



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the annual 40-day season before celebrating Easter. Ash Wednesday invites us to begin the season with an acknowledgment of our mortality (“Remember you are dust and to dust you will return”) and our hope in Christ (“Repent, and believe the Gospel!”). Both are necessary! Only by beginning with the end in mind (eternal life in Christ) can we face the actual limits of our mortal life. The sign of ashes on our foreheads, when shared in community, reminds us of the life to which we all cling, the life that is ours in Christ.

This year, we will hold a short, live-streamed Ash Wednesday service at **7pm** on **Wednesday, February 17**. We are preparing individual and family-sized sealed containers with palm ashes in them so that you can observe the imposition of ashes safely and at home. (Who knew we’d be encouraging “self-ash” behavior!)

You may pick up your ashes at the church beginning February 8 to use on February 17. They will be packages with a prayer card on a table near the Goley Chapel. The table will be located inside the Goley Chapel door (entrance to the left of the Memorial Garden fountain). Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9am-2pm. If you DO NOT have a key fob and would like to pick up at an alternate time, or if you would like to have ashes delivered to your home, please e-mail Susan Brink at office@fumcgraham-nc.org or call 336/226-4343.

During the live-streamed worship service, there will be time for us to mark ourselves or the members of our family with ashes to begin our Lenten journey to the cross.



Sample of Individual
Container of Ashes