



*Be  
reconciled  
to God.*

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

## **Cokesbury United Methodist Church**

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday \* 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

**GATHERING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The day of the Lord is coming! The day of the Lord is near!

**The time is fulfilled: The reign of God is at hand!**

O people, repent! Believe in the gospel!

**Come, let us turn and follow the Lord!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**UM HYMN 357 – “Just as I Am, Without One Plea”**

**(v.1,3,4 and 5)**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON – Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (On the Screen)**

**SERMON – “Return to Me”**

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

Beloved, we embark upon the march toward Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign reminds us that we are flesh, that we sin, and that we fail to lean on God and instead lean on our own understanding. As we begin the journey, join me in spending the next 40 days by examining yourself and by re-energizing any part of your faith walk that has become dull or lifeless. Examine your work for the Kingdom of God; examine your goals, your interests, your hopes, your relationships, your finances, and your health, all of which are part of your stewardship contract with God. Observe a holy Lent season through self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of justice and works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word.

**THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES**

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 everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

-(Genesis 3:19, NRSV)

**UM HYMN 488 – “Jesus, Remember Me”**

**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**Psalm 51:1-17 (On the Screen)**

May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

*All exchange signs and words of God's peace.*

**OFFERING – TFWS HYMN 2272 – “Holy Ground”**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER (Spoken)**

**Our Father, which art in heaven: Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN 297 – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (v. 1 and 3)**

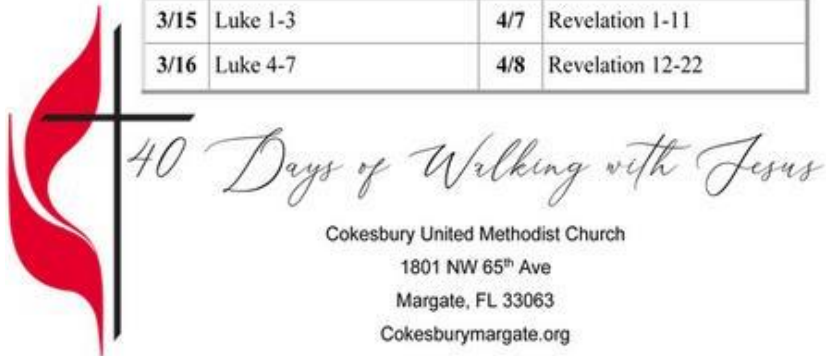
## Lent 2023

We Begin New Testament Reading on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent on Feb. 22 and ends on April 8. We hope this to be a special time for you to deeply meditate on Jesus Christ as you read the New Testament during Lent.

Day	Biblical Texts	Day	Biblical Texts
2/22	Mark 1-4	3/17	Luke 8-11
2/23	Mark 5-8	3/18	Luke 12-16
2/24	Mark 9-12	3/20	Luke 17-21
2/25	Mark 13-16	3/21	Luke 22-24
2/27	1 & 2 Thessalonians	3/22	Acts 1-6
2/28	Galatians	3/23	Acts 7-10
3/1	Philippians & Colossians	3/24	Acts 11-16
3/2	Philemon & Ephesians	3/25	Acts 17-22
3/3	Matthew 1-7	3/27	Acts 23-28
3/4	Matthew 8-12	3/28	1 & 2 Timothy & Titus
3/6	Matthew 13-18	3/29	Hebrews 1-10
3/7	Matthew 19-24	3/30	Hebrews 11-13 & James
3/8	Matthew 25-28	3/31	John 1-5
3/9	1 Corinthians 1-9	4/1	John 6-10
3/10	1 Corinthians 10-16	4/3	John 11-16
3/11	2 Corinthians 1-13	4/4	John 17-21
3/13	Romans 1-8	4/5	1 & 2 & 3 John & Jude
3/14	Romans 9-16	4/6	1 & 2 Peter
3/15	Luke 1-3	4/7	Revelation 1-11
3/16	Luke 4-7	4/8	Revelation 12-22

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pick up a Lent Bank as you leave.  
Please return it on Easter Sunday.**



40 Days of Walking with Jesus

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