



# Welcome to Cedar Ridge Community Church

Bi-Weekly Flyer: March 29, 2020

---

## Virtual Sundays at Cedar Ridge

Although in-person services are canceled until further notice, we continue to meet online on Sundays at 10 AM for a virtual service. Gather your housemates and food and drink for communion, and join us in the comfort of your own home to celebrate being the church together. The service includes prayers, scripture reading, songs, a message, opportunities to make a financial offering and to submit prayer requests, and a virtual service for elementary children: [www.crc.org/virtual-Sunday/](http://www.crc.org/virtual-Sunday/)

**Lenten Challenge Series - Inside Out and Upside Down: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount** Before Jesus ever chose a disciple or began to teach, he was baptized in the River Jordan. As he came up out of the water, a voice from heaven declared, "This is my Son, whom I love." Immediately following this, Jesus went into the desert region alone and stayed there for 40 days. Freed from the noise of society, the demands of other people, and the distractions of food and drink, work and entertainment, Jesus reflected on his identity, his relationship with God, and the life he would lead and call others to. Following this time alone, Jesus began to teach—and this teaching is summarized in Matthew 5-7, which we now call the "Sermon on the Mount."

Each year, we commemorate and seek to follow Jesus' example of self-reflection for the 40-day period of Lent. In a culture addicted to noise and action, stillness can seem unnecessary and even uncomfortable. But we know that it is in quiet and rest that we hear the "still, small voice" of God in our inner selves. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus urges the stillness of complete trust, saying, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." By laying aside our past regrets and future anxieties, and living in the present moment, we become more aware of our connection to the source of all life. As our sense of connectedness grows, we understand that the Kingdom of Heaven is "at hand;" the "divine life" we might imagine only to exist in a place called heaven, is actually possible here and now in our everyday lives. Upcoming messages include:

- March 29: Don't Worry, Don't Judge - Ruth Campbell
- April 5: Palm Sunday - Matthew Dyer
- April 12: Wake Up to Easter - Various

## Prayer Focus

Lent is a time for self-reflection, a time when we come to God to find the motivation and strength to live more healthy, loving lives. In God's presence, we dare to be vulnerably honest about our brokenness and shortcomings, knowing that God is Love, and we are totally known and accepted just as we are. Let's pray that as a community we will seize this opportunity to explore our inner motivations, rather than just our outward behaviors. Let's set aside time to be still in God's loving presence and re-center our thinking, our feelings, and our priorities, our whole selves on Jesus.

*"Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to God."* (Lamentations 3:40)

## UPDATES & INFORMATION

### Easter and Holy Week Service Information

**Palm Sunday Service, April 5 at 10 AM:** We will gather online to hear the Palm Sunday story together, celebrate communion, and wave our palms to songs of "Hosanna." This will be followed by a message for adults and activities and prayers for children.

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 10, 7-8 PM:** "Tenebrae" is Latin for "shadows" and is an ancient form of service that uses the progressive extinguishing of candles to dramatize the sadness of Good Friday ahead of the celebration of resurrection at Easter. This solemn service will include readings, simple songs, video and prayer, and is suitable for older children and youth. Gather 9 candles and communion elements (cracker/bread and juice/wine) and join us online.

**Easter Sunday Service, April 12, 10-11 AM:** We will tell the Easter story through songs, readings and hands-on activities. Don't forget to send a brief Easter greeting video ("Christ is risen!" "Happy Easter!" or something similar) to sarahb@crcc.org by April 2, so we can see each other on Easter morning.

### Lenten Reflections Available Online

Listen or read the reflections meditatively, opening yourself to God's presence, and daring—if only for a moment—to dream of heaven on earth. Visit the current series page on the website to listen online or [download a copy to read](#).

### Changes to the Lenten Quiet Day - A Practice of Body, Mind, and Spirit

We have canceled this year's Lenten Quiet Day with Yoga, scheduled for March 28. Instead, check the Cedar Ridge Community Church, MD [Facebook group](#) during that week for posts on gentle, prayerful yoga practices. Scroll back over the past few weeks to find contemplative practices to help you connect with God in nature.

### CURRENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Week	Actual	Goal	% Goal
Mar. 1	\$16,637	\$18,962	88%
Mar. 8	\$11,633	\$10,166	114%
Mar. 15	\$10,715	\$13,708	78%
Mar. 22	\$10,179	\$10,078	101%
YTD	<b>\$428,414</b>	<b>\$434,335</b>	<b>99%</b>
*Our Fiscal Year is September 1 – August 31			

### Staff Contact Information

Visit our [staff page on the website](#) for contact information to reach one of the pastors or staff.

### Prayer Requests

Submit a prayer request [online](#). Your request is confidential and will be read by members of the Congregational Care Group.