

Nurturing Faith Ideas 2025, based on the Revised Common Lectionary

Nurturing Faith Ideas seek to connect worship with faith formation at home for all ages. The hope is that you will share these with your congregation through bulletins, emails, newsletters, and other ways appropriate to your context. Sundays in the liturgical year are identified using the Presbyterian Planning Calendar. Please feel free to edit.

January 5: Second Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany Sunday

Read Matthew 2:9-12

Following a star, Magi, or Wise Men, journey to Bethlehem bearing gifts fit for royalty. Finding the child, they knelt and worshipped him. What gifts would you give to Jesus to celebrate his birth?

January 12: Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Read Luke 3:21-22

As we celebrate Jesus' baptism, many congregations celebrate a reaffirmation of baptism, a time to remember our own baptism when we were proclaimed children of God. What do you remember about your baptism? How might you celebrate being part of the body of Christ, the church, through baptism?

January 19: Second Sunday after Epiphany

Read Psalm 36:5-10

In God's light and love, we see light. In these dark cold days of winter, light brings hope as it makes the dark places seem less scary. How can you share your light and love with those you encounter this week?

January 26: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Paul described the church as the body of Christ, each one of us an important part of Christ's body. What is your role in the body of Christ? How do you live out your role?

February 2: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10

God chose Jeremiah to be God's messenger, to speak God's word. Though Jeremiah insisted that he was too young and didn't know how, God promised to go with him and give him the words to speak. What has God called you to say about God to others? What excuses keep you from speaking with others about God?

February 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Read Luke 5:1-11

When Jesus called his first disciples, they were washing their nets after a long night of fishing when they caught nothing. Jesus invited them to follow him, and they did so, leaving everything behind them. We, too, have been called to follow Jesus. What did you, might you, have to leave behind to follow?

February 16: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Read Luke 6:17-19

Crowds of people came to hear Jesus, hoping that he would heal them, and Jesus did so. How has Jesus healed you? How might you help share Jesus' healing ministry this week?

February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Read Luke 6:27-38

Do you have any “enemies”? How do you treat them? Jesus taught those who would listen to him to love their enemies and do good to those that hate them. Imagine what it would be like in our schools, workplaces, homes, communities, nation, and world if we did so. Reach out to an “enemy” with love this week.

March 2: Transfiguration of the Lord

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, God, say, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” How do we listen to Jesus today? What might Jesus be saying to you?

March 9: First Sunday in Lent

Read Luke 4:1-12

The Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Lent always tells the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. We, too, are tempted like Jesus was, and we have to choose what we are going to do, whether we are going to follow God or follow another. With others around your table or email, share a decision you have made that you think pleased God.

March 16: Second Sunday in Lent

Psalms 27

Life isn’t always easy. People can be mean. Circumstances can be challenging. We struggle with work or school. We feel like we don’t belong, or we aren’t important, or we’re insignificant. But God is there for us. The psalmist reminds us that God is our light when life seems dark, and God provides us protection, so we don’t need to be afraid.

March 23: Third Sunday in Lent

Read Isaiah 55:6-9

The season of Lent is a time to reflect on our lives as we prepare for Jesus’ death and resurrection. This is a good time to consider where we have failed to be faithful and obedient to God’s ways. When we confess our sins, admit our wrongs, we do so without fear for God is gracious and quick to forgive. Is there anything you need to ask forgiveness for? God is ready to hear your prayer.

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Read Luke 15:11b-32

Lost and found. A story of two sons and their father. A story about God who celebrates with joy when the lost are found and seeks out those who’ve never left to join in the celebration. Who are you most like in the story? Give thanks to God for welcoming all because I suspect we’re like both sons at different times.

April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Read John 12:1-8

Mary gave Jesus a costly gift as she anointed his feet with perfume. In this season of Lent, what gift would you offer Jesus to show your love for him? Share with a family member or friend.

April 13: Palm/Passion Sunday

Today begins Holy Week, when we remember the events between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to this death of the cross before his resurrection. On Thursday, we celebrate Maundy Thursday, the night when Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment – to love one another. Make a list of ways you can show your love to your family members this week and do so.

April 20: Resurrection of the Lord Sunday

Read Luke 24:1-12

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the good news of the angel that Jesus' tomb was empty; Jesus had been raised and was alive! With your friends and family, share the ancient greeting: "Christ is risen!" to which they may respond, "He is risen indeed." Be prepared to share the response if others greet you this way. See how many know the response when you greet them.

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

Read John 20:19-31

Thomas couldn't believe what the other disciples told him about having seen the risen Jesus; he needed to see him for himself. Jesus returned and Thomas believed. What causes you to doubt? Acknowledge your doubts before Christ and ask him to help you trust and believe.

May 3: Third Sunday of Easter

Read John 21:1-19

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked him if he loved him not once but three times. We can feel equally hurt when our faith and/or love is questioned. However, a life of faith and following Jesus 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' sheep?

May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Read Psalm 23

The psalmist lifts up God's care for us. God provides what we need, guides us in God's ways and provides rest for us. God is with us in the midst of our struggles, walking through the darkest, saddest, scariest places of our lives with us, comforting us. What is a dark place you've experienced recently? Picture God in that place with you, walking beside you and comforting you.

May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Read Psalm 148

The psalmist calls on all creation to praise the Lord! How do you praise God? What are five things for which you would praise God? Share your thoughts with a friend or family member.

May 25: 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. Jesus offered the man a different perspective and a different solution. This week think of a problem you are facing that you can't solve and ask God to open your eyes to new possibilities.

June 1: 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 in that difficult time and place. When you are going through difficult times, do you pray and sing? Do you remember that God is with you?

June 8: Day of Pentecost

Read Acts 2:1-16

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' waiting disciples. Where do you see the presence of the Holy Spirit poured on in your life? in your church? in your community? these days? Share with someone and ask them where they see the Spirit.

June 15: Trinity Sunday

Read Psalm 8

On a clear night, the moon and stars shine brightly in the night sky; sometimes, we, like the psalmist, feel small in comparison. Yet, we have been given a special place in creation as God has created us a little lower than God to take care of God's creation.

June 22: Second Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 8:26-39

Jesus was met with a man filled with demons; the man called out to Jesus as soon as he saw Jesus. Jesus commanded the demons to come out of him, and Jesus sent them into a herd of pigs, which then ran into the lake and drowned. Rather than awe and wonder at the man being made well, the people reacted with fear. When you become aware of the miracles of Jesus, how do you respond? with fear or with praise?

June 29: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Read Galatians 3:22-25

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These aren't many fruit among many; we don't get to pick and choose which we want to do most. Led by the Spirit, our lives are to reflect all of these. Which aspects do you celebrate most in yourself; which aspect do you need to ask the Spirit to help you with?

July 6: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Galatians 6:7-10

In this passage, we are encouraged to keep doing what is right and working for the good of all. What are some things you could do this week that would help people? Make a list of at least three things and do them.

July 13: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 10:25-37

When the lawyer wanted to know exactly who his neighbor was that he was to love, Jesus told the Story of the Good Samaritan, where the one considered "enemy" and "foreigner" was the one who stopped to help. Who is someone you know, who may be different from you, that needs to know they are cared for and loved? Consider what you might do to help them and then do it.

July 20: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 10:38-42

When Jesus visited, Mary took the time to sit at his feet and listen to what he said; Martha was focused on her tasks, perhaps she was trying to get a meal ready for all of them. Jesus pointed out the importance of spending time in his presence. Are you more like Mary or Martha? Take some time to focus on Jesus today; take a walk, read a book, play music, be silent, pray, whatever makes you aware of Jesus' presence with you.

July 27: 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.

August 3: 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 this week. Praise God that you are able to give away some of what you have.

August 10: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Hebrews 11:1-3

Hebrew 11:1 defines faith as the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. The rest of Hebrews 11 lifts up how faith can be seen in the lives of some of our ancestors in faith. What in our lives lets other know of our faith in God?

August 17: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Hebrews 11:29-12:2

A great cloud of witnesses, people of faith from the time of Abraham to the present surround us, cheering us on as we live our lives of faith. Some of them include parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors who have nurtured and guided us in our faith. We are not alone on our life's journey. Give thanks for some of the people who have shared the story of Jesus with you. Share their names with a friend or family member.

August 24: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 13:10-17

How wonderful it was that a woman who had been bent over, unable to stand up straight for eighteen years, at the words of Jesus, could stand again. It's easy to understand why she began praising God! What has God done in your life that you would praise him for? Share with someone and say a prayer of thanks to God.

August 31: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 14:1, 7-11

Jesus warns his disciples about thinking too highly of themselves and assuming the best places at the party table are for them. He also told them that when they threw a party to invite those who are poor, blind, lame, not their friends and relatives who would invite them in return. What would happen if we followed these instructions? How would your party be different?

September 7: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 14:25-33

What do you think Jesus means when he says one must hate their 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 14: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 15:1-10

The Pharisees and scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Jesus told them a story about a lost sheep that was found. What have you lost that you later found? Give thanks to God for lost and found things and people.

September 21: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters, meaning we cannot be faithful to God and worship something else. Whom or what do you worship and make most important in your life, God or something or someone else? Find a way to show your faithfulness to God this week.

September 28: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 16:19-31

Here we find the story of a rich man who was well-dressed and ate well, and the story of a poor man who was covered with sores and wished that he could eat the rich man’s leftovers. Most of us have plenty to eat and nice clothes to wear, while others do not. Go through your closets and/or drawers and find some clothing and food that you will share with those in need. Take them where someone in need can get them.

October 5: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday

Read Lamentations 3:9-16

Life isn’t always easy. There are times that we struggle and watch those around us struggle. Yet, even in the midst of the struggles we have reason to hope – God’s love is always with us; God’s grace never comes to an end. Sure as the sun rises, God is with us.

October 12: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Jeremiah 29:4-7

Jeremiah insists that God’s people living in exile look around, get to know the people and place where they are living, and contribute to its well-being. This week, look around and notice what is going on with other people in your family, neighbors, class, team... Pray for these people and do something this week that might make someone’s life better.

October 19: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Consider your Bible, the sacred writings of Christians and the Church. Does your Bible look well-used or brand new? How has it become a part of you? If the book itself fell completely apart, would you have some of it hidden inside you? This week read Psalm 91, verses 1-6 and 14-16 three times each day and memorize it to hide it inside you.

October 26: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Joel 2:23-32

Dreams are possibilities and ideas about what could be. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech illustrates the importance of a dream in shaping life for both individuals and communities. According to Joel, such dreams are gifts from God and therefore should be worked with and valued. What is a dream that you have for your own life and for the life of the world?

November 2: Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Read Psalm 119:137-144

This longest psalm in the Bible is an acrostic poem about God's law. There are twenty-two sections in the psalm, and the lines in each section all begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order of the alphabet. Write your own acrostic psalm praising God this week, each line starting with a different letter of the English alphabet in order from A to Z.

November 9: Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Read Psalm 98

The psalmist calls upon God's people to sing praises to God for God "has done marvelous things." Hymnals are filled with all sorts of song that praise God. What is your favorite hymn? Share it with someone else and tell them why it's your favorite.

November 16: Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Read Isaiah 65:17-25

Here we have Isaiah's picture of the new heavens and earth that God is creating. It is a vision of shalom, or peace that ends with peace. What images in this passage speak to your hopes and dreams? How do we join God in working toward this vision of peace in our world today?

November 23: Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Read Luke 23:33-43

Jesus was a king though he wasn't the kind of king that the people expected. He was the kind of king that died on a cross out of love, not a king who ruled a country and controlled people. On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, remember all of the things Jesus did and how he showed God's love. Give thanks to God for the gift of his son, Jesus, Christ the King.

November 30: First Sunday of Advent

Read Matthew 24:36-44

In the season of Advent that leads up to Christmas, we look back to the past, to the birth of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem as we prepare to celebrate his birth again. We also, in this season, look forward, to the return of Christ on earth. This passage reminds us that we don't know when Christ will return but we should always be ready for him.

December 7: Second Sunday of Advent

Read Matthew 3:1-2

As John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, so must we prepare ourselves for Jesus. This is a time of hope and preparation. During Advent, reflect on what preparations you are making in your life and in your heart for the coming of Jesus.

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent

Read Luke 1:46b-55

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that God had chosen her to be the mother of God's son, Gabriel also told Mary that her relative Elizabeth, who was up in years, was also pregnant. After Mary greeted Elizabeth, she sang praise to God for what God was doing in her and in the world. In her words she proclaimed that God was turning the world upside down. What do you see that God is doing in the world today that is changing the world? Share with a friend or family member.

December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Read Matthew 1:18-25

Luke's gospel tells Mary's story; Matthew's gospel focused on Joseph. When Joseph found out that his fiancée, Mary, was pregnant and he wasn't the father, legally, he could have sent her away in humiliation and shame or even had her killed. As he considered his options, he had a visit by an angel who told him in a dream that Mary had been chosen to bear God's son. Trusting God, he went ahead with his marriage to Mary. What's a hard decision you've had to trust God as you've made it? What did you do?

December 28: First Sunday of Christmas

Read Matthew 2:13-15

King Herod wanted to hear back from the magi after they'd found the child they sought. He said he wanted to worship him as they did. But he was lying; he really wanted to get rid of him. Jesus was warned in a dream to take his family and flee to Egypt to keep Jesus safe. Many others have also had to flee from their home because it was no longer safe there. Pray for those who look for a safe place to live and raise a family in our time.