

Our time to grow closer to God through Christ is here! Join us in a Lenten fast- a Lenten sacrifice leaving this world behind and taking up our relationship with God by modeling Christ's sacrifice for us. What an exciting time to transform our lives following His call for us.

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday began in the 11th century stemming from ancient Jewish practice of sitting on an ash heap during a period of mourning, and early Christian penitential practices of sprinkling ashes as a part of public penance.

In 1091, Pope Urban the second decreed everyone would receive ashes on their foreheads on the first day of Lent.

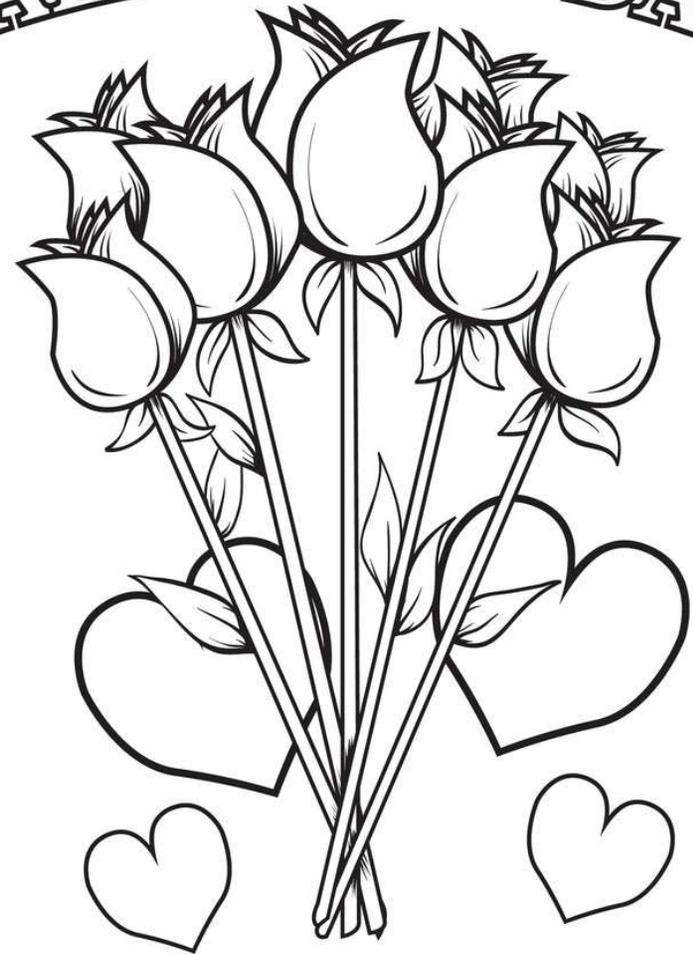
The ashes are made from burning the palms from the prior Palm Sunday to symbolize mortality and repentance. This links the celebration to the joy of Jesus entry into Jerusalem and the later sorrow of His crucifixion.

Placing the ashes in the form of a cross signifies faith in Jesus and a willingness to follow Him, even to death.

Ashes remain a public sign of repentance and commitment to a more spiritual life beginning with the Lenten season as we each draw closer to Christ. It's a reminder to acknowledge one's sins and prepare for Easter by turning back and drawing closer to God.

Observance of Ash Wednesday calls us to confess our sins, repent and commit to live a more faithful and faith filled life. The ashes are a sign of grief for our sins, and as we mourn our sin, our hearts are changed and we draw closer to Christ.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Bring completed picture to Pastor for a special prize!

Announcements and Happenings

February 15 – Desserts and carry in
February 18– Ash Wednesday 7 PM
February 25 – Lenten Lunch 12 Noon Mt. Pleasant Hosting
February 25 - Food Pantry 5-7 PM
Trailer of Hope

Winning Soup Recipe

There are a gazillion ways to make Ham and bean soup. This is the easy one.

Put 8 cups of water and 1 pound of sorted and rinsed beans in a pot. Bring to a boil on high heat. Stir in 1 teaspoon of salt. Remove from the heat and let stand 1 hour.

You can add other items like carrots, some chopped onion, minced garlic mustard or bay leaves to taste if you like. Stir well.

Add at least 2 cups of ham and a ham bone if you have it. Bring the soup back to a boil. Reduce your heat and simmer for 1 hour. Season with salt and pepper if desired.

Cornbread goes GREAT with this.

UPCOMING SERMON TITLES

February 1 — Tame Your self
February 8 — Awaiting Renewal
February 15 – Transformed in Honor
February 18 — Be Reconciled
February 22 — Renew the Earth

Visit us at mtpleasantmethodist.org

CHURCH FINANCES

Please continue to support our church. You may continue to send your financial support to Mt. Pleasant UMC, c/o Jim Rosenbury, 4099 CR 59, Butler, IN 46721



Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church

4099 CR 59, Butler, IN 46721

February 2026

The Pleasant News

Sunday Worship 10:00am
Bible Study 9:00am

Pastor Christine Fodrea

Church 260-868-5747
Cell Phone 260-437-9976

Pastoral Ponderings

February is well known for Valentine's Day and love, but February also gears us up for Easter by starting off the Lenten season 45% of the time. It's not a far leap from the time of love to the time of self-sacrifice to bring us closer to our God. February reminds us to grow closer to God, sacrifice is involved. God's sacrifice of His Son for our salvation reminds us of His desire to be closer to us.

It's hard to love someone when their actions or words show you don't matter to them. We must remember God wants us to treat others as His Holy and beloved children. We must tame our self. We must tame our desires, We must bring our actions and words under God's control. We must discipline our selves through consistent prayer, Bible study, spiritual practices and devotion.

Our world is increasing in frustration as we await the renewal of our spirits, as we await the coming of Jesus Christ. As we wait, we hope for our salvation. We await the renewal of spirits at the second coming. We await the renewal of our spirits in eternity. We wait with patience.

We are witnesses to the effect of Jesus on persons. He transforms us to His honor and glory through the Holy Spirit. We don't have to rely on ourselves. We only have to rely on Him and the transformation He brings to each of us as we look to Him.

God gives us the Holy occupation of being His ambassadors. God invites us to be reconciled to Him so that we can, through Christ, model living in harmony with God. So that we can reflect Gods light, love, mercy, and grace. God bids us to be reconciled to Him, to draw close to Him.

When we draw closer to Christ, we become aware of His call to be good stewards of the provision He gives us. God has called us to be good stewards and renew the Earth- in the place He has given us to care for. We grow closer to Christ by caring for His Earth, the soil and water, and the creatures He has given us to care for.