

Ash Wednesday

WITH KIDS AND FAMILIES

Often we think of services during Lent and Holy Week as “too somber” for our youngest church members, but this is far from the case! If done appropriately, Ash Wednesday is the perfect opportunity for an all-ages service that is tactile and participatory.

Consider this anecdote from Rev. Joan Kessler at Watrous United Church:

“We made pancakes first and after we were done eating, I talked to the kids about the times when we feel sorry for the things we have done or not done and explained the meaning of Ash Wednesday. I also talked about the season of Lent and drawing closer to God, either by giving up something or taking on a new activity. I let those wanting to participate to mark ashes on one another's hands or foreheads. The kids were so taken by this ritual that really the words I said seemed less important. They were very respectful and thoughtful.”

To accompany the service and the rest of the Lenten season, our United Church friends at **Jesus Glue and Glitter** have created a beautiful series of free printable activities, a finger labyrinth, a Lenten calendar, and even a magazine that you could print for families to take home!

<https://www.jesusglueandglitter.ca/lent/>

You may also want to order a copy of Laura Alary's lovely book *Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter*

Many blessings on your worship services as church family together throughout this special season.

