



Ash Wednesday Worship

First United Methodist Church

15 East 2nd Street, Greensburg PA 15601

Sunday, February 18, 2026 ♦ 7:00 pm

TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

† Indicates a time to stand, if you are able.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* ~arr. Robert Hobby

†GREETING (responsively)

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.

†HYMN *Just as I Am, Without One Plea* **UMH 357**

†OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

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 Christ our Lord. Amen!

A CALL to HOLY PREPARATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17** NRSV

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN *Sweet Hour of Prayer* **UMH 496**

MESSAGE **Heavy Load** **Pastor Clint Phillips**

Hebrews 12:1-3

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES *

You may come forward to receive the sign of the cross drawn in ashes upon your forehead (or, if you choose, on your outstretched hand).

CONFESSION AND PARDON (responsively) *Excerpts from Psalm 51*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love;
according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to You.

**Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
You who are God my Savior,**

and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Let us pray to our God in silence seeking His grace.

PASTORAL, and the LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (responsively)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth You formed us into Your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, You bore up the ark

on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When You led Your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, You gave us Your commandments and made us Your covenant people. When Your people forsook Your covenant, Your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on Your holy mountain, he heard Your still small voice.

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ. When You gave Him to save us from our sin, Your Spirit led Him into the wilderness, where He fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for His ministry. When He suffered and died on a cross for our sin, You raised Him to life, presented Him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted Him at Your right hand. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we Your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, You lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant You made with us through Christ.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

When the supper was over He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at His heavenly banquet. Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

GIVING of the BREAD and CUP

Communion will be served to you where you are seated.

*Please take a piece of bread from its tray,
then wait until directed to eat together.*

(The bread is a piece of a rice cracker that is gluten-free)

Please do the same with the juice: take one, wait until directed to drink...

PRAYER after COMMUNION

†HYMN

Close to Thee

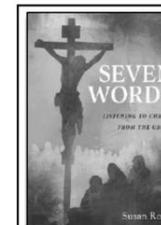
UMH 407

†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†POSTLUDE

Solemn March ~Felix Mendelssohn

†GOING FORTH



Plan ahead, read a short chapter, and join the **Lenten Book/Bible Study w/ Pastor Clint.**

Each week's session will include an introductory video and a review of the readings from the book. The study requires weekly reading, but we hope that this will bring discussion and deepen the exploration of the words that were spoken from the cross by Christ. Books will be provided free of charge. Call the church office or contact Pastor Clint.

Session 3 Feb. 24 "My God, My God"
Session 4 Mar. 3 "Woman, here is your son"
Session 5 Mar. 10 "I am thirsty"
Session 6 Mar. 24 "Into Your hands"
Session 7 Mar. 31 make up session if needed