



**Pastor | Rev. Josh Beeler** - josh@madisonheightsbaptist.org

**Director of Music | Catherine White** - catherine@madisonheightsbaptist.org

**Youth Pastor | Rev. Randy Bower** - randy@madisonheightsbaptist.org

**General Contact** - office@madisonheightsbaptist.org

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## **FROM DUST YOU'VE COME...**

One of my favorite routines of our church year began last Wednesday—our Madison Heights Union Lenten Services began at noon on Ash Wednesday. For those who don't know, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent—a season of confession and repentance as we prepare again to witness Christ on the cross. And the day itself kicks it off in the starkest of fashions—it calls us to remember our total dependence on God by admitting one fact: we will die. From dust we've come, and to dust we will return.

I will confess, as I prepared to consider that message again, accompanied by a sermon on the idea of God as our "Father," while my own father was just a couple of days away from death himself, it quickly became the most emotional Ash Wednesday service I've been part of. It is hard to consider things—to TRULY consider things—like death and the weight of sin, and that our actions have actually brought about those consequences. It is hard to truly consider the weight of our misdeeds and self-earned separation from God and others.

And yet, I'm convinced that it is often still the best means of truly drawing us back to the Father. Sometimes, suffering is the only message that can get through. Sometimes, we have to confront the idea bluntly: that sin begets death, and there is no running from it. Only in acknowledging that can we lay ourselves bare and run to the Father again for redemption that He longs to give.

I won't speak for you, but there are a number of places in my life where I've sown seeds of death and division in the past year—with my actions, words, or things left unsaid or undone. Ash Wednesday is a great time to consider those places and try to change. In this light, I appreciated Pope Leo XIV's call to Catholics to practice a fast this Lent related to their words.

He had this to say: "Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities...In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

It doesn't take long to see how much death and division words of vanity, injustice, violence, and hatred have wrought in recent days. This simple practice of examining our own speech admits where we may have added to those harmful things, and commits us to trying to trust God to let life come forth from us instead. I pray you will join me in this work this season.

After all, your words of encouragement and love have been a remarkable source of life for me and my family in recent days in the passing of my grandfather and father. Thank you so much for being Christ to us, and reminding us that, even in the hardest of things, we do not have to walk alone. It is my joy to serve as your pastor. **-Josh**

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

**9:45 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**11:00 AM - MORNING WORSHIP**

### **SPECIAL ELEMENTS**

Rev. Josh Beeler | "Can You Handle It?"  
2 Corinthians 12: 1 - 10  
Chancel Choir | "The Battle Belongs"  
Communion

**DEACONS OF THE WEEK**

Mar. 1 Luke Hamel, Marvin Hensley

**DEACONS SERVING MAR. 1**

Carl LaFerney Beth Freeman  
 Lesley McPhatter Jesse Staton  
 Irene White Steve Owen

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

Luke Hamel, Marvin Hensley, Ann Irvin,  
 Marvin Jefferson, Steve Martin, Donna Massie,  
 Billy Williams, & Angela Sale

**FEBRUARY 22, 2026 OFFERINGS**

Budget Envelopes.....	\$ 3,795.00
<b>(Weekly Budget Needs \$9,424.06)</b>	
Plate Offering.....	\$ 224.00
Designated Offering.....	\$ 2,090.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSIT.....	\$ 6,109.00
Find Us Faithful.....	\$ 180.00

\*\*Check your email for your 2025 giving statement.  
 You should also receive a paper copy in the mail.

**IN THE HOSPITAL & REHAB**

Steve Martin - LGH

**SHOW OF LOVE**

There will be a show of love held for the Beeler family THIS Sunday, March 1 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall as we continue to support and lift them up during their time of loss.

**WINTER WEATHER WATCH**

**During these winter months, be sure to monitor our Facebook group for updates, postponements, and cancellations. When worship services are cancelled, it will also be posted on WSET 13.**

 **MISSIONS**

**WOMEN ON MISSION**

Collecting candy for Easter Egg Hunt and packing buckets for Valor Farms



**CHRISTMAS CHEER BASKETS**

Collecting Spaghetti and Meat Sauce



 **FELLOWSHIP**

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

THIS Wednesday, February 25 at 6:00pm with spaghetti and salad. Hot Dogs and French Fries for kids. Dinner followed by regular activities.



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRIES**

This Wednesday, February 25 includes Children's Choirs & Kids in Action, Youth Acteens/Man Up, Music & Bells, and Adult Prayer & Bible Study.

**FUNQUEST NIGHT**

THIS Friday, February 27 5:30pm to 9:30pm - children and youth trip to Funquest. \$20 (payable in cash or check to MHBC) covers activities, pizza, and drink.



**UNION LENTEN SERVICES**

Wednesday, March 4 at noon at Northminster Presbyterian Church with Rev. Matthew Heckman from Amelon UMC preaching.



**WATER COLOR CLASSES**

Classes will be held on Tuesday, March 3. A morning class will be held at 10:00am and an evening class at 6:00pm. Sign up with Donna Massie.



**KEENAGERS/YOUNG AT HEART**

Tuesday, March 10 at 10:30am Estate Planning with John Davies of Davies & Davies Law Firm.