

First Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season in the church year known as Lent. Lent is the time to prepare for the celebration of Easter and to renew our life in the mystery of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence. This ancient sign speaks of the fragility of human life. And marks the penitence of the community of faith.

We Enter Into God's Presence

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy, you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Hymn #198: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

We hear God's Word

Old Testament Lesson	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
New Testament Lesson	2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

We Respond to God's Grace

Litany of Confession

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

***Imposition of the Ashes**

Merciful God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

*You are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.
If you are unable to come forward, the pastor will come to you.*

***Sharing of the Peace**

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

***Hymn of Celebration #275: "Amazing Grace"**

***Blessing**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of our Savior,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

First Presbyterian Church
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WEBSITE: www.FPCpataskala.com

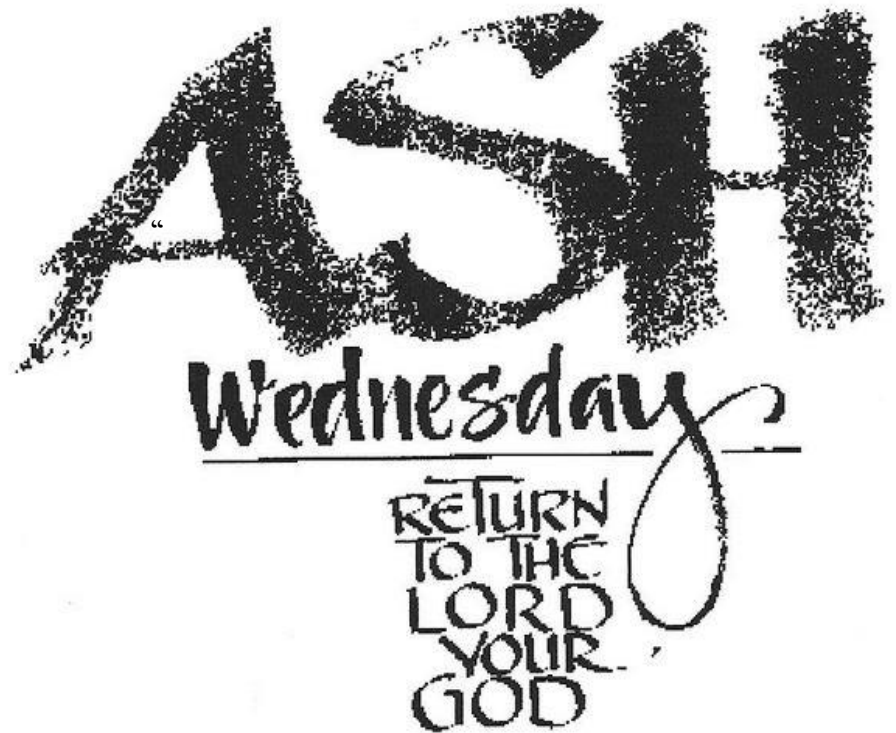
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February 14, 2018

FOR PASTORAL CARE, PLEASE CALL:

The Rev. Gary Brose at 513-260-8230



CHURCH STAFF

Stated Supply Pastor: The Rev. Gary Brose

Choir Directory: Gary Brose Custodian: Tim Klinker

Nursery Attendant: Linda Flowers Secretary: Denise Kelling

Organist: Doug Ritchey