



“Where God’s Love Transforms Lives”

Worship at CITD

Covid-19 Update: Our on-campus worship services and activities are temporarily suspended. While we are unable to worship together in person, we continue to worship online each week. Please join us. Worship services are available each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. [Click here](#) to view the current worship service. Together, WE ARE THE CHURCH!

This Sunday, February 21, Rev. Galene Boyett will give the sermon which is entitled, **Seasons of Sin, Seasons of Love**. The scriptures are **Psalm 25:1-10 and Mark 1:9-15**.

Zoom Meetings This Week

February 21 - Fellowship Time, 11:00 a.m. ([click to join](#))
February 21 - Sunday School Class, "The Psalms: An Expression of Life", 2:00 p.m., ([click to join](#))
February 22 - Men's Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
February 23 - Tuesday Women's Bible Study, 11:00 a.m., ([click to join](#))
February 23 - Prayer Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., ([click to join](#))
February 23 - Church Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., ([click to join](#))
February 24 - Lenten Meditation - "Lenten symbol - stones", 7:00 p.m.
February 25 - Worship Recording, 7:00 p.m., ([click to join](#))

LENT

Lent began February 17th. Lent is when most of our churches closed down due to COVID-19. What will Lent bring this year? How will we celebrate and remember the message of repentance and new life?

The season starts with ashes—ashes and dirt. Sin is hard to see. Ashes and dirt are not. So we begin with ashes and dirt, a sign of our mistakes, our sorrows and grief, our human frailty. But ashes and dirt wash off. In fact, that is part of the point. Once we realize our weaknesses

and faults, we can change. Or, at least we can allow God to change us. And so we are called to keep a holy Lent, and to turn towards God for healing.

But what are the other symbols of Lent? What are the stories we need to know, maybe long to hear? What will touch our hearts after this year of struggle and death and birth, for, yes, babies were still born? How do we reconcile the two extremes.

Look for devotions every Wednesday during Lent, starting with ashes and Ash Wednesday, and another story and symbol of Lent and Holy Week. Let us reconcile this past year with the future God has planned – a future defined by a cross and an empty tomb.

Lenten Meditations: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Facebook or on our Website

February 24, 2021: Lenten symbol – stones

March 3, 2021: Lenten symbol – expensive perfume

March 10, 2021: Lenten symbol – cash box

March 17, 2021: Lenten symbol – prayer symbols (twisted pretzels or praying hands)

March 24, 2021: Lenten symbol – basin and towel

March 31, 2021: Holy Week – no Wednesday meditation

WATCH YOUR MAIL

Cross in the Desert UMC is getting ready for a limited reopening. Before members and friends can return, they need to sign a covenant promising that they will care for each other by obeying all the CDC COVID-19 precautions, like wearing masks over their nose and mouth and maintaining physical distance. You should have received, or be receiving, via the United States Postal Service, a letter and attachments, including the covenant you will need to sign and return to the church office, or sign and bring with you the next time you come to the campus. We will announce the limited reopening date as soon as it is official. Allowing small groups on campus for limited periods of time will allow us to prepare to return, probably to worship outdoors. If you do not get a letter in the next week, please contact the church office. We will also be making the covenant and other information available online.

Helping Others: Love Fund and Gift Cards

These are trying times for many people, and some of our members find themselves with needs they can't meet. We can help them out through our "Love Fund". To give to this fund, just designate your special contribution by check or cash to the "Love Fund". You can also give online to Designated Funds – Special and then contact Alice Easter in the finance office to tell her it is for the Love Fund. And don't forget, if you personally know someone who needs some help, gift cards for groceries and other sundries are extremely helpful and available through Missions.

The Psalms: An Expression of Life

CITD's Sunday afternoon Zoom Bible Study is a study of Psalms. Pastor Galene will lead this study and supply notes to participants.

The Psalms are considered a reflection of our lives: our joys and sorrows, our doubts, fear, complaints and celebrations. They are needful expressions of our community's faith, as well as speaking to individuals.

Bring your Bible, start a notebook of your own reflections on the Psalms, and join us on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. If you want to receive study notes, contact the church office with an email address where the notes can be sent. Also, please state if you need a PDF, or if Word format will work.

Fellowship Time Zoom Meeting - 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

The Fellowship Time Zoom Meeting is now at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Join us after worship and visit with your church friends.

Volunteers to make Phone Calls to follow up on Membership Information Forms

We need volunteers to help make phone calls to members who have not returned their Membership Information form that was mailed in September. Please call the church office (602-992 -1960) if you would like to volunteer to make phone calls or give us any missing or incorrect information for your Membership Form.

If your small group is meeting via Zoom. please let Linda in the Church Office, 602-992-1960, know so that we can keep the church calendar up-to-date.



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