

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.
Church Office– (815) 465-6191
Parsonage phone – (815) 466-4048 Pastor's Cell – (567) 249-5130
Website: www.stpetersgp.org
Email: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net
Facebook: St. Peters UCC Grant Park



815-465-6191

St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

God is still speaking

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 2ND, 2022 (7 PM)

*** - In the way you are able, whether in body or in spirit, please rise.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dawn Schroeder

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“The Lord’s My Shepherd” (*arr. Hustad*)

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dawn Schroeder

Leader: Who is wise and understanding among us?

People: *Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day; those who delight in God and meditate on His law.*

Leader: Come, learn more about the wisdom from above, a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

People: *O God, Your wisdom is more precious than jewels!
We draw near to You.*

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

#476

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*We draw ourselves near to You, O God, Source of all understanding.
We invite Your Spirit to draw near to us and to inhabit the praise of Your people. Teach us Your wisdom that we may bear good fruit in our lives.
Root us beside the streams of Your wisdom, that the green leaves of Your goodness, fed by Your insight, may not wither. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Dawn Schroeder

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory

“Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross” (*arr. Denton*)

SERVICE OF CONFESSION, ASHES, AND FORGIVENESS

Confession of Sin and Lord's Prayer

Imposition of Ashes

A Reading Concerning Darkness and Light

Assurance of Pardon and Forgiveness

Hymn Response "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #473

READING FROM GOD'S WORD

James 3:13-18

CHOIR ANTHEM "Just A Closer Walk" (*Price & Besig*)

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION: "Peace Lovers" Pastor Kyle

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing in the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*CLOSING SONG "When Peace Like a River" #428

*BENEDICTION

*MOMENTS OF SILENT MEDITATION

*DEPART IN SILENCE

Please join us each Wednesday during Lent from 6 to 7:30 pm for Soup, Song, and Scripture in the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall.

Lay Reader: Dawn Schroeder

Greeters: Tim & Heidi Frahm

THE SEASON OF FORTY DAYS

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, which is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) preceding Easter. The date of Easter falls on the Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox, as determined in AD 325. This year, it is April 17th.

“Lent” is from the Anglo-Saxon word for “lengthen,” as in the lengthening days of spring. This season has been observed by Christians at least since the early 2nd century. In Christian Scripture, the number 40 relates to the period spent by Noah in the Ark, the period spent by Israel seeking the Promised Land after the Exodus, and the amount of time Jesus was in the wilderness prior to beginning His ministry.

For us, the Season of Lent is when the passion and death of Jesus come into focus. It’s observed as a time for growth in faith, as well as deepening the devotional life of faithful Christians. It’s an invitation to 40 days of renewal and preparation for the Good News of Easter through the disciplines of prayer, self-denial, and rededication.

The term “Ash Wednesday” was coined by Pope Urban II in 1099. Ashes from burning the previous year’s Palm Sunday palms were used on this day of repentance to urge Christians to “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

For us, the “Ash” part of Ash Wednesday represents our sorrow for our sins, our repentance, and our mortality. Receiving the Sacrament tonight reminds us that God’s love is triumphant over sin and death, that He remains “in communion” with us, and that through Christ’s redemptive act on the cross, our mortality is overcome.