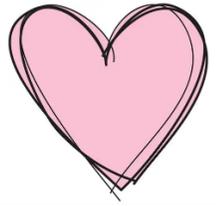


“THE MESSENGER”

Pastor Vicky Martinez

February 2026

Pine Bluffs United Methodist Church



Pine Bluffs UMC
600 Main St.
P. O. Box 662
Pine Bluffs, WY 82082



PRAYERS

Holy God, please lift up all these individuals and families with your comfort and love, healing all of their hearts and bodies. Amen!

-Family of Jack Harrison*

-Jane & Bill Baker

-Sioni Mollel & Family

-Rick & Wanda Carpenter

-Marj Gorman

-PB Church Family

-Pastor Vicky & Family in the passing of her stepfather, Bob Carden.

*The service for Jack Harrison will be on February 3rd, 1:00pm at the PB Cemetery and 2:30pm at PBUMC, followed by a reception.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

9th - Karen Waterman

21st - Val Johnson

25th - Heather Sisson

25th - Hillary Sisson-Jackson

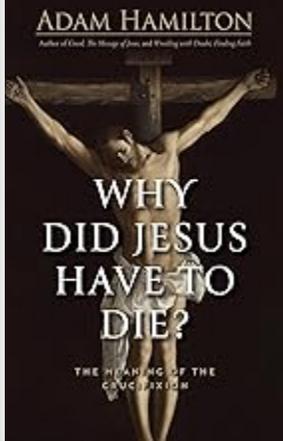


LENTEN STUDY, 2026

Join us for a new Lenten Study beginning on February 24 at Grace and the 25th at Pine Bluffs UMC's - both at Noon.

Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way.

What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform who we are and how we live? Come along as we all learn together and increase our awareness in our faith journey. Pastor Vicky leading. Please sign up for a book on the Clipboard or you may order from Thriftbooks or Amazon.com. Book cost is \$15.00, payable to Pastor Vicky Martinez. Questions? 970-440-0410.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following member seats: (1) member for Trustee's Team, (2) members for SPRC Team. Trustees and SPRC meet once per quarter for about an hour. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Vicky or Helen Werner.



FEBRUARY MINISTRIES

Date: 2/1/2026-4th Sunday after Epiphany

Ministry: Lisa Heinert

Sermon: Glory Revealed "What Is Good"

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8

Date: 2/8/2026-5th Sunday after Epiphany

Ministry: Pastor Vicky

Sermon: Glory Revealed "Call to Action"

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Date: 2/15/2026-Transfiguration Sunday

Ministry: Pastor Vicky

Sermon: Glory Revealed "Transfiguration Sunday"

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9

Date: 2/18/2026-Ash Wednesday

Ministry: Pastor Vicky

Sermon: "A Clean Heart" Renewed

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Date: 2/22/2026-1st Sunday of Lent

Ministry: Vicky Martinez

Sermon: "Mercy on the Wilderness Road"

Scripture: Psalm 32, Matthew 41:11

BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS TID-BITS

Facebook

Find Us At:

PB United Methodist Church

Website

Find Us At:

www.umcpinebluffs.org

Sunday School Times

9:15am every Sunday, unless otherwise posted.

Average Attendance January/Week

On-Line 198

In Person 30

January Income & Expenses

Tithing: \$4,815.00

Non-Conference: \$37,191.00

Expenses Paid: \$12,730.80

PASTOR PONDERINGS

Welcome everyone to the New Year. Just like that, January is over. Time flies when you are doing the Lord's work. This pondering came to me from Karen Waterman, thank you for sharing. It was written by Sandy Thrasher and published in the Advocate SC.

As we step into a new year, I keep thinking about who we are becoming as a people and as a denomination. The United Methodist Church has walked through a long season of change, and yet here we stand, steady and rooted in love. Our mission reminds us of who we are called to be: The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously in local communities.

That mission is more than a statement. It is who we are at our best. It is the heart of the church I am proud to call home.

Over the holiday, I wore my "by our love" UMC shirt while out running errands. A woman stopped me and said, "I see you're from that church that separated." I smiled and said, "No ma'am, I'm from the church that stayed. We stayed to love all God's children." She paused, looked at me, and then asked, "So you're still a United Methodist?"

*I told her proudly that I am. I explained that we stayed because we believe in loving and serving others without question and without condition. We chose to remain solidly rooted in the belief that God's love includes all people. **EVERY SINGLE ONE.** (emphasis added)*

She stood quietly for a moment and said she hadn't thought beyond the separation part of what she'd seen in the news. Our conversation was pleasant, and before we parted ways, I invited her to come visit and see for herself what we are all about. When she walked away smiling, I remembered that sometimes a single conversation can shift a heart and change perspective.

I am grateful for our stance as United Methodists, grateful that we strive to love like Jesus, and grateful that our welcome extends to all people. We include. We love. We serve. We move forward together.

I also keep returning to something Bishop Fairley said in one of our first gatherings with him: "It's time to move from mourning to dancing." Those words have stayed with me. Friends, look at who we are right now. Look at what God has brought us through. Look at what we hold in our hands as a denomination committed to love, service, and hope."

We have every reason to step into 2026 with joy. We have the brightest and best light within us, the light of Jesus Christ, ready to shine through our daily lives, our ministries, and our churches.

So here is my prayer and my challenge for the new year: let us lay down the mourning and dance. Let us walk into this next season with joy, courage, and the deep conviction that God is not done with us. Let us see every person not just as a neighbor or a stranger, but as a beloved child of God. After all, we will never look into the face of someone God does not love.

May this be the year we live boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously as one United Methodist People. Good things are ahead. Let's dance.

I am blessed to walk this life with Jesus and everyone of you that attend our little church in person or on-line. Thank you for taking this journey with me. Let us move from "mourning to dancing" together. Until next time, may you be blessed and feel God's love always. God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!

Pastor Vicky Martinez

February 2026

Church Calendar

(A) - Anniversary (B) - Birthday (L) - Library

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School	2 	3 1pm Jack Harrison service, PB Cemetery 2:30pm PBUMC, reception following.	4 2pm Prayer Shawl Knitting - (L)	5 Senior Center Meal sponsored by the Missions Team	6 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L)	7 8am-12pm local churches Women in Faith Annual Superbowl Bake Sale at Texas Trail Market
8 9am Worship Communion 9:15am Sunday School	9 Karen Waterman (B)	10	11	12	13 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L)	14 
15 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School	16 	17	18 7am-7pm UWIF Prayer Vigil 7pm Worship  ASH WEDNESDAY	19	20 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L)	21 Val Johnson (B)
22 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School	23	24	25 5:30pm Foundation Board Heather Sisson (B) Hillary Sisson-Jackson (B)	26	27 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L)	28

FEBRUARY MISSION MOMENT



FROM: Sue Maxted, Chair, PBUMC Missions Committee,

Dear Friends,

During Lent, we are asked to examine our lives and ask, "What can we do for others?" In the past, the Pine Bluffs United Methodist Church has supplied Lenton Coin Cards to encourage families to collect coins during Lent and donate the money after Easter to be used locally for mission related areas. Last year, \$950.00 was collected! The members of the Missions Committee distributed the money in the following way:

Texas Trail Market gift cards (for the Pine Bluffs Food Pantry)	\$180.00
Safe House in Cheyenne	\$250.00
Unaccompanied Student Initiative in Cheyenne	\$250.00
Good Samaritan Fund in Pine Bluffs	\$120.00
Climb Wyoming	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total	\$950.00

This year, we have chosen to use a *Coins for Lent Giving Calendar*. Each day from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday suggests an activity to remind us of all we have and how little others may have. You can choose which activities you want to complete along with what coins you want to collect. You may want to contribute a quarter or dime or nickel for every item. Or, you may simply want to collect loose change and give whatever coins you have for each item. Of course, you may choose to make a single donation for this project. During Lent, Sundays are for worship and praise to God and are reflected on the calendar with a Pray Prompt.

Your contribution may be returned to the church and placed in the small wooden church next to the bulletin board. Or you can mail your gift to the church; please designate it as a Lenton Coin offering. We appreciate your participation in this local mission project; without you, we would not be able to help meet needs in Laramie County!

We also invite your suggestions as to where you would like to see the Lenton money distributed for 2026.

Thank you.



February 2026

Coins for Lent Giving Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 <u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u> Pray today, thanking God for those who will journey with you during this Lenten season. UWIF Prayer Vigil from 7am to 7pm. Service at 7pm	19 A coin for every backpack in your house.	20 A coin for every pair of shoes in your house.	21 A coin for every pair of socks in your dresser drawer.
22 <u>PRAY TODAY</u> Thank God for the people in your life that are with you when things become difficult. Pray for those who are having a difficult time and need to feel the presence of God in their lives.	23 A coin for every room in your home.	24 A coin for every pillow in your home.	25 A coin for every chair in your home.	26 A coin for every blanket in your home.	27 A coin for every bathroom in your home.	28 A coin for every bed in your house.

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will be holding a 12-hour Prayer Vigil for Ash Wednesday, February 18th, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the Ash Wednesday service taking place at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to participate for 30 minutes at the church or at home. The church will be unlocked for those who plan to do their prayer vigil at the church beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Please sign up for a 30-minute spot by calling Sharon Sayers at 307-245-3625.



Annual Superbowl Bake Sale

Women in Faith

Sponsored by:

Crossroads Community Church
Grace English Lutheran Church
Lighthouse Assembly of God Church
St. Paul Council of Catholic Women
United Women in Faith - Methodist Church

When: Saturday, February 7th

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Texas Trail Market

Are you ready for some football? Come out and support this great annual event by purchasing your halftime snacks from the Women in Faith Bake Sale, composed of all Pine Bluffs' Churches. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Town of Pine Bluffs' Good Sam Fund. The town set up this fund to be run through the police department with the thought of protection for clergy and those who work in the churches by referring those in need to the police department.

Barb Talich is the point of contact for this fund raiser. We are looking for volunteers to make goodies for the bake sale. You can drop off your baked goods on Saturday starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Texas Trail Market, or you can bring them to Barb's home (602 E 5th St, Pine Bluffs) Friday afternoon or evening and she will take them to the bake sale on Saturday. **If anyone can work the bake sale tables on Saturday, please reach out to Barb (307-245-3807) to scheduled a time.**

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.



ATTENTION LAY LEADERS

Message from Melanie Burger who is the Lay Leader at Faith United Methodist Church in Cheyenne. She has taken over as Co-Lay Leader of the Wyoming +1 District. She is new to this position and is required to offer trainings to existing Lay servants as well as others who are interested in learning about becoming a lay ministry team member. She is offering several in-person meetings for those who prefer meeting in person. Each class requires 10 hours of training before the certificates are presented. In keeping with this requirement, she will offer the first **BASIC** class on **February 6th & 7th** at Faith United Methodist Church, 522 E. 6th St., Cheyenne, WY 82007, beginning at 5:30pm and lasting until 8:00pm. She will provide a light meal at the first meeting for all attendees. Class will start promptly at 6:00pm. The session will end at 8:00pm (or sooner). On Saturday she will begin the class at 9:00am. Several breaks will be taken as well as a lunch break. Please bring any snacks you would like to share with the class. To complete the full 10 hours of class-time, Saturday's session will go until 5:00pm. The only cost is for the participant's book which can be purchased at The Upper Room for \$13. The title is **Lay Servant Ministries: Basic Course Participant's Book**. You can also get the book as an e-book for \$9.99 if you prefer. Please let her know asap if you know of someone possibly interested in attending. She is happy to reach out to them. Melanie Burger, CLS, WY District Co-Lay Leader, 307-631-0757, Faith UMC, mburgerwyo@gmail.com.