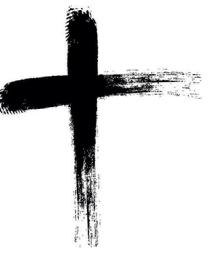


# Dunbar-St. Paul United Methodist Charge Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026



**Bolded print** is intended to be read aloud by all.

\* signifies that all are invited to rise in body, mind, or spirit

## GATHERING MUSIC

## GREETING AND WORDS OF WELCOME

## CENTERING MUSIC

**“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”**

## CENTERING WORDS

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

For just such a time as this,  
we were made.

In the image of God,  
loving, grace-giving, and wise,  
we are created to be the hands,  
hearts, and feet of divinity.

**We gather on this Ash Wednesday,  
not because we must,  
not to puff ourselves up,  
but to start out on the long trail  
leading through the wilderness  
by way of the garden and to the cross  
and finally to the joy of resurrection.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

**“Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”**

TFWS#2138

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Jarrod

## SCRIPTURE READING

**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

## MEDITATION

**The Cross Before Me...**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish & Christian worship, and this ritual is a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. Last year’s palm branches from Palm Sunday have been burnt to produce the ashes used in tonight’s service. You are invited to come forward as you feel comfortable and receive the sign of the cross on your forehead or your hand, reflecting on the words:*

*“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Repent, and believe the gospel.”*

## HOLY COMMUNION

**UMH#7**

*All who desire to do so are invited to receive holy communion.*

*There are gluten-free and nut-free communion elements available on the table in the narthex.*

## \*CLOSING HYMN

**“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

**UMH#298**

## \*SENDING FORTH

## POSTLUDE

Worship Notes: “UMH” denotes the navy The United Methodist Hymnal located in each pew.  
“TFWS” denotes the black supplemental hymnal “The Faith We Sing”

“W&S” denotes the green supplemental hymnal “Worship & Song”

Call to Worship adapted from “An Ash Wednesday Liturgy” written by Tim Graves and posted on LiturgyBits.  
CCLI License #: C-71179; CCLI Streaming License #: B-20459670; OneLicense #: A-736012; CVL: 505409193

## Announcements

The Dunbar-St Paul Charge will be offering two small group opportunities throughout the season of Lent. We’ll be studying together the book “Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross.” We’ll meet on Tuesdays at 11am at St Paul UMC and Wednesdays at 6pm at Dunbar UMC. You’re welcome to attend either class. Copies of the book are available for \$10 though they’re not required to participate in the class. Classes will begin on Tuesday, February 24 and Wednesday, February 25.

The Dunbar Ministerial Association will be hosting their Lenten Lunch and Worship services on Wednesdays throughout Lent. Lunch will be served from 11:15am-12:15pm; worship will be from 12:15-12:45pm.

### Lenten Lunch and Worship Schedule:

Wed. February 25 New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Pastor Kari Preslar preaching

Wed. March 4 Dunbar Presbyterian Church, Pastor Megan Cloninger preaching

Wed. March 11 Christ the King Catholic Church, Pastor Jarrod Caltrider preaching

Wed. March 18 Dunbar United Methodist Church, Deacon Dennis Nesser preaching

Wed. March 25 Dunbar First Baptist Church, Pastor Lanny Coberly preaching