

# 2020 Wonderful Wednesdays Series



February 26 through March 25

*Lenten Bible Study*  
*"The Life of David"*

**Meal: 6:00—6:40 PM**  
**Lenten Series: 6:40—7:15 PM**  
**February 26, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

The Wednesday evening Lenten study will focus on "The life of David", one of the greatest characters of the Old Testament. He experienced unparalleled fame, triumph and power as he moved from an obscure shepherd boy, to celebrated national war hero, to undisputed king of Israel. And yet, his life was scarred by sexual scandal, murder by proxy, and heartbreaking, personal tragedy. On this Lenten journey we will prepare for Easter, traveling towards the horror of the cross and on to the triumph of the empty tomb. We will learn lessons from David, the man who is called, "a man after God's own heart." His life speaks to us of empowering faith, confession and repentance, and a grace that is greater than all our sin.

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.

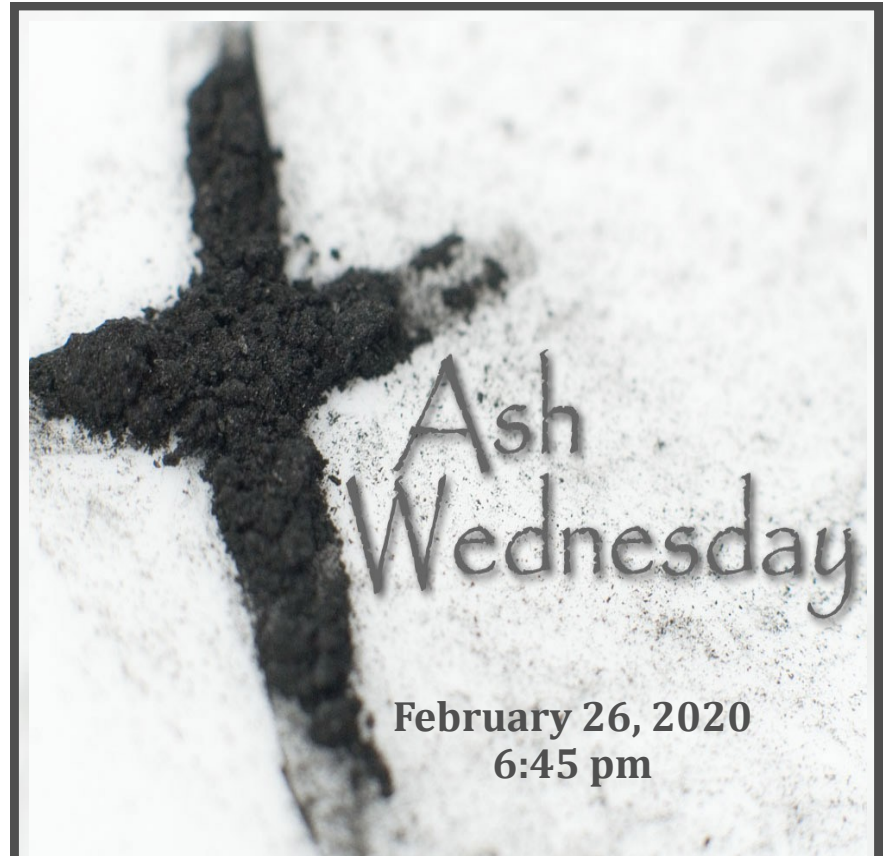
***Maundy Thursday***  
***Worship with the Lord's Supper***  
*April 9th, 7:00 P.M.*

***Good Friday Service***  
*April 10th*  
*12:00pm*

***Easter Sunday - April 12th***  
*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.



**February 26, 2020**  
**6:45 pm**

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761  
727-796-8090  
[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)

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



**Like us on Facebook!**  
[facebook.com/npc.clearwater](https://facebook.com/npc.clearwater)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP ASH WEDNESDAY

February 26, 2020, 6:45 PM

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Savior, When in Dust to You” Gerald Near

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Paul Means, Associate 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 “Ash Wednesday Comes” TALLIS’ CANON

**Ash Wednesday comes, and Lord, we hear  
The word for which our spirits yearn;  
Amid this world’s distress and fear,  
We hear your loving call: “Return!”**

**“Return to me with all your heart—  
With fasting, weeping, mourning, too.”  
O God, we seek a brand new start,  
A new beginning here with you.**

**You call to us--- the old, the young;  
You summon nations strong and weak.  
When we have drifted toward the wrong,  
You call us back, your way to seek.**

**O God most merciful and kind,  
Your love is not a prize we earn;  
Yet in our life with you we find  
The joy that comes when we return.**

*Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## 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 Psalm 51: 1-4, 9-12, 15-17 *(page 452)*

MEDITATION “Our Desperate Need for God’s Grace”  
Paul Means, Associate 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

“Dust I Am”

Barbara Jordan, Soloist

Mark Miller

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

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION



\*HYMN #421 “Have Mercy, God, upon My Life” IRISH  
*(stanzas 1,2,4,5)*

## \*BENEDICTION

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

Stephanie Carson, Music Director

Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director