

At Table Worship  
Wednesdays During Lent - 6 pm  
Upper Room  
March 4, 11, 18, 25

During Lent, you invited to gather before GIFT begins in the Upper Room, to share in the most ancient form of Christian worship: a meal!

Before there were pews and pulpits, there were dinner parties. While their movement was young and their numbers small, the earliest Christians met in each other's homes, or in rented rooms, for dinner. They sang, told stories, broke bread, read letters, and prayed with one another. At Table is a worship service that follows the pattern of the earliest Christian gatherings.

During Advent and Lent we will meet weekly in the tradition of these meals, to pray, sing, share stories, and eat together. Gathering At Table, we seek nourishment from God and one another for our Advent and Lenten Journeys, we remember Jesus, and witness to the ways that God is at work in our lives and in the world. A light dinner is provided and all are welcome.

Following At Table, the Labyrinth will be open for walking, prayer and meditation from 7:00 - 7:30.

## GIFT In Testimony



*If I have achieved anything in my life it is because I have not  
been embarrassed to talk about God.*

- Dorothy Day

*Christians believe that we cannot tell the truth, not  
the whole truth, without talking about God, and if  
we cannot tell the whole truth,  
we cannot be fully alive.*

-Thomas Long

**Feb 18: Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 p.m.**

**Feb 25: Testimony and Grief**

Where was God for you in a time of loss or struggle?

**Mar 4: Testimony and Mentors**

Who in your life has helped you become the person you are  
and helped you grow in faith?

**Mar 7: Retreat: Testimony, Creeds, and Blessings**

We will gather from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Warren  
Conference Center in Ashland for a day long retreat.

**Mar 11 : Testimony and Money**

How does your faith influence the decisions you make  
about how you earn, spend, and give money?

**Mar 18: Testimony and Discernment Circles**

Drawing on the practices of our Discernment Circles  
Ministry, how do we talk about the transitions or major  
decisions in our lives?

**Mar 25: Testimony at Work/Community/Family**

How do you talk about your faith with colleagues, neighbors,  
and family members who are not part of the church?

**Apr 1: Holy Week**

**Apr 8: Public Witness**

## Schedule

**January 7, - April 15, 2015**

**7:30 to 9:00 pm**

### **Jan 7: Introduction to Testimony**

What does it mean to offer a testimony to our faith and how will we explore together what it means in our lives?

### **Jan 14: Holy Listening**

We begin by drawing on the GIFT practice of holy listening and praying for one another.

### **Jan 21: The StoryCorps Project**

What can we learn about the practice of testimony from this national project of story recording?

### **Jan 28: Testimony and Hospitality**

When was a time when you experienced a deep sense of welcome and belonging?

### **Feb 4: Testimony and Church Membership**

Why did you join the church? What does being a member of the church mean to you?

### **Feb 11: Testimony and Worship**

When have you experienced God's presence or the movement of the Holy Spirit in worship?

## GIFT In Testimony

What is the story God has given you to tell?

Where do you see God at work in the world?

What might we learn about ourselves by sharing our faith with another?

How might our faith deepen if we learned to tell each other our stories?

In this year's GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) adult education series, we'll take up these questions and more, as we explore and experience practices of testimony.



*I felt a deep, inner urge to tell my story to others... out of an awareness that my deepest vocation is to be a witness to the glimpses of God I have been allowed to catch.*

-Henri Nouwen,

Whether or not you have been a part of a previous GIFT series, you are welcome! The only prerequisite is a desire to participate.

We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm beginning on January 7, 2014 and concluding on April 15, the week before the public school vacation. A full schedule is in this brochure.

Each meeting will begin with a brief gathering and prayer of all GIFT participants in the Upper Room, but most of our time will be spent in small groups.

Between meetings, there will be a short article, a chapter from a book for you to read or podcast for you to listen to as we pull together material from a variety of different sources.

Can't make it to all the sessions? In previous GIFT programs, we have found that each person's participation and commitment deepens everyone's experience, and is particularly important to the small group process. That said, if your schedule is such that you need to miss a couple of meetings, don't let that get in your way of saying yes! to this opportunity.

The church will provide all materials for our sessions together. We will ask you to contribute \$75 to help cover the cost of the retreat and book. If this poses a hardship for you, the church will gladly cover the cost. Let John Allen or Chris Braudaway-Bauman know.

Sign up during fellowship hour in Village Common after 10 am worship or email Tricia at [tricia@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:tricia@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

