

Usher Team: Gerald Allen

**Our Stewardship Thought:**

*The most important act of giving is to first give ourselves to the Lord. "... They gave themselves first to the Lord"*  
*2 Corinthians 8:5*

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Senior Pastor:** Joe Schulte  
**Director of Youth & Educational Ministries:** Tracy Loomis  
**Church Secretary:** Wanda Kitchen  
**Chief Financial Officer:** Carla Meier  
**Director of Music:** Brandon Sanders

**Ministers:** All the Members  
**Organist:** Lavonne Bomeli  
**Learning House Director:** Susan Arnould  
**Parish Visitor:** Barb Benson  
**Custodian:** Tom McLaren



**First Congregational United Church of Christ**



Telephone: (810) 695-0550

Email: [fcucc\\_admin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcucc_admin@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.uccgrandblanc.org](http://www.uccgrandblanc.org)



**Ash Wednesday**  
**Worship Celebration - February 22, 2012**  
178 Years of Reaching Up in Faith - Reaching Out in Love  
FOR HEARING ASSISTANCE, PLEASE SEE AN USHER.

---

**GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD**

**Prelude** “Andantin Religioso” Felix Mendelssohn

**\*Call to Worship** (Responsive)

Leader: Blow the trumpet! Sound the Alarm!

**People: We return to God.**

Leader: Gather the people! Gather those of all ages!

**People: We return to God.**

Leader: Return to God with all your heart, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

**People: We turn to God with all our hearts.**

**\*Hymn** “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” 20

**Liturgy of the Ashes**

Leader: When we burn away all that we are and all that we have, when we burn away all that we think and feel, when we burn away all attachment and ego, we are reduced to this – carbon dust, ash. It has no form and very little substance. It is virtually nothing. And yet, out of the ashes can come new life. Will you let it all fall away? Will you let it burn? Will you reduce yourself to very little, so that God can do something new with you?

Reading from Psalm 51

Leader: When we have burned away all that we have done that we ought not to have done, when we burn away all that we have not done that we ought to have done, when we burn away all that is not love, our hearts are ready to return to God.

Reading from Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Leader: You are invited to come forward to receive the symbol of the ashes. (People of all ages are invited to come forward. The ashes will be placed on your forehead. If you wish to have them placed on your hand instead, simply hold out your hand when you come to the ashes. At the end of the service you have the option of having the ashes wiped away as a sign of God’s grace.)

**Prayers of Our Savior**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Anthem** Taize

Reading from The New Testament: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

**Invitation to Claim Hardship and Struggles**

**Letting Go and Receiving God’s Encouragement**

**Prayer**

**\*Hymn** “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” 403

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** “Fantasia” Johann Krieger