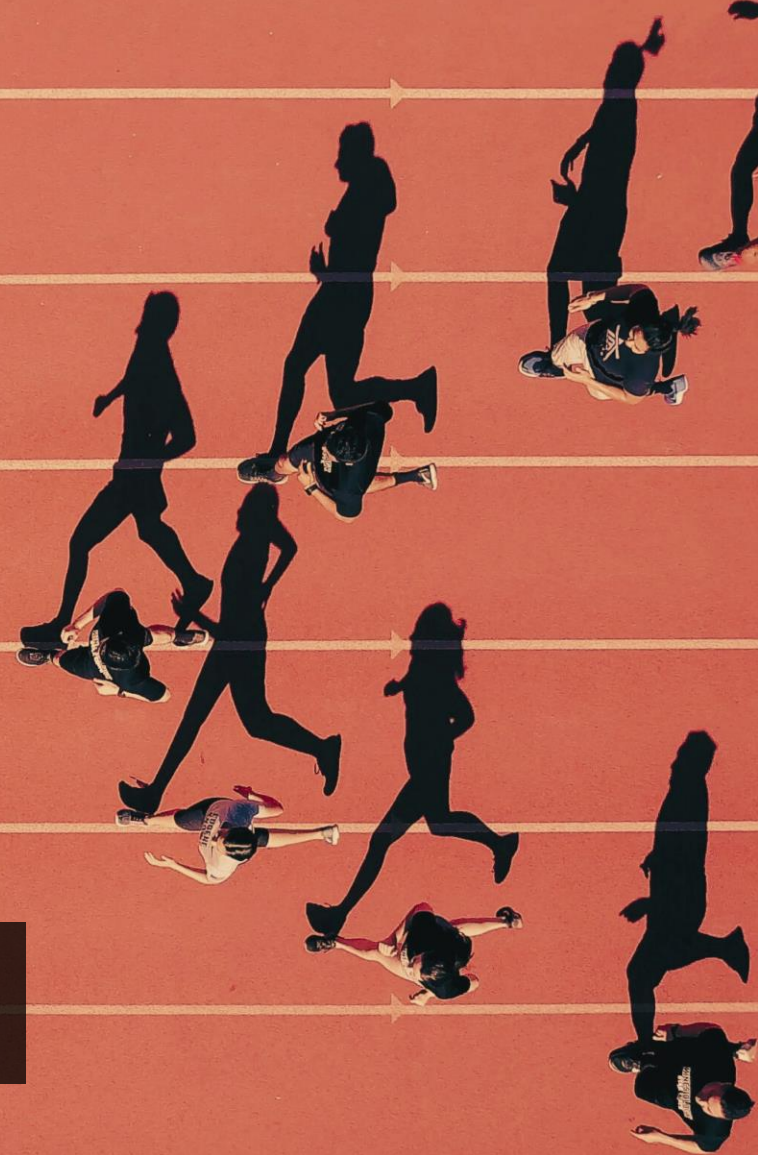


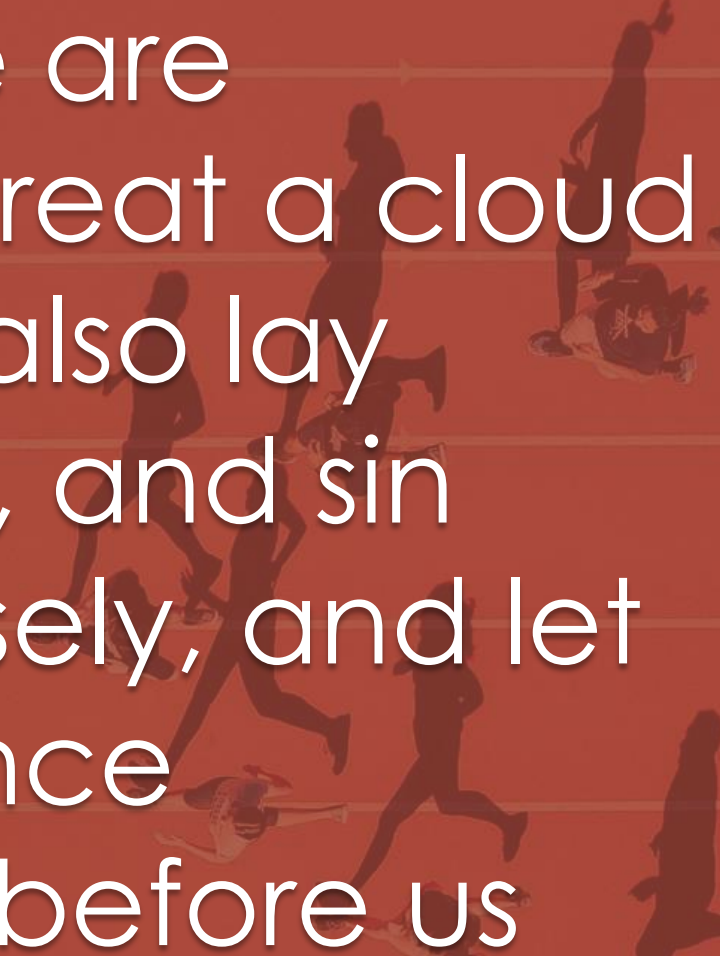
2024 Congregational Theme

THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US

As a Local Church



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

The background of the slide features a dark red color with a pattern of white horizontal lines. Overlaid on this are several black silhouettes of runners in various stages of a race, some in full stride and others appearing to be struggling or falling, which visually represents the concept of a 'race' mentioned in the text.

Hebrews 12:1



<i>January</i>	The Race That Is Set Before Us... (Introduction)
<i>February</i>	As a Local Church
<i>March</i>	As Spiritual Leaders
<i>April</i>	As Men
<i>May</i>	As Women
<i>June</i>	As Married Couples
<i>July</i>	As Parents & Children
<i>August</i>	As Youth & Aging
<i>September</i>	As Employers & Employees
<i>October</i>	As Earthly & Heavenly Citizens
<i>November</i>	As Sinners
<i>December</i>	As Saints

[14] I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, [15] if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

Jesus's Expectations for Local Churches

(Revelation 2-3)

1. *Doctrinal and moral purity*

2:2; 2:14-16; 2:20-25; 3:3-4

2. *Zealous love*

2:4-5; 2:19; 3:1-2; 3:15-19

3. *Patient endurance*

2:2a; 2:10; 2:13; 2:19; 2:25-26; 3:10-11

Coming Together in Commitment

1. Exodus 24:3-8

Moses, at Mt. Sinai

2. Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Moses's final charge

3. Joshua 24:14-31

Joshua's final charge

4. 2 Kings 23:1-3

Josiah's reforms

5. Nehemiah 8:1-12

Ezra, after returning from captivity



Carter Family Rules

1. We love God.
2. We love everyone.
3. We pray every day.
4. We speak kindly.
5. We always tell the truth.
6. We obey right away, all the way, with a happy heart.
7. We try our best.
8. We help each other.
9. We don't whine.
10. We don't pitch fits.
11. We don't hit.
12. We don't take.
13. We don't interrupt.
14. We are patient.
15. We are thankful.
16. We are joyful.





We will work together to magnify the truth by...

- 1. Earnestly pursuing doctrinal and moral purity***
- 2. Zealously loving God, each other, and the world around us***
- 3. Maintaining patience in whatever adversity we face***