

## **A Service of Imposition of Ashes**

**Ash Wednesday**

February 18, 2026 at 7 p.m.

*Lent begins with the imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, before Easter. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," which means "spring." The season is in preparation for the celebration of Easter. Historically, it was the time of preparation for the baptism of Christian converts. It is a season for all Christians to engage in self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.*

**Prelude** "Have Mercy on Me, O God" Kathryn Herman  
BWV 721 by J.S. Bach

*The people come together in the Lord's name. While prelude is being played, the worshipers may engage in the act of worship through quiet meditation and private prayer.*

### **Welcome, Dedication of Presence, Ministry Opportunities**

**\*UMH No. 354** "All to Jesus I Surrender" SURRENDER

**Prayer** Offered in Unison

**Creator of all things: You have made us from the dust of the earth. You breathed into us your own vitality. Yet each of us must one day render back to you the life we have on loan from you. It shall be required of us that we lay down all of our pomp and pride and return to dust. So teach us to consider the brevity of our days that we may live them out with wisdom, as a people redeemed and made new by the power of the cross of Jesus. Amen.**

**Personal Prayer** Offered in Silence

### **Offering of Our Time, Talents, and Treasures**

**Offertory** "Air" Kathryn Herman  
by Stacy Piontek

**\*Doxology – UMH No. 94** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer**

**Hebrew Scripture** "Genesis 3:1-24" **New International Version**

**Musical Offering** "Give Me Jesus" Chancel Choir

*Traditional Spiritual; arranged by Cindy Berry*

**Witness to the Word** Rev. DaeHwa Park

"Becoming Disciples More Faithful Than Teachers"  
Part 1. Begin a Sacred Journey of the Mortal

### **Response to the Word - UMH No. 785**

"Psalm 51"

*Congregation will use musical Response 1. Cantor leads each verse with psalm tone No. 1 on a specific syllable, congregation follows the remaining verse as led by the cantor.*

### **Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline**

**Thanksgiving Over the Ashes**

**Imposition of Ashes**

*Remember that we live our lives under the sign of the cross. We confront our mortality through the symbol of ashes: "since from it you were taken; for dust you are, to dust you will return (Genesis 3:19b)." Just as at baptism the sign of the cross is received with water, this evening we receive the sign of the cross with the ashes, a more visible reminder that we should live our lives as fully as we can for Christ, while inviting others to make the same commitment. Lent is the season in which we look to identify what it is that keeps us from walking in close relationship with God. Perhaps it is the thing that tempts you most: money, pride, time, addiction, work, sports...*

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Repent, and believe the gospel."*

**Word of Assurance**

**\*The Peace**

**Jesus Teaches about Reaching & Serving the Community.  
The church hears the instructions of the Lenten Discipline.**

**Giving to the Needy - Matthew 6:1-4**

**On Prayer - Matthew 6:5-8**

**On Fasting - Matthew 6:16-18**

**\*TFWS No. 2105** "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert" EBENEZER

**\*Dismissal with Blessing** Rev. Dr. DaeHwa Park

**Postlude** "Verset" Kathryn Herman  
by Leon Böellmann

*\*Please stand as able.*

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**Special thanks to** Margaret Chinn, lector, Camille Bohannon, lector coordinator; Chancel Choir under leadership of Kathryn Herman; Fred Herman, tech service; Cynthia Bowman-Gholston, worship chair, and ushers.

## **Lenten Journey at Covenant** 40 Days of Penitence

**Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 7 p.m.**

**“Becoming Disciples More Faithful than Teachers,” sermon series**  
Jesus called, equipped and sent the disciples rather than the teachers of the Law for His Kingdom and Righteousness. Come as the “learners” of the gospel, rather than teachers of the Law. Be the faithful disciples in the unfaithful society.

**Carbon Fast, a congregational Lenten daily discipline! (See insert)**  
<https://ipldmv.org/learn/educational-programs/creation-care-calendars/lent-calendar/>

**Fasting on Fridays, Voluntary**  
Freewill offering from the cost of the meal(s) from fasting on Fridays may be brought on Sundays for a special offering for the hungry. You can bring canned food or grocery cards (for Giant Foods or Safeway) during the fellowship hour at 9:30 a.m. Share your story of the Lenten journey.

**12 Hours of Famine – TBD (Youth Event)**  
Youth members start it at school, beginning lunch hour around 11 p.m. and gather at the church after school for their act of fasting with program until 11 p.m. when Holy Communion is celebrated. Parents, please bring your children to the church by 4p.m.

**Personal Meditation at the 14 Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary**  
During Lent, come to church and have personal meditation.

### **Holy Week at Covenant**



**Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10 a.m.**

**Tenebrae Service, Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m.**

**“Stations of the Cross” on Good Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m.**

**Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, April 4, at 7 p.m.**

**Easter Sunrise Service on Easter Day at 6:30 a.m.**

**Easter celebration on Easter Day at 10 a.m.**

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**7 p.m.**

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## **Covenant United Methodist Church**

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