2027 Lenten Devotional Writer Guidelines

Thank you for considering sharing a reflection for Friendship's Lenten Journey: Stories of Faith, Grace, and Hope. Your experience of God's grace may encourage someone else. First-time writers and writers of all ages are welcome.

Our devotional journey runs from Ash Wednesday, February 10, through Easter Sunday, March 28, 2027. Please use these instructions and the sample on page 3 to prepare your entry.

How to participate

1. Express your interest by Sunday, November 22, 2026. Speak with Pastor Rudy or contact the church office. Share your name, contact information, and any Scripture or theme you have in mind.

2. Coordinate your Scripture early. Use the suggestions on page 2 or propose a passage that is meaningful to you. Share your choice with Pastor Rudy or the church office before completing your reflection so selections can be coordinated.

3. Prepare your entry using the format below. Ask for help if you need assistance choosing a passage, shaping your story, or typing your reflection.

4. Submit your completed entry by Sunday, January 10, 2027. Email it to office@friendshipmethodist.org as a Word attachment or in the email body. Include your contact information and the name you want published. If you need to submit a handwritten entry or share your reflection aloud, contact the office to arrange help.

What to include

A brief title; the Scripture reference; a personal reflection of approximately 200–300 words; a short closing prayer ending with Amen; and your preferred published name. You may also add a one-sentence Thought for the Day. The reflection word count excludes the title, Scripture, prayer, and contributor information.

Tell what happened, explain how the Scripture helps you understand the experience, and offer an insight or practical invitation for the reader. The sample also includes a short Scripture focus quotation. NRSVUE is the preferred translation. Identify any other translation you use and discuss it with Pastor Rudy if its wording is important to your reflection.

Write in your own voice

Use clear, gracious language and one central idea. Ordinary encounters, questions, struggles, service, and joy can all become reflections. Respect other people's privacy and obtain permission before sharing identifiable or sensitive details about them. The editorial team will gently edit for clarity, length, and Scripture connection, and will invite you to review substantial changes.

With your entry, please indicate whether you give Friendship permission to publish your reflection and preferred name in printed and digital versions. You may write more than one entry after coordinating with Pastor Rudy.

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Themes and Important Dates

These suggested themes and Scriptures can help you get started. You may propose another passage. They are thematic choices rather than daily assignments.

Dates and theme	Suggested Scripture passages
Feb. 10–13 • Returning to God	Joel 2:12–13; Isaiah 58:6–12; Psalm 51:10–12; Matthew 6:16–21; James 4:7–10
Feb. 14–20 • Trusting God in the Wilderness	Deuteronomy 8:2–5; Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:4–10; Mark 1:9–15; Isaiah 43:18–19
Feb. 21–27 • Growing Through Prayer and Faith	1 Samuel 3:1–10; Psalm 27:7–14; Mark 9:14–24; Philippians 4:4–9; Luke 11:1–13
Feb. 28–Mar. 6 • Grace, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation	Genesis 50:15–21; Micah 7:18–20; Psalm 103:8–13; Matthew 18:21–35; 2 Corinthians 5:16–21
Mar. 7–13 • Loving and Serving Our Neighbors	Isaiah 58:6–10; Ruth 2:8–12; Micah 6:6–8; Luke 10:25–37; James 2:14–17
Mar. 14–20 • Renewing Our Commitment to Follow Jesus	Joshua 24:14–15; Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 119:33–40; Mark 8:34–38; John 12:20–26
Mar. 21–27 • Holy Week: Walking with Jesus	Mark 11:1–11; John 13:1–17; Mark 14:32–42; Mark 15:21–39; Isaiah 53:4–9
Mar. 28 • Easter: Living in Resurrection Hope	Isaiah 25:6–9; Psalm 118:14–24; Mark 16:1–8; John 20:1–18; 1 Corinthians 15:20–22

Writing for a special observance

If you would like to write for Ash Wednesday, a Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, or Easter Sunday, let Pastor Rudy know. The pastor and editorial team will confirm the appropriate readings and coordinate those selections before assignments are finalized.

Dates to remember

Date	What happens
Sunday, November 22, 2026	Express your interest in writing.
November–December 2026	Coordinate Scripture choices and receive writing support.
Sunday, January 10, 2027	Submit your completed devotional entry.
January 11–24, 2027	Editorial review and contributor review of substantial edits.
January 25–February 5, 2027	Proofreading and preparation of print and digital versions.
Sunday, February 7, 2027	Target date for distribution.
February 10–March 28, 2027	Shared devotional journey from Ash Wednesday through Easter.

Sample Devotional

The Gift of Being Present

Scripture Reading: Galatians 6:2 (NRSVUE)

Scripture Focus: “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Reflection

Sometimes the most meaningful expressions of Christian love are found in the simplest acts of kindness.

Imagine visiting a neighbor who has been experiencing a difficult season. You arrive thinking you should have something encouraging to say, perhaps a few words that might make the situation better. But as the conversation unfolds, you realize that your neighbor does not need advice or explanations. What matters most is that someone has taken the time to sit, listen, and care.

Many of us want to help others, yet we sometimes believe that helping requires having the right answers. We may hesitate because we do not know what to say or how to solve another person’s problems.

In Galatians 6:2, the apostle Paul encourages believers to bear one another’s burdens. His words remind us that Christian love is not measured simply by what we accomplish but also by our willingness to walk alongside others.

Bearing another person’s burden does not always mean removing their difficulties. Sometimes it means offering a listening ear, sharing a quiet moment, providing practical assistance, or reminding someone that they are not alone.

During Lent, we are invited to reflect on how the love of Christ becomes visible through our everyday relationships.

Perhaps there is someone in your life who needs encouragement today. You may not have the perfect words or a solution to their circumstances. But you can offer something meaningful: your presence, your compassion, and your willingness to care.

Sometimes the simplest act of love becomes a powerful reminder of God’s grace.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, open our hearts to the needs of others. Help us recognize opportunities to offer kindness, compassion, and encouragement. Teach us to bear one another’s burdens and reflect the love of Christ in our daily lives. Amen.

Thought for the Day

Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer another person is our caring presence.

This example demonstrates the format, not a required writing style. Your devotional should reflect your own voice, experiences, and understanding of Scripture. A simple story, honestly shared and thoughtfully connected to God’s Word, can offer encouragement and hope to others.