



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

WATERLOO FIRST

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Since 1846

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 18, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.

Welcome! We are happy to have you with us this evening!

PRELUDE

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

No. 297

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

OPENING PRAYER

No. 353

O God, maker of every thing and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up.

By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

No. 269

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*HYMN

“Pass Me not, O Gentle Savior”

No. 351

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

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
are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

* IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

*CONFESSIOIN AND PARDON

May the almighty and merciful God,
who desires not the death of a sinner
but that we turn from wickedness and live,
accept your repentance, forgive your sins,
and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

No. 382

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

John Roberts, Ed. D., pianist

*Please stand if you are able

The **United Methodist Church** forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

Who We Are

The **United Methodist Church** is a worldwide connection of approximately 10 million members in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States. We are the person next door, the church on the other side of the country, and the worshipping community across the globe. Together, we share a legacy of living as disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love both in what we say and how we serve our neighbors. We are the people of The United Methodist Church .

#BeUMC

The **United Methodist Church** is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.

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