

Safe Alternatives this Ash Wednesday

As we continue to accommodate our practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the health and safety of those we serve, it is recommended that churches do not impose ashes in any way that would require people who do not live in the same household to be within six feet of one another or touching one another. Alternative ideas include:

- Creating Lent kits/packages that include ashes (or, e.g., a piece of burlap with ashes on it) and sending/delivering to households
- Asking worshipers to use dirt from outside in place of ashes and to have some on hand before the service
- Pastor may speak the words for imposing ashes during an online service while worshipers self-impose ashes or members of a household impose ashes on one another. If worshipping in person, individual containers of ashes should be made available for worshipers to self-impose or impose on members of their household.
- Pastor may choose to include instructions, words of imposition, and a prayer in a kit for home so that individuals/households may observe Ash Wednesday without a church service
- For individuals living alone, the pastor might recommend imposing ashes in front of a mirror, which can symbolize the self-reflection that Lent calls for

(Credit: Breakthrough Worship Team)