

Prairie Breeze

A Publication of Prairie Baptist Church

Spring 2026

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Lent Has Begun

By Rev. Dr. Kathy Pickett

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent with ash crosses placed on our foreheads as a reminder that we were created from the dust with God's breath and love, and to dust we will return. It is a solemn thought, but one that grounds us in the reality that we are God's. Throughout the 40 days and nights of Lent we are to find ways to return to God and turn away from whatever it is that separates us from God's ways and love. God is always there

waiting and watching for us when we go astray, ready for our return. The ribbons were tied to the cross as promises of action to be practiced during this season. We were encouraged to consider letting go of something to draw nearer to God. Other ideas included exploring a deeper spirituality or participating in an act of service. Some of us tied a ribbon with the promises of a daily practice of prayer, repentance, and self-exam. I know some of us and some of our church members are doing something creative and imaginative to draw nearer to God. I hope those of you who were unable to attend will join us in doing our best to return to God and turn away from whatever it is that keeps us close to the heart of God.

Our worship throughout the season will be inspired by Rachel Billups' book, *An Unlikely Lent, Extraordinary People of the Easter Story*. Joy Freeman is creating special liturgy for worship following the same theme and scripture text of the day. I am grateful for her gifts and offerings. Scripture, music, and sermon will include reflection on biblical individuals highlighted in Billups' book. Each of them ordinary people, but by their actions and love for Jesus, did extraordinary things. I hope you will join us either in person or online.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)"





Prairie Baptist Youth

PBY will enjoy their annual Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5.

We will leave from the front church steps at 6:30 am, travel to Harmon Park for a reflective service and then go out for Breakfast.

Home:
Nadine Clawson,
Kay Lopez,
Dianne Shumaker;

Brookdale in Shawnee:
Martin Wollenberg;

Westchester Village of Lenexa: Maxine Cook.

Ignite Rehab: Ken Cook.

Our College Students:
Noah Hanov (Iowa),

Nikita Hanov (CO School of Mines),

Tochukwu Obi (Howard),

Morgan O'Rourke (Central Missouri),

Cole Smith (Kansas State),

Sky Stannard (Washburn).

The next Breeze deadline is Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Noon.

Please send your information to office@prairiebaptist.org.

Summer 2026

PBY will be attending Quest camp at Green Lake Conference center from June 28 – July 3.

This year's theme is Oikos, the Greek word for family. Students will be exploring what it means to be part of Gods Oikos and in community together.

If you would like to be a prayer partner for one of our students or leaders this year, please reach out to the office via email by May 20.



Bethel Gala Fundraiser 2026

For 115 years, Bethel has provided academic support, mentorship, and structured enrichment opportunities that strengthen both students and residents, local neighborhoods, and the broader Wyandotte County community.

This year, we're raising \$50,000 to ensure every child who needs a safe, enriching place this summer can participate. Read more on Bethel Neighborhood Centers Facebook page!

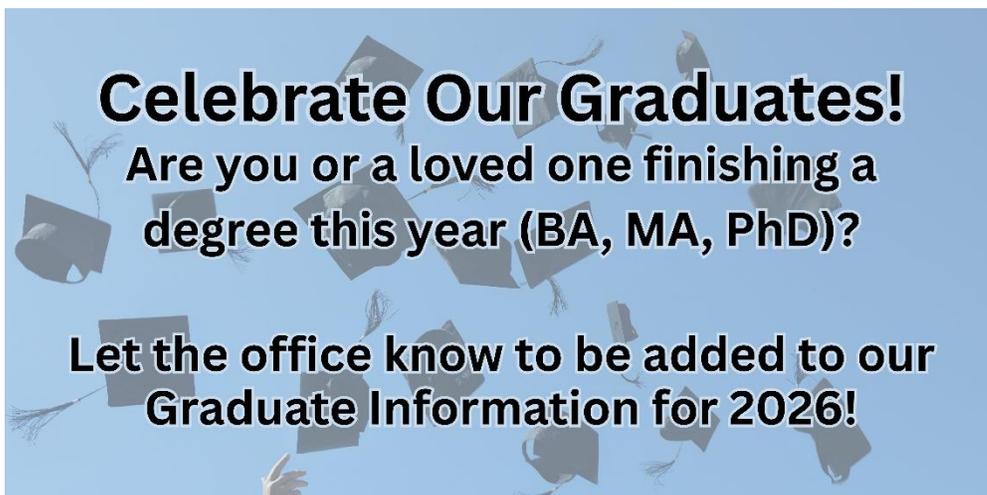


Calling All Spring Graduates!

Share your graduate's information with the office to be recognized at our Youth Sunday / Graduation Sunday service on May 3, 2026.

We have several High School and College graduates information already and cannot wait to celebrate them!

Graduate information needed by April 15



Join the Choir for the Lenten Season!

Only Five One-Hour Rehearsals:

February 25
March 4, 11, 25; April 1

Five Sunday Mornings:

March 1, 8, 15, 29
April 6



Palm Sunday Cantata
A Gathering of Grace

Lenten Choir Rehearsals

The Prairie Choir will be working on a variety of pieces to sing during the Lenten Season this year with a large focus on rehearsing a Palm Sunday Cantata titled "A Gathering of Grace".

All are welcome to join the choir for this season whether you are a returner or a new voice to the group!

Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

Reach out to Sara McClure with any questions!

Medical Arts Symphony and Chorus Spring Concert

Enjoy a FREE concert on Friday, April 17 at 7:30 PM at Yardley Hall at the Midwest Trust Center on the JCCC campus.

This concert will feature the works of Mozart and Schubert. And you will see several familiar faces performing and conducting!



Medical
Arts
Symphony

and Chorus

Friday, April 17, 7:30PM

Mozart: "Coronation" Mass
Schubert: Symphony No. 8, "Unfinished"

Yardley Hall at Midwest Trust Center
12345 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210



AI, Clouds, Technology, Oh My!

Technological advances continue to march forward whether we like it or not. I have noticed a recent surge of related confusion and challenges for many of us as AI and cloud services evolve. I recently purchased a new laptop and was amazed by what has changed in just a few years. Here in Prairie's office our communication functionality is almost all on a cloud service – Microsoft and Google. The good news about this is that everything is easily accessible and there is very little need for IT services. This is cost-effective and also requires less equipment. If you are struggling to open documents, send, or receive documents and you have an older platform, you may want to consider some upgrades or, seek some help related to opening links, uploading documents, or using a cloud service. While much of this is good and helpful for communication's sake, we also want to be smart about AI, suspicious links and warnings, and use wisdom before opening certain documents. If you sense something is not right with something you have received, it probably is spam. Go to the source first and then decide if you should open something. If you receive a document from someone and it requires you to request permission to open it, that is a safety feature for some platforms. All of this to say, we are in another big swell of technological advances. You are not alone in your frustration!



March Birthdays:

March 1 Noah Hanov
 Nikita Hanov
 March 2 Ken Gardner
 March 5 Ken Cook
 March 9 Judy Severson
 March 11 Regan Jones
 March 12 Hannah Lloyd-Rosell
 Melody Stroth
 March 15 Genevieve Lloyd-
 Rosell
 March 16 Annie Chuning
 March 17 Patsy Blalock
 March 21 Mary Ann Riggs
 March 27 Karen Hays
 March 28 Michael Jones

April Birthdays:

April 1 Scott Wilson
 April 2 Alan Myers
 April 7 Mary Icenogle
 April 8 Bob Shaw
 April 9 Caleb Stagner
 April 13 Larry Greer
 April 16 Sara McClure
 April 18 Tracy Icenogle
 April 25 Jasper Jones
 Gary Smith
 April 30 Dick Maack

May Birthdays:

May 1 Katya Hanova
 Carol Stagner
 May 3 Barb Gardner
 May 5 Roger Hays
 Judith Reinhart
 May 7 Micah Smith
 May 10 Joshua Greer
 May 15 Kyle Gardner
 Jill Pruett
 May 16 Dea Richter
 May 20 Ann Hunt
 May 22 Karen Fenton
 Melanie Gardner
 May 23 Matthew Cook
 May 28 Elsa Des Marteau
 May 29 Kathi Cook
 Kenneth Thompson
 May 31 Richard Jarrold

Church Thank Yous!

Thank you to everyone who supported me as I have been recuperating from ACL reconstruction and meniscus repair! I appreciate staff support with work-related tasks as well as snow shoveling and rides provided by friends. Thanks also to the staff relations committee for the lovely gift card to my favorite local yarn store, which will of course go to excellent use as I continue to spend more time on the couch than I might like. Healing is slow but going well—I would appreciate continued prayers for patience as I slowly get back on my feet. – Sara McClure

Thank you so much to everyone who partnered in the canned soup collection! The outpouring was amazing and joyously received by Asbury Methodist. Prairie folks, you are amazing! A special thanks to our coordinators, Joyce Smith, Barbara Herra, and Ann Hunt

Thank you to Tracy and Mary Icenogle for preparing and leading a Taize' Ash Wednesday service again this year. Throughout the year they bless us with similar services and will do so again throughout Lent. We are grateful for the gifts they share.

Thank you so much to the Craft and Conversations group and others for the lovely soup luncheon, good bread, and delicious desserts. We are especially grateful for the time to visit around the table and an opportunity for our community to gather around the table and commune.

Moving forward in faith and hope...

The Finance Team met February 17 to review and discuss how we are doing in 2026. I am grateful for the gifts and knowledge that the Finance team shares. Here is our current financial standing,

Highlights for January:

1. Ten pledgers were ahead \$2,565 thru 1/31/26,
2. Twenty-five pledgers were behind \$6,342 thru 1/31/26,
3. Nine non-pledgers were behind \$1,748 through 1/31/26,
4. New givers are \$632 under budget thru 1/31/26,
5. Amortized giving of \$22,005 is \$1,937 above last year through 1/31/26.

In addition to your pledges and offerings given, we have also received a few 'over and above' gifts, a generous estate gift in support of Prairie's missions and ministries, and a very generous gift for music related ministries. We are grateful!

There are numerous ways for you and your family to give your financial gifts. You may write a check, provide a cash offering, donate a special gift anytime throughout the year, set-up giving online through myEoffering, or, set up bill pay in your bank account for Prairie Baptist Church and have your gift automatically sent. As a reminder, if you have not done so yet, please make sure your automatic monthly payment has been updated for this year's pledge amount. If at any time throughout the year you may need to change your pledge, please let Gary Hamilton or Jill Pruett know. We can do so much more together than we can on our own!

A Personal Update from Kathy and Tim

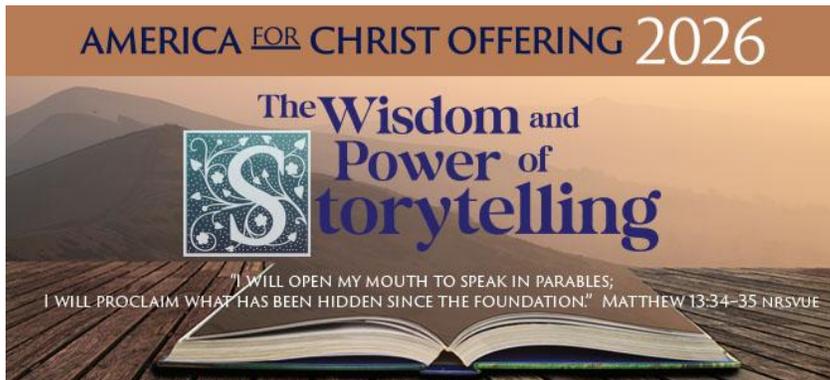
First, Tim Lasiter has informed me that I owe him a \$10 royalty fee each time I mention him in a sermon! Poor guy. It is hard to be a pastor's spouse. Second, I know we have caused a lot of wondering about our relationship with our recent wedding bands wearing. You may remember, a few months after Tim and I met and started dating, (3.5 years ago now) he was hospitalized for two long stents in a row with an internalized MRSA infection. 6 surgeries later, plus numerous tests, pokes, and much prodding, he was ready to go home. However, he could not go home alone or to a home with stairs to the bathroom or bedroom. His local children live in 3rd story apartments. We had learned quite a bit about each other over that long hospital stent and decided Tim would come home with me and my ranch style home.

We also knew that we wanted to make our relationship formal before heading home together, so there in the hospital room, we said our vows to one another, promises for better and worse, and commitments for a lifetime. We borrowed practices from the Celtic tradition of handfasting (we held hands), to bless the promises we made. For a long time, in-between administering Vancomycin intravenous meds, and wound care, we wore silicone bands to mark our lifelong partnership. Recently, we both wanted to give each something more official to mark our marriage and again promised to love each other for the rest of our lives and then exchanged wedding bands. So, we are not engaged, but symbolically demonstrating the promises and commitments made in the hospital room a few years ago. Simply put, we are hitched! We are grateful for your support and shared excitement.

Gratefully, Kathy!



AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2026 – SPRING SPECIAL OFFERING



Carry on the legacy of good works with your giving!

For over 50 years, generous giving to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering has enabled our American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) to provide financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico each year. Below are some examples of the positive impact your dollars have through this offering.

Funding direct assistance to local community centers in cities across the USA - like our own Bethel Neighborhood Center - that includes food boxes, meals for children, clothing banks and distribution of commodities such as diapers, school supplies, clothing, and housewares.

Funding youth education and enrichment programs as well as senior services that deliver lunches, health education and socialization opportunities, and groceries in bulk through a food pantry, among other things, to communities in and around Kansas City, Kansas.

Funding Rainbow Acres, a faith-based residential community with a wide range of programs for developmentally disabled adults from more than 15 states and representing an array of faith backgrounds including American Baptists.

OTHER AREAS OF MINISTRY THAT ABHMS IS INVOLVED IN:

CULTIVATING LEADERS through Chaplaincy ministries, education & scholarships, intercultural ministries and more.

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES through church life & leadership workshops, evangelism training, equipping to address justice issues, and more.

HEALING COMMUNITIES through disability ministries, refugee resettlement, disaster response, volunteer opportunities and more.

JUDSON PRESS providing daily devotions, Sunday school and small study group curricula and books connecting leadership, discipleship and justice.

WE ARE FOCUSING ON THE AFC OFFERING DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH. PLEASE MAKE YOUR GIFT TO "PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH" AND MARK TO FOR "AFC OFFERING."



Join us on Sundays during Lent as we explore the text “An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story” by Rachel Billups.

“The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the story of Easter. But the resurrection was not witnessed in isolation; it unfolded before a crowd. What might the stories of those women and men teach us today? How will they help us step into the story of Easter? Here, we can see what has been overlooked, not just in the grand moments but in the in-between: the silence, the side characters, and the questions.”

Worship is weekly at 10:15 on Sunday Mornings including on Easter, April 5.

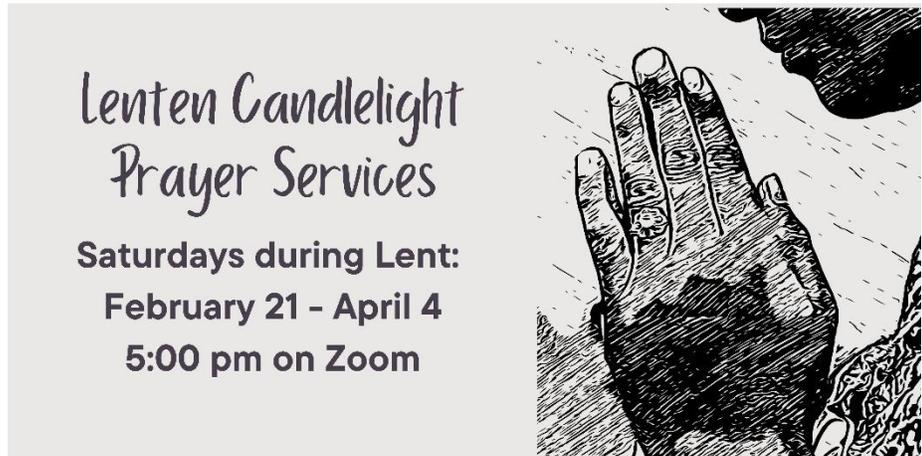
Lenten Candlelight Prayer Services

Please join us for a weekly Candlelight Prayer Service on Saturdays during Lent, February 21 through April 4, at 5:00 pm.

This 45-minute contemplative service is quiet and slow-paced and includes scripture, simple music, candlelight, silence and a time of shared prayer. These services are available only on Zoom. Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87022130407?pwd=O35OrDb0wmt4SeO1RPnQG0UPRcylDa.1>

Zoom sessions open at 4:45 pm with 15 minutes of prelude music for quiet preparation.



Good Friday Service

Please join us on Friday, April 3 at 5 pm for a Good Friday Service. This service will recount the story of Holy Week with scripture, candlelight, simple music and silence.

This service will be available only online using the same Zoom link as the Lenten Prayer Service.



Upcoming Calendar Dates

For a Full List of Calendar Dates, see the Google Calendar Link in the Get Connected Weekly Email or reach out to office@prairiebaptist.org to request a copy.

March:

- 3/3 – Church Guidance Team
- 3/8 – Daylight Savings Ends
- 3/8 – PBY Cake Auction
- 3/13 – PECC Closed
- 3/15 – NO PBY
- 3/16 – 20 – PECC Spring Break
- 3/17 – 23 – Kathy Out of Office
- 3/22 – Flute Fete in Sanctuary
- 3/29 – Palm Sunday Cantata

April:

- 4/3 – PECC Closed
- 4/3 – Good Friday Service Online
- 4/5 – Youth Sunrise Service
- 4/5 – Easter Service
- 4/6 – PBC Office Closed for Easter Monday
- 4/7 – Church Guidance Team
- 4/10 – Bethel Gala Fundraiser
- 4/26 – Quarterly Business Meeting, after worship
- 4/26 – 5/5 – Sara Out of Office

May:

- 5/3 – Youth Sunday
- 5/5 – Church Guidance Team
- 5/5 – 11 – Kathy Out of Office
- 5/10 – Mother’s Day
- 5/22 – Last Day of PECC School Year
- 5/24 – NO PBY
- 5/25 – PBC Office Closed for Memorial Day

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