

Making Life Better

with **Jesus**, in **Community**, on **Purpose**

a weekly email from Pastor Lynn

Greetings –

Have you ever taken a pilgrimage? For instance, there is **El Camino de Santiago – The Way of St. James**. It is a 500 mile trek across northern Spain, from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port on the French side of the Pyrenees Mountains, all the way to Santiago de Compostela, where the remains of St. James are supposedly buried. It normally takes around 30 days. To do it requires one to “take a break” from their normal life routine. It is physical, relational and spiritual.

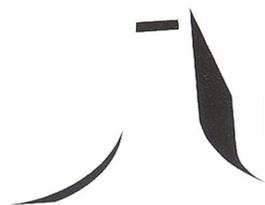
In just a few days you and I will have the opportunity to take a pilgrimage without leaving Weld County. It’s called **Lent**. **What’s It All About?**

The season of **Lent** is forty days. **Its design is to prepare us for our Resurrection (Easter) Celebration**. During this season we purposefully pay more attention to Jesus’ life and His mission to save us from the domination of sin. It is a time designed to stir our hunger for God and *lean in* to hear His voice more clearly.

The early church first used this time to examine and prepare candidates for their baptisms. Over time, while it continued as a practice to clarify the call to follow Christ as Lord, it morphed into a time of rededication for existing Christ followers. It is a fact that we’re all leaky buckets in need of spiritual renewal and refreshment.

In order to facilitate this experience, extra time for reflection was created in a person’s daily routine **by *fasting or taking away*** another routine. It wasn’t just a time to *take away*, but it also included the means to *add to*. Christ followers used the time to purposefully increase reading the scriptures, or memorizing verses, or just to spend more time in prayer for the ministries of the church. In this sense the question of Lent is not “*what are you giving up?*” but “***what do want to lay hold of?***”

Lent is a challenging pilgrimage. Our mental, emotional, spiritual landscape changes for a few weeks. Its focus is upon the Lord and our role as His followers. It begins with our **Ash Wednesday service, February 10, at 6:30 p.m.** Join us! ***Let’s do this together.***



FirstChristianChurch

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This Sunday's ***How Big Is Your God*** message focuses on a problem all of us wrestle with – **Temptation**. We will celebrate that God is completely and thoroughly **ABLE** to be **our Shield and Defender**. This one has the potential to influence your spiritual path in a dramatic way.

Special Small Group Focus meetings Tuesday, February 2, 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 p.m.; and Saturday, February 6, 2:00 p.m. See the list of homes hosting and sign up for a group this Sunday.

Until we gather Sunday,

Shalom – Pastor Lynn