



Services

Palm Sunday – April 2nd, 8:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday – April 6th, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary

Good Friday – April 7th, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary

Holy Saturday – April 8th, 6:00 PM, Chapel



Easter Sunday

April 9th

8:30 AM – Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:00 AM – Contemporary Worship, CLC

11:00 AM – Traditional Worship, Sanctuary



The season of Lent in the Church year is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday before Easter Sunday. “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts, and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The first Sunday of Lent remembers Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit surrounding the 40 days of Lent should be tempered with the joyful expectation of the Resurrection. Traditionally, the ashes used in the service are from burning the previous year’s Palm Sunday branches.

First United Methodist Church

200 North Market Street

Benton, Arkansas



Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2022

6:00 PM

GATHERING

In silence and meditation, remember Jesus in the desert – fasting, praying and giving for forty days.

*THE GREETING

Rev. Keith Dodson

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.

*THE OPENING HYMN

No. 269

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

CALL TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Rev. Garry Teeter

Leader: Our consumer culture promises that attractiveness and eternal youth are just one purchase away.

People: Ash Wednesday reminds us we are dead in our sins and, soon enough, dead in fact.

Leader: We condemn other corrupt values, but never our own.

People: Easily available, grace becomes cheap.

Leader: Repent and believe the gospel.

People: I will bow my head and receive the cross of ashes.

Leader: I will leave the church in silent contemplation,

People: then go to my home and wash the ashes off my forehead.

Leader: I will be vividly aware, for one day at least, that my immortality and righteousness are actually illusions,

People: while my mortality and sin are very real.

Leader: I will credit the church with telling me the truth.

People: I am a sinner.

All: And in the penitent days of Lent my skeptical heart will wonder what other truths the church possesses.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Walt Garrett

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Ecumenical Text)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

*HYMN

No. 395

“Take Time to Be Holy”

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

SERMON

Rev. Keith Dodson

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Rev. Keith Dodson

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; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You may bring your offering forward during the imposition of ashes

THE DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

GOING FORTH

The people may depart in silence.