

# 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](http://www.stpetersgp.org)  
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*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 – FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 (7 PM)

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC      “Come and Listen”

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP Lexi Hamann

Leader: Let us worship God. God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

People: *God’s love endures forever and we need to experience His love.*

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: *God’s love endures forever and we need to experience His forgiveness.*

\*HYMN OF PRAISE      “I Need Thee Every Hour”

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; into Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.*

## 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"

READING FROM GOD'S WORD            Joel 2:1-17            Neal Currier

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION:        "Return to the Lord"

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing in the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*CLOSING SONG                        "Here I Am, Lord"

\*BENEDICTION

\*MOMENTS OF SILENT MEDITATION

\*DEPART IN SILENCE

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**Please join us** each Wednesday during Lent as we share together in song and Biblical discussion. Services will begin at 7 pm.

## 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 24th.

“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 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.