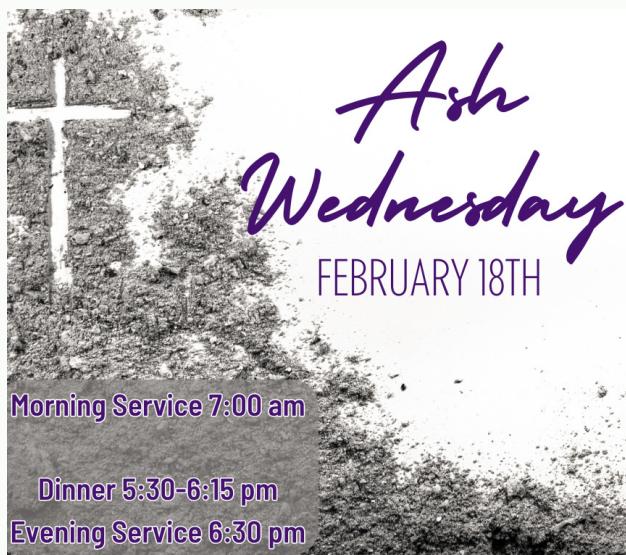


Memorial Methodist Church

105 East E St

February 2026



A Journey of Grace: Walking Through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

The Christian calendar offers a sacred rhythm that draws believers into the unfolding story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Among its most profound moments are Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Together, these interconnected observances guide followers through a journey of introspection, confession, pardon, renewal, and ultimate joy. They move from the depths of human frailty and brokenness to the heights of redemption and eternal hope through the resurrection of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a forty-day season of preparation for Easter(excluding Sundays). On this day, followers receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross, accompanied by the solemn words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This ritual is a poignant reminder of human mortality and the brokenness caused by sin. The ashes symbolize repentance and the desire to turn back to God, while the act of worship on Ash Wednesday invites a posture of humility and self-examination. It sets the tone for the Lenten journey, calling followers to acknowledge their desperate need for God's mercy and grace.

Lent is inspired by Jesus' forty days of fasting and testing in the wilderness. It is a season of spiritual discipline and renewal, inviting followers to embrace practices such



as fasting, prayer, and acts of charity. These disciplines, deeply rooted in John Wesley's emphasis on practical holiness, are not meant to be empty rituals but pathways to deeper intimacy with God. For Wesley, spiritual disciplines were tools for what he described as "scriptural holiness," leading followers toward the ultimate goal of entire sanctification. Similarly, Lent calls followers to examine their lives, confront the sin that separates them from God, and seek restoration through grace.

Lent culminates with Holy Week, which immerses followers in the pivotal events of Jesus' passion. Beginning with Palm Sunday, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the week progresses through Maundy Thursday, marking the Last Supper and Jesus' demonstration of servant hood in washing His disciples' feet. Good Friday brings the solemn reflection on the crucifixion, inviting followers to meditate on the weight of sin and the depth of Jesus' sacrificial love. The Wesleyan emphasis on grace resonates deeply here, as Holy Week highlights both the gravity of human sin and the unmerited grace that brings redemption.

Easter Sunday, the culmination of this journey, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and His victory over sin and death. It is a day of unparalleled joy, proclaiming the fulfillment of God's redemptive promise. The empty tomb stands as a testament to the hope of eternal life and the transformative power of Jesus' resurrection. Easter is a reminder that the despair of Good Friday is not the end of the story. It proclaims God's power to bring life from death, light from darkness, and hope from despair. For John Wesley, the resurrection was not only the cornerstone of Christian faith but also the foundation for a life of active discipleship. Followers of Jesus are called to live as "Easter People," embodying the hope and light of the risen Christ in their everyday lives.

This journey is not merely an annual observance but an invitation to ongoing transformation. It calls followers of Jesus to walk with Jesus through the wilderness, journey to the cross, and encounter the empty tomb, emerging with hearts renewed and lives forever changed. As John Wesley often emphasized, no single part of the journey should be skipped, for each step – repentance, renewal, and resurrection – is vital to the Christian walk. In this sacred rhythm, the seasons of Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter become more than markers on a calendar; they become a way of life, continually drawing followers closer to God and deeper into the mystery of His grace.

Pastor Jeff Kelley



How WORD Shaped My Walk with God

WORD has played a foundational role in shaping my spiritual journey, and that is what I want to share with you tonight. My journey of faith has been rooted in learning how to build a real, personal, and honest relationship with God. Through meaningful conversations in WORD—asking questions, sharing doubts, wrestling with uncertainty, and speaking openly and honestly with God—I began to understand that faith isn't about having everything figured out or following a set of rules perfectly. Instead, I learned that faith is about relationships. It's about connection—with God and with one another.

As I reflect on my life, I can clearly see how God used WORD during some of the most formative seasons I've experienced. I graduated high school, went on to college, enrolled in a challenging and demanding program, graduated college, and am now working in my dream job. In each of these seasons, the conversations and relationships formed in WORD helped shape my spiritual walk in ways I didn't fully realize at the time. We talked openly about doubts, struggles, prayer, and what it truly looks like to live out our faith in everyday life. Hearing others share their struggles and questions reminded me that I wasn't alone. Their honesty gave me permission to be vulnerable about where I was spiritually and encouraged me to seek God more personally and authentically.

Through these conversations, my faith shifted. It became less about having the “right answers” and more about trusting God, even when things didn't make sense. I learned that faith is not something you arrive at, but something that grows step by step. My friends challenged me to think differently, pray more intentionally, and lean into God during moments of confusion or uncertainty. They helped me recognize God's presence not just in church or structured faith settings, but in everyday moments—through friendships, responsibilities, and challenges. I am deeply grateful for how God used these relationships to strengthen my faith and shape who I am today. They reminded me that faith grows best when we walk through it together.

The conversations we shared in WORD pushed me to reflect more deeply on who God truly is and how He works in my life. I learned that it's possible to struggle with faith while still trusting God at the same time. Instead of pulling away during moments of doubt, I learned how to lean into prayer and scripture, even when I didn't fully understand what God was doing. Over time, my faith became more personal and more intentional. I also came to realize that our relationship with God grows over time. As my experiences changed and my life evolved, my understanding of God and my dependence on Him deepened.

Y o u t h M i n i s t r y

There were seasons when my relationship with Jesus was tested, especially during school. At one point, school consumed nearly all of my time—studying, hands-on practice, preparing for practicals, and trying to maintain some sense of normalcy with friends and my boyfriend outside of school. It became difficult to prioritize my walk with Jesus, and I felt that tension deeply. But even then, God remained faithful. During that time, I also found an incredible church, and I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to find a church community wherever life takes you. Many of our conversations in W.O.R.D. during my senior year focused on how to sustain our faith when familiar leaders, mentors, and friends are no longer physically present, and how to continue walking with God independently.

Having a good connection with God in college can be a steady anchor during a season of big changes, new freedoms, and lots of questions about who you are becoming. College life can get busy and loud, and it's easy to feel pulled in a hundred different directions, but intentionally spending time in prayer, Scripture, and worship helps keep your heart centered on what truly matters. A strong relationship with God gives you peace when stress hits, clarity when you're unsure of your next step, and comfort when you feel lonely or overwhelmed. It also shapes your friendships, priorities, and choices in ways that lead to deeper joy and purpose. Staying connected to God in college isn't about being perfect, it's about returning to Him again and again, trusting that He is walking with you through every class, every late night, and every new chapter ahead.

As I've grown, I've come to see God less as someone distant and more as someone who walks with me every single day, through school, stress, relationships, and decisions about the future. I've learned that God often speaks not through dramatic signs, but through quiet moments, conviction, and peace. These experiences have taught me to listen more closely, trust more deeply, and rely more fully on Him.

My journey with God is still ongoing, but I've learned that faith grows through honesty, patience, and surrender. God has used conversations and relationships to deepen my understanding, but the greatest growth has come from choosing, daily, to pursue a personal relationship with Him. I've learned to rely on God not only when life feels overwhelming, but in every part of my life. And I continue to trust that He is faithful, present, and working, even when I can't yet see the full picture.

Jaci Myers

Children's Ministries

A common verse to memorize and write on our hearts is “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16. Our preschoolers can even recite this (thanks Traci & Bryn!). As we worked through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, I urged the kids not to let the fact that they “know” the story gloss over the incredible act and its meaning for each of us. That holds true for this verse, may each of you meditate on it, feel its power, love, and meaning for your life. Talk about the best valentine!!! As February unfolds, we will be learning about Jesus’ days after the resurrection. Thank you for praying for the kids, our teachers and volunteers. Lessons for the month of February are as follows:

Feb. 1 & 4 -Jesus Appeared to the Disciples Luke 24:36-49

Feb 8 & 11 -Jesus Appeared to Thomas John 20:24-29

Feb 15 & 25 -Jesus Forgave Peter John 21:1-19

W.O.W.



Little Blessings Preschool



“Love your neighbor as yourself” Matthew 22:39 is our Bible verse this month.

We get to make Valentines for our loved ones and friends this month and have a Valentines Day Party.

We are working on rhymes, opposites, letter families, and writing words in the afternoon class. The morning class is mastering writing their names and letters, learning number names and number correspondence.

We also get to take a trip to the dentist office in February.

Here are some pictures we took when we had our Mom's come for “Muffin's with Mom”.

Blessings,
Traci Wiemers

Small Group Leaders Needed - Psalm 23 Small Group Study

As staff begins to plan for a Psalm 23 themed VBS we want to offer something for the adults as well! This month we will be looking for small group leaders for a 6 week small group study that will begin the second week of March on the topic of Psalm 23. Small groups can meet any day of the week and can be held in homes or within the church. We are looking for at least 10 leaders. If you are already leading a group please consider doing this church wide small group study. Contact Kelli Jensen or Pastor Jeff if you are willing to lead!

WE'RE HIRING!

JOIN THE COMECA TEAM

EXPERIENCE CHRIST
IN CAMP MINISTRY



COMECA
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

Upcoming Events

SUNDAYS

Worship Services | 8:45 & 10:45 am
Sunday School | 9:50-10:40 am
Adult Sunday School | 10-10:40 am
Nursery | Infants-PK | 8:30 am-12 pm
3Sixteens | 6-12th | 6 pm

MONDAYS

Praise Band Rehearsal | 7 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Men's Bible Study| 6:30 am
Women's Bible Study | 9 am
W.O.W. | PK- 8th | 6-7:30 pm
W.O.R.D. | 9-12th | 7 pm

THURSDAYS

Community Supper | 5:30 pm

SATURDAYS

Men's Bible Study | 7 am

MEETINGS

February 12 | Trustee meeting | 7pm
February 10 | Care Team meeting | 9:30 am
February 10 | Ad Council meeting | 5:30 pm
February 12 | MMW meeting | 1:30 pm

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Articles Due

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

February 8 | One Service 10 am
Youth led service | Soup served after service

VALENTINES FOR SHUT-INS

February 8 | 2 pm | Meet at the church

LITTLE BLESSINGS WINTER BREAK

February 16 | No School

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18
Morning Service | 7 am
Dinner | 5:30-6:15 pm
Evening Service | 6:30 pm

YOUTH BREAKFAST

February 22
Between services in the Fellowship Hall

TAKE N' BAKE

Youth Spring Fundraiser
February 22 | Pickup at church | 12-6 pm

YOUTH SKI TRIP

March 5-8 | Snowy Range Centennial, WY

Thank you for reading!

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