

# Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

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## Quaranta = 40 in Italian

During the Middle Ages when the bubonic plague spread through Europe, ships in Italian ports would be isolated for forty days before allowing passengers to disembark...thus the origins of the word quarantine.

Forty is a frequent number used in Biblical stories as well as stories of other faith traditions. Studies have shown it takes 18 days or longer to adopt or change a habit. So as Christians we often think of the number 40 as a reasonable amount of time for inner reflection or study. Since Lent consists of 40 days plus Sundays we may challenge ourselves to read or adjust our daily routines for better health or faith practices.

The resource center has a selection of books appropriate for either group or personal use over a period of 40 days. Some speak specifically to the period of Lent while others can be used at any time of the year. And since summer often brings a change in rhythm consider using one of these books as a 40 day mini-sabbatical for renewal. Use a Facebook closed group or a corner in a café or park pavilion to share insights or mutual support.

Karen Kaufman,  
Resource Specialist

### Staffed Hours

8-4 Mon, Tues & Thurs

Call or email ahead of visit for recommended resources to be immediately available for viewing.

Not able to visit? Most items can be mailed.

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***Interruptions: A 40 Day Journey With Jesus*** is a devotional book focusing on the role of interruptions in daily life. The author states interruptions can provide opportunities to encounter God. Through scripture the author looks at Jesus' response to interruptions in his own life and how he interrupted the lives of others. 112 Pages Armstrong, Jacob Upper Room Books 2014

***40 Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer*** is a daily inspirational journey using the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Each day includes the writings of Bonhoeffer, scripture, questions to ponder, journal opportunities as well as prayer. The reader will be encouraged to become a radical disciple. 105 Pages Klug, Ron Augsburg Books 2007

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**40 Days With the Holy Spirit** invites the reader to spend 40 days to explore the person, work, and power of the Holy Spirit. Specific scripture verses and a meditation are provided for each day promoting an understanding of the Holy Spirit and how it works in life. 153 Pages Levison, Jack Paraclete 2015

**People of Purpose: 40 Life Lessons from the New Testament** helps you examine your own spirituality while learning more about 40 different individuals in the Bible. Each brief chapter concludes with questions to facilitate discussion and application. 120 Pages Driver-Bishop A/F 2005

**40 Days Living the Jesus Creed** provides an ongoing spiritual nectar to help us live the life Jesus lived. Combined with the book "The Jesus Creed" and DVD this makes a good discipleship study. 211 Pages McKnight, Scot Paraclete 2008

**Christ Walk: A 40 day spiritual fitness program centered on Christ** encourages the use of the grace of God and the strength of Jesus to improve health of the mind, body and spirit. The book contains actual, physical walking goals using actual routes Jesus and his disciples used during missions. Each chapter highlights one of the 40 days and contains a Bible verse, personal sharing by the author and questions for the reader. 221 Pages Courie, Anna Fitch Morehouse 2015. A corresponding book **Christ Walk Kids** is written for tweens and teens and is excellent for use in a youth group setting or a family setting. Each day includes a fitness challenge as well as a Bible passage and an opportunity for discussion. 97 pages

**Sailboat Church** offers helpful reflections at the end of each of its 10 brief chapters in addition to a 40-day individual prayer guide. An ideal book for bringing congregation leaders together in conversation regarding mission and practice. 158 Pages Gray, Joan S. WJK Press 2014

## LIVING OUR **BAPTISM**...*Five gifts of discipleship*

Bible studies on the five gifts, for Lent, Easter and Pentecost seasons are available at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/5-Gifts>. Additional resources available include a resource for new members plus a personal inventory. More resources to support these documents and the theme are available by clicking on the tab "Living Our Baptism" at [faithfulteaching.org](http://faithfulteaching.org), the website of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA.

### **Giving**

This annual magazine produced by the Stewardship Resource Center in Indianapolis is no longer annual nor hard copy only. For a number of years the ELCA provided hard copies of **Giving** for every congregation in the ELCA. In recent years they made a digital copy available under the stewardship resource page of the website. Beginning in 2019 it will be digital only and quarterly. Congregations wishing to receive a free version need to sign up at <https://goo.gl/forms/rFYsyORRrYhgtRF83> Be sure to sign up right away.