

If this is your first time here, We Welcome You and Thank You for joining us for worship! Please sign the guest registry located in the entryway.



**First United Methodist Church**  
**190 North Cedar Street, Manistique, MI 49854**

**Church Phone: (906) 341-6662**

**Pastor: Rev. B.J. Ash Cell: 906-286-1492**

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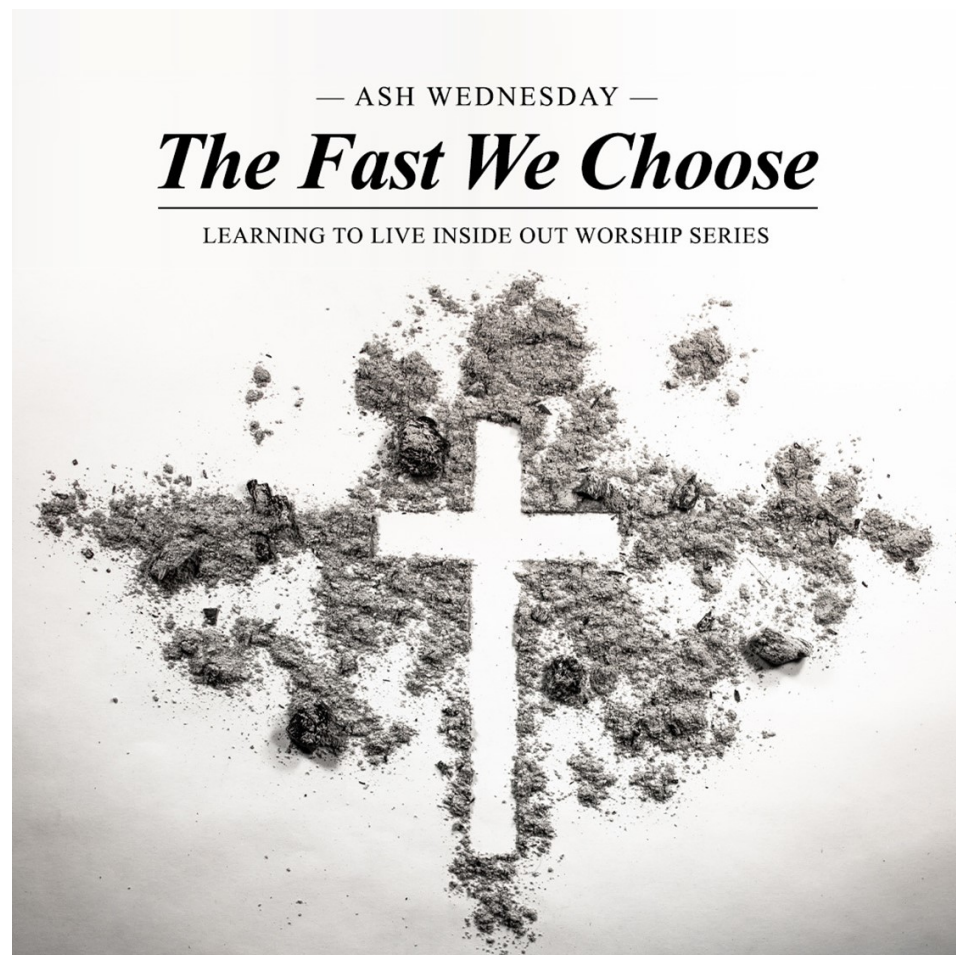
**Office Hours: Pastor M-F 8-12pm , Off Wed**

**Secretary: Connie Kelsey**

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— ASH WEDNESDAY —

## *The Fast We Choose*

LEARNING TO LIVE INSIDE OUT WORSHIP SERIES

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

**5:00 PM**



**First United Methodist Church**  
**February 22, 2023**



Prelude

His Sheltering Arms

by B. Frick

**Greeting:**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Why have we gathered today?

**People: 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.**

**Psalms 51:1-17**

**\*Call to Worship:**

L: Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. We do not think of this as a day to rejoice, for it is a reminder of the price Jesus paid for us. Yet, we can rejoice that our Heavenly Father loves us so much that He made such a sacrifice for us.

**P: Thank you, O God for loving us, even though we let You down constantly. We beg Your forgiveness. Make us new, O God, that we may stay always close to You.**

L: Our God is a God of grace and mercy. He will not withhold forgiveness for the one who truly repents and is genuinely sorry for engaging in sinful ways. Beware, however, of being one who only goes through the motions of seeking forgiveness but really does not regret past actions and has no desire to change and no intention of changing.

**P: Write Your charges against us on our hearts, Lord, that we may be made fully aware of them and can know that You are never deceived by our false confessions. Change our wandering hearts, O Lord. Make us truly Yours.**

L: God most truly does love each of the creatures He has made. He loves us enough to give His Son's life for ours. This day reminds us again and again of that fact. Believe it!

**P: O God, we are sorry for all that we have done which goes against Your will. Turn us again toward You, the source of all forgiveness and all life, and keep us in Your care, as undeserving as we are.**

**1st Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 58:1-12

**\*Opening Hymn:** UMH 496

Sweet Hour of Prayer

**2nd Scripture Lesson:** 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Sermon**

**Slow Down...and Fast!**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Invitation to the observance of Lenten Discipline**

**Thanksgiving Over The Ashes**

**Imposition Of The Ashes**

*"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return".*

**\*Closing Hymn:** UMH 269 (v. 1,3,5)

**Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

**Confession And Pardon**

**\*Benediction**

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ go with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Why are we sent today?

**P: 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**

Postlude

The Majesty of God

by M.E. Dexter