



Ash Wednesday Worship

*February 14, 2024, 6 p.m.
All Are Welcome*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We are marked with ashes to remind us that we are from God and that we ultimately return to God.

On this Lenten journey we will discover what it means to know that we are “good enough.” Where we give ourselves grace, and we accept that life is imperfect and that’s ok. Where we stop striving for unattainable ideals and start fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves. Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to scan the QR code to register your attendance so we know you’re here and we can get to know you better.



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Welcome To The Celebration Of The Gospel

Ash Wednesday
6 p.m., February 14, 2024

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



We Gather

Prelude

Terry Byars

Welcome

Introit

Good Enough
Steve Rushing, soloist

*Calling on God

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Holy One,
make yourself known to us.
**Be present with us in this often troubled journey of life.
Create in us hearts that are open to transformation.
Give us the patience of practice in this Lent season—
ordering our days with time enough for you. Amen.**

*Hymn

Be Thou My Vision
The United Methodist Hymnal 451, vs. 1 - 3

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Moment of Prayerful Reflection

Pastor Lane and
Rev. Karli Pidgeon

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days

Words: Claudia F. Hernaman

Music: 'St. Flavian' Day's Salter

We Proclaim

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God.

Witness to the Word

Rev. Karli Pidgeon

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Karli

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Karli

Prayer Response Song

Come and Find a Quiet Center

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2128, vs. 1 & 2

Ritual of Ashes

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

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 we are given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Those who wish are invited to come forward to receive ashes either on the forehead or the back of the hand. Ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence and as a reminder that only by God's grace in Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. You may pray at the kneeler rail if you so desire.

Blessing and Sending Forth

Blessing Before a Fast

Blessed are you,
ready to open yourself to a new joy,
a doorway that until now has been hidden.
In this culture of acquisition and gain,
blessed are you desiring fresh ears to hear
what might be a bit too loud;
who take the next step to turn it down a notch
and make more space for God;
who discipline yourself, with time, intention, and hope,
anticipating God to show up in your discomfort.
Trusting that when we need God, God promises to be there.

**O God, give me courage,
give me strength,
give me hunger for you.**

**Let this set time of “less” be a chance for “more” of You.
Let this fast be an entrance into the discernment I desire,
the divine presence I’m longing for,
and the hope to will what You will, O God,
to be who You’ve called me to be.”
Amen.**

*Hymn

I Surrender All

The United Methodist Hymnal 354, vs. 1 - 3

*Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation,
especially the imperfect bits,
and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life,
and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways,
go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy.
Amen.

*Postlude

Terry Byars

Worship Notes

Tonight we welcome Rev. Karli Pidgeon, the Baton Rouge and New Orleans District Superintendent, as our guest preacher.

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“Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

“A Blessing Before a Fast” from Good Enough: 40’ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

Lent Worship Series



LENT WORSHIP SERIES “EMBRACING THE GOOD ENOUGH”

Join us on a Lenten journey where we will discover what it means to know that we are “good enough,” where we give ourselves grace, and we accept that life is imperfect and that’s ok. What if we stopped striving for unattainable ideals and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives. The series begins on **Sunday, February 18** with a message from Pastor Lane.

We will use the book *Good Enough: 40’ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Riche, as the companion for our Lent worship series. Each week we will highlight a concept from the book that ties into the scripture reading for that Sunday. If you want to go deeper, you can purchase your own copy of *Good Enough: 40’ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* and then you can move through the devotions on your own simply as you feel led.

There is a leader guide that was sent to small group leaders who may be interested in using the book during Lent in their classes. For those who have elected to read the devotions on a daily basis, there is a copy of a suggested reading list in the Narthex and in the hallway of the Admin/Edu Building.

Upcoming Events

A graphic for the 'Unity in the Community' event. It features the title 'Unity in the Community' in a large, red, curved font at the top. Below the title is a central photograph of a children's choir performing in a sanctuary. The photo is flanked by musical notes on a staff. The background is light beige with yellow starburst graphics in the corners. At the bottom, the event details are written in blue text: 'February 17 @ 10:00 a.m. in St. John's Sanctuary'.

Unity in the Community

February 17 @ 10:00 a.m. in St. John's Sanctuary

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

St. John's, you are invited to come to *Unity in the CommUNITY*, **Saturday, February 17 at 10 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. The staff at Charlie Thomas Head Start Center is helping plan the annual special worship service. We hope to have a large number of our membership at this service. In addition to music provided by our members, a children's choir will perform several songs and play hand bells. Natalie Cooper will deliver a brief message. Following the service, the United Women in Faith will host a light lunch reception in the FLC where everyone can gather for food and fellowship. If you are able to help make sandwiches, meet in the FLC at 8 a.m.

A graphic for the 'C.H.A.O.S.' event series. The title 'C.H.A.O.S.' is in large white letters on a teal background, with the subtitle 'Christ Here And Other Spaces' below it. The main area is light blue with colorful handprints and decorative elements. Dates are listed: JANUARY 28, MARCH 24, FEBRUARY 25, and APRIL 28. A list of bullet points is at the bottom.

C.H.A.O.S.
Christ Here And Other Spaces

JANUARY 28 FEBRUARY 25

MARCH 24 APRIL 28

- Ministry events for children & families.
- Focused on sharing the love of Jesus through games, music, crafts, and fun!

C.H.A.O.S. - CHRIST HERE AND OTHER SPACES

Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

February 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Bring your leftover Mardi Gras beads and join us for a craft night using upcycled beads! Dinner will be included.

March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravaganza celebration - complete with crafts, games, and an egg hunt. You won't want to miss out on this!

April 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Save the date for this event... More info coming soon!

Next Week at St. John's

Sunday, February 18

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Overview, FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Writers' Group, Founders' Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room

Monday, February 19

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, February 20

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, Founders Parlor
- 4:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Campus & Library
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief St. John's Fellowship, George's on Highland
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, February 21

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, February 22

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC

Friday, February 23

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Delivery, FLC

Saturday, February 24

- 8:00 a.m. Giving Quilts Sewalong, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center