

***Ash Wednesday
Shared Ministry Service
February 18, 2026
6:00 p.m.***



OUR LORD'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
There's a Place for You Here

*As you view and participate in this worship please note that **bolded text** invites ALL to voice.*

Gathering Music "Dust and Ashes"

from W&S 3098

Graceful Engagement

Think on This for Tonight

We gather as a community on Ash Wednesday. We come together to acknowledge our humanness and to pledge to join in the Lenten journey of faith. We are invited to walk the road that leads to new life, not just for our own sake, but for the sake of the world. Ash Wednesday is a call to action.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Settling In

Prelude "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

arr. Phillip Keveren

One voice: Good evening, Church! I see you!

ALL voices: I am here!

*Call to Worship

Children of God, we gather to prepare for our journey through Lent, a journey of repentance and mercy.

We gather to be renewed in God's mercy.

We gather to confess, to tell the truth about sin and our dependence on God's grace.

We gather to call upon God's mercy.

We gather to repent, to receive and cooperate with grace as we turn from sin and toward love of God and neighbor.

We gather to live in the promise of God's mercy.

cont.

People of God, we gather to worship God, whose steadfast mercy and love never fail!

We gather to worship, trusting in God's mercy as we follow Jesus on the road to new life.

*Opening Hymn "Jesus, We Are Here" *all verses*

FWS 2273

*Opening Prayer

O God, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take our hearts, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in us. We need Your newness, God, the rough parts of us made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven. And then, by the power of Your Spirit, we need to be turned toward Love again. We are here, work in and through us, Lord, now and always. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Psalter Reading Psalm 51:1-17 NIRV

Choral Anthem "Change My Heart, O God" by Eddie Espinosa
setting by Joel Raney, Deanna Shimko, Director

New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 NIRV

Sermon "Tov Meod"

RESPONDING TOGETHER

*Hymn "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

FWS 2193

*Responsive Prayer of Confession

On this first day of Lent we pause, look within, and examine our consciousness.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship, found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

Where we have colluded in the oppression of those who become invisible in their suffering, and ignored on the streets:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

Where worry has eroded the gift of Your peace, and where we have cared too much about what others think:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

Words of Assurance

...Be encouraged.

Thanks be to God! We are seen, forgiven and free!

Giving and Receiving as Community Action

Prayer of Blessing

Merciful God of New Beginnings, on this day of dust and devotion, we return to You, seeking clean hearts and renewed spirits. We offer these gifts as signs of our desire to be reconciled - not only to You, but to one another and to a world aching for healing. Receive what we bring - our resources, our repentance, and our resolve - as tools You may use to mend what is broken, build what is needed, and proclaim Your redeeming love. Strengthen us to walk this Lenten journey together, shaped by grace, grounded in community, and sustained by hope. In the name of Christ, our reconciliation and peace, let it be so.

Handbell Anthem "Maesgwyn"

Welsh tune composed by John Edwards
arr. by Becky Perreault

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Ashes

Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by Your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; only by Your mercy are we made new; only by Your steadfast love can we live in the joy of Your salvation now and forever; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Imposition of Ashes

Unison Prayer

God so loved God's world, that the Son was sent to it, that healing and hope may be found. He is the Light of the World and in His Name, we have received the mark of discipleship. Lord, bless ALL, this day, who have received this mark. Heal and restore us. Help us to become true disciples, serving You all our days. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Responsive Sending Forth

Though the night is dark, the Light of the world goes before you.

God guides our steps and surrounds our lives.

Go in peace.

We go, ready to serve the One who has always loved each one of us.

*Final Blessing

Beloved, as you go from this place, go in the blessing of God who forgives, cleanses, redeems, and sustains us to observe a holy Lent, to cooperate with grace, and to encounter God's mercy anew each day.

Need hearing assistance? Hearing assist devices are available. Visit our tech room and someone will help you.

Lectionary readings: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *"Return to God"*; Isaiah 58:1-12 *"The fast that God chooses"* Psalm 51:17 *"Plea for mercy"*; 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 *"Now is the day of salvation"*; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *"The practice of faith"*



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Highlighting, with gratitude, these servant leaders for today...

Wendi Haubert, Izzy Veit, Dave Smith, Rebecca Landgraf, Kathy Depies, Sue Schulkers, Karen Haubert, Don Mains, Deanna Shimko, the OLUMC handbell choir: Keith Chipman, Lynda McDowell, Judie Liebenstein, Lois McGarry, Kelly Liebenstein, Terry Chipman, Debbie Huyck, Karen Haubert, Becky Perreault

CBA: Wendi Haubert/finance@ourlordsumc.org
Office Administrator: Tabitha Manning/office@ourlordsumc.org
Pastor: Kelly Liebenstein/pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org

*Find us on Facebook and watch our live-streamed Sunday services at www.facebook.com/OurLordsUMC/

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Worship resource: Ministry Matters, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>, Discipleship Ministries, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>

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Our Lord's United Methodist Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Potawatomi, Sioux (Ochethi Sakowin), Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, and Peoria people's.

"Love boldly, serve joyfully, lead courageously"