

Guilford College United Methodist Church
1205 Fleming Road
Greensboro, NC 27410
(336) 292-5833

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Guilford College United Methodist Church
strives to be a vibrant Christian community
that **transforms** lives, **strengthens** believers,
and **equips** disciples to **live beyond ourselves**
in the light of Jesus Christ.

Guilford College UMC
Living Beyond Ourselves



Rise Against Hunger Event
Saturday, February 21, 9:00-11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

We plan to pack 17,000 meals to be sent to places in the world where food is scarce. Please plan to join us and sign up with this link.

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/guilfordumc26>

Pre-registration is important because it acknowledges our liability release waiver, sends confirmation emails and notifies when meals are being shipped.

CROW'S NEST

Vol. XXVI, No. 34

www.guilfordcollegeumc.org

February 18, 2026

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church Family,

Having come through some ice and snow during January and the first few days of February, I hear comments about looking forward to Spring. Although the snow was pretty, it may be that we want our schedules to be more routine, and not to have to stop all activities because of a risk to drive during inclement weather. The season of Lent which begins this week with Ash Wednesday (February 18th) invites us to a time when we can re-connect with God. Lent is a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. The early Christians devoted themselves to prayer, fasting, self-denial, and the reading and meditating upon God's word during the forty days preceding Easter. They also prepared new believers for baptism and looked for the opportunity to reconcile people who had been separated from the community of faith, inviting them back into participation in the life of Christ's church. It is a perfect time for us to have begun Confirmation classes with the nine youth who are preparing to be confirmed on Sunday, May 17th. On Ash Wednesday, we confess that we need God's mercy and forgiveness that is available in Jesus Christ and we seek renewal as we continue on the pathway as Christian disciples. We are marked with ashes in the form of a cross as we remember we came from the dust and that we are followers of Jesus Christ.

As we begin our Lenten journey together, I look forward to the variety of opportunities that we have to act upon taking part in the means of grace that have been the focus during the Sunday sermons and Disciple School. The means of grace are spiritual practices that are found in the New Testament and can become channels of God's love reaching into our souls and hearts as we are seeking Christ and are open to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. The five means of grace are searching the Scriptures, prayer, holy conferencing, fasting and the Lord's Supper. I encourage you to take these forty days to read the Bible every day. You may want to use a guide that you can find online or in one of the devotionals like the *Upper Room* or *Blessed Are the Meek* available in the Narthex. I hope we can increase the time that we pray for God to work in our lives, our church and all those who we love and are placed around us. Lent offers an opportunity to refrain from eating or engaging in preferred activities and to use that time that you might be eating in a time of prayer and centering on God. Holy conferencing is a way to check in on one another and find out how we are doing spiritually. We might ask one another, how is God touching your life today? During Lent there will be several opportunities to participate in the Lord's Supper. It is our church's tradition to celebrate communion the first Sunday of each month, which means that during Lent, it will be offered on Sunday, March 1st and April 5th. On Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, Holy Communion will also be part of the service as we remember Christ's time with the disciples at the Last Supper. Here is a simple prayer for the Lenten journey based on Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God, for your love is wide and unending.

Erase my mistakes and help me to be open to your Spirit.

Work in my heart and give me freedom to seek you with all I am.

Make me your faithful servant as I seek you in your Word, in prayer and worship.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, sustain and mold me to become more like Christ. Amen.

Together with you on the Lenten journey,
Pastor Susan

Caring

Prayer Concerns: David Ward, Scott Blackwell, Barbara McLeod, Mike Ballard, Greg Matthews, Carla Sutton, Cathy Pierce, Katherine and Charles Forbes, Kathy Graham, Marjorie Liles, Betty Kirkman, Harold Eagle, Becky Archer, Gina Murphy, Dot Brogan, Helen Phillips, Bill Blyshak, David Wasserboehr, Tom Jenkins, Lisa Hodges

Prayer Concerns – Extended Family: Jon McIntosh; Bo Sinkler; Joan Hartman (Carol Randecker's sister-in-law); Wayne Leadbetter; Sarah Lemon, Fay Holliday; Carla Morgan; Courtney Reavis; Heather Taylor; Kathie Williams; Tammy Smith; Peggy Conaway; Sue Yeeles; Jim Cashman; Alannah Romano, Jim Eldrett (Daryl Watkins' brother); Shilah George; Judy Journey; Debbie Sexton; Sammy Williams; Joanne Burgener; Y'Suan & H'Lai Mlo & family; Tammy Strickland, Kenneth Briggs; Azalea Marbury; Debra Rutt; Shannon Wilson

Members In Home and Senior Living Facilities:
Abbottswood – TerraBella – Paul Long; **Carolina Estates –** Barbara McLeod, Lynn Wall; Sharon Kienholz; **Brookdale Lawndale –** Ann Brantley; **Brookdale NW -** Patsy Wyatt; **Carolina Pines –** Janie Shell; **Clapps Nursing & Rehab, Pleasant Garden –** Sarah Gorham; **Friends Home Guilford –** Karen Lowder, Claudette Kayler, Diana Clark, Ellie Dawkins; Barbara Engle, Betty Kirkman, Ellen Lancaster, Emogene Stewart, Rak Kreager; **Friends Home West –** Bill & Sarah Brubaker, Barbara Jones, Pat Routh, Terry & Joe Ann Weatherford, Bill & Jan Dowdy; Ray & Judy Harris; Linda Metcalf; **Greenhaven –** Becky Patterson; **Spring Arbor –** Doris Linker; **Abbottswood –** Dot Brogan, Gay Brown; Barbara Price; **Heritage Green -** Carrie Gowen, **Well Spring –** Barbara Ebert; **Westchester Manor –** Susie Love, Tina Bell Midgett; **In Home –** Sue Causey, Terri Hastings, Helen Phillips, Betty Siders, Marion Sharpe

Sincere sympathy to Lewis and Pam Wilson, in the death of Lewis' sister, Nickey Hart; to Jonathan Ballinger and family in the death of his father, Max Ballinger.
Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted.

Sunday Morning Transportation

If you are unable to transport yourself to worship on Sunday mornings, please call the church office by Thursday each week, and we will be glad to arrange a ride for you to worship.

Sunday Morning Drivers:

Feb. 22: Bob Beasley, Tal Jobe

Mar. 1: Richard Blackwelder, Cindy Johnson



The Western Guilford Missional Network invites you to the Lenten Services which begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Each Wednesday during Lent the service will be in one of the Missional Network churches at noon with a light lunch to follow. Please plan to attend.

February 25 – Raleigh's Crossroads, Rev. Steven Shytle

March 4 – Morehead, Rev. Jeremy Troxler

March 11 - Collins Grove, Rev. Linda Moore

March 18 – Muirs Chapel, Rev. Carl Manuel

March 25 – Guilford College, Rev. Kim Troy-Richardson

April 1 – Greensboro Korean, Rev. Josh Britton

Thank You Note:

My sincere thanks to the Eve Rebekah Circle for their generous Valentine gift of assorted goodies. Thanks also to Robin Young for delivering the gift and for the pleasant visit.

Bill Blyshak

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP – Age appropriate

Children's Worship is provided during the 11:00 am worship for children in Grades K-6. Children are dismissed to Children's Worship after the children's message in the Sanctuary and remain there until the end of worship. Parents may pick up children from the Parlor just outside the Sanctuary. Child care for younger children is available in room C8, first floor children's building.

Connecting

Wednesday Welcome Table

February 25, 5:45-6:45 pm
\$7.00 per meal

Meatloaf, Homestyle Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert (Sliced chicken available on Salad Bar)
Kids Meal: Pizza

March 4

Spaghetti, Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar, Dessert (Sliced chicken available on Salad Bar)
Kids Meal: Chicken Nuggets, Apple Sauce, Chips

Signage On Walls

Please refrain from attaching signage, actually ANYTHING, to any surface in the renovated areas of the church. Tape is known to remove paint from walls or leave residue behind and we would like to avoid that if possible. The Trustees are looking into alternate ways to display advertising signage in that area of the building.

Thank you for your help with this and spreading the word to others!



Our next blood drive will be held on Thursday, March 19th. Go online to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment to donate. Should you have any questions, call/text David Saunders at 336-337-3126.

Applications Invited for Coleman Ministry Grants

This past fall, GCUMC received a very generous bequest gift from the estate of Lt. Colonel James Arthur Coleman. Our Church Council has decided to make these funds available in the form of potential grants that would support new ministries or serve to strengthen the overall mission of the church. The application to request a grant can be found on our Church's Website under the "Give" tab, (or [click here for online form](#)) and can also be picked up in the church office. Ministry areas, church committees, and groups within the congregation are invited to apply. Applications for the first round of grants will be received by the GCUMC Endowment Committee through Friday, March 13th, with recommendations made to the Church Council at the end of April. Questions? Contact Bonnie Burkett at bburkett@triad.rr.com.

SEEKERS CLASS - If one of your New Year's Resolutions, is to spend more time in the Bible, then perhaps you would like to try the Seekers class. The class meets on Sunday morning at 9:45. We are digging and reflecting on the book of James. We would love to have you join us. Contact Sara Hardin at hardinx4@bellsouth.net if you have questions. We meet in Room B5.

GCUMC FINANCIAL REPORT January 31, 2026

2025 YEAR PROJECTED vs. 2025 YEAR ACTUAL:

YEAR PROJECTED:

Total 2026 budget:	\$1,246,671.49
Amount needed to date for 2026 budget:	103,889.21
Amount received as of 1/31/26 for budget:	<u>89,697.99</u>
Difference:	(\$ 14,191.22)

*(amount between projected budget needs to-date and actual received)

YEAR ACTUAL:

Amount received for budget as of 1/31/26:	\$ 89,697.99
Expenses as of 1/31/26:	<u>90,719.93</u>
Difference:	(\$ 1,021.94)

SnYP (Students & Young Professionals) meets weekly on Wednesdays. Small group starts at 6:45! Not sure if SnYP is for you? SnYP is for college students, young adults navigating the working and grown-up world and others who want to journey together in a supportive, inquisitive, and fun environment.



KID'S MUSIC

CLUB – The Kid's Music Club for grades 1 - 6 meets on Wednesdays at

6:10 pm in the choir room. Our focus during the Spring will be on Hand Chimes. Children will be transported to Faith Files or Faith Friends after Music Club if the parents wish. Come join us!

Connecting

PASTOR JEREMY'S DISCIPLE SCHOOL has returned. All are welcome to join us in the sanctuary beginning at 6:45 pm for an hour in which we focus on how we can become better followers of Jesus together. Early in the year we are learning how we can draw closer to God through what John Wesley called "The Means of Grace": the gifts of Scripture, Prayer, Community, Fasting, Holy Communion, and Visiting the Poor. Disciple School meets roughly every other Wednesday, with future sessions planned for 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/08, 4/22 & 5/06.

SUNDAY KIDS ZONE for Grades K-6 is provided in Room C14, Second Floor Children's Building from 9:45-10:45 am. Children explore a devotional message and connect through games and activities.



FAITH FRIENDS (GRADES K-3) AND FAITH FILES (GRADES 4-6) – Both groups meet regularly on Wednesdays, from 6:45-7:45 pm. Both kids' groups provide an environment for children to pray for each other, encourage each other, learn about

God and each other, and have great fun together! If you have any questions, please contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

Focused Book Discussion: Laurin is looking for two or more folks to read Rachel Gilmore's book, *Followers Under 40*, along with her and then commit to discussing the book and brainstorming about how we can best invite and live alongside younger adults in the church. Email Laurin at lallred@guilfordcollegeumc.org to join the discussion and get your free copy of the book.



JOY (Just Older Youth) BOOK CLUB - The JOY book club will meet on Tuesday, March 24, at McAlister's on New Garden Road. The book we will discuss is *The*

Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict. We hope you will join us.

Ladies Luncheon (to meet new people and enjoy lunch.)

Friday, March 27, 11:30 at Sarah's Kabob Shop

RSVP to Sandy Riffe at sandyriffe@hotmail.com or call at 336-664-1087 or text to 336-255-7078 by **March 20. Please leave your name when you call/text.**

After eating, each person stands and tells one thing about themselves. Meet neighbors on both sides of you and get to know them.

Make plans to join us and enjoy the fellowship, food and making new friends.

YOUTH UPDATE

Our youth have been working on mission and vision statements. It was fascinating to listen to their views.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to bring together youth and spread the Word of God through a Christ-centered community that provides inclusivity, fun, kindness and faith.

Vision: We want to be a group of understanding, actively listening youth who show up and help others feel seen and known.

Recently, Fuller Youth Institute came out with their latest research on Generation Alpha (young people born in 2010 or later). This is the first to come of age in our post-pandemic world. Some of the trends are:

- Lower reading & math scores
- Social-emotional gaps
- Chronic school absenteeism
- Deepening family bonds
- Most diverse generation ever
- 55% of 13-16 year olds say the pandemic still affects them regularly.
- Teens hang out with each other less in person than in prior generations. Only 43% of teens hang out with friends in person for fun once a week or more. 20% say they "almost never do".

Their needs and life look very different from prior generations. As the church, we will need to address these new needs. One way the youth group is trying to address the social-emotional gaps is by being more invitational. Not to build numbers in our programming, but in everyday life.

Youth in Leadership

Four of our youth (Kendra Tucker, Raegan Gilman, Maddie Shearer, and Andrew Sacrinty) will be leading the spring retreat, IgniteUs, March 20-22. Please be praying for them as they lead various aspects of the weekend.

Raegan Gilman will be going to the 2026 Peace Conference at Lake Junaluska March 13-15. The theme is *Disarming Hatred*. Please pray for the conference and safe travels.

Connecting

Confirmation: We started Confirmation Class this past Saturday with a day retreat at Haw River State Park. This Confirmation Class is incredibly diverse in many ways. There are nine students in the 8th or 9th grade. Five of the nine are from the refugee community. They go to six different schools. Please pray for the leaders (Cathey Miller, Mike Symonds, Chris Pritchett, and our ministry staff). Chris Pritchett is on loan to us from Raleigh Crossroads UMC. Please pray for the following students: Brian Nagasa, Christian Lupuishi, Prosper Lupuishi, Nailenys Lopez, Dieume Rashidi, Savannah Troxler, Elias Ingold, Jackson Meister and Enoch Lemon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CHILDREN'S EVENTS IN 2026!

Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday, March 29 – 3:30-5:30 p.m. (age 3 thru current Grade 6)

Vacation Bible School – June 22-24 Evenings (age 3 through current Grade 6)

Day Camp at Camp GuilRock – July 13-17 (Current Grades K-5)

PRISCILLA SHIRER LIVE SIMULCAST WOMEN'S DAY APART – Save the date of Saturday, August 22, for a full-day women's spiritual renewal day at GCUMC. We will soak in uplifting worship and Bible teaching as we encourage and fellowship together. It will be good for your soul.

Serving

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL – Registrations are being received for the 2025- 2026 & 2026-2027 years. For enrollment information go to www.gcumckids.org or contact Shelby Hallquist preschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org.



Saturday, February 21
Prepare and Serve Dinner
at Weaver House
Online link available soon

2:00-5:00 pm: Prepare food at GCUMC kitchen or prepare at home & bring to church.

- 2:00-5:00 at GCUMC – 3-4 people age 12 & above to prepare main dish & muffins
- Prepare a bag salad, dessert, or bottles of salad dressing. Indicate number of servings you will provide. We expect to serve 80 people. **Bring to church by 2:00 pm.**
- Meal will be ready to transport to Weaver House at **5:15 pm.**
- **For more info contact Lisa Kobrin at 336-558-9506 or kobrinlb@gmail.com**

5:45-7:45 pm – Serve Meal

Potter's House Kitchen, 305 W. Gaate City Blvd., 336-271-5959

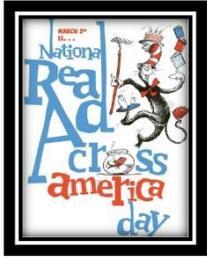
- 9 people needed, age 12 & up
- Meet at church at 5:15 to carpool or meet at 5:45 at GUM.
- Set up & serve evening meal for 80 adults
- Dinner served at 6:30. Clean up afterwards.
- **For more info contact Margaret Pigue at 336-402-2711 or mljpigue@gmail.com.**



2026 Flower Calendar

If you would like to donate flowers for our altar to be used during worship services, please sign up by the date you would like on the calendar. These can be given in memory of someone or in honor of an event. We appreciate all who have donated flowers in the past.

Serving



**YOU ARE INVITED TO:
Jefferson Elementary School's
ANNUAL
COMMUNITY READING DAY**

Monday, March 2, 2026

When – March 2, 2026 between 8:00am and 1:45pm.
(30 minutes)

Who – We will assign you to a class based on your preferred time. If you have a grade level preference, please let us know.

How – We will have books for you to read, or you can bring one of your favorites.

WHY? – To help us reach our vision of 100% of students reading on or above grade level. Students need to – hear good readers; see how reading can bring JOY; and most importantly, students need to hear how and why READING MATTERS in your daily life! This brings purpose to the work of learning to read.

Thank you for being a part of our
JES COMMUNITY READING DAY 2026!

~ Please RSVP by signing up on our Sign-Up Genius:

[Click Here To Sign Up!](#)

or emailing Eddi Johnson at johnsoe4@gcsnc.com

Invitation to Adults:

Youth Snack Supper. We need people to help us with Sunday night youth dinners. You can cater or cook the meal. We also ask that you stay and eat with us. This is an excellent opportunity for adults and youth to connect over food. Please contact Randy Wall or Lindsay Fusaiotti to sign up. We are booked through February, but we need volunteers most Sundays in March, April and May.

rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org

lindsayfusaiotti@gmail.com

Trip Chaperones

We need adult men and women to journey with the youth on our mission trip to Asheville June 22-28. If you can come for the whole week or just a couple days. We need people to help with transportation, projects, chaperoning, and meals. Please contact Randy Wall (rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org) if you are interested in helping.

Serve Breakfast at Potter's House Community Kitchen on the 4th Saturday of each month, 6:00-8:00 am. Join the Redfern family to serve breakfast at GUM, 305 Gate City Blvd. For more information contact Justin or Julie Redfern: Julie: 337-353-1773, juliecredfern@gmail.com; Justin: 336-541-0464, justin.redfern@yahoo.com. Carpooling/rides are available.



AFTER SCHOOL MINISTRY –

Volunteers are needed to assist the teachers and engage with the children from 2:00-6:00 p.m. one day per week. Excellent kiddos who are fun to be with! Please

contact Donna Ford,

dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org, or Shelby Hallquist,

afterschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Max Ballinger
(Jonathan Ballinger's father)

*Mike and Donna Garcia
Bob and Jimmy Stimpson*

In Memory of Oliver Burns
(Dennis and Beth Creamer's son-in-law)

Bob and Jimmy Stimpson

In Memory of Nickey Hart
(Lewis Wilson's sister)

*Gay Brown
Mike and Donna Garcia
Vicki Kidd
2/90 Class
Bob and Jimmy Stimpson*

In Memory of Harold Proctor
Fred and Diane Meredith

In Memory of Mary Katherine Wells
(Carolyn Campbell's sister & Kathy Raper's aunt)

Carol Groff

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of Jayne Morgan
Clark and Stephanie Sinkler

In Honor of Jim Sandknop, Mike Symonds and
Fellowship Hall Committee
A Greatful Friend



March 1	H'Ong Buonkrong, Lexy Fastige, Susan Irvin, Hudson Steen
March 3	Cynthia Marion
March 4	Margaret Appenzeller, Lettie Cobb, Lisa Donato, Lilyana Fastige, J.T. Jenkins
March 5	Livy Donato, Brenda Frazier, Susie Love
March 6	Jonah Allred, Cookie Baynes, Melanie Crump
March 7	Simone Gentry, Janie Shell, Stephanie Stone
March 9	Nancy Furnas
March 10	Quincy Fastige, Debbie Hancock
March 11	Evan Crews, Ron Pearce
March 13	Colton Black, Allen Cheek, Will Lucas
March 14	Marilyn Bowman, Betty Kirkman
March 15	Donna Ford, Carol Ingram, David Lehman, Jr., Wilder Rodriguez
March 16	Chuck Fastige, Melissa Fiori, Shelley Langenfeld, Tom Wells
March 17	Alyssa Gore
March 19	Ellie Dawkins, Raegan Gillman, Barbara Jones
March 20	Hunter Fusaiotti, Marion Sharpe
March 22	Lucas Hepler, Levinee Mlo, Pamela Steinert
March 23	Holland James, Tanya Thompson, David Wasserboehr
March 24	Brent Gentry, Anita Sandknop, Betty Siders, Debbie Tucker
March 25	Barbara Barton
March 26	Carol Fossett, Brandon Hitt, Vaughan Long
March 27	Michele Gorham, Sandy Riffe
March 28	Rowland Jones, Zachary McDonald
March 29	Sybil Horner, Daniel Tucker
March 30	Bill Blyshak, Melanie Chamberlain, LouAnne Hicks, Mark McPherson
March 31	Jane Irwin, Susan Wells

If you have current address information for any person on this list, please contact the church office. We need to update their information in our records. Thank you!

2/18/2026

Members with unknown addresses

Alyssa Bacon	Delaney Marion
Jordan Minor	Troy Minor
Melanie Bacon	Esther M'lo
Tricia Bacon	Jackson Stone
Amanda Branch	Emma Taney
Zoe Brewer	Cameron Waldron
H'Lus Buonkrong	McKenzie Waldron
Y'Khuin Buonkrong	Caroline Wells
Chet Carpenter	Casey Wells
Renee Carpenter	Sarah Wood
Erin Cheek	Lucas Woodrum
Jeffrey Cheek	
Thomas Congo	
Evan Crews	
Caleb DeBrew	
Kayler DeBrew	
Caroline Donato	
Alex Follo	
Brooke Follo	
Bryce Goller	
Ty Goller	
Will Gorham	
Blair Hamlett	
Shane Hamlett	
Brandon Hitt	
Madison Lohr	
Noah Lohr	

How Did Ash Wednesday Get Its Name?

Ashes have been used since early Biblical times as a symbol of repentance of sin or grief (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13). The early Hebrews worshipped God by burning a sacrifice. The ashes were the remains of the burnt offering. Placing ashes on their body showed others that they were sorrowful and desired to renew their relationship with God. On Ash Wednesday, we burn the palms from the previous Palm Sunday and make a cross with the ashes on the forehead of each worshipper. As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19. The connection between Palm Sunday and Ash Wednesday is appropriate since Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem led Him quickly to His death.

Helping Children Understand Ash Wednesday

Children will better understand the cross on their forehead as a "dirt" cross. It reminds us that sin or bad actions and mean words get our lives dirty. As we get ready for Easter, in the season we call Lent, we are to remember that when Jesus died on the cross, He took the dirt in our lives away. To be with God we need to be clean. No one is clean on their own. But now we can appear clean and perfect before God because Jesus died to take away all our dirt and sin. Jesus makes us clean and perfect.

It is as if you did something bad and when it came time to be punished, Jesus came to you and said, "I was punished for you." Do you know anyone else who would love you so much they would do that for you or even die for you? This is one very special friend! And that is just what Jesus did for you.

The crucifixion and death of Jesus are critical to understanding the true love and grace that God gives all of us. Do not be afraid to share Ash Wednesday with your children. Children need to know how far God was willing to go on their behalf because of His great love for them.

Suggested Scriptures for Ash Wednesday

Psalm 51:1-17
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
1 Peter 5:6-11

Suggested Scriptures for Lent

<i>Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16</i>	<i>Romans 10:8b-13</i>
<i>Luke 4:1-13</i>	<i>Psalm 27</i>
<i>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</i>	<i>Luke 13:31-35</i>
<i>Philippians 3:17-4:1</i>	<i>Psalm 63:1-8</i>
<i>Isaiah 55:1-9</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</i>
<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	<i>Psalm 32</i>
<i>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</i>	<i>Psalm 126</i>
<i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i>
<i>John 12:1-8</i>	<i>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</i>

Understanding Lent

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for 40 days (not including Sundays), ending at sunset on the eve of Easter. This year, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season is February 17. The exact date of Ash Wednesday is set according to the date of Easter. The date for Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (April 4 this year).

Lent is a season of spiritual renewal, a time for us to examine our lives and strengthen our faith. It is a time of preparation for and remembering Easter, which is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection! Many people believe in giving up something they enjoy during Lent. For example, many give up a favorite food or fast during a particular meal. Others may choose to give up a favorite activity. Those who do so offer these sacrifices as praise to God, and believe it will help them remember Jesus every time they deny themselves. Making a sacrifice, even a small one, helps people recall the great sacrifice Christ made for us all. While some believers give up something during Lent, others add on special activities. Many people offer time and talents to help others by participating in additional community or church work. Whatever we do during this time of repentance and rededication, we offer it to the glory of God, not man. We need not feel compelled to share with others what we give up or add to during Lent.

Why 40 Days?

The 40 days are symbolic of Jesus' trials and temptations during the 40 days He was alone in the desert after His baptism and before the beginning of His ministry. (*Matthew 4:2*)

Other important Biblical stories showing the significance of 40:

- Noah's ark floated in the flood for 40 days (*Genesis 7:4*)
- Moses fasted 40 days before he received the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 24:18*)
- The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before entering the Promised Land (*Exodus 16:35*)
- The Risen Christ walked with His disciples for 40 days between Easter and Ascension (*Acts 1:3*)



Why Are Sundays Not Included In The Time Set Aside for Lent?

Each Sunday, we come to worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since each Sunday is a "little Easter," Sundays are not included in the 40 days set aside to prepare for Easter.

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



Easter lilies will be used in our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5th . If you would like to order a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, cost is \$12.00 each. Make your check payable to GCUMC and mark "Easter Lily" on memo line. **Attach payment with your order**, and return to the church office. **Deadline for ordering is March 29th .**

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

No. of Lilies to order _____