

February 7, 2018

Lenten greetings from Sixth Street Christian Church! Actually, let me take it upon myself to greet you from all of the churches in the area instead of just one. Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Lent is the period of time before Easter Sunday when Christians take a good, hard look at themselves and decide what's worth keeping and what should be given up. In other words, Lent is a time of repentance and fasting. Those who attend church on Ash Wednesday will receive ashes upon their faces as a sign of repentance – of acknowledging their sins and turning from them toward God. Some folks will also give something up to represent this time of fasting. You could think of the ashes as the sin and fasting as your commitment to turn away from that sin toward God. The idea is that by the time we reach Easter Sunday we will be prepared accept God's gift of forgiveness and new life represented by Jesus' resurrection. God's forgiveness washes away the sin that clings to us, and the new life God offers replaces our fasting with the joy of stepping back on the path of God's will. Next Wednesday, let us embark on this journey together in worship. The ministers in the area and I invite you to a community Ash Wednesday service, hosted by the Middletown United Methodist Church (625 High Street), on February 14, at 7:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there.