

"The Messenger"

September 2026

Pastor Vicky Martinez
Pine Bluffs United Methodist Church

Editors:

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PB United Methodist Church



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TID-BITS

During Sunday School, little Emma was asked, "Why do we say 'Amen' at the end of prayers?" Emma thought for a moment and said, "Because it's like pressing 'Send', so God gets the message."



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)*

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!

Bill and Jane Baker, Karen Waterman, Barb Dipple, Alice Theobald, Julie Butler, Linda Coffman, Marjorie Gorman, praise for continued rain.



John 21:9-19: “When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ... When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” ... After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Have you ever given much consideration to John 21:9-19? I was in Estes Park last weekend and I had the opportunity to worship at the United Methodist Church there and it was lovely!

Pastor Ann preached on the above scripture and some of what she gave her message on was specifically the “charcoal fire” moment. So, I’m borrowing some of what she said. This is sort of a moment of truth – the burning charcoal – it could indicate a time of distress and or comfort for the disciples.

Peter comes ashore after having spent an extremely long night catching fish. When he arrives at the shore, Jesus has a charcoal fire going and he tells Peter to go bring some fish.

Then he asks all the disciples to come eat breakfast – [Jesus cooked!] and the disciples were struck that Jesus cared enough about them to feed them. However, he fed Peter specifically before he could ask Peter some pointed questions because as you may know, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times – and that’s big.

Looking at how Peter has acted in the past, he was probably thinking that Jesus was going to give him a good tongue lashing – this is a charcoal moment – something

like, “Peter, how could you!” But no, he asks Peter to partake with food first. This is us on our worst day isn’t it? We think and believe that we are who we are overall on our worst days – not so. Don’t get me wrong Jesus notices us all the time but doesn’t measure who we are by those bad days. God doesn’t rub our failures in our faces. Shame is destructive as we may feel shame from past incidences. Guilt is also possessive as is believing that we are “not enough.”

But that’s not how God views our days or us. No God is all about giving us mercy when we don’t even deserve it – giving us grace in the same way. We are restored because that’s who Jesus is.

He comes back to Peter three times and asks Peter if he loves him – “Peter do you love me?” and gives Peter three different answers: “Feed my lambs;” “Take Care of my sheep;” and “Feed my Sheep.” Overall the same message though. It’s almost as though he’s putting the ownness on Peter so Peter knows what is expected of him. Therefore, knowing that he can trust Peter from here on out to do exactly that – caring for God’s people. This is a good example of discipleship for all of us.

When we carry around “charcoal fire moments,” we think the worst and let those moments be defining for us. However, Jesus puts the fires out when he gives us the mercy and grace that we long for.

So, I ask you, my friends, what “charcoal fire moments” are you carrying around with you? Can you give those to God today knowing that you are forgiven and that you are a child of God and are always welcome at the table?

May peace be with you!

Pastor Vicky



WINDOW TO THE PAST

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.

1925-1945

The following pastors were appointed to our Church, Reverend Orman Kling, Reverend H.E. Shepard, Reverend W.H. Stevens, Reverend William Wade, Reverend Samuel Grove, Reverend Davis Gregg, District Superintendent Hardesty, and Llewellyn J. Gordon.

1944-1945

Egbert and Pleasant View Churches of the Carpenter circuit were added to our local charge conference.

1946-1947

Remodeling of the church sanctuary and construction of a new addition began while Reverend William Reilly was the pastor. June 18, 1947 was the dedication for the Hammond organ donated by the M.L. Larson Family.

1948-1950

August 8, 1948, Reverend Warren Dirks was appointed pastor of the church. Completion of the remodeling of the sanctuary and construction of the new addition were completed. February 12, 1950, Bishop Glenn Phillips held a dedication for the remodeled sanctuary and new addition. Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Carlstrum donated the Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane stained glass window and the collection plates. The W.H. Harrison family donated all the new pews.

1951-1962

Reverends Llyod Kellams, Paul Spear, Robert Markham, Joe Baer, and Robert Johnstone served as pastors.

1962

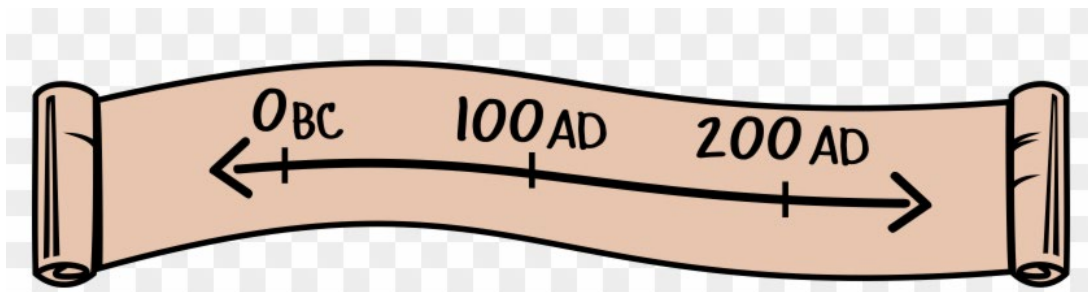
Reverend Jack Rich served as pastor. The educational wing was constructed, consisting of a fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms. In May, the Egbert church united with the Pine Bluffs Church.

1964

May 24, 1964, Bishop Phillips dedicated the new educational wing. District Superintendent Kreps, Reverend A.L. Kongable who served until 1970 and former pastors Grove, Dirks and Rich assisted. The Egbert Church donated their church bell to the Pine Bluffs Church.

1968

In April the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church merged and our church became the United Methodist Church.





SEPTEMBER MISSION MOMENT

Operation Christmas Child - Toys and 'WOW' Items



- Soccer ball with pump
 - Action figures
 - Doll
 - Stuffed animal
 - Musical instrument
 - Small tool sets
- Flashlight with extra batteries
 - Jewelry and watches
 - Toy cars and trucks
 - Small Lego sets
 - Jump ropes
 - Yo-yos and Slinkys
 - Small games (Checkers, cards, etc.)
 - Coloring and picture books
 - Silly putty or sculpting clay
 - T-shirts, socks, baseball caps, sunglasses



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* Remember, all items must be able to fit in a shoebox!

** Please, **NO** war-related items (ex. toy guns or soldiers).

*** You can also contribute a cash donation to help with shipping (\$10/box).

September 2026

Church Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 • PV on Vacation (B) Pam Shmidl	2 • PV on Vacation	3 • PV on Vacation	4 • L 9am Women's Prayer Group • PV on Vacation (A) M/M Roger Brelsford	5 • PV on Vacation
6 • 8:15am Fellowship • 9am Worship • PV on Vacation (B) Lyle Sheets	7 • PV on Vacation (B) Seth Heinert Happy Labor Day	8 • PV on Vacation	9 • PV on Vacation	10 • PV on Vacation (A) M/M Seth Heinert	11 • (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group • PV on Vacation (B) Oliva Shmidl	12 • PV on Vacation
13 • 8:15am Fellowship • 9am Worship	14	15 • PV @ PB	16 • PV @ PB	17 • PV @ PB	18 • (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group • PV @ PB	19
20 • 8:15am Fellowship • 9am Worship (A) M/M Wayne Werner (B) Marjorie Gorman	21	22 • PV @ Grace	23 • PV @ Grace (B) Rich Finley	24 • PV @ Grace	25 • (L) 9am Women's Prayer Group	26
27 • 8:15am Fellowship • 9am Worship (B) Sally Brelsford (B) JW Jolly	28 (B) Carol Macy	29 • PV @ PB	30 • PV @ PB		Autumn is GOD'S WAY OF SHOWING us how BEAUTIFUL change can be. 	



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SEPTEMBER 2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>MESSAGE</u>
September 6 th	Lessons in Leadership “Power”	Exodus 1:8, 2:10, Matthew 16:13-20	L. Cook-Ludwig
September 13 th	Lessons in Leadership “Acceptance”	Exodus 3:1-15, Matthew 16:21-28	Pastor Vicky
September 20 th	Lessons in Leadership “Conflict”	Exodus 12:1-14, Matthew 18:15-20	Pastor Vicky
September 27 th	Lessons in Leadership “Grace”	Exodus 14:19-31, Matthew 18:21-35	Pastor Vicky

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