

Lent 2018: The Great I AM



February 14

Ash Wednesday (7pm)

Lenten Study to Begin



- Anyone can speak to God... available to all
- Would love to hear about people's times of dust and ashes and the conversations that happened at those times
- We are literally dust and ashes. Let's start with fundamentals.
- We are also the stuff of stars and the universe. How does that fit in?

February 18

1st Sunday in Lent

“I Am the Way, Truth and Life”

Mapping Faith

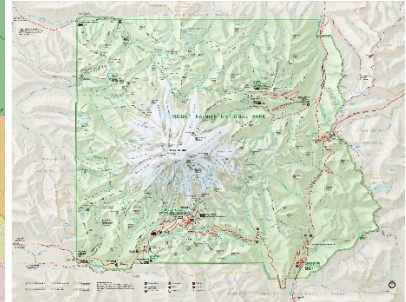
John 14:6



Big picture



Regional



Local- climbing the mtn

- Inclusive?
- Include maps of other areas?
- Jesus as thread for all these weeks
- How do we be inclusive of those who follow other paths to God?
- Does Jesus' I AM statements refer to Jesus or to God?
- Bette Midler's "from a distance" song
- Map with pins and invitation for people to add where they are from
- "cartography" map making study, conveying the meaning and essence of a country
- Maps also convey the ecological impact of a people or country
- X marks the spot
- Maps with info that mean something different from what we immediately expect, eg. Russian maps that don't center on sea level or Amazon basin maps that revolve around water not land.

February 25

2nd Sunday in Lent

"I Am the Light"

What is the Darkness
John 8:12



Out



In



Down

- I am statements
- Darkness is absence of light
- Other kinds of lights: porch light means no one's home on Halloween,
- Would love a service in the sanctuary without any overhead lights, but with all kinds of lamps, lanterns, candles, etc.
- Can we walk into the dark and not turn it dark once we are there?
- Would reflective strips on the stairs to the chancel help with safety?
- Can we issue flashlights to ushers and/or those with walkers?
- Possibly hang Christmas lights or fairy lights where the wreaths were in Advent? Use warm colored light bulbs, think about how to reduce ugliness when overhead lights are on?
- Can we use extra lights throughout the season?

Random thought for Lent: Can we put Alleluias away? This would involve changing the doxology in the second service. We could bring them back for Easter. It goes with the Shrove Tuesday plans at Bellevue First UMC.

March 4

3rd Sunday in Lent

"I Am the Bread"

Laura returning from provisional retreat?

Complex Carbs and Communion

John 6:35



Whole Grain



White Bread

- Cinnamon rolls?
- Smells of baking bread
- I am statement, future reference to last supper and new covenant
- Help me find the good bread that fills me with joy and strength!
- Table based communion setting? Or use trays instead of intinction?
- Wonder bread vs. wondrous Jesus

March 11

4th Sunday in Lent

"I Am the Good Shepherd"

**The Reality of Sheep, The Reality of Us
John 10:11**



Part of a whole



Individual

- Baa, Ram, Ewe
- Babe the Movie, can we use music from the movie score?
- Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us
- Patty has a sheep collection
- Sheep petting zoo in the parking lot?
- Unity of fold under Jesus

March 18

5th Sunday in Lent

"I Am the Door / Gate"

Gated Communities and Radical Hospitality

John 10: 7 – 10



Door opens in



Door leads out of comfort zone



Door to face fears

- I am (Yahweh) statement
- We are sheep, pasture sounds, food, peaceful
- Monsters Inc
- Laughs are more powerful than screams
- Other kinds of doors: Dutch doors, French doors, portals to church like Website/FB/+, trap doors, prison doors, screen doors, glass doors, metal screen doors for security (from LA house), cellar door, storm door, door to Diagon alley
- Sequence goes from Maps on week 1 to Doors on week 5- maps lead to the door.
- Music: stand at the door and knock, door to my heart, keep fingers out of the door (preschool song)

March 25

Palm Sunday

“Hosanna...What?”

Beginning of Holy Week

John 12: 12 - 19

“Hosanna” Means What?



- Big palms too!
- Save us, but from what? Romans or our sin?
- Drama
- Procession? Kids and adults? Coats?
- Rhodies and evergreens? Any indigenous trees? (native)
- Offer both palms and natives
- Making palms into crosses
- Palm and passion Sunday
- Live donkey
- Line the church aisles with palms? Is that safe for walkers?
- Donkey volunteers bring kids forward for children's time

March 29

Maundy Thursday (7pm)

“Ultimate Servant Saying Goodbye”

John 13 and 14 (Various Readings)



March 30

Good Friday (7pm)

“Dying in Order to Live”

John 19 and 20 (Various Readings)

