

# Seeing Needs & Planting Seeds

## *Giving Up & Giving Out for Rosa Parks Elementary School*



The season of Lent is here. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 1, we will reflect on and be renewed because of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

During the last 6 years, First CRC has engaged in a “Give-Up-and Give-Out” Lenten Ministry. Just as Jesus gave-up His life so that others might live, we imitate Him by giving-up so that others will be blessed by the life and ministry of the Church. That’s what gospel-driven Christians do.

The Lenten “Give-Up-and-Give-Out” focus for 2018 is Rosa Parks School, located just a couple miles east of our Church on East 26<sup>th</sup> Street (close to Highway 11). Seventy percent (70%) of the Rosa Park students come from low-income families. First CRC has entered into a partnership with the school to assist in the development of the students. Some of our members have already joined in the work.

Rosa Parks would like to build a **Learning Garden**, a garden that would become a vital part of its academic curriculum. The First CRC Mission Team has committed her “Give-Up-and-Give-Out” project to help secure the funding needed to begin the garden. It is a project to which we all can both personally and spiritual relate.

The Bible makes extensive use of horticultural themes to teach what it means to be a Christian. Consider the following:

- We were created to live in the Garden of Eden.
- Sin, however, entered the world and God’s beautiful world became a place of hardship, a place of meaningless toil.
- The gospel reversed the effects of sin when Jesus, who through His suffering, death and resurrection, became the first fruits of a new creation.
- Those who believe in Him, therefore, are lush branches nourished by Him, the Vine. In Him, we become trees planted by His streams of living water. We grow strong and bear the fruit of the Spirit.
- We also participate in the planting the seed of the gospel in the soil of human hearts – some plant, others water, but God makes it grow.
- Ultimately, the gospel will yield its harvest – leading people to repentance and faith, who, with the trees of the field, clap their hands and live in anticipation of the new Garden where we will feast on the Tree of Life!

Rosa Parks would like to establish a **Learning Garden** to teach her students about life. We desire to participate because it is a profound way to point to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We hope that you will “give-up” so that a rich harvest will take place in the lives of the students and teachers of Rosa Parks School.

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Rosa Parks Elementary School*

**Lent: February 14 – April 1**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			 ASH WEDNESDAY February 14	15	16	17
18 First Sunday of Lent	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Second Sunday of Lent	26	27	28	1 March	2	3
4 Third Sunday of Lent	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Fourth Sunday of Lent	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Fifth Sunday of Lent	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Sixth Sunday of Lent	26	27	28	29	 30 GOOD FRIDAY	31



*Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food. And it was so.*

*Genesis 1:29-30*

# Lent 2018

*40 Days of Prayer, Service, and  
Sacrifice*

**Day 1: Ash Wednesday.** For each kind of fruit and vegetable in your kitchen deposit \$2.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT:

Life in God's Garden.  
Read Genesis 1:27-31

**Week 1:** If you went to the grocery store this past weekend deposit \$5. Add \$1 for each additional trip this week.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT:

I am the Vine, You are the  
Branches  
Read John 15:1-9

**Week 2:** For each tree on your yard deposit \$2. If you have a vegetable or flower garden add \$5.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT:

Planted by Streams of Living Water  
Read Psalm 1 & Matthew 7:17

**Week 3:** For each faucet in your house deposit \$2. Add \$1 for each outdoor spout and hose.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

Bearing the Fruit of the Gospel  
Read Proverbs 22:9 & 25:21  
Galations 5:22-23

**Week 4:** For each Fruit of the Spirit deposit \$1. (Hint: There are nine.)  
**Bonus:** Do a random act of kindness for someone this week.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

Planting the Seed of the Gospel  
Read: Matthew 6:28-30, 1  
Corinthians 3:5-9, 1 Peter 1:24  
(Isaiah 40:6ff)

**Week 5:** For each lawn mower, leaf blower, rake, etc. in your garage deposit \$1.

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

The trees of the field will clap their  
hands.  
Read Isaiah 5:6-13

**Week 6:** For each day it rains (or snows) this week deposit \$2. If it's a sunny week deposit \$10!

## GOOD FRIDAY:

The First Fruits  
Read Romans 8:18-27 &  
1 Corinthians 15:20-28

**EASTER SUNDAY: The New Garden**  
Read: Revelation 2:7 & 22:1-6, 14, 19