



BEGINNING SUN, FEB 22

WORSHIP WILL START AT 10:30 AM

NO CHANGE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL START TIME OF 9 AM

THE SEASON OF LENT

THE ROAD IS OPEN.

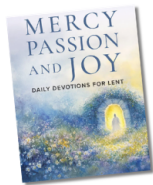
Journey in grace.

PALM SUNDAY | MARCH 29
WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 2
6:15 pm | Service at Ohio City UMC

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 3
6:15 pm | Service at First Church

PICK UP YOUR LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOK IN THE WELCOME CENTER



ADULTS
1 per family

KIDS
1 per child



THE ROAD IS OPEN.

BEGIN YOUR NEW START.

EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP

7:00 AM
Service at Ohio City UMC

EASTER WORSHIP

10:30 AM
Service at First Church



EASTER BREAKFAST

8:30 AM
at First Church



EASTER EGG HUNT

9:30 AM
in Fountain Park



Women's Lenten Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS FEBRUARY 18 - APRIL 1

TWO TIMES AVAILABLE: 1:00 PM or 5:30 PM

USING A STUDY DESIGNED AROUND THE BOOK
The Lives We Actually Have by Kate Bowler

SIGN UP IN THE WELCOME CENTER (in Krout),
or EMAIL FIRSTCHURCH@VANWERTFIRST.NET

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS DUE MARCH 8

Order forms will be in the bulletin and in the Krout "Welcome Center"



113 West Central Ave | Van Wert, OH 45891 | 419-238-0631 | vanwertfirst.net

ASH WEDNESDAY

THE ROAD IS OPEN.

Journey in grace.



FEBRUARY 18TH 2026

6:15PM

LOVE BOLDY, SERVE JOYFULLY, AND LEAD COURAGEOUSLY

ORDER of WORSHIP



GATHERING Ashlynn Shaffer

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.**

+ GREETING PRAYER Ashlynn Shaffer

O God, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take our hearts, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in us. We need your newness, God, the rough parts of us made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven. And then, by the power of your Spirit, we need to be turned toward Love again. Amen.

PRELUDE *Moment by Moment* | arr. Cindy Berry

+ CALL TO WORSHIP Ella Pruden

Leader: Children of God, we gather to prepare for our journey through Lent, a journey of repentance and mercy.

People: **We gather to be renewed in God's mercy.**

Leader: We gather to confess, to tell the truth about sin and our dependence on God's grace.

People: **We gather to call upon God's mercy.**

Leader: We gather to repent, to receive and cooperate with grace as we turn from sin and toward love of God and neighbor.

People: **We gather to live in the promise of God's mercy.**

Leader: People of God, we gather to worship God, whose steadfast mercy and love never fail!

People: **We gather to worship, trusting in God's mercy as we follow Jesus on the road to new life.**

+ HYMN/SONG *Just As I Am/I Come Broken*

+ SCRIPTURE SERIES

2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10
Renewed in Mercy
A Clean Heart

MEDITATION

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

CONFESSION AND PARDON Elora Hogan

Leader: On this first day of Lent, we pause, look within, and examine our consciousness.

People: **Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship, found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Where we have colluded in the oppression of those who become invisible in their suffering and ignored on the streets: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Where worry has eroded the gift of Your peace, and where we have cared too much about what others think: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. May the Almighty and Merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

+ HYMN #269 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* | UMH

THE PEACE +

LITANY OF MERCY AND TRUST Vivian Laukhuf

Leader: Holy God, in this season of repentance and renewal, we come before you just as we are—dust and breath, hopeful and weary, faithful and flawed.

People: **We come seeking your mercy.**

Leader: You know our hearts—the parts we offer freely, and the parts we try to hide.

People: **Search us, O God, and know us.**

Leader: Where we have trusted in ourselves more than in you, where we have chosen comfort over compassion, where we have loved selectively instead of generously—

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: Where we have held onto guilt instead of grace, fear instead of faith, and bitterness instead of forgiveness—

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: You call us not to be perfect, but to be honest. Not to be strong, but to be open. Not to save ourselves, but to trust in your love.

People: **We place our lives in your hands.**

Leader: Teach us again how to live as your children—to seek your will, to receive your daily bread, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to walk in the way of Christ.

People: **Shape our lives by your mercy.**

Leader: Gathering all our hopes, our needs, our confessions, and our trust in your grace, let us now pray together the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ HYMN #433 *All Who Love and Serve Your City* | UMH

+ DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

+ GOING FORTH

Pastor
Christian Taylor
Leaders of Service
Youth
Director of Music
Scott Turner
Director of Worship
Jeremy Laukhuf