

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025 - 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.



Ash Wednesday by Carl Spitzweg, 1860

.....
*United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond*
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PRELUDE

"Lead Me, Lord"

arr. Fred Bock

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Martin (11:00 a.m.)

Margie Ligon (6:30 p.m.)

Mercy dawns upon us as we enter this season of repentance.

We come, aware of our sin and in need of grace.

In the depth of mercy, God calls us to return.

With contrite hearts, we confess and seek renewal.

The Lord is slow to anger and rich in steadfast love.

In Christ, we find forgiveness and the path to life.

*HYMN

"We Join, O Christ, Your Journey"

*OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, we come before you knowing that we have turned away from your ways and followed our own. We confess the truth about ourselves—that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Yet, in your great mercy, you call us to return, not with fear, but with hope, for you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, that we may walk in the way that leads to life. In the name of Jesus Christ, who bore our sin and leads us to grace, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM (6:30 p.m.)

"Sign Us With Ashes"

Alleluia Choir

Sign us with ashes, the sign of Your cross;

Give us the grace to know Your mercy, Lord.

Renew our spirits and open our hearts;

Help us remember the love You gave us.

PSALTER NO. 785

Psalms 51

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

This is the Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

HOMILY

The Rev. George Ragsdale

MUSIC

"To Dust"

Karen Marroli

Sally Bashant, soloist (11:00 a.m.)
Chancel Choir (6:30 p.m.)

Let my crying come to dust.
Let my grief be turned to ashes.
Let my heart be cleansed with flame.
Kyrie eleison
Let my mourning turn to song.
Let my sorrow turn to sunrise.
Let my broken spirit rest.
Kyrie eleison
Let your healing waters rise.
Let your deserts bloom with bounty.
Let your Holy Spirit come.
Christe eleison

QUIET REFLECTION

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*You are invited to come forward to receive ashes in the sign of the cross on your forehead.
You may kneel in silent prayer and reflection and return by the outside aisle to your seat.
When all who wish to receive the ashes have come forward, the service continues:*

MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION

"Be Still, My Soul"

arr. Jay Rouse

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Read Responsively

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 355

"Depth of Mercy"

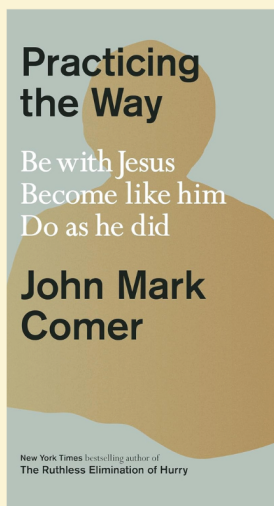
*POSTLUDE

"What Wondrous Love is This?"

arr. Austin Lovelace

****Those who are able please stand.***

The bulletin cover features Carl Spitzweg's *Ash Wednesday*. Painted in 1860, it portrays a weary clown sitting in a prison cell, his festive Carnival attire now a stark contrast to his somber surroundings. A soft light streams into the dim space, symbolizing mercy dawning upon him, gently inviting him to confession and repentance. This glow reminds us that even in our lowest moments, God's grace calls us toward renewal, just as Ash Wednesday beckons us to turn from fleeting pleasures to the everlasting joy of Christ.



Lenten Churchwide Adult Small Group Study

Join in on the discussion;
how do we become more like Jesus?

Join a small group discussion
on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. or
Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

March 12 - April 16

Sign up at fumcbelmont.org/signup

Holy Week Schedule



Palm/Passion Sunday April 13 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service of Worship Thursday, April 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Community Cross Walk Friday, April 18 | 12:00 noon | Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

Good Friday Tenebrae Service Friday, April 18 | 7:00 p.m.

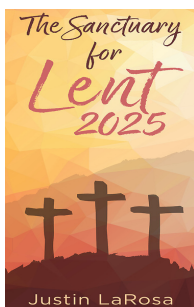
Community Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 20 | Greenwood Cemetery

Easter Sunday Service of Worship Sunday, April 20 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



Jesus in His Own Words

Lent 2025 | New Sermon Series Begins March 9



The Sanctuary for Lent 2025 our annual Lenten Devotional begins today. You can pick one up at the information desk.

Sacred Space for Lent produced by the Jesuits. You can pick this up at the information desk today.

for Lent 2025



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