**February 2020 – Minister’s Message**

Greetings, my Sixth Street CC friends.

The season of Lent begins in the last week of this month on Ash Wednesday. The most memorable part of most Ash Wednesday services is the imposition of ashes, when the minister leading worship marks each person on the forehead or hand with ashes. In the First (Old) Testament, ashes symbolized mourning, mortality, and repentance. When Jonah gave God’s message that Nineveh would be overthrown, the King of Nineveh “covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes” (Jonah 3:6). Not only was the king grieving for his people, but he was also repenting of the wickedness of his city and of himself.

The literal meaning of the word “repent” is *to turn*. When a person recognizes that he or she has sinned, the act of turning away from that action and toward God for forgiveness is repentance. Repentance must begin with recognition. Before the start of Jesus’ ministry, John the Baptist called people to repent, to confess their sins, and be baptized. He brought people face to face with where they were going wrong and gave them the opportunity to turn toward God.

On Ash Wednesday, we wear ashes in recognition that each of us falls short and needs to return to God. I can think of no better way to begin a season that must include the cross before we can arrive at the resurrection. I hope you will join me.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 26, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Sixth Street Christian Church

With love,

Michelle