

Special Youth Events during Lent

February 4-February 18 Youth-led canned good drive, Middle School

February 14: Youth are invited to attend the Ash Wed. service

March 3: Joint HS/MS Youth outing

March 24: Campfire and conversation for all youth (MS and HS)

Our **Church School children** will be exploring finger labyrinths, among other 'wilderness' adventures.

Holy Week: Walk the journey of Holy Week



Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday Dinner with Holy Communion, followed by the service of Tenebrae, a moving, dramatic, multisensory evening of worship. (please sign up to attend

the dinner, which is a simple but served meal.) Dinner at 6 PM (FS Room), Service at approximately 7:15 (Sanctuary)

Good Friday, March 29 – Service at noon (about 30 min). Sanctuary open for mediation until 1:30 pm, following the service.

Easter Sunday, March 31: Sunrise service at 6:45 am, courtyard

Easter Sunday, March 31: Traditional service at 10 am

LENT 2024 at UCC: *into the wilderness*



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Wednesday, February 14 – Saturday March 30, 2024



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An Open & Affirming, Creation Justice Church

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Wilderness: a place of beauty, risk, solitude, wonder and transformation. A place where Jesus confronted his temptations and grew in confidence in God. This Lent, we invite you into 'the wilderness' as opportunity to both explore your inner wilderness, alone and/or with others, deepen your relationship with the Holy, and consider how wilderness calls us into self-giving love and working for justice in our world. Please join in the many options listed within.

Ash Wednesday, February 14 Enjoy a shared dinner and conversation with our congregation and the students at Emmaus Campus Ministry, followed by worship. Dinner at 5:30 pm. Worship Service at 6:30 pm: With this service we begin the season of Lent. We come to this service naming our need to shed, to release, to let go of what is not of God in our souls, our lives, our community, and our world. Gather in the Fireside Room for dinner and the Sanctuary for worship.



Small Groups: February 19 – March 21 Join with an intentional small group, reading and practicing together with the resource *Walking in the Wilderness: Seeking God during Lent* by Beth Richardson. Groups meet weekly for five, hour to hour and a

half, sessions. This book offers daily scripture and reflections inviting you to pause and connect with God in the midst of life's challenges. It introduces spiritual practices to help us explore our inner 'wilderness'. The book is available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and <https://store.upperroom.org/>. Participants should plan to stay with one group throughout the season.

Mondays, 6:30 PM, online, Kirk Reid and Jean Woessner, leaders
Tuesdays, 6:30 PM online, Katrina Dalrymple and Kirk Reid, leaders
Wednesdays, 10:30 am, in person/zoom, Rabbi Mark Kula, leader
Sign up here: <https://uccmissoula.breezechms.com/form/767cae>
In person groups will meet in the church Bay Window Room.

Lenten Wednesdays: February 21, 28, March 6, March 13 Dinner (5:30 pm) Taizé Worship (6:15 pm). Come for a simple supper (Fireside Room) followed by a half-hour service of music, chant, silence, prayers of the community, and some readings, in the sanctuary.



After Sunday Service Explorations: Feb 18 – March 17 Five Gatherings on Wilderness, 11:30-1:00, Fireside Rm Feed your soul



with creativity, prayer, learning, and conversation with others during a variety of after church gatherings.

Feb 18-Wilderness Prayer Vases and Poetry, a hands-on project to use during Lent, **for all ages**;

Vases led by Jean Woessner and Poetry by Peggy Meinholtz. Participants are asked to please bring 3 or 4 bare tree twigs, about 12-24 in long and a clear wide mouth jar or vase, if possible.

Feb 25-Spiritual Practices for exploring and embracing our inner wilderness (contemplative prayer and spiritual collage) led by Jennifer Hudson, Kathy Flynn and Jean Woessner.

March 3-How is wilderness helping us shape core values?, Part 1 led by Pastor John Lund and Rabbi Mark Kula

March 10- How is wilderness helping us shape core values?, Part 2, led by Rabbi Mark Kula.

March 17-Day of Advocacy and Action, details forthcoming.

Artistic Engagement: throughout the Lenten Season



You are invited to engage in the wilderness theme by submitting photos, art pieces, or writing. What does 'into the wilderness' bring to mind? We'd love to see or read your journey, or choose one of the prompts below:

- a time when you've felt "in the wilderness " and what you learned or gained from that time of hardship or solitude
- a time when you've felt a longing for wilderness as an antidote to all the "too much" around you
- what does your inner wilderness look like? What does it say? Or does it whisper, sing, or dance? Photos should be sized at 1920x1080 pixels and may be sent to Jean (jwoessner@bigsky.net) with the subject Lent Photo. Writing (poetry, prose) should be sent to Katrina (katrina.dalry@gmail.com), with the subject Wilderness Blog. Bring art pieces with an artist's statement to church to display on one of the narthex tables. Photos may be used in the worship slide show, or website and writing may be displayed in church or on the website blog. We will need permission to use any work; please sign a release form here:

https://uccmissoula.breezechms.com/form/copyright_release.