

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon
February 11, 2026
“Crosses - A Community Project”

As we approach Lent, I want to invite you into a project we'll create together—**a pathway of crosses** to walk during Holy Week in our social hall at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Here's the vision: a collection of many different crosses—each one carrying a story—displayed along a simple path with a handout to guide our prayers as we “walk the way of the cross.”

I'm asking you to lend a cross to the experience: **any cross that has meaning to you:**

- a photograph
- an original drawing or piece of art
- a cross from your home with a story
- Something handmade, worn, simple or unique.

How to participate:

1. **Email a picture** to darren@stpaulchurchky.org
2. **Bring your cross** by the church office (Please include your name and brief sentence or two about why it matters to you)

I'll be offering a quilt that was given to me years ago. My friend said the pattern was called “*Pressures of the World*,” inspired by a crushed cross sculpture from the Church of Reconciliation at Dachau. When I look at it, I think about how life can press in—how the world can crush the things God loves. And yet, that is not the final word.

Scripture says: “*We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible.*”

Next week is Ash Wednesday—the doorway into Lent, the season that leads us toward Easter. We receive ashes as a sign of our humanity, and those ashes are placed on our forehead or hands **in the shape of a cross**. Even in the ashes of our brokenness, God is offering new life.

So—will you share a cross with us? Let's build this pathway together.

Blessings,

Darren

#Lent #HolyWeek #TheCross #AshWednesday #StPaul

