

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14, 2024 - 7:00 pm

**Denotes Standing, in body and/or spirit*

Worship Theme: Returning to God

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** Psalm 51 (*Responsively*) Leader

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: 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.

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

People: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Leader: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

***Opening Prayer** Pastor Chuck

O God, maker of everything 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 raise 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** "Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days" UMH #269
(v. 1,2,4,5)

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#) (NRSV)

Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

***Gospel Lesson:** [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"How is it with us?"

Pastor Chuck

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Dust and Ashes"
Brian Wrenn

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Brief history of the practice of Lent in the early church, followed by a personal invitation to you, the Church, to embrace the practice today.

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

A humble request of our God to allow these ashes to be a reminder of our dependence on Jesus' gift
(Unison)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

If you desire, come to the altar to receive ashes placed on your forehead or on the back of your hand.

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"

"Repent, and believe the gospel"

Confession and Pardon

A final humble request of our God to accept our repentance and forgive our sins as we strive for a new life in Christ.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** "Sunday's Palms Are
Wednesday's Ashes" TFWS #2138

***Benediction**

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday March 24th - 10:00 am Worship Service
Easter Egg Hunt Following Service

Holy Thursday March 28th - 7:00 pm Worship Service
with Communion

Good Friday March 29th - 7:00 pm Musical Cantata at
Long Hill United Methodist Church in Trumbull

Easter Sunrise Service March 31st at 6:30 am at Great Hollow Lake

Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

NOTE: All services (except for Sunrise Service) will be both in-person and on Zoom...Long Hill will send their Zoom Link separately.

Join us Wednesday's @ 7:30am for
Wednesday-Wakeup Devotional & Fellowship



[Zoom Link](#)
(Live Meeting)



[YouTube \(https://bitly.com/WWakeup\)](https://bitly.com/WWakeup)
(Recorded Sessions)

Pastor: Reverend Charles J. Schif Liturgist: God's People
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Rose Aiello
Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola
Email: umc@umcmonroe.org Telephone: 203.268.8395
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Worship Livestream Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96540669674?pwd=OEVTYXdllZBucDR4YzBvdEwwSlkyQT09>

Meeting ID: 965 4066 9674
Passcode: 2819
Dial-in: +1 929 205 6099

United Methodist Church of Monroe

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Monroe, CT 06468

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

"Growing in the Body of Christ"