



Faith United Methodist Church
6810 Montrose Rd. | Rockville, MD 20852 | (301) 881-1881
office@faithworkshere.com | www.faithworkshere.com

march

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1	2 Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm <i>Perfection is impossible, Transformation isn't.</i>	3	4	5
6 Lent 1 Luke 4:1-13 <i>Ordinary lives can be holy.</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Lent 2 Luke 13:31-35 <i>So much is out of our control.</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Lent 3 Luke 13:1-9 <i>Lots of things can be medicine.</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Lent 4 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 <i>We often believe we are the problem.</i>	28	29	30	31		

March 2: *Perfection is impossible, transformation isn't.* Jesus used the word "hypocrite" to describe those who put on airs in public to make people believe that they were holy, but their hearts were actually not in the practice. Sometimes it is life itself that robs us of the shiny, perfect life that we had planned for ourselves. A diagnosis. A broken heart. This Lent, rather than change for "the best," we'll seek to gain momentum one day at a time, "to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough" (Bowler/Richie).

March 6: *Ordinary lives can be holy.* We find ourselves hungry for many things that we believe will bring us satisfaction. The devil lays a bet that Jesus will jump at the chance for glory, fame, and the quick fix. Who wouldn't? What are the temptations that catch your ear, singing out promises that your life should be more special than it is? What if ordinary life is already holy—as is?

March 13: *So much is out of our control.* Even Jesus got frustrated when folks didn't behave as he would have liked. We probably aren't receiving death threats from Herod as Jesus was, but our wellbeing could be threatened by the idea that if we just try hard enough, are nice enough, say just the right thing, life will always go our way. What if we could let go of needing all things and all people to be "just so" and instead learn to dance with the unfolding of that which is not ours to control?

March 20: *Lots of things can be medicine.* Oh, the shame of the unproductive fig tree. Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! Who among us is living up to our fullest potential? The gardener offers an alternative medicine—nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and getting fertilized with laughter and tears at the crappy stuff of life can help heal what ails us and that is sometimes productive enough.

March 27: *We often believe we are the problem.* The Prodigal Son lives high on the hog and then famine strikes in the land. And so he heads home, tail between his legs, expecting that he has lost it all. To his surprise, his failure is met with love and grace. We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being seen as a failure can leave us wallowing. Our delusions of a perfectible life keep us disappointed in ourselves. Truth is, life is a risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only good enough, but worthy of love and grace.



GOOD

Enough



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						1	2 Family Easter Egg Hunt at 3pm Hosted by the Youth Ministry
3 Lent 5 John 12:1-8 <i>We are fragile.</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10 Palm Sunday Luke 19:28-40 <i>You are a group project.</i>	11	12	13	14 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30pm <i>We are blessed, regardless.</i>	15 Good Friday Service at 7:30pm <i>Even today, God is here & that is Good Enough.</i>	16	
17 Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am Service at 10am <i>A Good Enough faith.</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

April 3: *We are fragile.* Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. “Oh, don’t say that,” so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability?

April 10: *You are a group project.* Jesus orchestrated a low-budget parade into a city where he knew his days were numbered. “Get me a colt,” he said. Not a steed. Not a float. And folks gathered and his friends started some liturgical shouting that ticked off the local priests. Life is hard and we all need friends and sometimes big, loud, praying that will not be messed with. So all our hiding and pretending that we are “perfectly fine” all on our own just won’t work. Get on the donkey when you need to and let people lay down their cloaks for you and make some noise for you.

April 14: *We are blessed, regardless.* Surely Jesus, Son of God, had enough blessing capital to out-manuever this set of circumstances! In the midst of the pain of his moment, Jesus defines the real blessing pact—washing feet, breaking the bread, lifting the cup, sharing even with those who are about to betray him. Love that cannot be quantified reminds us that each and every person is blessed, always, regardless of who we are, how we’ve failed, or what we’ve accomplished.

April 15: *Even today, God is here and that is good enough.* Some days are just lousy and that doesn’t even begin to cover it. What if even our lousiest days could be experienced as a holy observance of the reality that this *is* life? Perhaps the “good news” in the midst of the devastation is that God is buried with us in our deepest pain, wrapping us, holding us until we can move through that birth canal once again into renewed life.

April 17: *A Good Enough faith.* Easter is tricky when it comes to faith. We come for the happy ending—the “and then they lived happily ever after.” The resurrection story proclaims hope over despair and life over death, yet we know that life continued, and continues for us. The nature of being created for love is that we will always hunger for more and endings are often too soon. But perhaps a good enough faith is one that assures us that this good enough life is worthy of our amazement.

