

## A Time Called ... LENT

*Some of us grew up thinking that Lent was a time to keep personal enjoyment in check and to focus on personal guilt. That emphasis was to ensure we appreciated what Jesus suffered and accomplished in Holy Week. But Lent can also reveal the great blessings of being a Christian.*

### Historical Roots of Lent

In the early church, Lent was a time of training and preparation for baptismal candidates at Easter. By the fourth century, it developed into a 40- day period, following the biblical pattern of 40 days or 40 years of preparation and anticipation. In its early form, elements of penitence were included. Lent, in our tradition, is a time to re-examine and re-affirm our identity as people baptized into Christ's body, the church.

### Finding Meaning in the Tradition

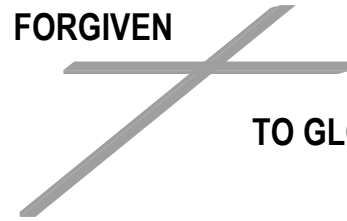
Our baptism is a symbolic dying and rising with Christ. In Lent, we turn with Christ towards these events in his life. Along the way the Spirit gives the opportunity for us to redirect and refocus our lives, and more fully realize our baptismal identity. We recall where we are going and what it cost God for us to become resurrection people. We become open to the possibilities of new beginnings all around us. The season of Lent points us to Easter.

### Questions for Personal Meditation

Is there something in my life that needs to die so that I can move toward a new life with Christ?

What are the important ingredients in my Lenten journey? If I am not baptized, might this become preparation for a step of faith?

FORGIVEN



TO GLORIFY, WITNESS & SERVE



### KITCHENER EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10 Zeller Drive, Kitchener, ON N2A 4A8

Telephone: 519-748-9786

[kepc@golden.net](mailto:kepc@golden.net)

[revmsr@golden.net](mailto:revmsr@golden.net)

[pccweb.ca/kitchenereast](http://pccweb.ca/kitchenereast)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/521222015471767/>

<https://www.instagram.com/kepc10/>

Established 03<sup>rd</sup> May 1987

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Richardson

Minister in Association:

Rev. Jeff Smith

Music Director:

Sarah Pottier



### **Mission Moment – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024:**

“We really appreciate the program, as we are in dire need to keep the education going for our kids,” shared a grateful parent. For Afghan children who sought refuge in Pakistan, education is often out of reach because they are not nationals. PWS&D supports the Digital Learning Center in Peshawar, which provides out-of-school children and adults with basic digital literacy classes, high school courses and tutoring sessions that aim to help a total of 520 students. Students and their family members are benefiting from the Darakht-e Danesh Library, which provides free and open educational resources on such topics as math, language, business and the sciences. Students access classes both in English and Dari/Farsi, equipping them with essential skills and providing hope for those who have lost so much, broadening their opportunities for the future.

### **From the Finance Team: Offering Counters:**

We'd like to add a few team members and provide full training & support to help new team members become established. We hope you will consider offering your talent for this role at a KEPC and can contact Barb Cook (519-998-2183) or Rob Gloin (519-781-4379) to discuss further.

### **From the Finance Team: options for financial giving to KEPC:**

- 1) **Canada Post:** send your offering envelope in an envelope addressed to the Church: 10 Zeller Dr, Kitchener, ON, N2A 4A8
- 2) **E – transfer:** This involves using your online banking application using the e-transfer option & sending the transaction to the Church email: kepc@golden.net
- 3) **PAR: pre-authorized remittance.** This is set up once and an amount is withdrawn from your bank account monthly until you choose to stop it or change the amount. Contact Chris Clemens clemensc78@yahoo.ca and he can set you up.
- 4) **Tithe.ly** on our website, (click on the menu “Donate Now”) and donations can be through your Visa, Mastercard, or Debit.
- 5) The locked, **black box** on the wall of the sanctuary by the main doors for your offerings.

### **Thank-you for your ongoing and prayerful support of the mission and ministry of KEPC.**

**Offering Envelopes:** If you are interested in having assigned envelopes for 2024 and are not on PAR, please reach out to Chris.

For anyone that changed addresses in 2023, please let Chris and Mark know so that we can check our records and update them as required.

### **Grocery Cards:**

We are participating in the grocery gift card program in our Region. If you would like to purchase grocery gift cards for the PC group of stores, and/or the Metro group of stores, please speak with Barb Cook, Rob Gloin, or Emmie Richardson. They are available every other week. We receive a small amount back from the Community Charity Services, for each card we sell.

### **2023 Tax Receipts:**

have been prepared. Please check your hanging files. For those without files, they are in the mail and should arrive next week.

For those of us not yet retired, please check to see if your employer offers a Donation matching program, this can help make your donation go even further. Although I am not able to check on particular companies, do reach out if you have any questions. Thanks, Chris Clemens.

**From the KEPC Annual Meeting** last Sunday: At the Annual Meeting we outlined that the 2024 KEPC Annual Report budget pages were an earlier version and that the expense shortfall for the year was actually about \$7400. We have reprinted the actual 2024 budget pages and have copies on the table in the Narthex for anyone who would like the updated pages.

If there are any further questions, please feel to speak to a member of the Finance & Stewardship team.

**EVENTS THIS WEEK: 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. – 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**

**Sunday:** 10:30 am – Lent 2 Sunday Worship Service;  
**Monday:** 1 pm – Music Therapy  
6:30 - 10 pm – GRIPS in the Gray Hall  
**Tuesday:** 9:30 am – Bible Study via Zoom  
11:45 – 1:30 Music Therapy  
6:30 pm – Sparks  
**Wednesday:** 7 – 9 pm – Scouts in Gray Hall  
**Thursday:** 9 am – Sunshine Corner in the Gray Hall  
**Friday:** 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Music Therapy  
**Sunday:** 10:30 am – Lent 3: Sunday Worship Service;  
Sunday School;  
11:30 am – Coffee & Conversation, in the Gray Hall

**World Day Of Prayer**

WDP Palestinian Christian Women's Committee  
***"I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love"***  
(Ephesians 4:1-3).

**Friday, March 1, 2024**

**11:00 am Service**

Reception to Follow at

St. George's of Forest Hill Anglican Church

321 Fischer-Hallman Road

Kitchener, Ontario

**[www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com](http://www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com)**

**Livestream Link: <https://livestream.com/accounts/4258512>**

**VBS 2024:**



Hello everyone:

We are starting to plan our VBS at KEPC this summer and I just wanted to check in to see who would be interested and available in volunteering again this year.

Dates are July 8-12 9am-noon. The theme is SCUBA.

Please let me know so I can get an idea of interest/availability of volunteers, and we will start putting out announcements, etc to further our planning. Kindly, Sarah.