My friends, in the midst of a global epidemic that causes uncertainty, anxiety and fear, a spiritual practice of celebration may seem to be counter-cultural. Yes, follow the recommendations of your local health departments and wash your hands regularly, however it is imperative that we share the God who celebrates with each other.

Here are some ideas and activities you can share in as a family to keep your thoughts focused away from fear and on the God who loves us and is with us at all times.

**FAMILY LENT IDEAS**

Here are a whole bank of ideas that you can use at home as a family throughout Lent. You can find links to all the ideas here:

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**LENT IDEA 1**  
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS EVERY DAY WITH THE **BLESSINGS JAR**

**LENT IDEA 2**  
REMEMBER THAT GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU USING THE **GOD IS CLOSE TO US SAFETY PINS**

**LENT IDEA 3**  
LOOK AT THE WORLD VISION LENT CALENDAR AND LEARN ABOUT A DIFFERENT CHILD SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD EACH DAY. PRAY FOR THEM!

**LENT IDEA 4**  
MAKE PRETZELS—ORIGINALLY MADE IN THE SHAPE OF ARMS FOLDED IN PRAYER. A RECIPE CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

**LENT IDEA 5**  
SAY SORRY TO GOD AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOU. USE **SORRY WHITEBOARDS OR A SORRY BIN**

**LENT IDEA 6**  
MAKE A CARD AND SEND IT TO ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. BEFORE YOU POST IT, THANK GOD FOR THAT PERSON.
LENT IDEA 7: LISTEN TO THE STORY OF PALM SUNDAY AND THEN VISIT HERE TO FIND CRAFTS AND COLORING PAGES

LENT IDEA 8: BE THANKFUL! USE PLAY DOUGH PRAYER

LENT IDEA 9: THINK ABOUT JESUS' TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS AND GIVE UP SOMETHING YOU LIKE DOING OR EATING FOR 2 DAYS. ALTERNATIVELY, DO OUR TEMPTATION ACTIVITY.

LENT IDEA 10: CHOOSE A CHARITY TO SUPPORT AND HAVE EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY SAVE CHANGE FOR A WEEK OR LONGER!

LENT IDEA 11: BAKE SOME HOT CROSS BUNS. TRY THIS RECIPE

LENT IDEA 12: THINK ABOUT PEOPLE YOU WOULD LIKE GOD TO BLESS. USE THE PAPER PEOPLE PRAYER

LENT IDEA 13: READ THE STORY OF THE LAST SUPPER AND ACT IT OUT WITH BLACKCURRANT SQUASH AND PITTA BREAD

LENT IDEA 14: PRINT OFF A WORLD MAP, CHOOSE A COUNTRY AND PRAY FOR IT. DRAW A SMILEY FACE ON THE MAP TO SHOW WHERE YOU HAVE PRAYED FOR. OR YOU COULD TRY WORLD PRAYERS

LENT IDEA 15: PRAY THE SMARTIES PRAYER

LENT IDEA 16: TALK ABOUT GOD’S LOVE FOR US AND MAKE A GOD LOVES ME STAINED GLASS WINDOW

These ideas came from FLAME: CREATIVE CHILDREN’S MINISTRY BLOG - FLAMECREATIVEKIDS.BLOGSPOT.COM

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

This is prayer that makes sense to kids. One minute a day will do. Any time of the day will work. Drawing with markers or crayons is half the prayer; the other half is carrying the visual memories throughout the day, ages 5-11.

Click here for how tos and templates. Click here or on the red arrow to view the film and see how it’s done.
LENT FILMS TO WATCH TOGETHER

MESSY CHURCH BREAKOUT GROUP:  GODLY PLAY, AGES 3-5

TO VIEW THE FILMS CLICK ON THE RED ARROWS

THE FACES OF EASTER

THE MYSTERY OF EASTER

MESSY CHURCH BREAKOUT GROUP:  MESSY LENT, GRADES 1-6

WHAT IS LENT?

WHAT IS LENT?

CARTOON LENT—JESUS' 40 DAYS IN THE WILDERNESS

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

THE BIBLE PROJECT—LUKE 3-9
We all face temptations and fears in life, but how and where do we find the inner strength to say 'no' to what is harmful and instead choose what is best? How do we find the courage in face of our fears? How do we decide what is dangerous, especially if something looks 'right'?

Christians believe that God's words in the Bible can help us know the right path to take and that God promises through Jesus to make us strong and courageous enough to choose that way and face our fears. Jesus faced temptations about the best way to rescue the world during his 40 days in the desert. He used God's words from the Bible to help Him know the right thing to do. And we can too.

Read or hear the story of Jesus' 40 days in the desert and his temptations: Matthew 4:1-11

Sing-a-long and do the motions to Joshua 1:9

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, in-person worship and all in-person activities have been suspended at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church until May 17th.
- On Sunday, March 22nd online worship will be available on Sunday at 11:00 AM.
- "Mini-Mess" will be mailed out electronically each week to provide children and families with activities and Christian education during this period of suspended activities.
- Go online to the church website: lewinsville.org for more information and updates