

February 18, 2026 | Ash Wednesday | 7:00pm

# ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ



**Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together**

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*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word,  
preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.*

*We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.*

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# WELCOME TO ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

## *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey, a season in which we are to draw ever closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In our worship of God this evening we are made aware of our sinfulness and our mortality, while knowing of the grace of Christ our Lord.*

Welcome, Scripture and Prayer

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Prelude

“Redeemer”

†Call to Worship (L-Leader, **P-People**)

L: In this Lenten season, we worship remembering Jesus’ death in love for us and all people.

**P: *Lent is a time of tears.***

L: But out of tears, joy is born – the joy of sin forgiven, hope reborn, and life restored.

**P: *Let us stand in awe of the God who brings joy out of tears, and life out of death.***

†Hymn of Confession

#342, “Just As I Am”

Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

The Lord’s Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

Assurance of Pardon

†Hymn of Response

#186, “The Old Rugged Cross”

Children’s Message

Scripture Readings

Matthew 6:19-24, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Worship of God with Our Offerings

Offertory Sentence and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

“Worthy Is the Lamb”

Sermon

“Treasures of a Contrite Heart”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Special Music offered by Sarah Kinsman

“How Beautiful”

Unison Prayer of Approach - ***Gracious God, we come before you with open hearts, willing to look at the truth about ourselves, seeking to find healing and new life. We are preparing to make our Lenten journey to travel with Jesus along the path which led him to the cross. Give us strength and confidence in your constant love. Amen.***

Hymn of Response

#337, "Pass Me Not"

Communion Invitation and Words of Institution

Unison Prayer of Blessing: ***Come Holy Spirit, bless these elements, these symbols of our Lord's love. Bless us as we partake of this sacrament, so our lives of faith will be refreshed and our spirits joined with the risen Christ, who is in our midst. Amen.***

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Blessing

†Closing Hymn

#515, "Since Jesus Came into My Heart"

†Benediction

## THE SEASON OF LENT

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Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that precedes Easter. The date of Easter falls on the Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox, a time determined by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. This year Easter is on March 31st.

"Lent" is from the Anglo-Saxon word for "lengthen," as in the lengthening days of spring. This season of 40 days has been celebrated by Christians at least since the early 4th century. In the Christian Scriptures 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 after his baptism and prior to beginning his ministry.

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

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.

Lenten worship services will be held at 7pm each Wednesday in the sanctuary. Services will feature hymn sings, prayer, scripture and a teaching lesson.

## TONIGHT'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

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Accompanist	Buffy Riley
Song Leader	Roger Zimmerman
Worship Leader	Jan Lindsay
Sound	James Grime
Easy Worship	Kelly Ducey
Live Stream	Cayla Swisher
Head Usher	Dave Walker
Ushers	Justin, Carrie, Cameron and Ella Yoder
Communion Servers	Dean Buckenmeyer, Ryan Christman, Ann Grime, Jeff Rutledge, Dean Sauder, David Stuckey, Adam Swisher, Roger Zimmerman

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### Loose Offerings

Please note a change from previous years, as this year's Lenten offerings will support the ministries of Archbold Lifewise Academy and the Archbold Fish Pantry.

### We Practice Open Communion.

We invite to the Lord's Table all older youth and adults who believe in the Lord Jesus as Savior. Grape juice is served in the trays of the cup.

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### ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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