

# Ash Wednesday

*"Not By Bread Alone"*

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 12:00pm

Umstead Park United Church of Christ



## Welcome

Rev. Paula Womack

## \*Call to Worship

Alice Jermyn

One: Gather for worship, all who wander in the wilderness looking for bread.

**Many: We have wandered through the wilderness but we cannot live by bread alone.**

One: Gather for worship to be satisfied by the bread of life which nourishes and makes us whole.

**Many: Through the Spirit, the words and the life of Christ we are fed by the bread of life.**

One: Come, let us worship and remember: We are dust and to dust we will return.

**Many: Yet even in dust we are beloved. We worship the One who leads us, feeds us and calls us to be made whole.**

## Opening Prayer

Rev. Paula Womack

## \*Taize Song

"O, God, Hear Our Prayer"

David Wilson

O God, hear our prayer. O God, hear our prayer.  
When we call, answer us.

O God, hear our prayer. O God hear our prayer.  
Come and listen to us.

## Reading of Scripture

Matthew 4:1-4, The Inclusive Bible

Alice Jermyn

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by the Devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting for forty days and forty nights Jesus was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Then the tempter approached and said, "If you are the Only Begotten, command these stones to turn into bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "Scripture has it, 'We live not on bread alone but on every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.'"

## Reflection

"Not By Bread Alone"

Rev. Paula Womack

## \*Prayers of the People

Alice Jermyn

One: God of wilderness and bread, we pray with humble spirits, acknowledging our fragility and need. Through the ashes we remember we are dust—yet we are held in your boundless love.

**Many: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: We pray for those wandering in wilderness seasons—those who may be hungry, lonely or uncertain. Sustain them with your bread of life and lead them toward hope.

**Many: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: We pray for those facing the temptation to give in to fear, greed or despair. Strengthen them with your Spirit so they may choose life.

**Many: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: We pray for all who bear the heavy burdens of sickness, grief, oppression and weariness. Bring healing, comfort and justice and remind them they are not alone.

**Many: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: Teach us to see your grace at work in the dust of our lives—transforming, redeeming and calling us steadily to follow your ways. Help us live as people shaped by your mercy—caring for the earth, our neighbors and ourselves.

**Many: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: Holy One, we lift these prayers to you trusting in your steadfast love and the nourishment you provide. Feed us with your reminders of your ways and your presence—and guide us through every wilderness we face.

**Many: Amen**

## Imposition of Ashes

Rev. Paula Womack

One: May we pause to remember our mortality, thank God for this precious life and reflect on life's end.

**Many: Remember we are dust and to dust we will return.**

*You may come forward to receive ashes on your forehead. Hold out your hand if you would prefer to receive the ashes in the palm of your hand. If you are joining online, please use the soil or oil you have brought to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or palm as you repeat: "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return."*

## \*Taize Song

"In God Alone"

David Wilson

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and hope.  
Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.

## \*Benediction

Paula Womack