

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



310 North Meadow Street (Grant Park, IL 60940)

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

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“Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”

Matthew 4:10

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

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

Imposition of Ashes

**As you enter the sanctuary, you may choose to receive the mark of ashes on your forehead or back of your wrist. Quietly and reflectively, find your seat and spend time in prayer and meditation while the music is being played.*

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Prayer & Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor Kyle

Prelude

“Out of the Depths I Cry Unto You” (*Lau*)

Lighting of the Candles

Ryleigh Schneider

Scripture Reading

Mark 5:1-20

Kevin Mussman

*Song of Worship

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

#68

Worshipping God with our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

“Ah, Holy Jesus” (*Barr*)

*Response

“Doxology”

#34

Choir Anthem

“At the Table of the Lord” (*Martin*)

The Sacrament of Communion

Ash Wednesday Meditation

“Stories to Love”

Pastor Kyle

Responsive Song “I Love to Tell the Story” (*vs. 1&4*) Insert

Lenten Prayer

***Closing Hymn** “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” #486

***Benediction**

***Moments of Silent Meditation**

***Postlude** “Lead Me to Calvary” (*Kirkpatrick*)

**Join us each Wednesday during Lent for dinner at 5:30 p.m. in
the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall.**

Holy Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday Worship (7 p.m.)

Good Friday Service (7 p.m.)

Easter Breakfast (8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.)

Easter Egg Hunt (9:30 a.m.)

Easter Worship (10:30 a.m.)

THE SEASON OF FORTY DAYS

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, 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 20th.

“Lent” is from the Anglo-Saxon word for “lengthen,” as in the lengthening days of spring. This season has been observed by Christians since at least 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 past 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.