

## 2026 Holy Week Schedule



### **Maundy Thursday** **Worship with the Lord's Supper**

April 2nd  
7:00pm

### **Good Friday Service**

April 3rd  
12:00pm

**Easter Sunday - April 5**  
9:00am- Contemporary Service  
11:00am- Traditional Service

## What is Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally the palms that we waved on Palm Sunday are burned to ashes and brought out for use on Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed, "imposed", on our foreheads, or on the back of the hand, with a cross-shaped sign, saying, **"You are dust, and to dust you shall return,"** from Gen. 3:19. The ashes remind us of our mortality, the brevity of life, and our need for confession and avoidance of sin and pardon. At the same time, because the sign on our foreheads is cross-shaped, it's meant to remind us of our baptism. **"We who have died in Christ will be raised with him."** So the ultimate point of Ash Wednesday is to face up to some hard realities of our sinful nature, buoyed by our confident hope in the One who raised Jesus from the dead and who will have the last word over our lives, too.

### **FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY**

#### **GREETERS:**

Barbara Forsyth, Carol Zieres & Cindy Gamble

#### **USHERS:**

Carol Rathmell & Barbara Moler



**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
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Chris Curvin, Pastor



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# ORDER OF WORSHIP ASH WEDNESDAY

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February 18, 2026, 6:30 PM

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor

## GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

Leader: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People: God’s mercy endures forever.**

\*HYMN #166 “Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days” ST. FLAVIAN

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**

**As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,  
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.**

**And through these days of penitence , and though this passion tide,  
yes evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.**

**Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**Mighty Lord, we confess that we are lost without you. Forgive us.  
So often we forget that without you we are but dust and ashes  
with no hope beyond this life. Forgive us. In our assembly and in  
our daily lives keep our hearts and minds fixed on the cross of  
Christ remembering that our hope rests in his death and resur-  
rection. May our journey these forty days be one of faith in you,  
service to your world, and claiming the forgiveness which is ours  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 51:1-4, 9-12 (NRSVUE)  
Luke 18:9-14 (NRSVUE)

MEDITATION “The Pharisee and the Tax Collector”  
Chris Curvin, Pastor

## RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who wish to participate and receive ashes are asked to come forward  
for their imposition. Ashes acknowledge our mortality; the Sign of the Cross  
signifies the eternal life of those who believe in Jesus as Savior.*

“What Wondrous Love Is This” arr. Dale Wood

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

\*HYMN “Sing Out! We’re Made of Common Dust” CANONBURY

**Sing out! We're made of common dust;  
One day, to dust we shall return!  
Yet, God, you've placed your mark on us,  
and so for you our spirits yearn.**

**This gift of ashes we receive  
reminds us we belong to you.  
You call us to repent, believe,  
and seek your Way in all we do.**

**The dust and dirt of children's play,  
of youthful times, of working years  
Are part of life — and life's decay;  
We wash the dust with sorrow's tears.**

**We sing, O God, of what you give:  
This ash reminds us we are yours.  
In life we're claimed, in death we live!  
In Christ our life, your love endures.**

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\*BENEDICTION

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

Stephanie Carson, Music Director  
David Furr, Organist