

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IN UNISON

**Almighty God,  
you have created us out of the dust  
of the earth.  
Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign  
of our mortality and penitence,  
so that we may remember  
that only by your gracious gift  
are we given everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION 12

RECEIVING OF SACRAMENT AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

\*CLOSING HYMN 399

“TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE” (ST. 1, 3)

\*BENEDICTION

*Please depart in silence*



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
*COVINGTON, TN*

**Service of Worship  
February 13, 2013  
7:00 p.m.**

Rev. Timothy M. Carpenter, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Grace E. Phelps, Minister of Program and Outreach  
Bill Face, Minister of Congregational Care  
(901) 476-9694 — [www.covingtonfumc.com](http://www.covingtonfumc.com)

# Ash Wednesday Service of Worship

## February 13, 2013; 7:00 p.m.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

GRACE PHELPS

PRELUDE "CALVARY MEDLEY" (SEWELL)  
JUSTIN HANSON, ORGAN; RUSSELL PHELPS, PIANO

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**God's mercy endures for ever.**

OPENING PRAYER

IN UNISON

**O God, Maker of everything,  
and judge of all that you have made,  
from the dust of the earth you have formed us  
and from the dust of death  
you would raise us up.**

**By the redemptive power of the cross,  
create in us clean hearts  
and put within us a new spirit,  
that we repent of our sins  
and lead lives worthy of your calling;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN 419 "I AM THINE, O LORD" (ST. 1, 2, 4)

PSALTER 785 PSALM 51:1-17 RESPONSIVE

OLD TESTAMENT JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17 BILL FACE

\*GOSPEL MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

MEDITATION

GRACE PHELPS

ANTHEM "HEAR MY PRAYER" (BUTLER) CHOIR

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE TIM CARPENTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season, converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent:  
by self-examination and repentance;  
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and  
by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance, let us receive the imposition of ashes, and the nurture of Holy Communion.