

**Sunday, April 20, 2025 - STUDY SCRIPTURE LUKE 9:25-28**

1) What do you think it means for a Christian to love God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind?

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2) What challenges or obstacles do you face that hinder your ability to “love your neighbor as yourself and what are you willing to do to overcome them?”

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### CORPORATE FAST PRAYER

Almighty God, I give you praise and thanks for the many ways you continue to bless me and First Church. Speak to my heart, Oh God and revive my spirit as I submit to this time of fasting and prayer. Search my soul and bring to my awareness any part of me that is reluctant to serve you. Examine my heart and remove complacency and replace it with conviction. Come Holy Spirit and overwhelm me with joy, love and mercy. Inspire me to move beyond my hunger so that I may hear the voice of God clearly. Gracious God, I thank you for your abiding love and mercy, which motivates me to become a faithful and faith-filled servant. Reveal yourself to me, as I seek you with all my heart, soul and strength. Holy Spirit set my soul ablaze igniting my passion to love authentically, to serve sincerely and embrace your vision earnestly.  
In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



# Fasting & Devotional Guide

# 3 DAY

April 17-20, 2025

## Corporate Fast

“Humbled, Prayerful, & Seeking”  
2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON**  
33112 Grand River Avenue † Farmington, MI 48335  
Phone: (248) 474-6573 † Fax: (248) 474-2624  
Website: [www.farmingtonfumc.org](http://www.farmingtonfumc.org)

# WHY ARE WE FASTING?

We stand at a pivotal moment in the life of our church; each of us must re-evaluate our commitment to God, to First Church, to one another, and to our community. Each of us has a part to play in determining the future relevance, vibrance, and impact of our church. To that end, I've called for this time of fasting and prayer, in conjuncture with the three days Christ was entombed, so that we might emerge on Resurrection Sunday renewed, revived, and reignited.

You are asked to read each day's scripture, answer the reflection questions, and pray the Corporate Fast Prayer during the times you would normally eat a meal. Whether you choose to engage in option 1, 2, or 3, the importance is that we come together in this time of prayer. This study guide is designed to enhance your time of prayer during this fast. We will conclude our corporate fast with communion time of on Easter Resurrection Sunday, April 20, 2025. Thank you for making the commitment to participate in our corporate fast.

Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. Anthony R. Hood

## FASTING OPTIONS

### OPTION #1 – THE LIQUID FAST

Those who select option 1, should drink only water and tea during the fast. Your last full meal Thursday evening, should consist of chicken noodle soup and a salad. During the fast, you are asked to read the devotional scripture and pray the Corporate Fast Prayer during the time you would normally eat a meal.

### OPTION #2 – THE RAW FRUIT & VEGETABLE FAST

Those who select option 2 should eat fresh fruit, raw vegetables, drink 100% fruit juice, and water. Your last full meal Thursday evening, should consist of a garden salad without meat. During the fast, you are asked to read the devotional scripture and pray the Corporate Fast Prayer during the time you would normally eat a meal.

### OPTION #3 – THE PRAYER FAST (for diabetic, hypoglycemic, etc..)

Those who select option 3 are asked to fast from red meat, pork, complaining, or criticism, and pray – prior to breakfast, lunch and dinner – for the duration of the fast. During the fast, you are asked to read the devotional scripture and pray the Corporate Fast Prayer prior to your meals.

## Thursday, April 17, 2025: STUDY SCRIPTURE LUKE 12:22-26

- 1) What do you worry about that distracts you from hearing God's voice? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) Read verses 25-26, What are some things you can do to prevent yourself from worrying about things that are beyond your control? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Friday, April 18, 2025: STUDY SCRIPTURE LUKE 15:8-10

- 1) How can we as Christians help God find those who are disconnected/lost in our community? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) Over the next five months, list the three people you will invite come to church? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Saturday, April 19, 2025: STUDY SCRIPTURE ROMANS 12:1-2

- 1) What are some of the ways you can become pleasing to God in school, at work, with your family, with your finances and in the church? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) In what areas of your life have you "conformed to the patterns of this world;" how will you make changes? \_\_\_\_\_  
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