

First Parish Church in Weston
Church School “Ways to Celebrate the 40 days of Lent”
Spring 2014
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1. Use a special candle at family meals to recall the light of Christ and how “You are the light of the world.”
2. Wear more white, or even gold! They’re the season’s special colors.
3. Plan fun family activities—one for every week of Easter.
4. Add an “alleluia” song—or three alleluias—to your grace before meals.
5. Tell your teachers, sport coaches, or Scout leaders “thank you” for all they do.
6. Talk about something you or your family would like to give up as a special reminder of Lent. Donate the savings to a charity.
7. Put on an Easter play. Invite relatives and friends to a performance.
8. Listen to Handel’s *Messiah* and other Easter music. If you like to sing/play instruments, have friends over for a musical celebration.
9. Celebrate mealtime by doing something as a family to support homelessness – make dinner for the Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen in Waltham on Wednesday, March 26, starting at 3:00 pm in our First Parish Kitchen.
10. Keep fresh flowers around. Or deliver a bunch to a senior citizen or a friend in need of cheering up.
11. Bake some or eat some pretzels – food symbol of prayer & penance, called “little arms” or *bracellae*.
12. Visit a lonely neighbor or do some other family act of kindness to express thanks for community connections.
13. Talk about baptism. Tell stories of family members’ baptisms and where their special names came from.
14. Plan a family outing to a river, lake, stream, or ocean and enjoy the clean water beauty around you. Throw some water balloons!
15. Take the time to share a smile with someone today.
16. Make cookies in the shapes of Easter symbols. Freeze some to serve throughout the season. Or bake hot cross buns.
17. Learn how other cultures celebrate Easter. Try out some of their customs and foods.
18. Pray that all of God’s people know how much He loves them and you too!
19. Plant some seeds in a flowerpot to sprout by Easter, a symbol of new life.
20. Go visit Drumlin Farms in Lincoln to see baby lambs and goats just born.

21. Make a poster of “Things We Need” and “Things We Want” – discuss the differences.
22. Read about the Emmaus disciples in *Luke 24:13-35*; take a family walk.
23. What about a short trip to an interesting shrine or church?
24. Play “twenty questions”: Have someone choose a Bible character or thing from the Easter stories. The group gets twenty questions (yes or no answers only) to guess the right answer.
25. Watch a movie together with an Easter theme, talk about it.
26. Recite *The Lord’s Prayer* - what does it mean to “lead us not into temptation”? Remember that God gives us everything we really need.
27. Read about the disciples’ amazing catch of fish, a miracle story in *John 21:1-14*. Then go fishing together.
28. Discuss local or global headlines in the news. Start your meal with a grace & a prayer for people and events around the world and in your town, school, and church.
29. Join us for our Palm Sunday celebration on April 13 and wave your palm leaves and shout “Hosanna”
30. Talk about how the Twelve Disciples hid in *John 20:19* until the Spirit’s coming at Pentecost. Follow up by playing hide and seek.
31. List the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit in *Galatians 5:22-23* on separate slips of paper. Have each family member randomly select a fruit to cultivate.
32. Fly a kite to celebrate the wind of the Holy Spirit.
33. Attend Passover Seder on Maundy Thursday, April 17 in our Sears Chapel.
34. Find ways to make Sunday meals special during the Easter season.
35. Discuss why Sunday is holy. Decide how you can keep the Lord’s Day as a family.
36. Read together from the Easter story in *Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21*.
37. Bring spring blooms indoors. Grow a bulb garden of crocuses, hyacinths, lilies, irises or tulips. OR force budding branches of forsythia, pussy willow, lilac or dogwood.
38. Begin your own spring-cleaning and designate items as: Keep, Give Away, Repair, or Recycle.
39. Spring is a great time to start a living ‘Family Tree’ – plant one and take seasonal photos of your family around it as you all grow.
40. Invite friends or neighbors to a colorful Easter egg decorating party. And don’t forget to come our annual Egg Hunt at First Parish Church on Easter Sunday, April 20!