



“THE MESSENGER”

Pastor Vicky Martinez

May 2026

Pine Bluffs United Methodist Church



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

Editor: Helen Werner

PRAYERS

Jesus, we lift up all these individuals and families to your grace, comfort and love, We ask for your healing all of their hearts and bodies. Amen!

Jolly Family
Dick Fornstrom
Mary Cushing
Alice Theobald
Rick & Wanda Carpenter
Our Country's Leaders
Our Church Family

Facebook:
PB United Methodist Church

Website:
Visit our website at:
www.umcpinebluffs.org

Honoring our 10 and 20 Year Members

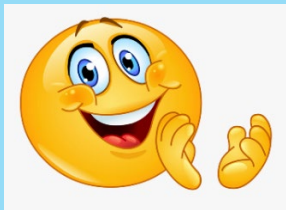
It is with great pride, and thanks to our Heavenly Father that we honor the following 10 and 20 year members:

Rick Wagner (29), Linda Jeffres (29), Wynema Thompson (28), Lindsay Lynch (28), Val Johnson (28), Amy Currie (28), Chelsie Bruckner (28), Heather Sisson (27), Jennifer Nelson (27), Lesley Lipska (27), Hillary Jackson (27), Mary Cushing (27), Kelly Thompson (26), Donna Thompson (26), Ashley Lansden (26), Kyla Gortney (26), Logan Armstrong (25), Janet Waddle (24), Beth Baker (24), Todd Baker (23), Nolan Jeffers (21), David Baker (21), Nick Person (19), Leanne Person (19), Greg Ornelas (19), Bradley Shmidl (12), Ashley Shmidl (12), Michael Shain (12), Torrie Long (12), Kyle Jeffres (12), Hunter Jeffres (12), Roger Brelsford (11).

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

What day is this?
What month?
What date?

What's really worth remembering is just to celebrate.
Be glad and rejoice in this one day the Lord has made!



HONORING GRADUATES

PBHS

Emery Branigan
Raelyn Brelsford
Kaitlynn Schnell

EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE

Kailen Martinez

TID-BITS

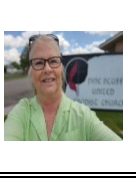
Fellowship Times:
8:15am every Sunday

Worship Time:
9:00 every Sunday

Sunday School Times
9:15am every Sunday, unless otherwise posted.

Graduation Sunday 5/3: We will honor the Seniors with refreshments.

Help is needed to load the Day of Giving items into Sue Maxted's car after Worship on May 3rd.



PASTOR PONDERINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

*a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.” (NIV)*

Hello Dear Friends! The season **HAS BEEN TRYING TO CHANGE** over the last few weeks yet seemingly can't make up its mind! The warmth change though for many of us, is a most welcome one. However, not to be a negative Nellie, but I could do with a little less wind - which season does that fall under? (Oh, yea, it's Wyoming!)

The changes in our weather aren't the only seasons that we experience in our lives. In fact, King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that “for everything there is a season.” I encourage you to read the whole chapter of Ecclesiastes 3 along with this article. Solomon gives many examples of “changing seasons” in that chapter. Here are a few examples: our life in its entirety is but a season in the greater concept of time. There is a planting season and a harvest season, times of sadness and times of laughter, seasons to save and store, and there are times to spend and give. For some of us, the warmer weather isn't the only change of season happening right now. Some in our church families are going to be celebrating graduation; we have graduating seniors in our congregations who are ending this season of life and heading off to college in the fall, and we have college seniors who are graduating and taking jobs somewhere else. Many of you are entering into a time each year that you define as “camping season,” or fishing season.” And there are those

of you who love to get your hands in God's earth and get dirty planting gardens! These are only a few of the ways that our lives change over the course of time, and these kinds of things happen all through life! At the end of his list of seasons in Ecclesiastes 3, though, Solomon says that this is the business God has given to mankind and that he has made everything beautiful in its time. You know, these kinds of changes are often wonderful, but there are also changing seasons that are painful and filled with sorrow. Those seasons can last days or weeks, months or even years! One of the main points of the book of Ecclesiastes is that God is in control through all these seasons of life and that he is good to us. It may not always look like it, but God sees things from a different angle, a better and eternal perspective, and he makes everything beautiful in its time! And I know we are waiting for those positive changes to happen. Because of that, Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 that the best thing for mankind is that in whatever we do in any season do it joyfully, “do good” as long as we live, and take pleasure in our toil or work, whatever it is. He says that this is God's gift to humans. In other words, God's in control so enjoy yourselves! Isn't that kind of a fun thought?! Sometimes changes in our life cause fear. By nature, we don't always like change. If that's you, whether you're graduating from high school or college, sending someone you love off to the military, maybe getting married or maybe having a baby (or thinking about it), moving or retiring, changing jobs, remember that God is in control, he's good to you, and he'll take care of you, so enjoy whatever God has in store for your next season of life! Stay positive, my friends! And may God bless this season, whichever one you find yourself.

In Christ, peace and hope, love, and joy!

Pastor Vicky Martinez

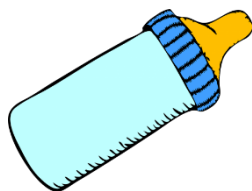


May 2026

Church Calendar

(A) - Anniversary (B) - Birthday (FH) - Fellowship Hall (L) - Library

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group	2 (B) Kurt Baker (B) Lila Lipska
3 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Grad. Sunday	4 (B) Jett Jolly	5  HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO!	6 (B) Ann Lansden (L) 12pm Lent Study	7	8 (B) Nicole Sisson (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group	9 (B) Linda Coffman
10 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School	11	12	13 (L) 12pm Lent Study	14 (B) Todd Baker	15 (B) Pastor Gayle Graves (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group	16 (A) Mr. & Mrs. Craig Johnson
17 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School Pastor Vicky at Spiritual Formation (Billings, MT)	18 Pastor Vicky at Spiritual Formation (Billings, MT)	19 (B) Lloyd Sisson Pastor Vicky at Spiritual Formation (Billings, MT)	20 Pastor Vicky at Spiritual Formation (Billings, MT)	21 Pastor Vicky at Spiritual Formation (Billings, MT)	22 (B) Brittney Jolly 9am Women's Prayer Group - (L) Pastor Vicky at Spiritual Formation (Billings, MT)	23 Pastor Vicky at Spiritual Formation (Billings, MT)
24 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School Memorial Sunday	25  MEMORIAL DAY HONORING ALL WHO SERVED	26	27	28	29 (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group	30
31 10am Worship at Grace, followed by a potluck.						



MAY~JUNE MISSION MOMENT
LifeChoice Baby Bottle Project

Beginning on Mother's Day and concluding on Father's Day, the Missions Committee and the United Women in Faith will partner to raise funds for the LifeChoice Pregnancy Center in Cheyenne, WY. LifeChoice is celebrating 40 years of caring for women and families! They have seen a continued increase in clients seeking their services. Last year, they served 301 clients, a 23% increase over 2024.

LifeChoice provides pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, well women exams, classes, and resources to women, as well as relationship counseling and classes for men.

The LifeChoice volunteer team hopes to distribute 4,000 baby bottles this year. Please join us by taking a baby bottle home and giving what you are able. Every amount helps!

Membership

There have been some questions about what constitutes membership. I will start filling in the blanks as time goes on, but this is the first lesson. If you have more questions, come see me! Pastor Vicky

Types of Membership:

*Confirmation: is the time when youth are provided space to learn about the history of Methodism, what it means to be a United Methodist and to learn about the United Methodist church they are in. The lessons provide information as well as a safe space for youth to bring their curious questions and explore their own faith convictions. There are opportunities for relationship building with other youth as well as adult confirmation mentors. During the course, youth will be engaged in the lessons, exploring their faith and having fun together. Closer to confirmation Sunday, the youth will begin considering whether they are ready to join the church on Confirmation Sunday. This is a personal choice for each youth. As we say every Sunday in our worship services, we believe that whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey or life journey you are welcome.


*Professing Membership - This category includes baptized individuals who have made a public profession of faith and have committed to the church through a formal service. This is often accompanied by confirmation, where individuals affirm their faith and commitment to the church.

*Transfer Membership - You have come to this church via another UMC and just need to have the pastor do a letter of transfer to your prior church.

In addition, for your information, there is a slight difference between being a "member" and "a constituent". You may attend every Sunday, but possibly, have not made the commitment to this church in full membership, i.e. going through a Navigational Membership class with the pastor resulting in full Membership.

The "New Member Class" that was offered at Grace most recently, ran into a few roadblocks along the way, and was not able to meet for regularly scheduled times. Therefore, it was decided to postpone the class until this fall, so stay tuned!

TEAM REPORTS

<u>United Women in Faith</u>	<u>Finance/ Church Council</u>
<p>UWIF met on Sunday, April 12th for a regular meeting and worked on the annual calendar project. Workers are taking orders at this time and the calendar orders are due to be returned May 10th.</p> <p>UWIF will be serving a Celebration of Life reception for the Brown sisters on May 2nd, from 4:00 pm to 5:30. This is an open invitation.</p> <p>On May 3rd we will honor four graduates after Church with a cake reception. Graduates are Emery Branigan, Raelyn Brelsford & Kaitlynn Schnell from PBHS and Kailen Martinez who is graduating with her AAS in Cosmetology from Eastern Wyoming College.</p> <p>The Next meeting will be July 12th in the Library after worship.</p>	<p>Finance met on April 15, 2026 for a regular meeting. An amended Budget was discussed, approved and sent to Church Council for a vote to approve. Treasurer's Report was read and approved.</p> <p>Church Council met on April 15, 2026 for a regular meeting. An amended Budget from Finance was approved. The remodel of the kitchen/fellowship areas were discussed and it was approved on recommendation from the Trustees. A short-term CD which matured on April 19th will be used for the project in the amount of \$63,000. Construction is set to begin shortly after May 3rd. No functions will be scheduled until further notice. Two Resolutions were introduced, one for mandatory W9 collection and another for Records Retention. The W9 Resolution had its first reading on April 15th and the Records Retention will have its first reading on July 15th. Church Council will meet again on July 15, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Library.</p>
<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Missions</u>
<p>Trustees met on April 1st for a regular meeting. The organ in the library was discussed. Currently it is being used as a TV stand. It is a non-working organ and it has been suggested to dispose of it. Several ideas were suggested and are being looked at before deciding on its disposition. Trustees will meet on July 1, 2026 at 5:30pm in the Library.</p>	<p>Missions met on April 8, 2026 for a regular meeting. May and June Mission Moment will be the Life Choice Baby Bottle Project starting on Mother's day, May 10th and ending on Father's Day, June 21st. Baby bottles will be available in the Narthex, please grab one and give what you can. Any amount is appreciated.</p>
<u>Education</u>	<u>Worship</u>
<p>The youth area in the basement has been painted. Please take a moment to go down and take a look. Also, please make sure to thank Sue Maxted for this generous gift. New LED lights will also be installed into this area. Pictures of all the handprints from our kids over the years have been taken for our history. Look for those soon on the website.</p> 	<p>Helen Werner and Sue Maxted with the guidance of Sharon Sayers cleaned out and reorganized the communion closet. Please feel free to take a peek.</p>
<u>Membership</u>	<u>SPRC</u>
<p>Sue Maxted continues working on records organization and filing in the new file room. She is updating the membership book along with creating a new electronic membership database.</p>	<p>Next meeting scheduled for July 29, 2026 where the establishment of policy will be discussed.</p>
<u>Scholarship</u>	
<p>This committee was recently formed in honor of Janeane Tucker. Discussions were held and a recommendation given to Finance to approve \$250,000 currently held in investments be used to set up a scholarship fund with the first scholarship being given in 2027. Finance discussed and this will be moved to Church Council for approval.</p>	

I Learned I Will Never Be The Same

by Bob Gourlay

This little gem was discovered by Sue Maxted during the cleaning of the records room amongst a group of old Mission records. Bob Gourlay participated in a Mission trip to Venezuela as part of the Rock Hill UMVIM Team.

Bob wrote:

In Venezuela I learned about excess...*mine*.

I learned I have more...*than the whole island we stayed on*.

I learned they had more...*than I could possibly ever understand*.

I learned simplicity...*is a blessing*.

I learned that from where God is sitting...*we all look the same*.

I learned that my skill level...*does not matter as much as my desire level*.

I learned I cannot make an economic change in their lives...*but they can in mine*.

I learned about love from people...*who had only love to give*.

I learned why missionaries do...*what missionaries do*.

I learned why beauty is as simple...*as a child's smile*.

I learned candy is just as sweet...*in someone else's mouth*.

I learned there is more to life...*than golf*.

I learned that even old men can learn from children...*who do not speak the same language*.

I learned I needed my passport validated...*with God's entry stamp*.

I learned food to exist is so much better...*than excess food to enjoy*.

I learned why God rested...*on the seventh day*.

I learned how arrogant I must be...*to think I gave them anything*.

I learned how little some people need...*to get by*.

I learned that customs and culture...*are part of God's wisdom*.

I learned that a fellowship of believers feels the same...*here and there*.

I learned sleeping in a one room shanty is different than sleeping in a five-bedroom house...*not worse - but different*.

I learned about sharing...*from those who had so little to share*.

I learned how all beaches...*are not the same*.

I learned that God so loved the world...*that He gave*.

I learned how sacrifice is hard whether you have a little...*or a lot*.

I learned what is meant by being in the world...*and not of the world*.

I learned the true meaning of the parable...*of the widow's mite*.

I learned God is fluent...*in every language*.

I learned why I need reminding from time to time that I am such a small part...*of a much bigger picture and God is the painter*.

I learned that a shovel does not care...*who operates it*.

I learned that poor is not a definition...*only an economic condition*.

I learned why worship...*has no specific time or place*.

I learned why I must never take for granted those things...*I take for granted*.

I learned I will never be the same...*or normal again*.

~~~~~  
May we all continue to learn...*with God's grace*.

## Just for Laughs

Church Bulletin Board Bloopers - Part 2: by Helen Werner, unknown author.

- The associate minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge—Up Yours"
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- The fasting and prayer conference includes meals.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10am. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
- The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.





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




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**MAY 2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

| <b><u>DATE</u></b>     | <b><u>SERMON</u></b>      | <b><u>SCRIPTURE</u></b>                      | <b><u>SPEAKER</u></b> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | “You Know The Way”        | John 14:1-14 (Communion / Graduation Sunday) | Pastor Vicky          |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup>   | “The Story Abides”        | John 14:15-21                                | Pastor Vicky          |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup>   | “So That They May Be One” | John 17:1-11                                 | Pastor Vicky          |
| May 24 <sup>th</sup>   | “Spirit Unbound”          | Numbers 11:24-30                             | Pastor Vicky          |
| * May 31 <sup>st</sup> | “Spirit in Partnership”   | Genesis 1:-2:4a                              | Pastor Vicky          |

\* May 31<sup>st</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and Worship will be at Grace UMC followed by a potluck.

IT: Helen Werner, Karen Waterman, Jim Martinez

Communion Steward: Mary Cushing