Gay Street Prayer Concerns: Debbie Baker, James Trowbridge, Marilyn Empey, Shari, Tom Waddell, Starr Hill, Scott Moran, Karolyn Smith, Candace Crampton, James (Geno) McNeill, Jim Barr's family, Denny Posey.

Green Valley Chapel Prayer Concerns: Care & Connection

SAVE THE DATE:

Every Thursday: rehearsals for Wesley Ringers are at 6:30pm and Chancel Choir at 7:30pm.

–February 22nd, Logan & Youth are going to Easton Town Center to venture an escape room. Leaving church around 12:30pm and should be returning home around 5pm. $10 is due to Logan before the trip & please bring lunch money.

–February 16th, Church is closed due to Presidents' Day!

–February 17th, Trustees meeting at 5:30pm & Finance at 6:45pm.

–February 20th, The Closet (taxable night) at 5pm.

–February 22nd, Logan & youth to finish painting the youth room on the 3rd floor, from 12pm–3pm. Lunch will be provided, bring clothes to get dirty in!

–February 28th, GSUMC is hosting the 'Coldest night of the year' 5k fundraiser, for our local homeless shelter; The Winter Sanctuary. Event starts at 4pm; join us in Fellowship Hall!

NEW MEMBER CLASS:

Sunday, February 22nd & March 1st from 12:15pm–1:45pm in the Kurella room on the 1st floor. Please call the office to sign up, or see Pastor Dale with any questions.

Pastor Dale's Lenten Study:

Beginning February 22nd and running every Sunday through April 12th. This will be held in the Kurella Room from 9:30am–10:30am. Sign up sheet is in the parlor.

WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS:

- Wednesday night meals have resumed! Please join us at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall every Wednesday.
- C.R.E.W. Youth Group 6:15pm-7:30pm - 3rd floor.
- Pastor Christopher's Bible Study on 'Disciple 1' from 6:15pm – 7:45pm in the Varsity room.

Our Mission

To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

Gay Street & Green Valley Chapel UMCs

Experiencing God through Worship, Spiritual Growth, Care, and Service

Sanctuary, February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday: 7pm

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
–Psalm 51:10

Welcome to Gay Street UMC!

Ways to stay connected; our website: mtvumc.org, Facebook, Instagram,
or by signing up for eDevos–our weekly newsletter
with devotionals, prayer concerns, and events.

- **Office Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8am–3pm | **Phone:** 740-392-6626 | **Email:** office@mtvumc.org
- **Restrooms**: Located at the rear of the sanctuary or through the parlor.
- **Hearing Devices**: Available upon request from an usher.
- **Prayer Concerns**: Share on green cards in pews and place them in the offering plate or give to the pastor.
- **Connect Cards:** are in the pew racks. If you are a guest or need to update your information please fill one out and place it in the offering plate or give it to the Pastor following the service.

Sermon Notes:

ASH WEDNESDAY

The *asterisk is an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Christopher Liberati

PREPARATION

Prelude — *Fairest Lord Jesus,* Arr. by Gerald Bales — Janet Guetle

Opening Prayer–All Uniting — Liturgist: Rev. Dale Sutton

In your mercy you call us to turn from our own way, and toward you. You remind us in your Word that we are earth and dust, and promise to lift beggars from dust. We come to receive the sign of repentance in the name of Christ. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn — *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes* — TFWS 2138

***CALL TO WORSHIP (congregation: please refer to the bold text)**

L: In the garden of harmony beauty and truth you made us.
C: In the garden of Gethsemane you surrendered yourself to us and for us.
L: In the garden you call us, to yield to you, in these forty days of Garden struggle.
C: Strengthen us and grant us courage to look deep within.
L: You are calling us into honest self-reflection and self-assessment.
C: Strengthen us and give us courage for this Lenten journey.
L: You are calling us to surrender to self, to the lure of what is not seen.
C: Strengthen us and give us courage to let go.
L: You are a calling us into the rough country of seeking, asking and looking.
C: Strengthen us as we completely return to you and then experience the garden of the empty tomb.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Pastor: Let us be in the spirit of prayer.
All: 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 we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES — Rev. Christopher Liberati & Rev. Dale Sutton

"Remember you are but dust and to dust you shall return."

INTO THE WORD

Psalm 51:1-17
*Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Response to The Word — **Gloria Patri* — UM Hymnal 71

Message — Saved from Shallow Religion — Rev. Christopher Liberati

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Choral Response — *God So Loved The World*, by John Stainer — Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer — Rev. Dale Sutton

Prayer of Confession

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, to lead our prayer of confession. Let there be no pride in our honesty or arrogance in our act of repentance. We confess that sometimes we have tempted your grace by thinking too much of ourselves and other times by thinking too little of ourselves. As we begin this time of preparation, strengthen us to hear the lesson Christ teaches us. Shape us as your people of faith and hear us as we make our personal confession to you…

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

Words of Absolution — Rev. Christopher Liberati

Pastor: May the almighty and merciful God accept your repentance, forgive your sins and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Response Hymn — *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* — UM Hymnal 430

RECEIVE

Communion Scripture Reading
Isaiah 55:1–3 — Rev. Dale Sutton
Communion Liturgy-*See bulletin insert*
*Communion Hymn — *Let Us Break Bread Together* — UM Hymnal 618
Sharing of Bread & Cup
Closing Communion Prayer

SENDING FORTH

*Benediction — Rev. Dale Sutton