

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18, 2026 - 7:00 pm

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

Worship Theme: Repentance
WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Chapel Prayer" Carl Simone
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: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

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

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

People: **Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

People: **Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**

***Opening Prayer** Leader
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**

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

UMH #496

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!**

New Testament Lesson: [Acts 2:37-42](#) (NRSV)
Lector: The Word of God for the People of God
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Message "Salvation is an Action" Pastor Chuck

CHOIR ANTHEM "Create In Me" P. Carlson, J. Lemons

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 TFWS #2138
Wednesday's Ashes"

*Benediction

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday March 29th - 10:00 am Worship Service

Holy Thursday April 2nd - 7:00 pm Worship Service
with Communion

Good Friday April 3rd - 7:00 pm Cantada - Sanctuary at
Nichols UMC

Easter Sunrise Service April 5th at 6:30 am at Great Hollow Lake

Easter Sunday Worship April 5th at 10:00 am back at UMCM

NOTE: All services (except for the Sunrise Service) will be in-person and
on Zoom/YouTube

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



[Zoom Link](#)
(Live Meeting)



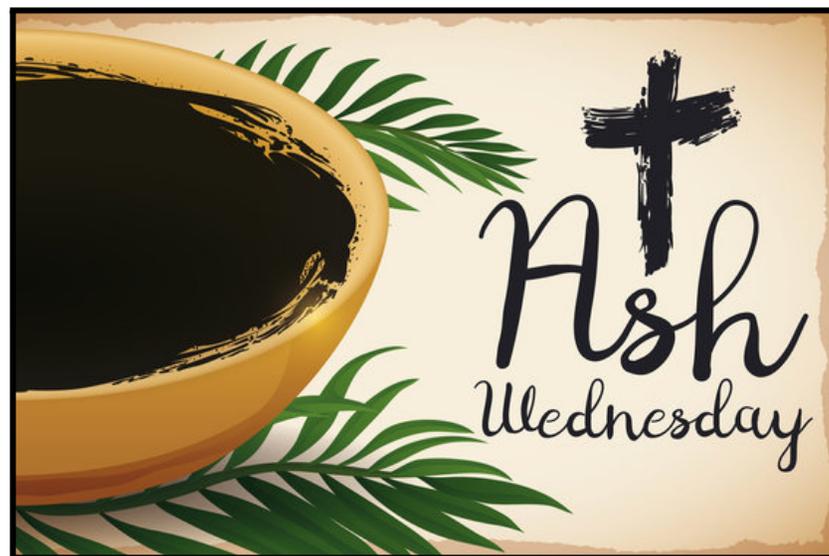
[YouTube \(https://bitly.com/WWakeup\)](https://bitly.com/WWakeup)
(Recorded Sessions)

Pastor: Reverend Charles J. Schif Liturgist: Sheryl Rajpolt
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Patti Early
Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

Email: umc@umcmonroe.org Telephone: 203.268.8395

Web site: www.umcmonroe.org

Email: Pastor@UMCMonroe.org Pastor's cell: 203.560.2220



[Worship Livestream Zoom link:](#)



United Methodist Church of Monroe
A member of the Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish
515 Cutlers Farm Road
Monroe, CT 06468

February 18, 2026 10:00 am
"Growing in the Body of Christ"