

2022 Nurturing Faith Ideas, based on the Revised Common Lectionary

The hope of the Nurture Committee is that you will share these with your congregation through bulletins, newsletters, and other ways you communicate. They are intended to connect worship with faith formation at home for all ages. Please feel free to edit as you desire.

January 2 – Second Sunday of Christmas: Read John 1: 10-18

“The Word was in the world. And the world was made through him. But the world did not recognize him.” As you go through your days, do your words and actions reflect a recognition of Jesus?

January 9 – Baptism of the Lord: Read Isaiah 43: 1-7

“Do not be afraid. I will set you free. I will send for you by name. You belong to me.” God’s promise is that God will be with us when we face difficult times. What makes you afraid? Give thanks to God that God is with you in your fear.

January 16 – Second Sunday after Epiphany: Read Psalm 36: 5-10

“We are filled with light because you give us light.” Light brings hope as it makes the dark places less scary. How can you share your light with those you encounter this week?

January 23 – Third Sunday after Epiphany: Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

“There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ.” Each of us has an appointed role as part of the body of Christ. This week, consider the role you have and how you carry out its responsibilities.

January 30 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany: Read Jeremiah 1: 4-10

“Before I formed you in your mother’s body, I chose you.” God chose Jeremiah to be God’s messenger to the nations. Though Jeremiah insisted he was too young, God gave him the words to say. What has God called you to speak to others about God’s way? What excuses keep you from sharing God’s word with them?

February 6 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany: Read Isaiah 6:1-8 and Luke 5:1-11

Isaiah and the fishermen whom Jesus met by the Sea of Galilee were called by God to do God’s work. Isaiah’s call was to go and speak God’s word to God’s people; the fishers were called to be disciples, learners, who fished for people with the proclamation of the good news of Jesus. God continues to call each of us; what has God called you to speak to God’s people?

February 13 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany: Read Psalm 1.

Trees planted by water receive the nourishment they need to give fruit and prosper. Unlike trees, people make choices as to where they spend their time, energy, and focus – where they “plant” themselves. The Psalmist calls for us to plant ourselves in God’s law and love. How might you do so?

February 20 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany: Read Luke 6:27-38

In this passage, Jesus sets before those who would listen, including us, a way of living with others, all others but especially those whom we might consider enemies. Imagine what your

school, community, our nation, and the world might be like if we would love, not judge, our enemies, forgive, and give. Reach out to an “enemy” with love this week.

February 27 – Transfiguration Sunday: Read Luke 9:28-36

Peter, James, and John had a “mountaintop” experience as they witnessed Jesus’ transfiguration, or transformation, and heard a voice from a cloud say, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” How do we listen to Jesus today? As we prepare to enter again into Lent, preparing to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, what might Jesus be saying to you?

March 6 – First Sunday in Lent: Read Luke 4:1-13

As we journey through this season of Lent, Luke’s account of the Temptations of Jesus shows us that God will “test” us before God can use us for his purposes. Hear the words of the hymn “When We Are Tested” by Ruth Duck. *When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the power to control, teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.* What ways is God testing you?

March 13 – Second Sunday in Lent: Read Luke 13:31-35

In the scripture reading, you will see the theme of rejection. Many have been given the choice to seek God’s kingdom, but have turned their back on this offer. But the good news is that God has limitless patience! God will wait for you to accept or refuse God’s offer of love through Jesus Christ.

March 20 – Third Sunday in Lent

It’s A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood! March 20 is Fred Rogers’ birthday, and the PC(USA) has designated it as Mr. Rogers Day. Take a moment to reflect on the principals that Fred Rogers exhibited throughout his life. He welcomed the little children and taught forgiveness and the power of kindness, as well as the importance of unconditional love and empathy and to love your neighbor as yourself. Happy Birthday, Fred!

March 27 – Fourth Sunday in Lent: Luke 15:1-3

The well-know parable of the Lost Sheep is a parable of joy. How joyful we are when something we’ve lost is found. God’s love for us is a rejoicing love. When we are lost, we feel the comfort of knowing God welcomes us with open arms. Search for someone who may have gone astray from your church family and welcome them with open arms.

April 3 - Fifth Sunday in Lent: Read John 12:1-8

John’s gospel makes sure we do not misinterpret Judas’ thinly veiled concern for the poor. John lets us know, in no uncertain terms, that Judas puts his faith in money and not in things of God. Can you imagine Judas’ red face and angry, tense tone as he asks, “Why was this perfume wasted and the money not given to the poor?” From a purely practical perspective, Judas was right. What was Jesus’ message concerning the anointing with oil?

April 10 - Palm/Passion Sunday: Read Psalm 118:-1-2, 14-24

Palm Sunday is all about praise. Psalm 118, verse 21 says, "I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation." But Psalm 22:3-5 takes this a bit further, saying, "But you are holy, O you that inhabit the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in you: they trusted, and you did deliver them" (KJV). God deserves praise in the here and now. Why might some say it's hypocritical or foolish to praise God in times of trouble?

April 17- Easter Sunday: Read Luke 24:1-12

In the passage from Luke 24, the angels ask the women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." For the women, the angels, and us, "it's a matter of life and death." When we use this idiom, it normally means something is very important. Why do you think the disciples "did not believe the women" and that "their words seemed to them like nonsense" in spite of everything Jesus had told them?

April 24 – Second Sunday of Easter: Read Acts 5:27-32

In Acts 5, Peter and the apostles have taken up the mission Christ gives to them at the Ascension, when he says in Mark 16, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." When questioned, Peter says, "And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." Peter can only speak the truth about what he has seen. How can we do likewise?

May 1 – Third Sunday of Easter: Read John 21:1-19

Peter felt hurt that Jesus kept asking him the same question over and over, and we can feel equally hurt when our faith is questioned. However, a life of faith isn't a one-time commitment but a lifetime of showing up and doing as Jesus asks us. What will you do this week to feed Jesus's sheep?

May 8 – Fourth Sunday of Easter: Read Psalm 23

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me..." What dark place in your life or insurmountable challenge has been on your mind lately? Picture God in that place, walking beside you and comforting you.

May 15 – Fifth Sunday of Easter: Read Psalm 148

The Psalmist calls on all of creation to praise the Lord. Where have you seen God's wonder in nature recently?

May 22 – Sixth Sunday of Easter: Read John 5:1-9

The man by the pool thought he knew what his problem was and how it needed to be fixed. But Jesus offered a different perspective and a different solution. This week, think of a problem you have that you can't solve and ask God to open your eyes to new possibilities.

May 29 – Seventh Sunday of Easter: Read Acts 16:16-34

When Paul and Silas were in jail, they prayed and sang hymns to God; they knew that God was with them, even at that difficult time. When you are going through difficult times, do you pray and sing? Do you remember God is with you?

June 5 – Day of Pentecost: Read: John 14:8-17

In John 14, Jesus promises his disciples that if they love him and follow his commandments, the Father will send an Advocate to be with them forever. As believers, we also have an Advocate we call the Holy Spirit. On this Pentecost Sunday, consider what that means to have an advocate with you forever. How does that affect the way you live, speak, and act?

June 12 – Trinity Sunday: Read: John 16:12-15

On this Trinity Sunday, we read in John the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the disciples. The Spirit leads all believers in the way of God's truth and guides believers to behold God's glory and might. What does this mean for you? How do you recognize God's glory and might? Do you allow the Spirit to lead you in the ways of God, or do you choose to follow your own paths in this life on earth?

June 19 – Second Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 8:26-39

In Luke, we see Jesus met by a man filled with demons. He calls to Jesus as soon as he sees him arrive. Jesus commands the demons to come out, and he sends them into a herd of swine, which drown. The reaction of the people was not one of awe but of fear, so Jesus left. When you become aware of the miracles of Jesus, do you run in fear or worship and adore? Your answer makes all the difference in your life.

June 26 – Third Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 9:51-62

In Luke 9, we find Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. Many he meets say, "I will follow you, but first I must take care of some business." To follow Jesus implies forsaking security to go where he goes. Discipleship means the same thing today as then: Choose this day whom you will serve. As you reflect on this scripture this week, consider how you follow Jesus, not just in name but in your actions as well.

July 3 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Read: Galatians 6:7-16

Galatians 6: 10 reads, "So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all..." What will you do for good this coming week? Write down three things that you will do to help God's people.

July 10 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalm 25: 1-10

The Psalmist said, "O my God, in you I trust." Take a few moments today to tell God about things that worry you and any problems you may have. Tell God that you trust God to take care of you. Be quiet and listen for God's voice. Remember your prayer of trust throughout the week.

July 17 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalm 52

At the end of Psalm 52, the Psalmist tells God, “I will proclaim your name, for it is good.” Take a sheet of paper and fold it in half. On the outside, write “God is Good.” On the inside, write all the names that you can think of for God. Say each of these names out loud, adding after each name, “God is Good.”

July 24 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalm 138

God wants us to praise God with all our heart. That is a lot of praising! Cut out a heart from a piece of paper then fill up the heart with words and phrases that tell of the wonderful things you believe about God. Tape the heart up somewhere where you will see it all week, reminding you to praise God with all your heart.

July 31 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 12:13-21

“Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Choose some of your money or a possession and give it away to someone who needs it. Praise God that you are able to give away some of what you have.

August 7- Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Read: Genesis 15: 1-6

God promised Abram an heir and descendants as numerous as the stars. His lineage continues with people of all ages. This is also College and Young Adult Sunday. Honor these individuals in your life and your church’s life.

August 14 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19

“Call your strength into action. Come and save us.” This Psalmist asks for deliverance from the ills they have brought upon themselves. What will you do to save yourself from bringing ills upon you?

August 21 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Read Hebrews 12: 18-29

“But you have come to Mount Zion. You have come to the city of the living God.” In receiving this city of God, we need to offer acceptable worship with reverence and awe. Reflect upon what that looks like for you.

August 28 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalm 112

“Praise the LORD.” This psalm praises the righteous, who are faithful to God’s law, generous, gracious, merciful, just, steadfast, and care for the poor. Reflect upon ways you are righteous, and how you give praise for the gifts you receive from God.

September 4 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 14:25-33

What do you think Jesus means when he says one must hate his/her life to be his disciple? How does his call to carry our own cross inform this? Jesus gives examples of “counting the cost,” showing that being his disciple involves a willingness to give up everything. Is there something in your life that you need to give up in order to follow Jesus more faithfully?

September 11 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Timothy 1:12-17

How has God abundantly poured his strength, mercy, grace, faith, and love into your life? How has Jesus shown his “immense patience” to you? How can all of this be used as an example to share with others that they, too, “would believe and receive eternal life?”

September 18 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Paul urges the church to pray particularly for those in positions of authority. Why do you think that is, and what are ways you could answer this plea to pray for our leaders? He shifts the focus to its proper center: our Mediator and Ransom Christ Jesus. How might we point others to him in our worship and witness that they may “come to a knowledge of the truth?”

September 25 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Paul contrasts godliness (in the form of contentment) with greed. In what ways can an eagerness for goods over God lead to grief and ruin? What might it look like instead to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and gentleness? What is the difference between putting hope in wealth vs. in God? How does this take form in our actions and deeds?

October 2 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 17:5-10

Sometimes, when life seems hard, it’s difficult to remember our God is bigger than all of our worries, and we only need faith the size of a mustard seed. What are some things we can do to help our faith grow? What helps to remind you that we only need a little faith, and God will help ease our pain and suffering?

October 9 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Psalms 111

In this passage, we are reminded to praise the Lord and thank Him in everything we do. Sometimes, this can be hard, especially when things don’t go our way. How can we thank God for all of our blessings, and also remember to thank God for our unanswered prayers? How does God want us to live our lives so we honor God?

October 16 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 18:1-8

Here we read the parable of the judge who didn’t fear God and the faithful widow who wanted her rights protected. The Bible tells us that God will judge in favor all who believe and serve God. How can we live our lives to better serve God?

October 23 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8

In this passage, we are reminded if we serve God and live our lives for God, we will be rewarded with everlasting life. Does this give you comfort when faced with despair? How do you keep your faith when things get tough?

October 30 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost: Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

In this passage, we are taught it is right and just to praise the Lord, even when people won’t listen. We are reminded, again, to stay faithful in our Lord. How do you profess your faith in God? What are some ways you can spread the good news of our Lord?

November 6 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost: Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Paul tells the believers in Thessalonica to not be alarmed about rumors of the coming ‘Day of the Lord,’ but rather to hold fast to the truth they have been taught. What worries and anxieties is the Spirit inviting you to let go of right now? How do we discern what faith ‘traditions’ are worth holding on to, and which have served their purpose?

November 13 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost: Read Isaiah 65:17-25

The prophet is painting a beautiful picture of the ‘New Heavens and New Earth’ in his final chapters. What images in this passage speak to your deep hopes and desires? How do we cultivate this vision of shalom in our world today, knowing that its final culmination can only be the work of Christ?

November 20 – Christ the King Sunday: Read: Luke 23:33-43

This Christ the King Sunday we are reminded that the crown Jesus wore was one of thorns. How is your life as a citizen of Christ’s kingdom marked by sacrifice and service to others?

November 27 – First Sunday of Advent: Read Romans 13:11-14

Paul encourages the believers in Rome that salvation is at hand because “the day is near!” As we wait in this Advent season, how are we shining light into darkness and walking in paths of peace? How is the Spirit using this season to ‘wake you up’ to pay attention to where God is at work in the world?

December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent: Read Romans 15:4-13

The holiday season is often filled with occasions for hospitality and celebration. As we prepare to welcome the birth of our Lord, how are you also “welcoming one another” (verse 7)? How might we seek the sort of unity and reconciliation Paul encourages between the Jews and Gentiles in our own communities today?

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent: Read James 5:7-10

Patience is consistently listed as one of the great virtues, and Paul calls it a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Why is it so hard to be patient? What are you waiting for even now; how can you pray about that this week?

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Read Isaiah 7:10-16

This prophecy from Isaiah likely referred to a young woman who was there before Ahaz, but Christians have long held the tradition that it also anticipates Jesus. Have you ever asked God for a sign? How might the Spirit use the same event to speak different messages to people? Where have you witnessed the Spirit speaking to you lately?

December 25 – Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day: Read Luke 2:1-20

Merry Christmas! What good news do you have to share with others this holy day? What treasures are you pondering in your heart? Let us pray together for peace and joy in our world!