

The Vineyard

A publication to encourage and motivate participation in the family of God and an aid in ministry for the members of Myerstown United Church of Christ.



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Lee Ann Kurash, editor

What Is Ash Wednesday? Why Christians Celebrate It

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. In 2022, Ash Wednesday falls on March 2. Ash Wednesday focuses the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession.

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

During Mass (for Catholics) or worship service (for Protestants), the priest or pastor will usually share a sermon that is penitential and reflective in nature. The mood is solemn - many services will have long periods of silence and worshippers will often leave the service in silence.

Usually, there is a responsive passage of Scripture, centered around confession, read aloud by the leader and congregation. Attendees will experience communal confession, as well as moments where they are prompted to silently confess sins and pray.

After all of this, the congregation will be invited to receive the ashes on their foreheads. Usually, as the priest or pastor will dip his finger into the ashes, spread them in a cross pattern on the forehead, and say, "From dust you came and from dust you will return."

When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy" (The CatholicSpirit.com).


With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

(Kelly Givens, contributing Editor to Crosswalk.com. Published on Christianity.com Jan 12, 2022.)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6.19-21



We have been invited to Friedens' Church Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday March 2 at 7:00 pm.
Please join us to begin your Lenten journey
in faith and reverence.



Mission Corner: OGHS...

Or you can always send a separate check to the office clearly marked for OGHS.

LOVE REMAINS - OGHS 2021

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the program through which the United Church of Christ supports relief in times of disaster and provides aid to struggling communities world wide. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds, not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. While we are often inspired to donate after we see images of some unfolding disaster, funds that are sent to OGHS each Lenten season mean supplies are available to respond immediately. In the midst of despairing moments, the United Church of Christ is able to offer hope.

The theme for the 2022 OGHS offering, “Love Remains”, is based on verses from Corinthians. “And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.”(1 Cor:13;13). In the theme scripture, the Apostle Paul helped newly converted Christians at Corinth embrace the virtue of love. Love is an active decision to think of others before self, to work on behalf of others, and to care for others with acts of kindness and advocacy. Paul taught that community is less about “me” and more about “us.”...”Us” — the community— is defined broadly without limitations and boundaries.

A community who needed some support that is highlighted this year by Penn Central Conference is the Miami Valley of Ohio. On Memorial Day 2019 tornadoes swept through the area destroying thousands of homes ad apartments. Two years after the storm, the Stephens family remained in temporary housing, haggling about insurance and dealing with unscrupulous contractors. After connecting with a group supported by OGHS, volunteers arrived to finish repairs on their home. Because love responds and love remains.

In the past the Myerstown UCC family has enthusiastically supported OGHS. We will be gathering contributions to OGHS throughout Lent. Simply add your donation to your offering envelope, write OGHS behind “Special”, and note the amount on the line. If you give through Givelify, there is now a OGHS “envelope” which will be available until Easter.



March

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship Services unless noted

March 2 Ash Wednesday

Service at Friedens 7:00 pm

March 6 – First Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Worship Service with Communion

Rev. Keith Tussing, preaching

Breakfast with the Bible in Social Hall

10:00 am Adult Bible Study

March 13 - Second Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Worship service

Bryan Smith, LCCM guest speaker

Breakfast with the Bible

10:00 am Adult Bible Study

March 20 Third Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Worship Service

Rev. Keith Tussing, preaching

10:00 am Adult Bible Study

March 27 Forth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Worship Service

Rev. Keith Tussing, preaching

Breakfast with the Bible

10:00 am Adult Bible Study

April 3 Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Worship Service

Victoria Velez, UCC Homes, guest speaker

Breakfast with the Bible

10:00 am Adult Bible Study



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A Prayer for Unity in the Church

Dear God,

We are so incredibly in need of your power and strength. We ask that you would fill us with your Spirit of love and unity among believers all around our world. We ask for your help to set aside our differences and look to the greater cause, the cause of Christ. Please help us to truly live out a life of love. We know that this is only possible through the power of your Spirit., so we ask that you would move across our land in miraculous ways, with fresh filling and awareness, turning your people back to you, drawing others to come to know you. We need your unity and your love to stir our hearts and give direction to our days. We need your wisdom to guide us, we need your Spirit to lead us, to live out godly lives that would bring honor first to you. We thank you that you are always with us: and give us great purpose and hope.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

(from ibelieve.com, Debbie McDaniel "Ten Powerful Prayers..")

Need Pastoral Care?

Rev. David Swift continues to serve our congregation by visiting any member in need of pastoral care. This includes patients in the hospital, residents of care facilities, persons who are confined to their homes, or anyone experiencing a difficult situation. If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from a visit with Rev. Swift, please call 717/866-5252. In the event of an emergency, call 717/306-6319. This number is to be used only for urgent pastoral needs. You may also leave a message, but this phone is not able to accept text or email messages.

Friends-

I want to thank you for the super send-off you gave me, I especially want to thank Suzie and Candy for orchestrating the reception. I will certainly enjoy the gift card to DoGoods and have already used the one from Amazon. Many blessings for a strong future.

Jim Yoder

Dear Members of Myerstown UCC:

Penn Central Conference has recently notified us of your gift of \$1,000 from the people of Myerstown UCC which was placed in our Benevolent Fund. Without congregations like yours, so many people would not be able to receive the assistance they need.

Victoria Velez
UCC Homes



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift (\$250) in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary.

The support you provide with your prayers and your gifts opens the doors for our students' education, opens their minds to learning and opens their hearts to serving.

In Christ, Matthew Hanna
Lancaster Theological Seminary



New Horizons Activity for March

March 26, at 1:00 pm

Amish Dinner \$20 all inclusive.

Address is 5799 Elizabethtown Road
Manheim.

Dinner includes 2 meats, mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, one vegetable, 2 salads, homemade bread, peanut butter spread, iced tea & coffee, ice cream, cake and pie.



Copies of a Lenten Devotional are available in the Gathering Area on the Information Table.

They are provided by
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Positive News

I just want to pass this along...Jerry with National Safety did a walk-thru of the church for our insurance company in February. He was especially impressed with, not only the building itself, but with the upkeep and how clean and well-kept everything is in the building. He kept going on about how uncommon it is to see a church and all its rooms so clean. I know that it takes a village to stay on top of the property and all its issues, and I feel so proud and happy for you and everyone on the Property Committee and anyone else who contributes to taking such good care of our church. Just something to feel good about!

Lee Ann



March Birthdays

- 3 Jennifer Kinsey
Carolyn Williams
- 4 Calvin Beamesderfer
Sally Ann Shaak
- 10 Derek Noll
- 12 Ronald Louser
Eric Shaffer
- 14 Linden Bennetch
Karen Leppo
- 16 Elizabeth Rittle
- 17 L. Patrick Krum
- 18 Diana L. Eisenhower
- 20 Evangeline Zimmerman
- 21 Marcia Bicher
Charles Williams
- 22 Carol Behney
- 25 Katie Fields
- 29 Jean Schlappich



LCCM Annual Lenten Breakfast

Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 am
South Lebanon Community Church

Tickets must be purchased by

March 17, 2022