

# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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## Ash Wednesday

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - 5 to 7 pm

### Preparation

*As you begin, take a few moments to bring yourself before God - your state of mind and preoccupations, as well as your desire to meet God during this time.*

### Invitation to Observance of a Holy Lent

Brothers and sisters in Christ: since the earliest days, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for it by a season of penitence and fasting, known as *Lent*.

Today we begin our Lenten journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign that speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and therefore calls upon us to place our hope in God alone.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love and mercy, and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

### Prayer of Confession

**Righteous God, in humility and repentance we bring our failures in caring, helping, and loving, we bring the pain we have caused others, we bring the injustice in society of which we are a part, to the transforming power of your grace. Grant us the courage to accept the healing you offer and to turn again toward the sunrise of your reign, that we may walk with you in the promise of peace you have willed for all the children of the earth, and have made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*(continued, over)*

## Silence & Reflection

### Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.

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

My transgressions, truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

### Imposition of Ashes

*(when you are ready, go forward to receive the sign of ashes)*

### Dismissal with Blessing

*Go in peace*



*Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.*