

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday

Welcome! We are glad you came to worship with us today!  
It is our prayer that you will be richly blessed as we worship.

†Denotes please stand as you are able in praise to God.

**Pastoral Greeting:**

**Opening Hymn:** “Just As I Am” vs 1,2, & 5 UMH #357

**Call to Worship:**

L: Return to the Lord with all your heart.

**P: For God is gracious and merciful.**

L: Come with honesty, come with humility.

**People: We come seeking renewal and new life.**

L: Let us worship God, who meets us in the secret places and sees us with compassion.

**Prayer of Confession:**

L: Merciful God, we come before You on this holy day aware of our frailty, our limits, and our need for Your grace.

**P: We confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have chased after treasures that do not last and trusted in things that cannot save.**

L: You call us to secret places of prayer, but we have filled our lives with noise. You invite us to quiet acts of mercy, but we have sought recognition. You teach us to fast from what distracts us, yet we cling to what keeps us from You.

**P: Forgive us, O God. Turn our hearts toward You. Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us.**

L: As we receive these ashes, remind us that we are dust yet beloved dust, held in Your mercy and shaped by Your grace.

**All: In Your compassion, forgive us. In Your love, restore us. In Your Spirit, lead us into new life. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

**The Peace:** Let us offer signs of reconciliation and love.

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**All: By the illumination of your Holy Spirit, O God, open our hearts that we may hear your Word and amend our lives through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**OT Scripture:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Pew Bible Pg.644

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 51:1-17 UMH #785

**†NT Scripture:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Pew Bible Pg. 684

**†Hymn of Preparation:**

**“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” UMH #402**

**Message:**

**Jay W. Brown, CLM/OSL**

**Invitation to the Observance of Lent Discipline:**

**Thanksgiving Over the Ashes**

L: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**\*IMPOSITION OF ASHES – “Be reconciled to God”**

**Music During Imposition:** Taizé: “Jesus, Remember Me”

**Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer:**

**Closing Hymn:** “Take My Life and Let It Be UMH #399

**Benediction:**

**Sending Forth:** “Make Me a Servant” TFWS #2176



# *Wesley United Methodist Church*

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Website: [wesleyumcwestberlin.org](http://wesleyumcwestberlin.org)

## **Church Announcements!!!!**

### **Weekly Church Services:**

***Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.***

***Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.***

***Weekly Bible Study: Tuesday's 6:30 p.m.***

***at St. John's UMC, West Berlin***

### **Church Staff:**

**Ministers: All Members of the Congregation**

**Asst. to the Ministers: Jay W. Brown, CLM, OSL-Pastor  
(609)238-6916(C)**

**Lay Leader & Secretary: Lettie-Jane White (856) 768-3416**

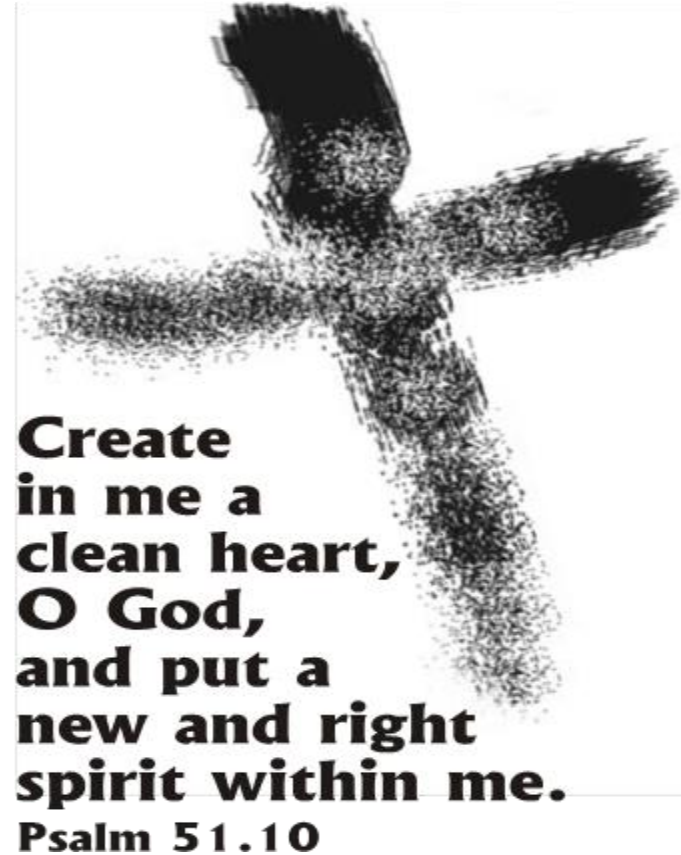
**Administrative Chairperson: Jack L. Turner, Jr.**

**Administrative Chairperson: (Emeritus) Roberta Suloff**

**Trustees Chairperson: Robert White**

**Please invite family and friends to view or follow us at  
our new location on YouTube.**

**"Wesley West Berlin"**



***"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."***