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News

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Events

Browse programs and events or search by ministry or keyword at fumcfw.org/events.

Worship with us Online | Sundays

9:30 am | The Gathering | fumcfw.org/gathering-live

11:00 am | Traditional Worship | fumcfw.org/traditional-live

11:11 am | eleven:eleven | fumcfw.org/1111-live

Media Playlists Watch past services or sermons or listen to podcasts of sermons, services, and special music offerings at fumcfw.org/media.

For more information visit us online at fumcfw.org.

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ARE YOU NEW?

If you would like to find your Worship Plus One, we would love to visit with you and help you explore the First Church groups or ministries of special interest to you! Finding your Worship Plus One will help you meet others, build relationships, and grow stronger in your faith.

For details, please email Lisa Helm (lhelm@myfumc.org), Director of Welcoming Ministries or Dr. Mike Marshall (mmarshall@myfumc.org), Associate Pastor of Leadership Development — and be sure to include your phone number in your email!



Discipleship is the process of being shaped by the Holy Spirit through spiritual practices to become more like Jesus. **Healthy Plate Discipleship** uses a variety of practices to help you more faithfully follow Jesus Christ. Try all six areas to grow strong in faithful discipleship. Learn more at fumcfw.org/healthyplate.



Abingdon Labyrinth



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Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service
March 5, 2024 | noon and 7:00 pm

“Return to Me”

Joel 2:12-13

Rev. Phyllis Barren, Associate Pastor

Rev. Lance Marshall
Senior Pastor

Welcome

Dr. Mike Marshall, Associate Pastor (noon)
Rev. Brenda Brooks Alexander, Associate Pastor (7:00 pm)

Pastoral Prayer

Organ Voluntary: “O Mensch, bewein’ dein’ Sünde groß” (noon)
(O man, bewail thy grievous sin)

J. S. Bach, composer
Peggy Graff, organ

“In Paradisum” (7:00 pm)
(Into Paradise)

Charles Callahan, arranger
Taylor White, trumpet

*Call to Worship

Rev. Zhenya Gurina Rodriguez, PhD, Associate Pastor (noon)
Rev. Tom McDermott, Associate Pastor (7:00 pm)
One: Return to the Lord with all of your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning. Take a good look at what is going on in your heart.
All: We will return to God because our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, loves us without wavering and relents from punishing.
One: We, too, can relent - from the things that keep us from God.
All: Let us offer ourselves to God and bless others, gathering all to return to the Lord and embrace God”s works.
(Inspired by Joel 2:12-17)

*Hymn 269: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days“

Sacrament of Baptism (noon)
Maximus Cole Putnam, son of Hollyanne and Jesse Putnam

Offertory:
“In Paradisum” (noon)

“**Create in Me**” (7:00 pm)
Victor C. Johnson, arranger
Choral Union
Thomas Williams, director

Scripture: Joel 2:12-13
Rev. Lance Marshall, Senior Pastor
God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn: 402 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Sermon: “Return to Me”
Rev. Phyllis Barren, Associate Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

Imposition of Ashes
You may come forward as you wish and receive the ashes. Come via the center aisles and return by the outside aisles.

Prayer of Confession and Pardon for Ash Wednesday
Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone things which we should have done, and we have done things that we should not have done. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Benediction

***Postlude: “Herzliebster Jesu” (Ah, Jesus, Dear) noon**
Johannes Brahms, composer

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth — we are glad you’re here to worship with us today!

Please let us know you are here by filling out the attendance pad as it comes by.

LENT BANNERS

The season of Lent provides a blessed opportunity for reflection as we approach the altar of our Lord’s sacrifice with hope in God’s mercy.

The seasonal wall hangings (paraments) reflect the themes and color of this liturgical season. The purple of Lent represents sorrow and repentance. Grey, the color of ashes, calls us back to Ash Wednesday, when we received this symbol of mourning and humility on our foreheads. The tan fabric suggests desert sands and the arid nature of sin.

The coarse ropes suspended between the fabric panels also carry symbolic meaning. The five groupings of ropes remind us of the five wounds Christ bore on the cross. The rope itself is a symbol of the betrayal of Christ as the soldiers bound him after the kiss of Judas. The stones, woven into the ropes, represent the sin that weighs down our souls. The knots in the ropes suggest the discord in our families, the hurts between married couples, and the absence of peace and joy caused by our pride and failure to depend on God.

These paraments provide a visual reminder of the mercy God offers us not only in the Lenten Season but also throughout the entire year.