



Ash Wednesday

 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2, 2022
6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service

6:00 pm

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Call To Worship

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Hymn No. 400 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Opening Prayer

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that You have made, from the dust of the earth You have formed us and from the dust of death You will raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of Your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Hymn No. 354 *I Surrender All*

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

When you pray do not heap up empty phrases, pray in this way:

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

Hymn No. 395 *Take Time to Be Holy*

Message Rev. James McCoy-Bruce

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer of Confession Psalm 51:1-17 No. 785

(All offer silent prayers of confession)

Words of Absolution

Pastor: May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

People: Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn No. 389 *Freely, Freely*

Dismissal with Blessing

Sung Response He Touched Me (refrain)
**He touched me, oh He touched me
And oh the joy that floods my soul
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole.**

Why is Easter on a different day each year?

In 325 AD, the Council of Nicea set the date for the celebration of Easter as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, March 21. For this reason, the date will change each year and can fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25.

Easter is the oldest festival of the Christian Church. In the early Church, new converts sat in vigil during the night before Easter. They were baptized and received their first Holy Communion on Easter Day.

According to St. Bede (673-735), the name "Easter" was derived from the Saxon spring goddess, "Eostre." As in the case of Christmas, the Christian observance of Easter took the place of an existing pagan ritual.

The date for Easter is set in relation to the Jewish Passover. Since Jesus' Last Supper and crucifixion occurred during the feast of the Passover, Christ is seen as the Paschal lamb, the new sacrifice. For this reason, the Christian observance of Jesus' death and resurrection are forever tied to the Jewish Passover feast.

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

What is the significance of ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a day of penitence and remembrance of our sins of the past and our ultimate mortality. Palm branches are usually burned and the sign of the cross is placed on the forehead using the ashes. The ash cross is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

from: www.umc.org

Community Lenten Pilgrimage Series

Service at 12:30 pm

No lunch option this year.

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| March 9 | -- | St. Mark UMC, River's Street Campus |
| March 16 | -- | First Baptist Church |
| March 23 | -- | Main Street UMC |
| March 30 | -- | Morris Chapel Baptist Church |
| April 6 | -- | First Presbyterian Church |