

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

Jennifer Miller and Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Beth Snarr

Friends and neighbors, in the middle of our busy week, we pause to observe Ash Wednesday together as a faith community.

We come to remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust and breathes through us the breath of life and love.

From dust we are created in God's image and to God's good dust we shall return.

With dust and oil we claim the mark of God's beloved creature.

Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey to discover who we are created to be as God's beloved.

In daily practices of prayer and service, we will embark upon this Lenten journey.

We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh in whom we see God's image most clearly.

So come, let us pray for strength and imagination to follow Jesus wherever he will lead us this Lent.

HYMN UMH 382

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

¹ Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

² Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Search me and try me, Savior today! Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now, as in thy presence humbly I bow.

³ Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me I pray! Power, all power, surely is thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

⁴ Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway. Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

MEDITATION ON THE BREATH OF LIFE

Elise Caton

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Be Still"

Steven Curtis Chapman

MEDITATION ON LETTING GO

Pastor Beth Snarr

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Create in Me, O God"

Johannes Brahms

Chancel Choir

MEDITATION ON FRAILTY AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor Harold Henderson

PSALM 51

Have mercy, tender God, forget that I defied you. Wash away my sin, cleanse me from my guilt.

I know my evil well, it stares me in the face, evil done to you alone before your very eyes.

How right your condemnation! Your verdict is clearly just. You see me for what I am: frail, a sinner.

You love those centered in truth; teach me your hidden wisdom. Wash me with fresh water, wash me bright and clean.

Fill me with happy songs! Let the bones you bruised now dance, shut your eyes to my sin, make my guilt disappear.

Creator, reshape my heart, God, steady my spirit. Do not cast me aside stripped of your holy spirit.

Save me, bring back my joy, support me, strengthen my will, then I will teach your way and sinners will turn to you.

Help me, stop my tears, and I will sing your goodness. Lord, give me words and I will shout your praise.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN UMH 393

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

WE WELCOME AND AFFIRM THOSE OF EVERY RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION,
GENDER IDENTITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION, FAMILY STRUCTURE,
AND MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ABILITY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE OF THIS CONGREGATION.



**INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES
IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES**

*After you receive the imposition of ashes you are welcome to stay and enjoy the contemplative space of the prayer labyrinth or depart in silence.
May God be with you as we begin the sacred journey of Lent.*

CONNECTION CARD



online Connection Card

Please use the Connection Card for any questions, comments, or prayer requests you may have and place in the basket on your way out of the Sanctuary today.

You can also fill one out using our First UMC app or online at fumcgnv.org/ConnectionCard

Name(s): _____

Please have a Pastor contact me

Please add me to your email list

My contact information:

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Mobile Home

Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests

Please share only with the Pastors

Please have someone contact me, I am interested in

Volunteering

Growth Groups

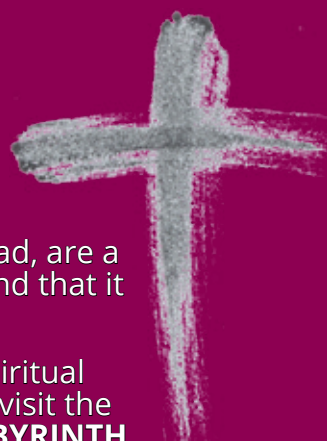
Membership at First UMC

Other

LENT 2024 BEGINS...

A time of repentance and the imposition of ashes.

ASH WEDNESDAY developed in early medieval times as a day of penitence to mark the beginning of Lent - the forty days of preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord. The ashes are from the burned palm branches of last year's Palm Sunday and imposed on the forehead, are a reminder of our mortality, that we are created "out of the dust of the earth" and that it is only by God's grace that we are given everlasting life.



Taking time to breathe in the peace of Christ through prayer is an essential spiritual practice for all of us. With this in mind, we hope you'll take the opportunity to visit the quiet, sacred space set up in the Fellowship Hall which includes a **PRAYER LABYRINTH**.



Prayer labyrinths were a feature of many medieval cathedrals and have been a part of the Christian tradition for centuries. Unlike a maze, they have only one path - there are no dead ends and is a model or metaphor for life. The Christian life is often described as a pilgrimage or journey with God, a journey in which we can grow closer in relationship with God, and in turn, closer to others.

The Fellowship Hall will be open for those who would like to experience prayer by walking the labyrinth after the service tonight and on the following days:

- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This year's **Lenten devotional book**, "*The Sanctuary for Lent*", is available on the Welcome Table in the Narthex, along with a Labyrinth meditation that can be used throughout the season.

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have prayers to be lifted up or wish to be part of the team who lifts up prayers, drop an email to prayer@fumcgnv.org or note it on the Connection Card.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE

use the QR code above or visit

www.fumcgnv.com/GiveOnline or via the First UMC app



TEXT TO GIVE

Text FUMCGNV to

1-888-364-GIVE (4483)



GIVE BY CHECK

Mail or bring your check to the Church Office
419 NE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601



Have you considered long-term support of our church ministries through our Legacy Endowment Fund? For more details, contact legacy@fumcgnv.org