



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 14, 2018

6:30 p.m.

GATHER IN QUIET MEDITATION

“Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting... Return to the LORD, your God.” ~Joel 2:12-13

“The time has come,” Jesus said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel!” Mark 1:15

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
God's mercy endures forever.

*OPENING PRAYER (No. 353)

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 would 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

*OPENING HYMN: (SEE BULLETIN COVER)

“Sundays Palms are Wednesdays Ashes”

SCRIPTURE Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

PSALTER READING

Hymnal No.785-786 Psalm 51

MUSICAL OFFERING:

“My Dying Lord” by David Lantz
Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 16:21-26

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Pastor Emily Knight

TIME OF REFLECTION:

*What is on my heart that I need to surrender?
How can I offer my heart to God this Lent?
How will I dedicate/prepare/return to the Lord?*

“Come to the Altar”

Praise Team: Millie Hudson and Darren Nettles

BLESSING THE ASHES

Pastor: Why do we worship with ashes today?
People: To remember that we are dust without God's grace.

Pastor: Why do we mark ourselves with the sign of the cross?

People: To remember our sins—and how far Christ went to forgive them.

People: Mighty God, you have created us from 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 precious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As you come forward to receive the ashes, leave your slips of paper at the altar—dedicating and releasing those things to God.

“Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)”

Praise Team: Millie Hudson and Darren Nettles

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God, this season is difficult.

Lent focuses on the suffering of Jesus. Repentance forces us to admit that we are imperfect. smudged. mortal. lazy. selfish. judgmental. often wrong.

...and these truths are not comfortable.

We would rather skip this part and go straight to the joy of Easter resurrection. We would rather ignore the suffering—in you and in the world—and avoid the hard work of self-examination.

Forgive us for wanting this to be bright and painless and easy. Forgive us for holding back our hearts.

We know that Jesus did not take the easy way. Jesus chose the path of the cross. Teach us the true meaning of repentance, so that we can take this time to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name Jesus Christ. Amen.

*ASSURANCE, PARDON, AND PEACE:

Pastor: Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Gory to God! Amen.

*HYMN NO. 298

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

BENEDICTION

We leave in silence

Sunday Worship during Lent—For the next 40 days, we will focus on Jesus’ final words from the cross; the seven phrases Christ spoke during crucifixion. Join us for 9am contemporary worship; 11am traditional worship; Sunday school at 10am.

Weekly Lenten Communion—Starting next Wednesday, (February 21st) join us in the chapel for weekly Scripture, prayer, and Holy Communion as we stand before the cross and consider Jesus’ words.



Margaret’s memories Box Making
Thursday, March 1st. 7-9pm in the fellowship hall. Come assemble and bless memory boxes for families who have lost little ones. Boxes are sent to hospitals.

Church Family Game Night—Wednesday, March 21st. Community Classes are on break, so come out for pizza and board games.

Easter Egg hunt—For all kids in our community! Saturday, March 24th 10am-noon in Riverside Park.

Palm Sunday Worship
Sunday, March 25th 10:30am.
There will be only ONE worship service on this special Sunday.

Lay Appreciation Luncheon—Hosted by the United Methodist Men, Sunday, March 25th (Following Palm Sunday worship).

Maundy Thursday Service
Special Communion Service in the sanctuary Thursday, March 29th 6:30pm

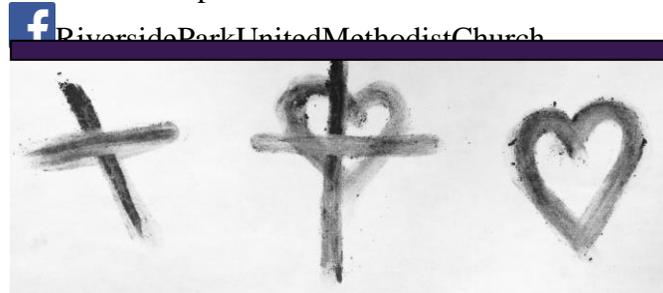


Good Friday Stations of the Cross
—Participatory, sensory prayer stations walk you through Jesus’ words from the cross. Stations open Friday, March 30th 9am-8pm

Easter Worship—Sunday, April 1st 9am contemporary and 11am traditional. Invite friends and neighbors!



Stay Connected:
(904) 355-5491



RIVERSIDE PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Ash Wednesday 2018
Lent Begins...

“Sunday’s Palms are Wednesdays Ashes”
~by *Rae E. Whitney*

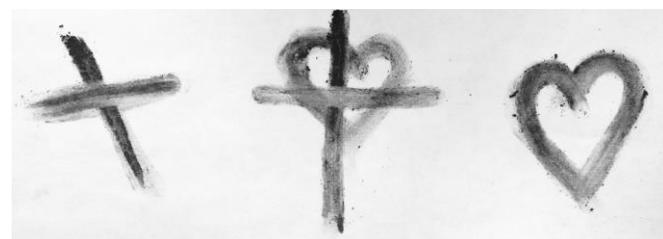
Sunday’s palms are Wednesday’s ashes as another Lent begins; thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.

We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray; now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

We have failed to love our neighbors, their offenses to forgive, have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live, we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over much our things; may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need; and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed; we have wasted earth’s resources; want and suffering we’ve ignored;

come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts



within us, Lord!