



**at Avondale Pattillo
United Methodist Church**

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring."

The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time of penitence and renewal for all Christians.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. The early church determined that the Lenten period of fasting and renewal should correspond to Christ's fasting (Matt. 4:2).

By counting 40 days back from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain "feast" days), we arrive at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter.

The ashes speak of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and call us to place our hope in God alone.

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Holy Week
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Palm Sunday

This Sunday celebrates Jesus triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. The crowds welcomed Jesus as the coming king, shouting, "Hosanna."

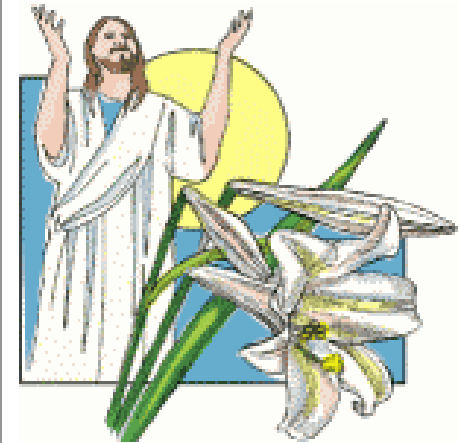
Maundy Thursday

On this night Christians commemorate the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. Jesus washed the disciples' feet and instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday

The church hears the story of the last hours of Jesus' life. All depart in silence waiting and hoping for the great resurrection.

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Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday begins the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year.

It focuses on the resurrection of Jesus. He lived; he died; he rose again.

Because He lives, we can face tomorrow.

In this service we celebrate the freedom, salvation, and life that humanity can experience through Christ.

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