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# Messenger

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P. O. Box 444, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a forty-day season of preparation for Easter (excluding Sundays). On this day, believers 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 believers to acknowledge their desperate need for God's mercy and grace.

Wednesday, February 18, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. As part of our observance, we will have two **Ash Wednesday Services, 8 a.m. in the chapel and 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.** Come join us as we enter into the season of Lent and look forward to all that Jesus did for us through Good Friday and Easter.



Lent is a great season to do uncomfortable, or even painful things, to grow in our virtues of self-denial, patience, and forbearance. For Lent this year, I have decided to lead my first book study here. It will be on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. The book is 'Rich Church, Poor Church' by J. Clif Christopher of Horizons Stewardship Ministry ([www.horizons.net](http://www.horizons.net)). Early in ministry, I was blessed to attend a couple trainings that Horizons offered for religious leaders. Most people in general, but especially clergy, are insecure about money and how it ties to faith. As with most things, the insecure place is quite important. That is why Jesus warns: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" and warns against the love of money and the corrosive nature of 'mammon.' I found that, as I spent time submitting to the guidance of Mr. Christopher and his team, my insecurity largely dissipated. Despite having served five small churches in declining rural contexts, the Lord has blessed every ministry in myriad ways, including financially. This is largely because of the training I received from Horizons.

Now, the purpose of the church is not to be financially successful, but rather to be faithful. Even so, these things are often related. This book is a series of short chapters, both practical and biblical, designed for believers to assess their relationships with money, with scarcity, with transparency and communication. It is an easy read, engaging for both the layman and the expert. It has implications, both for individuals and their families, but also for the wider church. This book was a large blessing to me and the churches I led. If you join me, we will cover a chapter or two at a time over the course of these six weeks of Lent. My prayer for those who join is that you will be equipped for every good work in every part of your life, including and especially in your finances. Pray about joining me. If you are interested, please let me know by Monday, February 16 so that I can order a book for you. You can reach me at [pastor.rickman@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.rickman@gmail.com) or at 918-418-7858.

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Lent isn't in the scriptures, but it is a tradition with much wisdom to offer. It is a time to call people who have fallen away back into the fold. It is a time for us to cleanse and purge our lives of those stains that we have shamefully allowed. It is a time to intentionally remove comforts and crutches so that we can train ourselves to lean more upon the Lord. Ash Wednesday begins that journey with a public act: receiving the mark of the cross on our foreheads. It is a cross of ashes. The cross is an "emblem of suffering and shame." It is a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles (1 Cor. 1:23). The cross, and our lifestyle of self-denial and humility, has been a persistent public witness in the world. Bearing the cross as a symbol upon our foreheads is a public mark, not only of our intention to practice a season of self-denial, but also publicly associating ourselves with the cross of Christ. It isn't a prideful thing; it is a sign of humility and submission. That's why I'm offering the early Ash Wednesday worship opportunity. If you want to go about your day with the cross on your forehead, reminding all you encounter to "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," then consider making your trip over to the church chapel this Wednesday at 8:00 AM. And of course, we will offer the normal evening service as well. Pray about observing Lent in earnest with us this year. May it be a blessing to you.

# February

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service  
9:50 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. Youth

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED/HOLIDAY

## TUESDAY, February 17

5:30 p.m. Worship Committee  
6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9-12 noon Methodist Market

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

16. Allison Coulton  
Brenda Oakes

20. Hubert Hatfield  
Amanda Canard

21. Frank Webb



## *Davis Gary*

Millie Philllips  
M/M Clayton Swayze II  
M/M Bryan Jones III  
M/M Bill Link  
M/M Herbie Kirk

## *Ted Webb*

Kim McMaster  
M/M Walter Patterson

## *Howard Webb*

M/M Bill Link

YAZOO METHODIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

presents

## SEEDS OF FAITH



JEREMIAH 17:7-8

**Saturday, February 28**

**First Methodist Yazoo Church Sanctuary**

**9:00 - 1:00**

REGISTRATION AND LIGHT BREAKFAST FROM 8:30 - 9:00  
LUNCH INCLUDED

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE DUE BY FEBRUARY 14  
ONLINE: @FMCYAZOO.ORG OR CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE

**A day filled with devotion, worship, and fellowship.**

**WELCOMING RHONDA RICHARDSON**

WORSHIP LEADER AND SPEAKER

CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED

## SUGGESTED DISCIPLINES FOR LENT 2026

1. Instead of watching that television show which probably has no spiritual value, call some lonely, elderly, or sick person.
2. Write a daily or weekly note to encourage different persons during the Lenten season.
3. Look for positive attributes in your “sandpaper” person. Intentionally pray for those persons with whom you have problems or even ones whom you think may dislike you.
4. Surrender negative talk. Let your speech be soft and gentle. Cultivate a life of gratitude.
5. Sacrifice pleasure reading for spiritual reading. Spend more time reading the Bible. Learn to meditate on scriptures.
6. Commit scripture to memory. Memorize a verse or verses each day, week, or other established time frame.
7. Set aside quiet time with God!
8. Purchase only essentials for yourself. Give the money saved to someone in need or to some other Kingdom-of-God cause.
9. Discipline your eating habits. Eat for fuel and not for fun or pleasure. Omit in-between-meal snacks.
10. Do a John Wesley fast one day a week. (This would be water only until 3:00 p.m.)
11. Do a partial fast (liquids only) for a day, two days, three days, or even a week.
12. Add some type of physical activity to your day/week.
13. Schedule fasting from cell phone use and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or other forms of social media.
14. All fasts should be accompanied by prayer, study, or service.
15. Volunteer your service where you discover needs such as Manna House.
16. Develop trigger points for prayer. For instance, say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your email. Before you text someone, pray for them.



5K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

For the month of February, we begin Unit 3 in our *HeartShaper* curriculum entitled, ***Jesus is Our Example.***

Our lessons for each Sunday are as follows:

February 15 - "Jesus and Zacchaeus"

February 22 - "Jesus and a Woman Needing Forgiveness"

March 1 - "Jesus and a Man Who is Paralyzed"



4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

For the month of February, our upper elementary Sunday School will begin Unit 3- ***Salt and Light of Gospel Light's -The Edge.***

The lesson are as follows:

February 15 - "Let Your Light Shine"

February 22 - "City on a Hill"

March 1 - "Good Deeds"

### **HISKIDZ/W.O.W. WEDNESDAY**

W.O.W. Wednesday Bible Study has resumed. Children in grades 5K-6<sup>th</sup> meet on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. for Children's Bible Study. We study and craft through Bible stories, and if time permits, we play a game. Supper is provided at 6:15 p.m. before dismissing.

### **Kingdom Quest**

Beginning Sunday evening, February 15, at 6:00, we will have a Middle School Boys Bible Study for grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. The study by Tony Evans will be led by Craig Prevost and Jason Patterson. Our young boys will learn how to grow spiritually in their faith, character, and integrity.

We are excited to start this 7-week study that will last through the month of March.

### **Youth Bible Study and Small Group**

Youth Bible Study has resumed for the new year. We will recap where we left off in our Study of David. We will continue with part 2 of the House of David and what happens after David is anointed and defeats Goliath.

Youth Bible Study meets each Sunday and Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Basement. Snack supper is served prior to the lesson.

# **VOLUNTEERS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

Greeters	Sandra Martin/Linda & Bob Coker
Scripture	Luke 9:28-36; 2 Corinthians 4:1-16
Lay Readers	Donna Heidel/Craig Prevost
Sermon	<b>“Lightning and Clay Jars”</b>
Flowers	Deb Ragland

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

### **FEBRUARY**

<b>15. Transfiguration of the Lord</b>	<b>Mark 9:2-9</b>
16. Mercy, not sacrifice	Matthew 9:10-13
17. That they should turn	Ezekiel 18:20-23
18. Learn to do good	Isaiah 1:11-17
19. A prophet’s mantle passes	II Kings 2:12, (1-14)
20. God summons the earth	Psalms 50:1-6
21. We proclaim Jesus Christ	II Corinthians 4:3-6