



February 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Ash Wednesday

Prelude *Through Adam's Fall All Is Corrupted*

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

*Call to Worship Joel 2:12-13

One: Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,

All: **With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.**

One: Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

All: **Return to the Lord, you God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Let us worship God.**

*Hymn (insert) *Give Me Jesus*

Offering of Life's Burdens

You are invited to write or symbolize the burdens you carry in life on the tissue paper in the bulletin. You can even leave it blank if you wish. Wad or fold your paper and place it in the offering plate. This is a sign of offering our burdens—named and unnamed—to God. The paper will be burned to become the ashes used later in the service.

Offertory *Melody* David Clegg

Offering Prayer

Lord of life, as we begin a journey into the season of Lent, take from us the burdens of life: our sin, our regrets, our disappointments. When we convince ourselves that we are self-reliant, remind us to rely on you. When we convince ourselves that we know the way, remind us that you lead us to the ashes of this night and into the Lenten days ahead to the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Solo *Honest* Leanna Crawford
Rev. Mason Todd

Scripture Reading Matthew 5:15-16

Meditation *Let the Light Shine* Rev. Jon Martin

Anthem *The Cross* Craig Courtney

Imposition of Ashes Rev. Mason Todd

The Season of Lent begins with ashes, a sign of human mortality. When ashes are used to make the sign of the cross, we are making a bold claim about the power of God to stand with us in our mortality and redeem us. The forty days of Lent begin with humility, an awareness of our mortality, and repentance. We are mortal. We have gone astray.

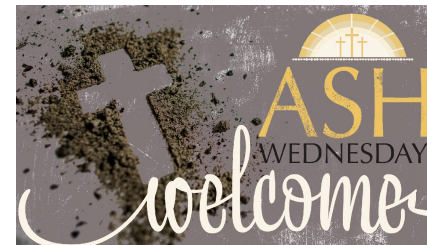
*Hymn #79 *Kind Maker of the World*
(Tune: *Gift of Love*)

*Benediction

*Choral Response *We Lift Our Voices*

*Postlude *Postlude in F Major* Johann Krebs

Anyone wishing to remain in the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service is welcome to stay. Worshippers leaving the sanctuary are asked to depart quietly.



We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ, as we come together on Ash Wednesday for a combined service with the First and New Hope Presbyterian congregations. We are so glad you have gathered with us to give thanks to God and respond to Jesus' call to follow him

through this Lenten season. If you would like more information about these Presbyterian congregations within the city limits of Lexington, please speak to one of the pastors or a church leader. We are blessed to be together this evening.

Thank you to the men of New Hope Church for hosting a wonderful pancake and sausage dinner prior to the service.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Jon Martin, First Presbyterian

Rev. Mason Todd, New Hope Presbyterian

Mrs. Shelley Jennings, Director of Music, First Presbyterian

Mrs. Regina Pozzi, Organist, First Presbyterian

And the combined choirs of

First Presbyterian and New Hope Presbyterian Churches

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Ministers	The People
Pastor	Rev. Jon Martin
Director of Christian Education	Mrs. Catie Johns
Director of Music	Mrs. Shelley Jennings
Organist.	Mrs. Regina Pozzi
Financial Secretary	Ms. Alma Carlton
Preschool Director	Mrs. Jane Blackerby
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First Presbyterian Church
Lexington, North Carolina

Founded in 33 AD
Organized in 1827