

# 2019 Wonderful Wednesdays Series



March 6th through April 3rd

*Lenten Bible Study*  
*“Embracing the Uncertain”*

**Meal: 6:00—6:40 PM**  
**Lenten Series: 6:40—7:15 PM**  
**March 6, 13, 20, 27 April 3**

The Wonderful Wednesday Study Series topic will be, “Embracing the Uncertain”. Just turning on the news shows us that we live in uncertain times. Economic instabilities, eruptions of violence, and natural catastrophes can alter the lives and landscapes of entire communities. Our individual lives can be just as unsteady and uncertain as our plans get altered and challenge comes to our health and in our relationships. Most of us, if not all, prefer stability and a predictable future instead of uncertainty. In our Lenten study we will explore stories from the Gospels of Jesus which point to a world filled with uncertainty, yet at the same time, pointing to how following Jesus brings us courage and hope.

Please remember to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you. Your first-time guest’s meal is complimentary.

While the Wonderful Wednesday study series and dinners end on Wednesday, April 3rd, we will still gather for worship during Holy Week.

*Maundy Thursday*  
*Worship with the Lord’s Supper*  
*April 18th, 7:00 P.M.*

*Good Friday Service*  
*April 19th*  
*12:00pm*

*Easter Sunday - April 21st*  
*8:15 and 11:00 A.M.- Traditional Services*  
*9:30 A.M. “Ignite!” Contemporary 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.



**March 6, 2019**  
**6:45 pm**

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
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[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)

Chris Curvin - Pastor  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission



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# ORDER OF WORSHIP ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6, 2019, 6:45 PM

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Savior, When in Dust to You” Gerald Near

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor

## GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 51: 1-17)

Leader: O God, have mercy on us, we pray.

**People: In your mercy, make us clean from our sins.**

Leader: Wipe away every failing and make us new in your sight.

**People: Restore us, deliver us, and re-create us, O Lord.**

Leader: Today is the day of salvation. Let us worship God!

\*HYMN “Where Are You God?” O WALY WALY

Where are you, God? We long to know.  
At times, our sorrows overflow.  
Then others ask the question, too.  
"Where is your God?" — they say of you.

We've seen the wages of our sin;  
we've dreamed of things that might have been.  
We've given in to hate and fear;  
we've pushed away those you hold dear.

May we put feasts and games aside;  
may we tear down the walls of pride.  
We're sorry, Lord! We've turned from you!  
So now we ask "What can we do?"

Still you are gracious, loving, kind.  
We'll turn around! Now is the time!  
These Lenten days, O God, may we  
become your blest community.

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 and the study of God's Word to us; remembering that our hope rests in his death and resurrection. May our journey these forty days be one of faith in you, study of the Gospels and service to your world, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2: 1-2, 12-14 (page 739)

MEDITATION “The Most Uncomfortable Day” 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.*

## ASH WEDNESDAY SONG OF UNITY

“Take, O Take Me as I Am” TAKE ME AS I AM  
Barbara Jordan, Soloist

(all join in singing the refrain as we come forward)

Take, O take me as I am. Sum-mon out what I shall  
be. Set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

\*HYMN #441 “Hear the Good News of Salvation” NETTLETON

## \*BENEDICTION

*\*Please stand if you are able.*  
Stephanie Carson, Music Director  
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director