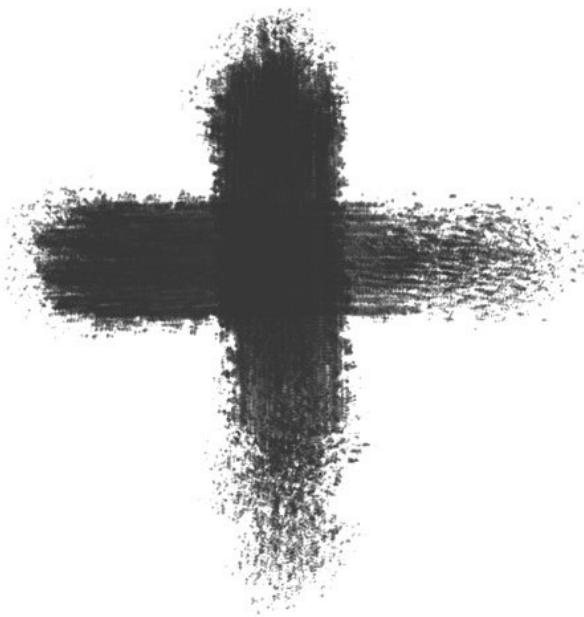


The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

**Ash Wednesday Service of Holy Communion
February 18, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**



*During Lent, let us find concrete ways
to overcome our indifference.*

– Pope Francis

**15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire
www.walpolenhucc.org**

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Hymn NCH #205 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

The Litany of Confession

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

Leader: We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: Accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: Accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: Accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

Responsive Chanting of Psalm 51 NCH p.657

(Minister will read Psalm, congregation sings refrain)

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Scripture Response:

Leader: For the Word in Scripture, for the Word among us,
for the Word within us:

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sung Response (2 Times) Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Lenten Meditation

Imposition of Ashes

Taize Chant TWC #822 *Jesus, Remember Me*

(We will repeat the chant until everyone who wishes has received ashes.)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Prayers for the Church and The World - Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*trespasses/seated in unison*)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, we now dedicate these elements to become sacraments of ministry, signs of your work and witness among us. Do bless this bread and this fruit, and in the common sharing of them bless us all by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. In this meal we remember Christ's sacrifice and his call that we also might serve. We embrace each other along his pathways, and we look with hope for the transformation of the world in his love. May we, your servant community, become ourselves bread for the journey and fruit for the spirit among all peoples and powers of the earth. Amen.

Communion of the People *(Please wait until all are served before partaking)*

Communion Hymn NCH #330 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We give thanks, O Lord of Life, that you have refreshed us at your table and refashioned us in your hope for community. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world as Christ's witnesses with courage and in peace. All this we pray in the name of your son, our friend and teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction

Benediction Response *UBI CARITAS* (Latin then English)

*Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas , deus ibi est.*

Where there is charity, selfless love,
Where there is charity, God is truly there.

Postlude

Pastor: The Reverend Richard Malmberg

Lay reader: Kathy Yardley

Greeters: Linda Wright

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Deacon of the Month: Michael Brodeur

