

March 5th, 2014
Ash Wednesday

RESTORED IN CHRIST

BROKEN HEARTS



The Federated Church of Paxton
6:30 p.m. Worship Service



Restored in Christ - Broken Hearts

* **Opening Hymn** *"All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"* PH, #542

* **Opening Litany** (*responsively*)

One: After the fire has raged and the flames have died away and grown cold, nothing remains but ashes.

All: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

One: After the hot passion of sin, after the cool calculation of evil, all that remains is brokenness and ashes.

All: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

One: After the zeal for living has ebbed away and life has run its course, there is nothing left but ashes.

All: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

One: But ashes are not the end. This Lenten season begins in ashes, but it will not end in ashes. We begin in dust, but we shall end in resurrection glory. Enter this season, then, with confidence and with hope: ashes are not the end.

Confession and Absolution

All: Lord, I do not like pain. I do not even like to be uncomfortable. I do not like the sorrow of heartbreak, the pangs of regret and the ache of broken relationships; and I do not like the honesty and humility that are needed to face this pain. Forgive me for the brokenness that I have caused. Forgive me for the brokenness that lies at the center of my heart. Make me whole again.

One: God knows your reality. He knows that you are not what you were created to be. He knows that you are broken. But he does not abandon you to brokenness and pain. Instead, he has taken your brokenness and pain and made it his own. May a true and repentive heart know the forgiveness of sin. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

One: In times of great sorrow and heartache, God's people of old would wear their grief. With sackcloth and ashes their outward form reflected the reality of their hearts.

All: Brokenness cannot be hidden away.

One: Tonight we admit the brokenness of our hearts and we wear the sign of our brokenness: ashes.

All: Our brokenness cannot be hidden away.

One: Yet we know that brokenness is only part of the story. There's more. The ashes trace the shape of the cross—the cross that removes our sin, heals our brokenness, and makes us whole.

All: Our brokenness is not forever; we are restored in the cross.

(As the ashes are traced on each forehead, Pastor Colleen will say, "You are broken, but in Christ you are made whole." And in response each person may say, "Thanks be to God! Amen.")

1st Reading Joel 2:12-19

2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:10

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Youth Moment

Sermon

Offering

Prayers *(Each petition ends with the following response:)*

One: Christ who heals all brokenness,

All: Restore our broken hearts.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Closing Hymn** *"Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben"*

Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through thy suff'rings, death and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee,
O thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

***Benediction**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, March 5th

Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30pm in
Sanctuary (Elder, Vicki Cole)

Choir Practice, 7:00pm

Thursday, March 6th

UCC Clergy Meeting, 10-2pm in
Champaign (*No Office Hours*)

Sunday, March 9th

Adult Sunday School, 8:45am

Confirmation, 9:00am

Youth Sunday School, 9:30am

Worship, 10:00am

Youth Group, 5:00pm

Wednesday, March 12th

Church Office Hours, 1:00-6:00pm

Lenten Meal, 6:00pm

Lenten Devotion, 6:30pm

Choir Practice, 7:00pm

March

Birthdays & Anniversaries

4th - Delores Turner

6th - Shannon Satterlee

10th - Alex Goudy

12th - Mike Goudy

13th - Alan Turner

18th - Jim & Robin Niewold Ann.

23rd - Greg Anderson

26th - Susan Satterlee

27th - Victor Johnson



Communion Elder List for Sunday Worship

March 5th/Ash Wednesday - Vicki Cole

*April 17th/Maundy Thursday
Doug & Deana Niewold*

April 20th/Easter - Jackie Roy

***Lord, We ask thanksgiving, comfort, healing
and faith for these friends and family members***

Kitty Anderson, Robin Niewold, Jeff & Barb Legener

Continued Health of Cancer Treatment Patients

Janet Goudy, Alan Turner, Ivan Andreae

Homebound or in Nursing Homes

Sue Moore, Donald Rhodes, Jani Fraim, Marcella Woodworth

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For the month of March, please bring *peanut butter, canned soup  
& canned vegetables* for the Food Pantry.

*As always, all non-perishable food items are welcomed.*

**Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Minister**

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**Organist - Priscilla Andreae**