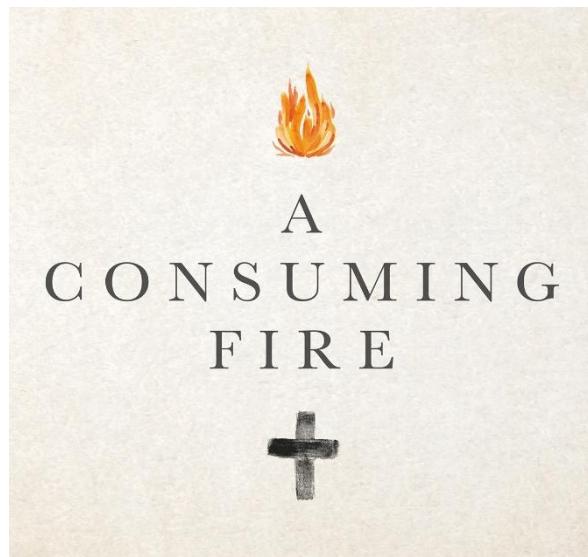




vineyardhopewell®

Where Hope Happens

Lent 2026



Participants Guide

Sunday Services February 22- March 29th 10:00 am
Easter Sunday Services 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Consuming Fire-A Forty Day Faith Journey

The Lent Season: A Consuming Fire

Lent is a 40-day journey toward Easter—a season to engage together in worship, prayer, fasting, and Scripture. These shared faith practices often stretch us, deepen our trust in God, and open us to see Him work in unexpected ways. We invite you to join us as a church in this focused season of spiritual growth.

Jesus is still changing lives—again and again. He meets us in joyful moments and in hard ones, always present and faithful. Lent is a time to realign our hearts around what matters most as followers of Jesus:

- Worship
- Prayer
- Scripture
- Fasting

Our Core Scripture

Hebrews 12:26–29 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, **for our God is a consuming fire.**

Lent is a journey into God’s holy presence, where what cannot last is burned away, and what is eternal remains. “Consuming Fire” (Hebrews 12:29) is not primarily about judgment, but holy presence. Throughout Lent, God draws near—not to destroy us, but to purify, reorient, and remake us as we journey toward the cross and resurrection.

I. Engaging God in Worship

Worship is our loving response to who God is. During Lent, we invite you to worship both corporately on Sundays and personally each day. Set aside 10–15 minutes daily to turn your attention toward God—through song, prayer, Scripture, obedience, or quiet reflection. As we worship, we declare that Jesus is Lord over our lives and all creation.

II. Engaging God in Prayer

During these 40 days, ask:

- What do I want Jesus to do for me?
- What do I want Jesus to do for my four? (*Ask God to show you four friends/neighbors or family members who aren't currently walking with Jesus to pray for each day for 40 days*)
- What do I want Jesus to do for the Hudson Valley?
- What do I want Jesus to do for our church?

God invites us to ask boldly and honestly. Scripture reminds us that our Father delights in hearing our requests and responding in love.

Prayer Focus

- **For You:** Write down what you are asking Jesus to do in your life this Lent.
- **For "My Four":** Pray daily for four people in your life who need a deeper connection with God. Be open to inviting them to Easter.
- **For the Hudson Valley:** Pray for specific neighborhoods, streets, or places. Consider prayer walking your area.
- **For Our Church:** **Join us in fasting and praying on Wednesdays using A.S.H.:**
 - **Anointing** – empowered to live out God's calling
 - **Salvations** – lives transformed by Jesus
 - **Healings** – physical, emotional, and spiritual restoration

When you see God answer prayer, share your story with others or through the church app or on our "God Story's" board in the lobby.

III. Engaging God in Scripture

- Read through the Gospel of Matthew using the attached 40-day plan
- Write out verses that stand out to you
- Memorize one verse each week

Let Scripture shape your heart and guide your prayers.

IV. Engaging God Through Fasting

Fasting is a way of directing our hunger and dependence toward God. Consider fasting in a way that is meaningful and healthy for you:

- Food-related fasts (one meal a day, Daniel fast, giving up specific foods)
- Non-food fasts (social media, TV, distractions)

Fasting works best when tied to prayer with clear purpose. Connect your fast to what you are asking Jesus to do for you, your four, the Hudson Valley, and our church. We encourage fasting and praying together on Wednesdays throughout Lent.

Summary: Consuming Fire – 40 Day Faith Journey

Core Scriptures: Hebrews 12:26–29

Four Key Commitments

1. **Worship:** When and how will you worship daily?
2. **Prayer:** What are you asking Jesus to do for you, others, our region, and our church?
3. **Scripture:** How will you engage God's Word during Lent?
4. **Fasting:** What will you fast, and how will it focus your prayers? [Check out this Prayer and Fasting Guide for more info on Fasting](#) or find the guide on our app or website in the Consuming Fire Media Series

Habakkuk 3:2 – “Lord, I stand in awe of your deeds. Repeat them in our day.”

Lent 2026 – 40-Day Reading Plan Through Matthew

 Sundays are for reflection, rest, or catching up

40-Day Lent Reading Plan Gospel of Matthew

Ash Wednesday: Feb 18 → Easter Sunday: April 5

For 40 days, we will walk slowly with Jesus—from repentance to resurrection. Sundays are moments to worship and breathe, but each weekday we'll listen closely to the voice of Christ as He leads us to the cross... and beyond it

Ash Wednesday

Feb 18 (Day 1) – Matthew 1

The King enters a broken human story

Week 1

Feb 19 (Thu, Day 2) – Matthew 2

Feb 20 (Fri, Day 3) – Matthew 3

Feb 21 (Sat, Day 4) – Matthew 4

Feb 22 (Sun) – *Pause / Worship / No reading*

Week 2

Feb 23 (Mon, Day 5) – Matthew 5

Feb 24 (Tue, Day 6) – Matthew 6

Feb 25 (Wed, Day 7) – Matthew 7

Feb 26 (Thu, Day 8) – Matthew 8

Feb 27 (Fri, Day 9) – Matthew 9

Feb 28 (Sat, Day 10) – Matthew 10

Mar 1 (Sun) – *Pause / Worship*

Week 3

Mar 2 (Mon, Day 11) – Matthew 11

Mar 3 (Tue, Day 12) – Matthew 12

Mar 4 (Wed, Day 13) – Matthew 13

Mar 5 (Thu, Day 14) – Matthew 14

Mar 6 (Fri, Day 15) – Matthew 15

Mar 7 (Sat, Day 16) – Matthew 16

Mar 8 (Sun) – *Pause / Worship*

Week 4

Mar 9 (Mon, Day 17) – Matthew 17

Mar 10 (Tue, Day 18) – Matthew 18

Mar 11 (Wed, Day 19) – Matthew 19
Mar 12 (Thu, Day 20) – Matthew 20
Mar 13 (Fri, Day 21) – Matthew 21
Mar 14 (Sat, Day 22) – Matthew 22
Mar 15 (Sun) – *Pause / Worship*

Week 5

Mar 16 (Mon, Day 23) – Matthew 23
Mar 17 (Tue, Day 24) – Matthew 24
Mar 18 (Wed, Day 25) – Matthew 25
Mar 19 (Thu, Day 26) – Matthew 26:1–35
Mar 20 (Fri, Day 27) – Matthew 26:36–75
Mar 21 (Sat, Day 28) – Matthew 27:1–31
Mar 22 (Sun) – *Pause / Worship*

Week 6

Mar 23 (Mon, Day 29) – Matthew 27:32–56
Mar 24 (Tue, Day 30) – Matthew 27:57–66
Mar 25 (Wed, Day 31) – Matthew 28:1–10
Mar 26 (Thu, Day 32) – Matthew 28:11–20
Mar 27 (Fri, Day 33) – Reflect: Matthew 21 (Triumphal Entry)
Mar 28 (Sat, Day 34) – Reflect: Matthew 22–23
Mar 29 (Sun) – *Pause / Worship*

Holy Week

Mar 30 (Mon, Day 35) – Matthew 24–25
Mar 31 (Tue, Day 36) – Matthew 26
Apr 1 (Wed, Day 37) – Matthew 27
Apr 2 (Thu, Day 38) – Matthew 26:36–46 (Gethsemane)
Apr 3 (Fri, Day 39) – Matthew 27:45–54 (The Cross)
Apr 4 (Sat) – *Silent Saturday / No reading*

Easter Sunday

Apr 5 (Day 40) – Matthew 28
He is risen. Go and make disciples.