

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

6:00pm

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE EXPLANATION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

During this time, allow yourself time to reflect amid silence. You are invited to find a visual focus such as the cross, a candle, or some other visual to focus your attention on Christ.

*GREETING

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures forever.

*OPENING PRAYER

UMH 353

Pastor: O God, maker of every thing and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raises us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling.

ALL: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” UMH 269

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 37:1-6 Jan Billyard

*GOSPEL READING Luke 5:27-38 Julie Koerkel

SEBMON **“They Can and They Will”** Pastor Brian

SPECIAL MUSIC *“What Wondrous Love is This”*
Arranged for Handbells by Douglas E. Wagner Celebration Ringers

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Early Christians observed the life, death and resurrection of our Lord with great devotion, and soon it became a practice to observe a 40 day season of spiritual preparation leading to the Easter celebration which we now call “Lent.”

For generations this season of lent was used as a time of preparation for a new life as a Christian disciple; an opportunity for the faithful to practice repentance and to experience the good news of forgiveness. Lent provided a time to focus not only on our sinfulness, but on the mercy, grace and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Lent, we invite you to observe a holy Lent, yourself. Observe it by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; by reading and meditating on the words of overarching message of God's holy scriptures.

PSALM Psalm 51:1-17 Pastor Brian

TIME OF PRAYER & REFLECTION

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES (Prayer by Anne Walker Sims)

Pastor: Holy God, we give you thanks today that sin and death are not your final word, that you allow us to repent, to change, to begin anew. Thank you for the cross, for the reminder that freedom and forgiveness do not come lightly. Thank you for the ashes, which remind us that while we will know pain and suffering, we also know joy. Thank you for your great and eternal love, which conquers even sin and death, and indelibly marks us as your children.

ALL: Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Everyone is welcome to come forward and receive the sign of the cross with ashes on their foreheads. If you'd like ashes be placed on the back of your hand, that can be done, instead. You don't need to be a member of this church or of any church to come forward. Everyone is welcome! If you brought an offering this evening, there are offering baskets

Songs for Singing During the Imposition of Ashes

- “Just As I Am Without One Plea” (357)
- “Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior (351)
- “This Is The Air I Breathe” (Screen)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor Brian

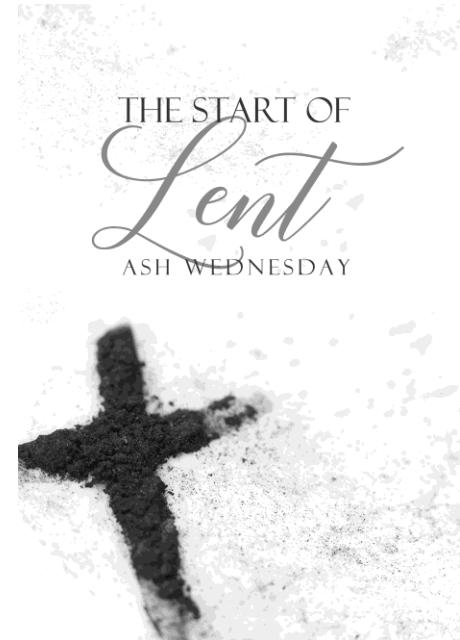
We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10am.

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

9am Potluck Breakfast
10am worship service.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

8:30am Worship
9:30am Easter Egg Hunt
10am Worship



GRAND BLANC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 18, 2026
6pm Worship Service

Rev. Brian G. West, Pastor

Andrew Cramer, Worship Music Director

www.grandblancumc.org

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