

"The Messenger"

August 2026

Pastor Vicky Martinez
Pine Bluffs United Methodist Church

Editors:

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PB United Methodist Church



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TID-BITS

If you know...you know.

FGSLTWTHGHOBSTWBIHSNPBHEL



FELLOWSHIP/WORSHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fellowship - 8:15 a.m. *(every Sunday)*

Worship - 9:00 a.m. *(every Sunday)*

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. *(every Sunday, except during the Summer)*

5th Sunday (August 30th) Potluck w/Grace @ Pine

Women's Prayer Group - 9:00 a.m. *(every Friday)*



A. S. A. P.
always say a prayer

PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, 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!

Nicole Sisson, Bill and Jane Baker, Calvin Werner, Karen Waterman, Barb Dipple, Alice Theobald, Family of Tim Schindler, Sue's cousin who passed, Julie Butler, praise for recent rain.



Dear friends in Christ, in our world we are often encouraged to focus on what we lack, which makes it easy to overlook the blessings we already have. As Christians, gratitude isn't just an attitude—it's a spiritual practice just like our prayer beads are becoming, and a profound acknowledgment of God's provision and sovereignty. The Bible continually calls us to be thankful, not just in moments of abundance but in all circumstances.

A Heart of Gratitude Is God's Will

In **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, Paul writes, "*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*" This verse doesn't say to be thankful only when things are going well. It challenges us to embrace a posture of gratitude even in trials. Why? Because thankfulness aligns our hearts with God's will and reminds us of his ultimate control over our lives.

It is in our nature to focus on our unmet desires: the promotion that didn't come, the purchase of a home that didn't work out, the relationship that didn't work out, a roommate that doesn't fit, or the healing that hasn't yet taken place. But when we pause to reflect, we see God's faithfulness in our lives. The roof over our heads, the meal on the table, the friends who support us—these are all evidence of God's goodness.

Gratitude Shifts Our Perspective

When we choose to be thankful, we shift our focus from what we don't have to what we do. Gratitude is a powerful cure to dissatisfaction and envy. It helps us see life through the lens of abundance rather than scarcity.

Consider the story of the Israelites in the wilderness. After being miraculously delivered from Egypt, they quickly began to complain about the lack of variety in their diet. In their grumbling, they forgot the miracle of manna God provided every day. Like the Israelites, we too can forget God's blessings when we dwell on what's missing. Choosing gratitude helps us keep his care in view and fosters a spirit of contentment.

Gratitude Draws Us Closer to God

Thankfulness is a form of worship. When we express gratitude, we acknowledge God as the source of every good thing. As James 1:17 reminds us, "*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from God of the heavenly lights.*" When we praise God for what we have, we deepen our relationship with Him, recognizing His hand in every aspect of our lives.

King David exemplifies this in the Psalms. Even when surrounded by enemies, David often began his prayers with thanksgiving, remembering God's past faithfulness. His gratitude strengthened his faith and allowed him to trust God for future victories.

As we continue to venture through the Lord's Prayer, we have our focus trained on beginning the prayer with thanks before moving into needs and/or desires.

How to Cultivate a Thankful Heart

Start Each Day with Gratitude

Begin your day by thanking God for three things. It could be as simple as the gift of life, a sunrise, or a kind word from a friend.

Keep a Gratitude Journal

Write down blessings daily. Over time, you'll see answers to prayer and a pattern of God's provision and faithfulness.

Give thanks to Others

Thank those around you—family, friends, nurses, doctors, coworkers. A kind word of appreciation not only lifts others but also reinforces a thankful mindset.

Pray with Thanksgiving

When bringing requests before God, start by thanking God for what he's already done. This shifts your prayers from a "wish list" to a meaningful dialogue with our Creator.

Choose Contentment

In Philippians 4:11-12, Paul writes about learning to be content in all circumstances. Contentment isn't about denying desires but about trusting God's provision for today while holding hope for tomorrow.

Gratitude in Every Season

Even in difficult seasons, we can find reasons to give thanks. Romans 8:28 tells us, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Trials fine tune our character, draw us closer to God, and reveal his sustaining grace. When we focus on the blessings God has already given us, we cultivate joy, peace, and a stronger faith.

Finally, gratitude is more than a response to blessings—it's a declaration of trust in God's plan and his goodness. As you navigate life, remember that being thankful for what you have is not just an act of obedience but a source of profound spiritual strength.

In gratitude, you will find joy, peace, and a closer connection to the God who loves you beyond measure. Let your thankfulness be a light to others, pointing them to the infinite goodness of our Heavenly Father.

Peace and love in Christ, Pastor Vicky



WINDOW TO THE PAST

1911 - In September the church became part of a circuit with two other points, Golden Prairie and Pleasant Hill. Reverend F.G. Hilbers was appointed for a short period until A.D. Burkett became pastor of the Church until 1912.

1912 - Reverends Lester Black and Oliver C. Jones served as pastor during 1912.

1913 - In September the church's first ordained Methodist minister was Reverend Edwin Bowling and who was later appointed the District Superintendent. He served as pastor of the Church until 1916 when Reverend U.M. Creath became pastor.

1917-1920 - Reverend B.L. McFarland and Reverend O.E. Johnson served as pastors.

1924 - Construction began on the new brick church located just west of the cement block church.

1925 - April 26, 1925 the new brick building was dedicated by Bishop Charles Mead with Reverend E.R. Houck, who was appointed in 1921. The cement blocks from the old church were used in the construction of a new building at 4th & Main Street. This was the old library and Royal Neighbors Hall.



Our Church in 1911



KITCHEN / FELLOWSHIP HALL REMODEL

I am happy to announce that the remodel of the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall has been completed. After a month of hammers and saws, the work was completed on July 21st with only a few fixes needing to be done. With soft blue walls, beautiful light wood grain LVP floors, beautiful gray cabinets, white countertops with subtle veining, new lighting in the kitchen and new appliances, the transformation is amazing. We can't wait to host our first event, which will be the UWIF Annual Pie Social on August 1st from 10:30am to 2:30pm. Here are the before and after pictures.....



Team Reports

Trustees	Finance / Church Council
Trustee's met on July 1, 2026 for a regular meeting. Removal of the two water fountains was discussed. Trustees hired Dave Steege to remove only the fountain on the eastside at this time. Dave will also remove the old sink in the utility closet and install a water softener/filtration system. Trees at the parsonage and church were discussed. Pastor Vicky said they lean when the wind is high. John looked at the trees and agreed. JV Tree Service from Greeley, CO came and gave us a couple options. The Trustees voted by email to remove two pine trees in the front of the parsonage and a pine tree in the back yard. All trees removed will be replaced with new trees. The small pine tree in front of the sanctuary will be trimmed up. John is going to put forth a proposal to the Foundation to replace all exterior and interior doors on the eastside and replace the fluorescent lights in the Fellowship Hall with LED. The next Trustee meeting will be held on October 7, 2026.	Finance met for a regular meeting on July 15, 2026 for a regular meeting. Helen Werner gave the Treasurer's report. The Janeane Tucker United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund was discussed. It was agreed to keep it under the current Church tax ID and not create a separate entity. Further discussions will take place on this issue once all information is gathered and discussed by the scholarship team. The next Finance meeting will take place on October 14, 2026. Church Council met for a regular meeting on July 15, 2026. The approved Treasurer's report from Finance was also approved. New business was discussed where it was agreed to leave the current 11 month CD in tact for another term. Helen will inform PWCB to roll it over in October. Church Council approved the spending for the tree removal presented by John Wise, Trustee Chair.
Missions	Membership
At our meeting on Tuesday, July 21st we decided to participate in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry again this year. Last year, we packed 84 shoeboxes which went to children in the African nation of Benin. August Mission Moment: We will be collecting school supplies for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Lists of suggested items will be available as well as sample items.  	Sue is currently entering data about the members of the 1960s in the new membership database. Here is a little information from 1956 and 1966! 70 Years Ago - In 1956, 29 new members joined the Pine Bluffs United Methodist Church. 10 members were received by <i>PF - On Profession of Faith</i>, 7 members by <i>CT - Certificate of Transfer</i>, and 12 members by <i>PM - From Preparatory Membership</i>. Robert P. Markham was the Pastor at that time. 60 Years Ago - In 1966, Pine Bluffs UMC welcomed 29 new members including our very own Karen Waterman! Karen McDowall, member #870, was received on April 17, 1966 by <i>PF - On Profession of Faith</i>. A.L. Kongable was the Pastor.
United Women in Faith	
UWIF met on July 12, 2026. The calendars for the coming year were delivered. Karen Waterman and Sharon Sayers met in the library and sorted them into delivery groups. The annual Pie Social was also discussed.	

Just for Laughs

By: Helen Werner

Theology as Explained by Children

- ❖ The first book of the Bible is Guinness, in which Adam & Eve were created from an apple tree.
- ❖ Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.
- ❖ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.
- ❖ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- ❖ Unleavened bread is bread made without ingredients.
- ❖ Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 commandments.
- ❖ The 7th commandment is "Thou shalt not admit adultery."
- ❖ Joshua let the Hebrew in the battle of Geritol.
- ❖ David fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
- ❖ Solomon has 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- ❖ Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- ❖ The people who followed Jesus were call the 12 decibels.
- ❖ The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.
- ❖ One of the opossums was St. Matthew.
- ❖ Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- ❖ A Godly person should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

Out of the Mouths of Babes



August 2026

Church Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 (FH) 10:30am UWIF Pie Social 
2 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship	3 (B) Shannon Shain	4 VBS @ Grace PV @ Grace	5 VBS @ Grace PV @ Grace	6 VBS @ Grace PV @ Grace	7 (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group PV @ Grace	8
9 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship	10	11 PV @ Grace	12 PV @ Grace	13 PV @ Grace	14 (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group PV @ Grace	15
16 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship (B) Pam Wiggam	17	18 PV @ Pine	19 PV @ Pine	20 PV @ Pine	21 (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group PV @ Pine	22 (B) Donald Herman
23 8:15am Fellowship 9am Worship (B) Rachel Manley	24	25 PV @ Grace (B) Michael Shain	26 PV @ Grace	27 PV @ Grace	28 (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group PV @ Grace	29
30 9:15am Fellowship 10am Worship 11am Potluck w/Grace @ Pine	31			American Roots and Cowboy Boots		



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AUGUST 2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>MESSAGE</u>
August 2 nd	Petition	James 5:13-16 - Luke 5:15-16	Pastor Vicky
August 9 th	Pardon	Colossians 3:12-14 - Mark 11:25	Pastor Vicky
August 15 th	Protection	Psalm 121 - Matthew 21:6-9	Pastor Vicky
August 23 rd	Speaker's Choice	Speaker's Choice	Pastor Vicky
August 30 th	Persistence	Ephesians 6:14-18 - Luke 22:66-71	Pastor Vicky

* August 30th will be our 5th Sunday Worship with Grace UMC at Pine Bluffs at 10:00am with a potluck following worship.

Communion Stewards:	Mary Cushing, Diane Wise, Linda Coffman, Roxie Anderson
Music Leader:	Heather Sisson
PowerPoint / Facebook:	Helen Werner, Karen Waterman
Video:	Jim Martinez, Mary Cushing
Website:	Helen Werner