



United Methodist
Church of Summit



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Office Manager: Kimberle Gray

Mental Health Minister: Alison Johnson

Sexton: Fred Herse

Video Ministry: Parker LaJeunesse

February 18th, 2026

Ash Wednesday

Tonight we begin a six-week journey called From Dust to Dwelling. Throughout Lent we will follow the movement of Scripture as God's presence travels—from the dust of creation, to the tabernacle in the wilderness, to the temple, to Christ dwelling among us, and finally to lives and communities shaped by love. This season invites us not only to remember where God has lived, but to ask where God is choosing to dwell now.

GATHERING MUSIC: *Voluntary on "Near to the Heart of God"*

***GREETING**

Emily La Jeunesse

Leader: Return to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful.

People: We return, trusting in steadfast love.

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God.

People: Renew a right spirit within us.

Leader: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

People: Yet God chooses to dwell with us.

Leader: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit.

People: A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Leader: Come, let us begin again.

People: We return to the God who restores.

***CENTERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

Emily La Jeunesse

Merciful God, we come before you as we are formed from dust, carrying burdens, and in need of your grace. Wash us from what clings too tightly. Create in us clean hearts. Renew a right spirit within us. When we feel fragile, dwell within us. When we feel uncertain, steady us. When we feel broken, remind us that you have always chosen to dwell within those made of dust. Sustain in us a willing spirit, so that our lives may become places where your love makes its home. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes TFWS #2138

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 51:1-12

Rev. Laura Steele

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be cleaner than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

HYMN OF REFLECTION:Change My Heart, O God*

TFWS# 2152

MEDITATION:*"From Dust to Dwelling"*

Rev. Laura Steele

ANTHEM:*What Wondrous Love Is This?*
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

As we begin this season of Lent, we begin in dust. Scripture tells us that we were formed from the Earth: fragile, finite, and beloved. To remember that we are dust is not an act of shame, it is an act of truth. It reminds us that we are not self-made, not self-sustaining, and not beyond the need for mercy. In Psalm 51, David's deepest longing is not reputation restored, but relationship renewed. He longs for God to dwell within him again. And that longing becomes our Lenten discipline. So this Lent, I invite you to consider the things that clutter your heart and mind: the fears, the regrets, the anger, the guilt, the habits and patterns. What has grown heavy? What has taken up space that no longer belongs there?

Tonight, as we receive ashes and remember we are dust, we are also invited to release the clutter that prevents God's Spirit from moving freely within us. Not because God has withdrawn but because we often fill the space with what weighs us down.

There is clutter here on God's chair, and when you come forward to receive ashes, I invite us, as a community, to make room for God to dwell within us as individuals and as a community of believers. As you receive your ashes, I invite you remove some of the clutter from your heart and from our community.

This season, may we fast from these things through prayer, silence, generosity, and reflection, as we make room for a right spirit within us. We clear space. We ask God to do what only God can do: create in us clean hearts and renewed steadfast spirits. Will you say "yes" to this holy invitation?

(a brief silence is kept)

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Rev. Laura Steele

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(all persons are invited to come forward in silent reflection)

A POEM TO PONDER

Neil Johnson

Blessing the Dust ***For Ash Wednesday***

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

—Jan Richardson

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

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, forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* TFWS #2158

***BENEDICTION**

One Voice: May the God who formed you from dust create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you. May Christ walk beside you through wilderness and waiting. And may the Holy Spirit dwell within you, making your life a place where love has room to live.

Many Voices: Amen!

POSTLUDE: *Voluntary on Love Divine All Loves Excelling*

**denotes please stand as you are able.*

Please join us every Sunday at 10:30AM for our Lent Worship Series!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Pray for me to feel home ♥; Shela Waldron; the friends and family of Mateo Kaufman Sandler; Vincenzo Lamanginne's mother Angela and brother Mike, rest their souls; prayers to the mother of Shirley Hooper; Ruth Howard; George Drossinos; Laurie Kelly; Alex and Luci Parrish; Blair Conley; Jaimie Bass; Rev. Tanya Lynn Bennett; Greg K.; Patricia Williams, mother of Dr. John Williams; Dadi Hove; Harry Conway; Kitty - recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer; Beverly Alexis; Emily LaJeunesse; the family, friends, and classmates of Dylan Faulkner

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Lent Weds. Night
Worship and Soup
Suppers 2/25-3/25
Services 6:30PM in
Reeves Chapel
Soup Suppers 7PM
Social Hall**

Join us on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent for a simple,

meaningful rhythm of worship and table fellowship. We will gather for a brief Lenten worship service at 6:30 PM, followed by a soup supper at 7:00 PM. These evenings are designed to be accessible and grounding with a time for prayer, Scripture, shared food, and gentle conversation as we journey through the Lenten series "*From Dust to Dwelling*". Come for worship, stay for soup, or join us when you're able. All are welcome. We are also looking for some awesome Soup Chefs to volunteer for our Soup Suppers. There is a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall if you can help out! Each week we need one person to cook soup, one person to prep salad, and one person to bring in bread. Thank you in advance!

Easter Egg Hunt Collection

We are excited to start collecting Easter eggs and allergy-friendly items to fill the eggs for our 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Donations can be dropped off from Feb. 15 to March 22. You can place your items in the Easter baskets located in the Social Hall and the Sanctuary. Thank you for helping us make this event fun and safe for all of our young participants!



NEW! Caregivers Support Group Mondays

A new Caregivers Support Group is meeting weekly on Monday evenings in the Library from 7:00–8:15 p.m. This group will offer a warm, confidential space for caregivers to support one another, share both encouraging stories and the moments when we struggle, and

exchange helpful resources for the journey. Led by Dr. Alison Johnson,

this group is part of Summit UMC's Mental Health Ministry, dedicated to fostering connection, resilience, and hope within our community. All caregivers are welcome.



MUSIC MINISTRY



Come and share your musical gifts and enrich your faith with your Church Family!

Chancel Choir

It is a joy to work together and lift our voices in praise. Our Chancel Choir rehearses on Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in preparation for worship. Come before His presence with singing and sing joyful songs to the Lord! The Chancel Choir shares an anthem each Sunday as well as leading the congregation in song. Come and share the inspiration of singing with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Bell Choir

Calling all bell ringers!! Making a joyful sound is the mission of our Bell Choir. Come and ring Handbells and Handchimes with your church friends. Rehearsals are on Saturdays at 1:30 and on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Come and ring with our Church Family.

Singing Believers Family Choir

All children, youth and adults are invited to sing the songs of the church. Let us share the light of Christ through music. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 11:45 a.m. in the Music Room. Come and share the joyous songs of Christ's church.

Contemporary Ensemble

Our Contemporary Ensemble shares music for Holy Communion each month. The ensemble prepares music from the contemporary hymnal "Worship and Song". Rehearsals are on Saturdays at 1:00 and on Communion Sundays at 9:15 a.m. All singers and instrumentalists are welcome to praise and make music to the Lord during the sacred time of the Lord's Supper.

With much love,

JoAnne Teubner Prussak
Director of Music