



Gibbsville
Hingham
Oostburg
Cedar Grove
Belgium
Beyond

FRIDAY
APRIL 24



ABSTAIN

"Consecrate a fast, call a solemn assembly!" (Joel 1:14)

- Fasting is abstaining from physical things for spiritual purposes
- Each person is free to decide how long to fast and what to fast from. Fasting from food (not water) from sunrise to sunset is typical, but depending on your age/health, you may choose to fast from meat, sweets, alcohol, caffeine, coffee/soda, or even texting, social media, television, sports, etc.



WORSHIP

God "is gracious and merciful...and He relents over disaster" (Joel 2:13)

- Fasting is not a burden, but a blessing.
- We fast from food to feast on God! Take time to enjoy God's presence through prayer, Scripture reading, meditation, singing, etc.



REPENT

"Return to Me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12)

- Fasting is an occasion for self-examination. Confess your sins and ask God for forgiveness through Jesus Christ



LAMENT

"Return to Me...with weeping and with mourning" (Joel 2:12)

- In Scripture, fasting is a common way for people to express grief. It is fitting for us to mourn the global pandemic and its devastating effects



PRAY

"Weep and say, Spare Your people, O LORD" (Joel 2:17)

- Pray for God to stop the spread of the coronavirus
- Pray for those most vulnerable to the virus: the elderly, local assisted living homes (Pine Haven, Belgium Gardens, Cedar Grove Gardens), and those with compromised immune systems
- Pray for hospitals and healthcare workers
- Pray for God to restore corporate worship (Joel 1:13, 16; 2:14)
- Pray for spiritual revival in our area, nation, and the world (Joel 2:28-32)



WATCH

"I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Joel 2:28, 32)

- Area pastors/leaders are creating a 30-minute worship video that will air at the end of the Joel Fast (Friday, April 24):
- **Cable TV:** Channel 14, 5:30-6 pm, 7:30-8 pm
Channel 20, 6-6:30 pm, 6:30-7 pm, 8-8:30 pm, 8:30-9pm
- **Facebook:** join <https://www.facebook.com/groups/joelfast2020>

In the days of the prophet Joel, the people of God faced an unprecedented crisis: locusts, drought, famine, and fire were devastating the land of Israel and making it impossible to worship at the temple. In the midst of this crisis, **Joel called upon the community to set apart a day for fasting and prayer (Joel 1:14).**

In our own day, coronavirus, not unlike an army of locusts, has invaded many lands and left devastation in its wake. Like Joel's contemporaries, we find ourselves dislocated from our places of worship and uncertain about the future. Thus, churches from Belgium, Cedar Grove, Hingham, Gibbsville, and Oostburg are inviting you to join them for a day of fasting and prayer on **Friday, April 24.**

If you would like to participate, there is no need to sign up, and you do not even need to leave your home! Questions? Comments? Stories? E-mail joelfast2020@gmail.com.

Participating Churches:

- Belgium Community Church
- St. Mark Lutheran, Belgium
- Faith Reformed Church, C.G.
- 1st EPC, Cedar Grove
- 1st Reformed Church, C.G.
- Calvary OPC, Cedar Grove
- Gibbsville Reformed Church
- Hingham Reformed Church
- Bethel OPC, Oostburg
- 1st CRC, Oostburg
- 1st Reformed Church, Oostburg
- Grace Bible Church, Oostburg
- Living Hope Bible Church, Oostburg
- Revive Baptist Church, Oostburg
- Any other interested churches?

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