

Lent 2012: Transforming.....Hearts and Lives for Christ

Above is Easter's Vision Statement. More importantly, transforming hearts and lives is what Jesus is in the business of doing all of the time – yes, even in your life!

What better time to reflect on Transformation than the season of Lent? Lent prepares us for the ultimate transformation at Easter – the resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally in the church, Lent is also a time to dig deep into our Spiritual lives and practice our faith with intentionality. In the rhythm of a disciplined spiritual life, Transformation has a chance to spread its wings.

Our Lenten season will present many opportunities to dig deep into the well of your spiritual life. As always, we will worship regularly on Sundays and Wednesdays. Our Lenten Sermon Series, **“Transforming....”**, will look at real-life encounters that Jesus had with people when he walked the earth. We will see how simple encounters with the living God transformed bodies, minds, souls, relationships and communities. We will also have a glimpse into the lives of some Easter people who have experienced transformation in their own lives through an encounter with the living God.

Our scriptures for Lent are straight from the Gospel of John:

Sunday, Feb. 26 & Wednesday, Feb. 29: John 5:1-18 – Transforming Bodies

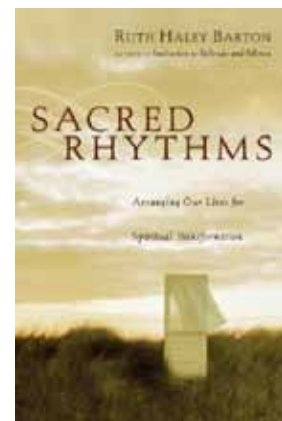
Sunday, March 4 & Wednesday, March 7: John 6:1-21 – Transforming Communities

Sunday, March 11 & Wednesday, March 14: John 8:1-11 – Transforming Souls

Sunday, March 18 & Wednesday, March 21: John 8:31-38 – Transforming Lives

Sunday, March 25 & Wednesday, March 28 : John 9:1-41 – Transforming Relationships

At different times during the week, the four pastors and local spiritual writer Julie McCarty, will be facilitating conversation around Ruth Haley Barton's book *“Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation.”* Based on gospel stories and ancient Christian practices, we will be using the book, participant's guide and DVD to look at such topics as longing for more, praying with Scripture, making space for God, finding God in everyday experiences, and cultivating our own sacred rhythms.



SCHEDULE OF BOOK GROUPS:

- Wednesdays after noon worship (with soup lunch) – Pastor Paul
- Sundays at 6 p.m. after Benediction (with a light supper) – Pastors Kris, Kevin & Sarah
- Monday at 7 p.m., Chick Talk – Julie McCarty
- Thursday at 9:30 a.m.. Chick Talk – Julie McCarty

You can also choose to participate in a 6-week small group that will study this material. They will meet at various times. More info at easter.org or call the office, 651-452-3680.

Answers to possible questions:

- **Want to preview the sessions?** Visit YouTube and search “ruth haley barton sacred rhythms.”
- **Which book do I buy?** You can purchase the book at the Information/Welcome Center at either site any Sunday or in the church office during the week. Cost is \$15.
- **What if I can't make all the sessions?** Slip into another discussion group that week, or just come whenever you can make it.
- **Can I bring a friend? Is it for both men and women?** Yes! All are welcome!