

# ASH

## WEDNESDAY

REMEMBRANCE THROUGH SACRIFICE

**Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

Rev. Dr. Dale M. Weatherspoon, Pastor

February 22, 2023

Our Mission is to know Christ and to make Christ Known

Worship Celebration | Ash Wednesday | Year A  
February 22, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. | **Black History Month**

The star (★) indicates where we are to stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ms. Ena Harris

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

Why have we gathered today?

We gather to confess our sins and bring a sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart to God, who forgives us and frees us for joyful obedience. Today, we join one another and Christ on the road to the cross and commit ourselves to the Lenten journey ahead of us. May we be faithful to keeping a Lenten fast of justice, charity, and flourishing before God, self, and neighbor.

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022.*

OPENING SONG

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

UMH 402

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Dale

SCRIPTURE READING

Ms. Ena Harris

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (*The Message*)

SONG

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

UMH 351

SCRIPTURE READING

Mrs. Linda Wright

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (*The Message*)

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Dale

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINES

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor Dale

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Adolphus & Carolyn Benjamin

(*based on Psalm 51*)

**ALL:** Have mercy upon us, O God. Our sins are always before us. We have sinned against you only, O God! You know the evil within each of us.

*Carolyn:* Sin took control whenever “I” became more important than you.

*Adolphus:* When you offered truth, I refused it and opened the door that leads to death.

**ALL: Have mercy upon us, O God.**

*Carolyn:* In word or deed I have sinned by neglecting your teachings and requirements.

*Adolphus:* I was born into sin, but do not wish to remain there forever. Only you, God, can recreate a clean heart in me.

**All: Blot out our transgressions and cleanse us from all unworthiness.**

*Carolyn:* Lead me on the path of righteousness.

*Adolphus:* Fill me with your eternal Spirit and never leave me alone.

**ALL: Thank you for cleansing us. Thank you for erasing my sin from your memory. As we minister to the world, deliver us from guilt and shame. Let the world hear us sing songs of thanksgiving and praise. Free us to shout Hallelujah as our shattered spirits receive new life. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation. Amen! Amen! Amen!**

CLOSING HYMN

“I Surrender All”

UMH 354

BENEDICTION

Pastor Dale

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ go with you.

And also, with you.

Why are we sent today?

**We go to confess God’s love to a broken and hurting world. As we wear the ashes of penitence on our bodies, so we carry the reconciling love of God we have received to a world sorely in need of justice, abundance, and flourishing. Amen.** *written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022.*

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFO

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10a.m.- 5p.m.

Telephone: 510.235.4226

Facsimile: 510.235.2116

E-Mail: [eumc1234@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eumc1234@sbcglobal.net)

Pastor's E-Mail: [pastordale316@gmail.com](mailto:pastordale316@gmail.com)

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## STAFF

Rev. Dr. Dale M. Weatherspoon, Pastor

Rev. Phil Lawson, Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Anthony Gordon, Co Senior Lay Servant

Linda Wright, Co Senior Lay Servant

Rev. Dr. D. Mark Wilson, Director of Music

Audrey Cormier, Organist

Kimberly Harvey, Director, Voices of Easter Hill

Joyce Clark, Administrative Assistant

Bishop Sally Dyck, Interim Bishop

Rev. Shinya Goto, District Superintendent

## STATEMENT OF WELCOME

All creation is of sacred worth. All humans are sacred images of God. Easter Hill United Methodist Church affirms, without reservation, Jesus' life, and ministry of unconditional love. As an inclusive and nurturing family of families, Easter Hill will continue to welcome and offer hospitality to all persons regardless of age, race, gender orientation, religious, economic, educational, or social status.



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