

Lent



What is Lent?

Lent is the season in which we participate in that final trip to Jerusalem and the self-giving nature of love shown in Christ's passion and death. Originally, Lent represented a period of intense training for "catechumens" (Christian converts under instruction before baptism) who wish to be baptized at dawn on Easter Sunday. Over the centuries, as the practice of infant baptism increased, the focus on training decreased. Lent evolved into a period of preparation. In remembrance of Jesus' time of preparation in the wilderness, forty days became the accepted length of the Lenten season. Fasting was part of that preparation, and since fasting was considered inappropriate on Lord's Day, Sundays were not counted in the forty days. Thus, the Wednesday 46 days before Easter, "Ash Wednesday" came to be regarded as the beginning of Lent. Now, we enter the season of Lent - a time of self-examination, a time to journey toward the Cross, a time to get rid of all the unwanted things that displease God and hinder our path to eternity. May we come together as a community of believers to observe the holy season of Lent!



FEBRUARY 14, 2024

1:00 AND 6:30 PM SERVICES

REHOBOTH STAFF

Senior Pastor:
REV. FELICIA KUMAR .. felicia.kumar@twkumc.org
.....(484) 919-2114

Administrative Assistant:
MARYANN DAVIS churchum@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry:
RICK SIMS rickjims@yahoo.com

Assistant Director of Music Ministry:
DANNY TUCKER dtucker797@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist:
GAYLE GRAENING ggraening3@gmail.com

Audio/Video Technician:
NICK BOYD. nickboydentertainment@gmail.com

Director of Children's Ministry:
CARRIE NEBLETT carrie.neblett@gmail.com

Director of Student & Young Adult Ministries:
TIM SMITH..... tdsmith130@gmail.com

Please join us
for our Sunday Services

9:00 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Sunday School
11:15 am Contemporary Worship Service



We exist to welcome ALL people by sharing the Love of Christ!

2601 Cages Bend Road • Gallatin, TN 37066 • (615) 757-3262
churchum@gmail.com • www.welcometorehoboth.com

WELCOME and GATHERING

Rev. Felicia Kumar

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.
Congregation: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Congregation: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Leader: Let us worship God! Amen!

*HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

UMH 301

UNISON PRAYER

O God, maker of everything and Judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and leave lives worthy of your calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

*SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:1-2, 12-13 & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Rev. Felicia Kumar

HOMILY

A Season of Repentance

Rev. Felicia Kumar

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Rev. Felicia Kumar

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Rev. Felicia Kumar

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 that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **AMEN**

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

Rev. Felicia Kumar

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Repent, and believe the Gospel.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Rev. Felicia Kumar

Forgive us, Lord and once again, open our hearts to your divine guidance that you might draw us back to your loving care. Lord, we humbly ask that you accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and restore us by the power of the Holy Spirit to newness of life. **AMEN!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

The Old Rugged Cross

UMH 504

RESPONSIVE DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Felicia Kumar

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus, bearer of our sins:
Congregation: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus, Redeemer of the world:
Congregation: Give us your peace. Amen!

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

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Possible Disciplines During Lent

- GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is OK, but "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not Christian disciplines.
- GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer.
- GIVE UP looking at other people's worst points. Instead, concentrate on their BEST points for a change. We all have faults. It will be easier for people to overlook OUR shortcomings when we overlook THEIRS first.
- GIVE UP speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Check that sharp tongue at the door.
- GIVE UP your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."
- GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about...like tomorrow! Live for today and let God's grace be sufficient.
- GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit someone who is lonely or sick. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Give someone a precious gift, your time!
- GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! Instead, give the money to God. The money you would spend on luxuries could help someone meet their basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's bounty, not consumers.