



1201 South Byrne Road • Toledo, OH 43614 • 419-385-3747 • faithcomucc@toast.net • www.faithcommunity-ucc.org  
Pastor Will Stuart, *Visiting Pastor* / Mel Barrios, *Certified Lay Minister* / B.J. Lord, *Editor-Secretary*



Ash Wednesday is the day Lent begins. It occurs forty days before Good Friday. Actually, Ash Wednesday is its colloquial name. Its official name is the Day of Ashes. It is called Ash Wednesday because, being forty days before Good Friday, it always falls on a Wednesday and it is called Ash Wednesday because on that day at church the faithful have their foreheads marked with ashes in the shape of a cross.

Ash Wednesday is one of the principal holy days for the Western Church. More commonly observed by Catholics, Anglicans, Episcopalians, and Lutherans, Ash Wednesday falls on the seventh Wednesday before Easter (usually around February 9). Ash Wednesday begins a season of fasting and repentance (Lent) in preparation for the Easter celebration.

The origins of Ash Wednesday are tied to Ash Wednesday history and the time of year in which it occurs during the year. It follows the season of

Epiphany, which culminates with Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday). The night of Carnival provides people one last opportunity for feasting and reveling before the fasting of Lent. The solemn proceedings that occur on Ash Wednesday bring the focus back to the sacrifice of Christ and the mission of the Church. The origins of Ash Wednesday most likely come from the Day of Atonement. In Leviticus 16, the Lord establishes an annual day of repentance for the Israelites as a lasting ordinance for all their generations. Since the blood of Jesus represents atonement, the heart of Ash Wednesday is a humbling of oneself with fasting and prayer.

On this day, Christians come before a priest to receive the sign of the cross marked in ashes on their foreheads. Over the next month, they are encouraged to fast, pray, and seek repentance for their sins. Reflection upon one's life during the previous year receives extra attention, and a greater commitment to God and the Church is offered. This ceremony originated around the eighth century and extends back to the custom during biblical times of people humbling themselves with sackcloth and ashes. The prophet Daniel speaks of seeking the Lord for the release of his people from Babylonian exile with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes (Daniel 9:3). The book of Jonah states: "When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust." (Jonah 3:6)

When studying Ash Wednesday history, note that ashes are a symbol of man's mortality and represent an attitude of humility, sorrow, and repentance (Genesis 18:27). The ashes used in the Ash Wednesday ritual come from burning the palm branches used to celebrate Palm Sunday the previous year. After being blessed with holy water, the

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## Ash Wednesday

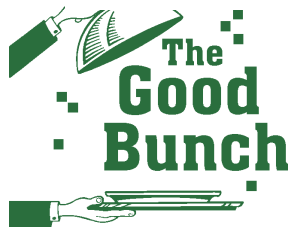
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ashes sit amidst burning incense to take on a pleasing scent. The priest or highest-ranking Church official administers them first to the Clergy and then to the Laity. In an old Ash Wednesday tradition, penitents who had committed grave sins would come wearing shifts made from rough cloth or animal hair. The priest would bless them and sprinkle ashes over them while they recited the Seven Penitential Psalms. The penitents would leave the church and for the next forty days strive for repentance and absolution. They would then return on Maundy Thursday and receive Communion from the priest.

One of the major tenets of the Christian faith is living one's life with humility and repentance. For many Christians, the origins of Ash Wednesday are the annual reminder of where our hearts should be in relation to God, and of the reason Jesus became our atonement.



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**  
*Services*  
Wed., Feb. 25  
*Time to be announced*



**Tuesday**  
**February 10**  
**H.J. Prime**  
**Heatherdowns**

The Good Bunch will meet on Tuesday, February 10, at 11:30 p.m. at H.J. Prime, 4630 Heatherdowns. It will be a Mardi Gras theme, so wear your most colorful attire. There will be gifts and fun for all. Please sign up on the sheet on the hallway bulletin board.

*God promises a safe landing,  
not a calm passage.*



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

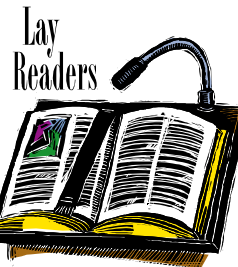
- Feb. 5 – Lois May
- Feb. 7 – Karen Diller  
Harold Garno
- Feb. 8 – Jack Pohlman
- Feb. 16 – Tim Cole  
Jeanette Utter
- Feb. 21 – Roger Reese
- Feb. 21 – Glenna Scanlan
- Feb. 24 – Inez Reichard
- Feb. 28 – Susie Telljohann



### Remember *in* Prayer

Elva Goudy  
Mary Good  
Carolyn O'Dell  
(Judy Walle's  
daughter)

Mary Pinkley  
Ruth Farnsworth  
Dick Bader  
Millie Brooks  
Jacques Rietzke  
Helen Shearon  
Rev. Jim Van Brussel  
Barbara Monhollen  
(Daughter of Joe &  
Dorothy Kowalski)



### The Layreaders for February are..

- Feb. 1 Mel Barrios
- Feb. 8 Gloria Parker
- Feb. 15 Sally Telljohann
- Feb. 22 Tom Parker

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9 a.m. – Sunday School 9:30 a.m. – Choral Practice 10 a.m. – Worship Service *COMMUNION* <i>Feed Your Neighbor</i> (NT) 12 p.m.– Worship	<b>2</b>  (NT) 6-8 p.m.– Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 10 a.m. – Bible Study at Bigby's Coffee  6:30-7:30 p.m. – Block Watch	<b>4</b>  (NT) 7 p.m.– Mid-Week Worship Service	<b>5</b> 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Office Open  (NT) 6-8 p.m.– Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> (NT) 9-10 a.m.– Prayer Service
<b>8</b> 9 a.m. – Sunday School 9:30 a.m. – Choral Practice 10 a.m. – Worship Service (NT) 12 p.m.– Worship	<b>9</b>  (NT) 6-8 p.m.– Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 10 a.m. – Bible Study at Bigby's Coffee 11:30 a.m. – The Good Bunch	<b>11</b>  (NT) 7 p.m.– Mid-Week Worship Service	<b>12</b> <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i> 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Office Open  (NT) 6-8 p.m.– Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Valentine's Day</i> (NT) 9-10 a.m.– Prayer Service
<b>15</b> 9 a.m. – Sunday School 9:30 a.m. – Choral Practice 10 a.m. – Worship Service (NT) 12 p.m.– Worship	<b>16</b> <i>Presidents' Day</i>  (NT) 6-8 p.m.– Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 10 a.m. – Bible Study at Bigby's Coffee	<b>18</b>  (NT) 7 p.m.– Mid-Week Worship Service	<b>19</b> 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Office Open <i>DIALOG Deadline</i>  (NT) 6-8 p.m.– Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> (NT) 9-10 a.m.– Prayer Service 1:30 p.m. – Faith Council Meeting
<b>22</b> <i>Washington's Birthday</i> 9 a.m. – Sunday School 9:30 a.m. – Choral Practice 10 a.m. – Worship Service (NT) 12 p.m.– Worship	<b>23</b>  (NT) 6-8 p.m.– Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 10 a.m. – Bible Study at Bigby's Coffee	<b>25</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Ash Wednesday Service TBA  (NT) 7 p.m.– Mid-Week Worship Service	<b>26</b> 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Office Open  (NT) 6-8 p.m.– Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

# February



# Library News



Happy New Year! Since I know that you all put "Do more reading" at the top of your list of New Year's resolutions, I thought you would be grateful to be reminded of these suggestions:

1. Talk less.
2. Carry a book in your bag.
3. Put a book under your pillow at night; if you can't sleep, read.
4. Wake up 15 minutes earlier every morning and read.
5. Keep a book handy to pick up while in the kitchen, dressing, or on the telephone.
6. Have a book ready when meeting unpunctual people.
7. Keep an unread book in the car in case of a traffic jam or a wait for repairs.
8. Take along your own book when going to the dentist, doctor, or lawyer.
9. Never go on a trip without a book.
10. Remember that a book in the hand is worth two on the shelf!

HAPPY READING!

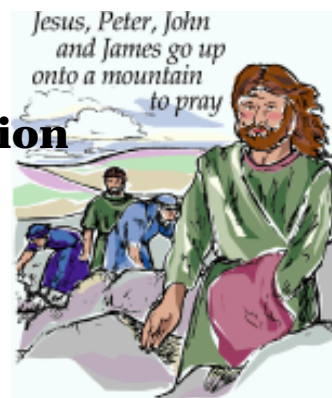
*Gloria Parker*



## Transfiguration Sunday

February 22, 2009

**Mark 9:2-9**  
(NRSV)



Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, **3** and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. **4** And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. **5** Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." **6** He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. **7** Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" **8** Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. **9** As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.



"JOSHUA THREW A FIT AT JERICO,  
JERICO, JERICO.  
JOSHUA THREW A FIT AT JERICO,  
AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN!"

## Council News

There has been a re-assignment of the council members and the committees they will chair for 2009. The new assignments are:

*President* — Cathy Hammack  
*Vice President* — Jacqui Adams  
*Secretary* — JoAnn Diefenthaler  
*Treasurer* — Mary Anderson

### COMMITTEES:

**Property** — Mary Anderson and Committee  
**Stewardship & Benevolence** — Mel Barrios  
**Music & Worship** — Deb Trail  
**Christian Education** — Open  
**Membership** — Jacqui Adams  
**Leadership & Ushers** — Cathy Hammack  
**Memorial & History** — Peg Knapp

## River of Life is leaving

The River of Life (formerly New Testament) church, who are currently renting Faith's facilities, will be moving out around February 28. Council proposed that Faith begin a search for another group to come in, but preferably a group that will not be using the church quite as often. The congregation voted to proceed with the search. So if you know of any group that needs a space, please let them know of the availability, or contact either Bob Stoos or Roger Reese who are heading up the search efforts.

### *Layreader list*

The Layreader list is being updated. If there is anyone in the congregation who is not currently on the list, but would like to be, now is the time to get your name in to be included in the regular rotation.

Of course, anyone can serve as layreader at any time during the year on an infrequent basis by merely letting the office know of your interest, or speaking directly to the person who is scheduled for the Sunday you are interested in serving. Participating in the service as layreader is a rewarding way to give back.

The new list will be posted by March 1, so if you are interested in being in regular rotation, let us know as soon as possible.

Take Care and Stay Safe  
while engaging in  
winter activities.



## Christian One Liners

*Submitted by Judy Walle*

Don't let your worries get the best of you;  
remember, Moses started out as a  
basket case.

\*\*\*\*

Some people are kind, polite, and  
sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

\*\*\*\*

May folks want to serve God,  
but only as advisors.

\*\*\*\*

The good Lord didn't create anything  
without a purpose,  
but mosquitoes come close.

\*\*\*\*

Quit griping about your church; if it  
was perfect, you couldn't belong.

\*\*\*\*

I don't know why some people change churches;  
what difference does it make which one  
you stay home from?

\*\*\*\*

We are called to be witnesses,  
not lawyers or judges.

\*\*\*\*

Be ye fishers of men.  
You catch — He'll clean them.

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## Feed Your Neighbor

Don't forget the needy during this difficult economic time. If you are able, please remember to bring food items for the Feed Your Neighbor food pantry the first Sunday each month. Faith is currently serving between 8 to 10 families each month.



## Mission Giving Opportunities at Faith UCC

Faith Community United Church of Christ has several mission-giving projects:

**POP TABS** are collected to benefit the *Ronald McDonald House*.

**CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS** are recycled to benefit *Crossroads* in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR** program collects food once a month to *feed the hungry* in our own neighborhood.

**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION** are collected to benefit *Crossroads*.

**USED GLASSES** are collected to benefit the *Sight Center of Northwest Ohio*.

**New! USED PILL BOTTLES** are collected to benefit the *victims of Hurricane Katrina*.

**PENNIES FOR BACK BAY** are collected to benefit the *Back Bay Mission*.

**USED GREETING CARDS** are collected for donation to *local nursing homes*.

**New! CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS** are collected to benefit the *Heifer Project*.

**USED LASER AND INK CARTRIDGES** are collected to benefit the *general fund at Faith Community*.

Faith Community United Church of Christ

# Dialog



1201 South Byrne Road • Toledo, Ohio 43614-2328

