

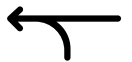
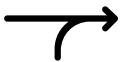
"The Messenger"

June 2026

Pastor Vicky Martinez
Pine Bluffs United Methodist Church

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<u>TID-BITS</u> Why are we so quiet and somber in church? The Bible says - Clap your Hands! I dare you! <u>Psalms 47:1-2</u> Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! For the Lord Most High is awesome. He is a great King over all the earth.	<u>FELLOWSHIP/WORSHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> Fellowship - 8:15 a.m. <i>(every Sunday)</i> Worship - 9:00 a.m. <i>(every Sunday)</i> Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. <i>(every Sunday)</i> Women's Prayer Group - 9:00 a.m. <i>(every Friday)</i> 
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<u>PRAYERS</u> Father God, we lift up all these individuals & families to your grace, comfort and love. We ask that you heal all of their hearts and bodies. Amen! Mary Cushing <i>(her sister Sherry passed away)</i> / Pastor Leslie Matschke <i>(her husband George passed away)</i> Nicole Sisson <i>(knee replacement surgery)</i> / Richard Finley <i>(eye surgery)</i> Family of Rick Carpenter <i>(Rick passed away)</i> / Linda Jeffres <i>(hip replacement surgery)</i> Ruth Tipsworth <i>(hospice care at home)</i> / Brinlee Baker <i>(cyst on tonsils)</i> / Beth Woods <i>(stroke)</i> Jolene and Bob S. <i>(health)</i>, Monique P., Brown Family Casey Hill, Carden Family / Pastor Wanda Denton <i>(assigned to Frontier UMC)</i>, Praise for Moisture, Bill & Jane Baker Pastor Vicky <i>(safe travels to Annual Conference on 6/7)</i>, Casey Hill, Pastor Vicky & Jim Martinez <i>(prayers for their nieces)</i>
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Where in the world is Pastor Vicky? (or Carmen Sandiego if you're reading between the lines!) Not only where have I been, but where am I going – great questions! (In case that got you excited – not in a good way, I'm not going anywhere.)

To begin, let me start with Psalm 100: A Psalm for giving thanks. *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”*

This psalm is solace for my soul. Yet, lately, essentially since January, I have been seemingly surrounded by people dying or people in the process of dying. That's not necessarily a bad thing, because each of these souls has (or will) proceed(ed) to the heavenly realms. And then, add on top of that, as a human, I experience the woes of the world along with others. During times of grief, we are sometimes brought to our knees. Sometimes grief makes us question “what's the point?” and sometimes, grief makes us angry, frustrated, depressed, etc. Even when we know we do not walk alone, that we are God's and he never leaves us or forsakes us, days can be hard.

The first place I've been recently is to the Academy for Spiritual Formation in Billings, Montana. It was a five-day retreat which got to the core of the beliefs that we each hold. It also goes to the core of what's been up with my soul lately. This is a very good thing. I have been feeling like dry bones, and I pray that's not how I've been portraying in ministry, but also, I would not have it that you would see as someone covering up either. I am a realist; however, I try to see and exhibit the positives. Sometimes though, we don't do a very good job of healing ourselves, do we? – that's why we turn to God, which is what I would like to say I know and that's what I've been doing all along (because God can take it) – however, this would not necessarily be honest. What comes to mind are several clichés; “Physician heal thyself;” “fake it till you make it;” “do as I say, not as I do;” and many more just like those.

The Academy (actually Rocky Mountain College) was a place of healing. That's not to say I still don't have work to do because I do and I want to be honest about that. But I know of what I speak and therefore, I can relate to what so many people are going through today. There is a lot of grief around us, but as the Psalm states in this beautiful

song is that we can be assured that we are God's creation and we are his sheep – he is our Shepherd and he is good and his steadfast love lasts forever.

So, I have leaned heavily on God to carry me, in addition to those closest to me (Jim and friends). It's been a stretch of darkness for me, but I see the light – coming out of the tunnel.

I continue on this spiritual journey, and yes, I know some of you don't like the word, “spiritual,” but to me it's better than “religious...” just saying, anyway, next thing then is a seminar, again in Billings, June 7-9 and is called, “Multiplying the Effects of Your Preaching: Preaching as Sacred Exploration.” I will let you know how it turns out, but I'm excited to experience this seminar as a time of learning and retreat.

Then, immediately following that in Billings at the convention center, I will be in attendance at the Mountain Sky Annual Conference. I will see many clergy, some whom I see frequently and other's it will be like “old home week,” because we rarely get to see each other. Pray for the sessions and the time away to be fulfilling and fruitful towards “The Way of Loving Boldly.”

Finally, I want to try something a little different this summer – can you believe as of July 1, I/We have been here in Pine and Cheyenne for two years! I have let our lay leaders know what is going to transpire and they both agree that this will benefit both congregations. That is, I will spend four days during the weeks of summer – rotating the two locations – so four days at Pine Bluffs, then Sunday church to remain the same, and then the following week, I will be in Cheyenne for four days. I believe that this will be a boon to the relationship building process between congregants and me as we build those relationships that we have barely scratched the surface. So, if you would like to invite me (and sometimes Jim) to dinner on Wednesday evenings, that would be great because I will be staying in Cheyenne on those Wednesday nights. (You “Piner's” can invite as well! – Jim and I always appreciate dinner with friends.)

So, there you have it folks, I am being real with you. Stay tuned for more of where I've been and where I'm headed. I hope that you will ride along with me (metaphorically speaking) on this journey towards deeper faith and relationship and pray you can be comfortable and share your real feelings with me. God bless you all!

HONORING OUR 1-9 YEAR MEMBERS	WINDOW TO THE PAST
It is with great pride, and thanks to our Father God, that we honor the following 1 - 9 year members: Addison Perlinski (9), Shannon Perlinski (9), Diane Wise (9), John Wise (9), Mick Branigan (8), Christopher Pace (8), Kortney Windsor (8), Raelyn Brelsford (4), Shawn Shmidl Jr. (4), Abby Werner (4), David Heinert (2), Lisa Heinert (2), Seth Heinert (2), Peyton Lynch (2), Bea Ellenson (1). Congratulations to all of you and may we have many more years with you worshipping at our Church. 	<u>1909:</u> Reverend F.W. Swanson of the Western Swedish Conference came to Pine Bluffs and organized our church in the old schoolhouse, which later was destroyed by fire. The charter members were Mr. & Mrs. Andy Anderson, Cornelius Blodgett, Siesus Blodgett, George Blodgett, S.H. Birdsall, Charles Carlstrum, Christina Carlstrum, Ned Olson, Sarah Olson and Mrs. W.N. Watson. Reverend Swanson began plans for the building of a church at the corner of Main & 6th. Construction began in September. The Methodist Episcopal Church of Pine Bluffs was dedicated in December by Dist. Super. J.A. Gabrielson. According to the memoirs of the late George Carlstrum, he tells of going to a Sunday afternoon meeting held at the building site where the foundation and floor joists were completed. The church still needed \$108 to complete the construction. After members had given all they could afford. C.E. Carlstrum, George's uncle asked him to give \$60 to help out. George did not have the money, but C.E. Carlstrum was willing to advance him the money and take it out of his wages as George was employed by his uncle. George had no expenses or family to support, so C.E. Carlstrum felt George could afford the \$60, a month's wages. George consented and never regretted it.



KITCHEN / FELLOWSHIP HALL REMODEL		
The remodel of the kitchen and fellowship hall areas have begun. The team from PBUMC consists of Helen Werner, Sue Maxted, Mary Cushing and Ann Lansden. We are working together with the designer and contractor. The original designer drawings are shown below. There will only be one countertop microwave and a three-section sink. These drawings do not show the shelves behind the kitchen door, but there will also be cabinets in that area. There are no renderings for the fellowship hall. The work there will include new flooring, new paint, new baseboard and a new built-in buffet where the table sits now, next to the serving counter. The new flooring and new paint will continue into the cubby where the chairs are stored and through the hallways. Also pictured below are two photos of these two areas as they are now. I will be sharing construction and progress photos as we go on this journey. Sue Maxted, Helen Werner and Karen Waterman have cleaned out all the cabinets and will meet again to take down the wall decorations and fellowship hall blinds. We are offering to anyone the following: old steel chairs, old stoves (we have two), dishwasher, microwave, refrigerator and old cabinets - first come, first serve. Anything not taken will be donated to Habitat for Humanity on June 6th.		

2026 *class of*

Congratulations goes out to Raelyn Brelsford, a four-year member of the PBUMC and 2026 graduate of Pine Bluffs High School. Raelyn became a member of the church after completing her confirmation class in 2022. She was honored on May 3, 2026 during Sunday Worship by Pastor Vicky Martinez and the congregation. Sharon Sayers (UWIF) also presented Raelyn with the United Women in Faith Scholarship. Raelyn was selected by the UWIF team from the submitted applications. She plans to further her education at Laramie County Community College where she will pursue a nursing degree in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).



Team Reports

<u>United Women in Faith</u>	<u>Finance / Church Council</u>
UWIF is finishing up on taking orders for the 2026/2027 calendars. If you haven't been contacted, please reach out to Sharon Sayers at 307-245-3625 before June 7th. UWIF continues to partner with Missions for the Baby Bottle campaign which runs through Father's Day. On June 28th during Worship there will be a blessing of baby blankets, prayer bears, prayer shawls, lap robes as well as the baby bottles or other items you wish to have blessed. Please have your items to the church by June 26th so they can be displayed. UWIF will meet at a regular meeting on July 12th at 10:15 am in the library.	Church Council held a special meeting after church on May 17th where the kitchen/fellowship hall remodel was discussed. After additions to the work scope, the budget was increased to \$69,156. Additions include a built-in buffet in the fellowship area, extra cabinets in the kitchen and a three-section sink.
<u>Education</u>	<u>Missions</u>
Sue Maxted and Helen Werner finished cleaning the youth spaces downstairs. The painting was finished. John & Diane Wise and Helen Werner also took down the fluorescent lights in the youth room and hallway and replaced them with new LED panels. Broken ceiling panels were also replaced. A light was also installed in the first room off the hallway. Next on the list is new chairs.	Please help us to welcome Julie Shandera as our newest member. Missions continues to partner with UWIF for the Baby Bottle campaign which runs through Father's Day. Baby bottles are still available in the narthex. Thank you for your support. Missions is partnering with Cornerstone Fellowship church to support Vacation Bible School this summer. We will be providing 25 dozen cookies to make sure every child has a yummy snack to enjoy during the week's fun festivities. VBS will take place June 8-10 at the historic high school. A literacy camp at PB Elementary is scheduled for June 22-25 from 1:00-3:00 each afternoon. If you would like to help, possibilities include financial support, volunteering to help in the classrooms or providing snacks each afternoon. Please contact Lisa Heinert at lisaheinert@gmail.com for more information.
<u>Membership</u>	
Sue Maxted is in the process of creating a database containing available information about the members of Pine Bluffs UMC. She is currently entering data about the members of the 1930's. Here is a little information from 1926: 100 years ago in 1926, 69 new members were welcomed at PBUMC. Twenty-one were received into full membership by Certificate of Transfer. This included those transferring from another Methodist church as well as those from other denominations. Forty-eight were received into full membership by Profession of Faith. Thirty-five members were married while thirty-four were single. Forty-three of the new members were received on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1926.	

Just for Laughs

By: Helen Werner

As most of you know, I prepare the PowerPoint presentations for our Sunday Worships. This includes adding the music slides. To make my job easier, I have started converting the UMH (United Methodist Hymnal) into word documents. It's much easier and efficient to copy and paste from a word document into a PowerPoint slide. While doing this, I came across a page in the hymnal that made me laugh and I wanted to share it with you. Enjoy

Page vii from the United Methodist Hymnal:

I. Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.

II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

III. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.

IV. Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

VI. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

From John Wesley's Select Hymns, 1761

June 2026

Church Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 UWIF/Mission Baby Bottle Campaign CONTINUES	2 PV @ Grace	3 PV @ Grace	4 PV @ Grace	5 PV @ Grace (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group (B) Jim Martinez	6 (A) M/M Mike Reher (B) Raelyn Brelsford
7 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School (A) M/M Nolan Jeffres (A) M/M Rich Finley	8 PV @ Annual Conference VBS @ Old High School w/Cornerstone Church (B) Greg Ornelas	9 PV @ Annual Conference VBS @ Old High School w/Cornerstone Church (B) Chris Pace	10 PV @ Annual Conference VBS @ Old High School w/Cornerstone Church (B) Kay Finlay	11 PV @ Annual Conference	12 PV @ Annual Conference (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group	13 PV @ Annual Conference (B) Helen Werner
14 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School	15	16 PV @ Grace	17 PV @ Grace	18 PV @ Grace (A) M/M Pat Jeffres	19 PV @ Grace (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group	20 (B) Karen Lipska
21 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School UWIF/Mission Baby Bottle Campaign - ENDS	22 (A) M/M Bill Shain (A) M/M Rick Carpenter Literacy Camp @ PBES, 1- 3pm	23 PV @ PBUMC Literacy Camp @ PBES, 1- 3pm	24 PV @ PBUMC Literacy Camp @ PBES, 1- 3pm	25 PV @ PBUMC (B) Sue Maxted Literacy Camp @ PBES, 1- 3pm	26 PV @ PBUMC (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group (B) Peyton Lynch (A) M/M Tyler Jolly	27 (B) Lance Theobald
28 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship 9:15am Sunday School Blessing of the Baby Bottles & Blankets, etc.	29	30				
 Happy ★ FLAG DAY ★						



Pine Bluffs UMC
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JUNE 2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>MESSAGE</u>
June 7 th	To Be A Blessing	Genesis 12:1-9	Pastor Vicky
June 14 th	A Miracle Called Laughter	Genesis 13:1-15	
June 21 st	Hearing the Voice	Genesis 21:8-21	Pastor Vicky
June 28 th	God Will Provide	Genesis 22:1-14	Pastor Vicky

Communion Steward:	Mary Cushing
Music Leader:	Heather Sisson
PowerPoint / Facebook:	Helen Werner, Karen Waterman
Video:	Jim Martinez, Mary Cushing
Website:	Helen Werner