



# March/April 2025

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Rev. Jung Eun Yum, pastor

## *Pastor's Message*

**“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will  
but to do the will of him who sent me.”**

**John 6:38 NIV**

Dear Carleton Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

After we contemplate the ways to experience Christ’s loving and transforming presence through the Methodist tradition of the means of grace, we will enter the new season of Lent this year.

Lent is a 40-day period of devotion, repentance, and preparation leading up to Easter. Technically, there are 46 days in the Lent season, but Sundays are not counted because they are considered feast days. This is why Lent is observed for 40 days before Easter. During Lent, we focus on repenting for our sins, reflecting on God’s forgiving grace, and practicing charity. It is a time to deepen our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors. The 40 days are also a significant reminder that Jesus spent time in the wilderness, where he was tempted, prayed, fasted, and meditated on the Scriptures before beginning his public ministry.

What are your plans to deepen your understanding of God and of the blessings you have received in Jesus Christ during this Lenten season?

One way to deepen our relationship with God is to take time to reflect on our transformed lives since we began our journey with Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul constantly reminded Christians of their former lives before encountering Jesus. He once said, “**We too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another**” (Titus 3:3). In his letters, he consistently emphasized the decadent states of his church family before they accepted Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17-19, Col. 1:21, 3:5-7, Rom. 6:20-21, 7:5, 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Let us open our hearts wide, anticipating God’s special blessings of new awareness, understanding, and renewal in our lives through Jesus Christ.

May we walk forward in faith and grace.

*Rev. Jung Eun Yum*