



# **“THE MESSENGER”**

*Pastor Vicky Martinez*

March 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!*

Rick & Wanda Carpenter  
Bill & Jane Baker  
Family of Joe Baker  
PB Church Family  
Our Country

### Facebook:

[PB United Methodist Church](#)

Facebook Activity: During February 2026, our page received on average, 232 views per day. We also gained 2 new followers in February.

### Website:

Visit our website at:  
[www.umcpinebluffs.org](http://www.umcpinebluffs.org)

## **Honoring our 50 and 60 Year Members**

It is with great pride, and thanks to our Heavenly Father that we honor the following 50 and 60 year members:

Lance Theobald (69 years) and Alice Theobald (66 years), Lloyd Sisson (65 years), Michael Reher (62 years), Sharon Sayers (62 years), Karen Waterman (60 years), Marjorie Harrison Gorman Crecelius (59 years), Lisa Harrison Gardner (52 years), Andrew Redden (52 years) and Barbra Wulf (50 years).

Congratulations to all of you and may we have many more years with you worshipping with your Church.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are looking for volunteers to be liturgist during Worship. The sign-up sheet is passed around during Worship, or you can contact Pastor Vicky. Thank you.



### **MARCH MINISTRIES**

Date: 3/1/2026  
Ministry: Pastor Vicky  
Sermon: “Guided by the Promise”  
Scripture: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

Date: 3/8/2026  
Ministry: Pastor Vicky  
Sermon: “Company for the Journey”  
Scripture: Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11

Date: 3/15/2026  
Ministry: Pastor Vicky  
Sermon: “Journeying in Grace”  
Scripture: Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14

Date: 3/22/2026 – Joint w/Grace @10am  
Ministry: Pastor Vicky  
Sermon: “Redemption Road”  
Scripture: Romans 8:6-11

Date: 3/29/2026  
Ministry: Pastor Vicky  
Sermon: Journey’s End “Marching Orders”  
Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Matthew 21:1-11

### **BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS TID-BITS**

#### Fellowship Times:

8:15am every Sunday

#### Sunday School Times

9:15am every Sunday, unless otherwise posted.

#### Average Attendance February/Week

On-Line 7.75

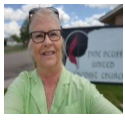
In Person 31.5

#### February Income & Expenses

Tithing: \$4,455.00

Non-Conference: \$5,488.46

Expenses Paid: \$2,247.69



# **PASTOR PONDERINGS**

My friends, we need the promise of Spring's renewal, refreshment and rebirth. Therefore, as we go forward this spring, 2026, it is encouraging that at Pine Bluffs we are looking to update our signage and will be more visible to the community. Goal setting is a critical component for churches, and I am thankful for the leadership in this church that wants what's best for the church while also staying accountable to its members. So in regards to signage, that is just the beginning.

We are also now on our journey of Lent, the church season characterized by sorrow, humility and waiting as we approach Holy Week and Easter. Lent invites us to examine our brokenness and spiritual hunger. It prepares us for Easter by reminding us that we need the Savior, that we are lost without God's grace. We can't save ourselves or fix all our problems. We are dust and ashes, lost and blind without God's mercy. The sorrow and humility of Lent are good for our hearts as they chip away at our pride.

There are times that look bleak and during those times it is appropriate to lament and grieve for the way things "used to be." However, how do we move forward towards anticipation of good things? It is also beneficial to be aware of what's happening in the world. Yet, it is also good to have a balance in your life of what you are taking in and what you are 1) doing about those things, and 2) looking towards something positive. If you are spending your days listening to the 24/7 news channels, you will be disappointed and frustrated with the world. However, if you balance those hours with hours of goodness, you will feel better in your soul. The things that can positively impact your life can look like a walk around a park; listening to Christian Music;

doing something fun with your kids/grandkids; and so much more.

Whether it's your own journey you are focusing on or looking to support others, taking action can lead you towards a happier life. Find a sense of community or belonging. Define what happiness looks like for you. Volunteer and perform random acts of kindness. These are things that can positively engage your Lenten journey.

Just this morning I read Psalm 121 and it began by saying, "*I lift up my eye to the mountains - from where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord...*" When you are feeling those low times and times of doubt, rely on the scriptures and the promises of our loving Savior. And I know at times, that can be a big ask, but God promises and God follows through on those promises.

Spring is coming. Easter is just around the corner. Hope and healing are on the way. We can rejoice as morning dawns over our church, our families, our community and all of God's world. And just as Lent's call to humility is good for our hearts, clinging to the hope of better days can bring us healing. We can let go of some of our anxious thoughts. We can look ahead with joyful anticipation. That's the promise of Spring, and even more, the promise of resurrection. God has good things in store that will renew our rejoicing.



God Bless and Peace to you and yours.



# March 2026

## Church Calendar

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

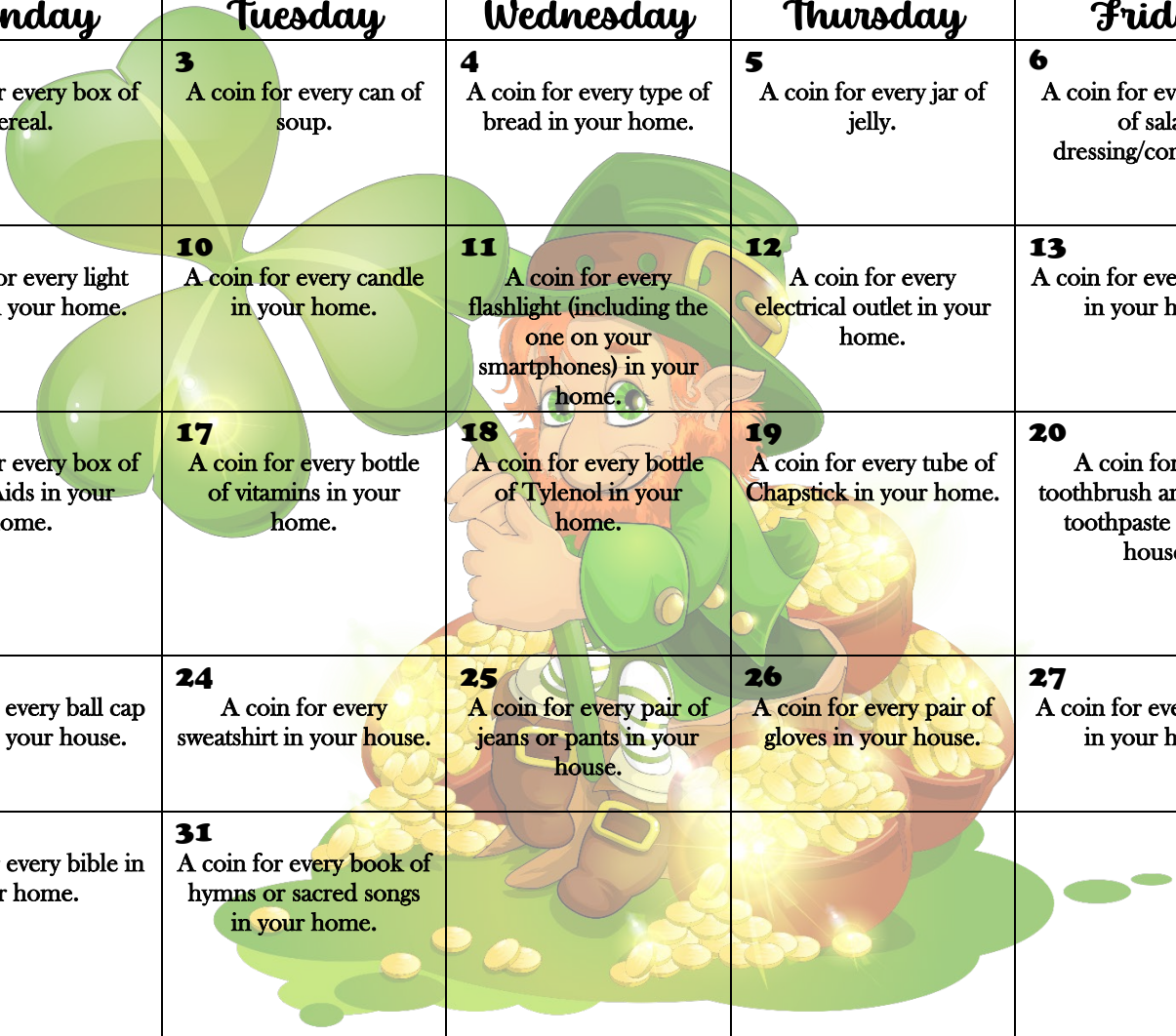
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship/Communion 9:15am Sunday School  (B) Pastor Vicky	2	3	4 12pm Lent Study 5:30pm Trustees	5	6 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L)	7
8 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am UWIF Daylight Savings Time (A) M/M Jerry Anderson	9	10	11 12pm Lent Study 4:30pm Foundation 5:30pm Scholarship	12	13 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L)	14 (A) M/M Kurt Baker
15 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School	16	17 	18 12pm Lent Study	19	20 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L)	21
22 9:15am Fellowship 10am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:15am Sunday Potluck w/Grace @PBUMC	23	24	25 12pm Lent Study  (B) Nolan Jeffres	26 (A) M/M Jim Martinez	27 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L)  (B) Roxie Anderson	28
29 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School   Palm Sunday	30	31				

<p align="center"><b><u>United Women in Faith</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Church Council/Finance</u></b></p>
<p>UWIF will meet after Worship on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am in the Library.</p>	<p>Church Council will hold its first regular meeting of the year on April 15, 2026 at 6:30 in the Library.</p> <p>Finance held its first regular meeting for the year on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Old business on investments was discussed. New business regarding setting up a Janeane Tucker scholarship, online donation system and W9 collection from companies who we hire for work. Finance will meet again on April 15, 2026 at 5:30pm in the Library.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Trustees</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Missions</u></b></p>
<p>Trustees met on February 4<sup>th</sup> and voted to update two toilets in the east bathrooms, one in the men's room and one in the ladies room, which will make them ADA compliant. In addition, the vanity in the men's room will be replaced. They also voted to do a kitchen/fellowship remodel. More information on that will be forthcoming and after the bathrooms are complete. It was also voted on to replace the yard sign at 6<sup>th</sup> and Main to a digital LED sign. Both the sign and kitchen issues will be moved to Council for spending approval. A request has been made to the Foundation for their gracious support of funds for the sign. Trustees will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 for a special meeting and then again on April 1, 2026 at 5:30pm in the Library for their next regular meeting.</p>	<p>Missions for March will continue with our Lenten Coin Calendars with the calendar for March shown below. If you haven't received your Lenten package, please contact Sue Maxted.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Education</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Memorial</u></b></p>
<p>A new television will be purchased and added to the Sunday School room in the basement.</p>	<p>Memorial donations were accepted at the Celebration of Life for Jack Harrison on February 3, 2026 in the amount of \$990.00. These funds were not restrictive in nature and will be designated as Church discretion for a future need of the Church in Jack's memory.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Worship</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Membership</u></b></p>
<p>Worship will hold its first regular meeting of the year on April 8, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Library.</p>	<p>Sue Maxted recently volunteered to take over this committee from Brittney Jolly.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Foundation</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>SPRC</u></b></p>
<p>Recently the church had to replace the furnace on the east side of the building in the utility closet. The total cost was \$4,100. The Church Council put a written request to this board for reimbursement. Foundation met and approved this request, reimbursing the Church for this necessary purchase.</p>	<p>SPRC will hold its first regular meeting of the year on March 25, 2026 at 5:30pm in the Library.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>Lay Leadership</u></b></p>	
<p>No updates for this edition.</p>	

# March 2026

## Coins for Lent Giving Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <u>Pray Today</u> Thank God for shelter. Pray for those who have no place to sleep at night.	<b>2</b> A coin for every box of cereal.	<b>3</b> A coin for every can of soup.	<b>4</b> A coin for every type of bread in your home.	<b>5</b> A coin for every jar of jelly.	<b>6</b> A coin for every bottle of salad dressing/condiment.	<b>7</b> A coin for every jar of peanut butter.
<b>8</b> <u>Pray Today</u> Thank God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food on this day.	<b>9</b> A coin for every light switch in your home.	<b>10</b> A coin for every candle in your home.	<b>11</b> A coin for every flashlight (including the one on your smartphones) in your home.	<b>12</b> A coin for every electrical outlet in your home.	<b>13</b> A coin for every window in your home.	<b>14</b> A coin for every pair of sunglasses in your home/car.
<b>15</b> <u>Pray Today</u> Thank God for love in your life that shines bright. Pray for those who are in darkness and need to feel God's love and grace in their lives.	<b>16</b> A coin for every box of Band-Aids in your home.	<b>17</b> A coin for every bottle of vitamins in your home.	<b>18</b> A coin for every bottle of Tylenol in your home.	<b>19</b> A coin for every tube of Chapstick in your home.	<b>20</b> A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste in your house.	<b>21</b> A coin for every cough drop/throat lozenge in your house.
<b>22</b> <u>Pray Today</u> Thank God for your health. Pray for those who are sick.	<b>23</b> A coin for every ball cap or hat in your house.	<b>24</b> A coin for every sweatshirt in your house.	<b>25</b> A coin for every pair of jeans or pants in your house.	<b>26</b> A coin for every pair of gloves in your house.	<b>27</b> A coin for every T-shirt in your home.	<b>28</b> A coin for every coat or jacket in your closet.
<b>29</b> <u>Pray Today</u> Thank God for clothing that protects you from the elements. Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.	<b>30</b> A coin for every bible in your home.	<b>31</b> A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home.				



## Just for Laughs

A Senior's Version of Facebook: by Helen Werner, unknown author.

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I will walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I will give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them a “thumbs up” and tell them I “like” them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist. 🍷🍷





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**MARCH 2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>SERMON</u></b>	<b><u>SCRIPTURE</u></b>	<b><u>SPEAKER</u></b>
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Renewed in Mercy “Guided by the Promise”	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 / John 3:1-17	Pastor Vicky
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Renewed in Merch “Company for the Journey”	Psalm 95 / Romans 5:1-11	Pastor Vicky
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Renewed in Mercy “Journeying in Grace”	Psalm 23 / Ephesians 5:8-14	Pastor Vicky
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Renewed in Mercy “Redemption Road”	Romans 8:6-11	Pastor Vicky
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Journey’s End “Marching Orders”	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 / Matthew 21:1-11	Pastor Vicky