

# Happy Birthday!

- 2/1 Jeri McClure
- 2/4 Darren Childers
- 2/6 Colleen Church
- 2/9 Kim Dancy
- 2/17 Mary Jane Bare
- 2/19 Anna Lankford
- 2/19 Grayson Cheek
- 2/20 Wesley Dancy
- 2/22 Allen Marsh
- 2/22 Sandy Miller
- 2/23 Mike Wingler
- 2/24 Caleb Johnson
- 2/25 Amber Johnson
- 2/25 Astrid Marsh



# The Union Messenger

**Union United Methodist Church**

**Pastor: Rev. Randy Lankford**

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**Vol 4**

**February 2026**

**Issue 2**

## Pastor Share

Anybody ready for spring? As I'm writing this it is the next to last day of January. Just the fact that a month has already gone by is a testament to how fast time seems to fly by. The last day of this month may prove to be another reminder that warmer months are still in the future, as we have a prediction of more winter weather, this time in the form of snow. I've come to the conclusion that I don't particularly like winter weather. Oh how I would love to go home and mow the yard this afternoon, but like the winter weather, it really doesn't matter too much what I want. The best we can do I suppose is to make the best of a less than desirable situation. I hope this makes sense, but making the best of a less than desirable situation is what God did when He sent Jesus to our world. We humans have the ability to love, help, comfort, and inspire. At the same time we have the ability to hurt, ignore, and hoard. Wouldn't it be great if all our thoughts and actions were good and right. Of course the reality is the good and bad within us as we walk and live in this world is a constant struggle. We live in a time when food is plentiful yet there is hunger. We live in a time when we have social media yet we have lost some of our social skills. We live in a time when information is readily available yet some of that information can harm us or others. We live in a time when almost everyone on this planet has heard of Jesus Christ, yet many do not follow Him. And God sent....God sent the best to our less than desirable situation. God sent His One and Only Son. If we had needed more money, God could have sent an accountant. If we had needed more rules, God could have sent a lawyer. But what we have always needed is a Savior. I really hope it doesn't snow Saturday, and if you're reading this we already have that answer. But God loves us so much that He sent us something better than mowing the yard on a beautiful spring day, although that is pretty good. God sent Jesus so we can make the best of a less than perfect life. God loves you!

- Pastor Randy



Please join us on Saturday, February 14th at 5:00 pm for our annual "Valentine's" Dinner. This year we decided to go with an Italian dinner instead of just spaghetti so bring your favorite Italian dish to share! For planning purposes, please list what you plan to bring and how many in your family will attend. The church will provide garlic bread and salad. We will also be playing bingo for entertainment! Come enjoy a great Italian meal, some fun and as always good Christian Fellowship! **Look forward to seeing you there!**



### Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday—February 18th

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

# Church work day

Saturday , February 28th

9:00am—Noon

We invite everyone that can to come out to help us clean up the basement of the fellowship hall to prepare for our upcoming spring yard sale. If you have items that belong to you that you would like to take home, please do so before our clean up day! Otherwise, we may trash or include in the yard sale! **Thanks for your support!**