God, I long to be a good neighbor—hospitable, compassionate, and free of assumptions. However, I know that my own humanity gets in the way. Forgive me for the moments when I miss an opportunity to be compassionate. Forgive me, and spark compassion deep in my bones. ~Amen.



March 12, 2025

Have you ever received profound hospitality? How did it impact you?

Prayer

Wildly loving God, every once in a while someone does something so kind, so unreasonably gracious, that it uncoils something in me. It unravels a bit of fear or grief, and leaves me with a glimmer of hope. Show me how to love like that. Show me how to cross the road, care for my neighbor, and love beyond dividing lines. Show me how to be unreasonably hospitable and wildly loving. ~ Amen.



MARCH 13, 2025 When you think of the word "compassion," what comes to mind? Prayer

Gentle God, I have known compassion. It has burned in my bones, walked beside me on long roads, and looked like my friends and family. It has felt like healing. It has surprised me at times, and taught me what love looks like. So when the world feels harsh and cruel, bring me back to that compassion. Bring me back to you. ~Amen.



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 14, 2025

Who do you find hardest to love? How might you compassionately hold space for them?

Prayer

Loving God, let me see people like you do. Let me see myself like you do. Give me a heart that swells with grace, eyes that see your image in each person, and arms that open wide. Let me love people like you do. Let me love myself like you do. ~Amen.



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD JNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 15, 2025

What barriers keep you from seeing all people as neighbors? What can bring those barriers down?

Prayer

Expansive God, the walls that separate me from my neighbors are so tall, so old, so strong. Help me find the cracks. Help me take these walls down, brick by brick, until I can see my neighbors for who they are—not who I've made them out to be. Give me a heart full of curiosity, hospitality, and compassion. I want to build bridges instead of walls. ~ Amen.

