



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Wednesday, February 18, 2026 + Ash Wednesday

Scripture: “Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.” Daniel 9:3

Reflection: As we enter into this Season of Lent, may we daily turn toward God and away from our sin and selfishness. May this season of repentance lead us to the glory of resurrection.

Prayer: Holy and Righteous Lord, we lift to you this day those areas in our life in which we need to die, to that we might be made new, with you, in resurrection. In the Blessed Name of Christ. Amen.

Rev. Trey Harper, District Superintendent

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Scripture: “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Joel 2:12-13 NIV

Reflection: Often, when we come to the Lord, we offer Him the things we desire Him to do in us and in the world. A laundry list of things we casually bring before Him as part of the day’s work in prayer. Yet there is a deeper surrender that God is seeking, one that requires true honesty and vulnerability. We should ask ourselves what are we not giving to God that keeps us from experiencing a full and compelling connection with Him.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for the abundant grace You have toward me. As I reflect on my misgivings, help me to see and surrender my whole heart to You. Help me to know that I am fully loved and able to be honest and transparent before You. You alone know me and care for me, and You are faithful to restore me as I surrender fully to You. In name of our merciful savior, Jesus. Amen.

John Allen, Associate Pastor of Anderson UMC, Jackson



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Friday, February 20, 2026

Scripture: “He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.” Luke 10:34

Reflection: Jesus commands us to care for the sick, but we often forget about those whose care for the sick is a constant duty. As we pray for those who are sick and battling all manner of illness, may we remember the caregivers who lay down so much of their lives to care for those they love.

Prayer: Loving God, as you are the great physician, we ask your healing for those who are ill. We pray especially for those today who serve as caregivers. Strengthen them in their weakness and exhaustion, give them the joy of the Holy Spirit, and as they wait upon you, may they mount up with wings like eagles. Amen.

Andy Stoddard, Pastor of St. Matthew’s UMC, Madison

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Scripture: “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29

Reflection: Lent is a time during which we self-evaluate and identify areas of our daily lives that need improvement. One area of concern may be negative self-talk ---the things we tell ourselves about ourselves, that do not align with who God says we are. Negative thoughts produce fear and doubt which can damage self-esteem, impede our pursuit of goals, and diminish spiritual growth. Therefore, it is important that our self-talk consist of faith-filled affirmations that are consistent with God’s truth.

Prayer: Ask God to silence your negative self-talk and empower you with words that edify and remind you of who you are in Christ. Amen.

Leola Graham Johnson, Anderson United Methodist Church, Jackson



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Sunday, February 22, 2026 + Every Sunday is Easter

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalm 32 (UMH 766)

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Monday, February 23, 2026

Scripture: “Search me O God and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts, see if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24

Reflection: During Lent, we are encouraged to spend time in prayer and self-reflection. When we become honest with ourselves and transparent with God, we will acknowledge any sin in our lives and become receptive to God’s instruction and correction. Self- awareness can spur us to repentance.

Prayer: ASK GOD TO reveal to you any thoughts, attitudes and actions that are not in alignment with His word, so that you may live a life that honors and glorifies Him.

Anita L. Dottes, Anderson United Methodist Church, Jackson





A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Scripture: “He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” Luke 10:26-28

Reflection: Thankfully Lent is a time when Christians are encouraged to do that which prompts our growth as followers of Jesus. In the parable of the good Samaritan Jesus explains we are to love our neighbor. To love our neighbor is to reach out to that person and have compassion on her/him. Not to judge but to love them; which is to assist them in all ways we can. The actions of the good Samaritan make it clear that every person is our neighbor. We are not to judge them hypocritically, but to examine our own behaviors. Upon finding our faults take the log out of our own eye. Jesus reminds us that our standard of judgement of others will be used with us. May we strive each day of Lent and every day after to make it a day of service to God and others, increased understanding of ourselves, of others and of God's directions and hopes for us.

Prayer: Thank you God, thank you Jesus. I ask that you forgive me of my sins. May I use your wisdom as my guide to grow.

Jim Lightsey, Decell UMC, Wesson

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Scripture: “You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.” Psalm 91: 1-2, 14-16

Reflection: Lent can feel like a wilderness journey, full of challenges and struggles, where one simply wants to find shelter...a place to gather and rest. During Lent, reflect on where you seek safety. Consider swapping anxieties and uncertainties for God's faithfulness. Let it be with Him where you gather and rest, being reminded that He is present to see you through.

Prayer: Seek rest and comfort, for yourself and those you love, in the presence of prayer.

John Underwood, Pastor Fernwood UMC and Pisgah UMC



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Thursday, February 26, 2026

Scripture: "...After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions...And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." Luke 2:41-52

Reflection: I hate to admit this but there aren't very many Sundays of my childhood and teenage years that I can remember the exact Sunday school lesson, topic of discussion, or even what I carried away. However, one sticks with me. The day we discussed the boy Jesus in the Temple coming from Luke 2:41-52. While I can't remember my exact age, I do know it was sometime during that tween phase of life, and I remember one specific question our teacher, Mr. Bob Athow, raised. "When Jesus said, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' Do you think Jesus knew he was the Son of God? What do you think Jesus knew about who he was and when did he know it?" I remember this being raised and I remember we got to jump in with all our varied answers and thoughts and opinions and questions. I don't remember getting an answer. (Although maybe we did and I had quit listening by that point.) What shaped me that day, as a tween in my own spiritual journey, was that I was allowed to read and question scripture, in fact, I was encouraged to have discussions and share my thoughts and wonder. It was a gift that I still carry. A core memory that shaped my faith and continues to shape how I think about Christian education and how we invite our children and youth into this great story of redemption and renewal through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: God of us all, you meet us where we are, as we are. You cover us in love and grace the moment our lives begin. You join us in our childhood play, our teenage drama, our young adult searching, and our adult years of redefining all we thought we knew. Aid us as we seek to pass on the story of who you are and who you have called us to be in and through Christ. May we value the voices of the children and young people in our midst giving them space to sit among the teachers, listening and asking questions. May it be so. Amen.

Dawn Douglas Flowers, Pastor Parkway Hills UMC, Madison

Friday, February 27, 2026

Scripture: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" Psalm 23:1

Reflection: : The season of Lent reminds us that God leads and guides us daily. He knows all of our needs and fills us with peace in every situation. May we trust and accept His guidance and grow closer to Him.

Prayer: Lord, help us to follow Your voice above all others.

Christine Moore, Anderson United Methodist Church, Jackson



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Saturday, February 28, 2026

Scripture: “Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11

Reflection: I feel more comfortable with a weekly meal plan for my family and struggle with “daily bread.” I confess this scripture is one that I need to lean into each day. Lord, I know so many who are struggling with food insecurity and pray with their whole hearts for daily bread.

As you provided the manna so long ago, we trust you to provide for our daily needs.

Prayer: Lord, we pray for those who are hungry both for physical food and for those who are hungry for friendships and a deeper relationship with you. May we trust you to care for our needs.

Chris Richardson, Clergy, Capital River District
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator

Sunday, March 1, 2026 + Every Sunday is Easter

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121 (UMH 844)

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

Monday, March 2, 2026

Scripture: “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” Nehemiah 8:10

Reflection: In this season of Lent, may I find strength in God’s presence, no matter the inability to attend in-person worship, as I once did, but thankfully use social media and friends bringing me the written message to enjoy.

Prayer: God fill my heart with your joy, no matter the circumstances. Thank you for what you have done, what you’re currently doing and living hope for what you’re going to do. Amen.

Earnestine Varnado, Deaconess, Capital River District



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Scripture: “Certainly the faithful love of the LORD hasn’t ended; certainly God’s compassion isn’t through! They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness. I think: The LORD is my portion! Therefore, I’ll wait for him.” Lamentations 3:22-24 CEB

Reflection: I found this scripture while I was reading the YouVersion Bible app on my phone. It was during a time when I was uncertain about God’s working in my life and in the church I serve. This scripture helped me remember that God’s love never ends even when things look uncertain. God is always there every minute of the day and praise the Lord His mercies are new every morning. I pray during this season of Lent may we all find the verses in the Bible, and God’s creation showing us He is all around even when we aren’t sure.

Prayer: Pray that God would give you a hunger and a thirst to read the Bible like you have never had before.

Pamela J. Cameron, Pastor of Spring Ridge United Methodist Church
Associate Director of Clergy Leadership in the Conference Office

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Scripture: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28

Reflection: Life can feel like a chaotic whirlwind of stress and responsibility. Deadlines, obligations, and packed schedules fill our days, and it can be hard to find moments of real peace. During this season of Lent, a time to lean more intentionally into the Lord, we are reminded that we are not meant to carry our burdens alone. God meets us even in the busyness and invites us to come exactly as we are.

Prayer: Take a moment to pray about the busy and stressful moments of your life. Invite God into those moments and open your heart to the unending peace He offers.

Abby Jo Flowers, Parkway Hills UMC, Madison



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Thursday, March 5, 2026

Scripture: “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’
And they cast lots to divide his clothing.” Luke 23:34

Reflection: So many times in our lives we do things that are offensive to God. But God...our God is a compassionate God who loves us, forgives us, and wait patiently on us to repent and accept eternal life with Him.

Prayer: Pray for forgiveness of your sins as well as for others and thank God for His grace and mercy that He allows for you daily.

Rev. Linda Lindsey-Williams, Associate Pastor Anderson United Methodist Church, Jackson

Friday, March 6, 2026

Scripture: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Reflection: In this season of Lent, I challenge you to look for the areas in which God is calling you to serve Him. Give God what you have and allow Him to use it for His glory. Take a step of faith and place your trust in God to use you in miraculous ways. Remember: God will take what we have and make big things happen.

Prayer: Pray for God to use your gifts to glorify Him and for the courage to let God use you. Pray also for your home church asking God to place the ministries in your hearts in which He wants you to serve.

Deedra Bales, Johnston Chapel UMC, Summit

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Scripture: “Preach the word; be prepared in season, and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction.” 2 Timothy 4:2

Reflection: As we approach this season of Lent, we lift the leaders of our church. We pray that during this time of Spiritual Renewal, our leaders will help us to deepen our relationship with God, as we reflect on Christ’s sacrifice for us. May we be led to know, love, and serve our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Let us pray that our leaders and congregants will feel the greatest love that this world has ever known during this Lenten Season. Amen.

Dale Barker, Centenary UMC, McComb



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Sunday, March 8, 2026 + Every Sunday is Easter

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95 (UMH 814)

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Monday, March 9, 2026

Scripture: “As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart.” Proverbs 27:19

Reflection: During this 40-day Lenten season may we seek to learn more about Jesus’ ministry, teachings, healings, travels, interactions with all followers and those who sought His help. May we reflect on our lives, mind, body and spirit to be better followers, see what needs cleaning, pruning, and forgive ourselves and others of that which hinders us from being who God planned us to be.

Prayer: Father, help us walk daily in the footsteps of Jesus and reflect Christ to others.

Becky Dunaway, Monticello UMC, Monticello

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Scripture: “O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.” Psalm 34:3

Reflection: Surrounded by an eager cast of special needs children, adults, and volunteers, we gathered to dance and let out our anxiety before their first performance of Peter Pan. After joyfully dancing to the music, Willie led us in prayer. I can’t even describe the joy, expectant feeling that his prayer stirred within my soul. Then he started, “Our Father who art in heaven...” and to all of our varying abilities, the gathered voices prayed the Lord’s Prayer together. We indeed magnified our Lord, and I never wanted to forget that holy moment.

Prayer Focus: We remember how beloved and special all God’s children are. Today, we pray for all who have special needs and long to be welcomed and loved in God’s house. Let us exalt his name together.

Chris Richardson, Clergy, Capital River District
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Scripture: “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.” Psalm 32

Reflection: Psalm 32 reminds us of how heavy a burden unforgiven sin is, but it also reminds us of the joy and healing that comes from repenting and being forgiven. In this season of Lent, we can move closer to God through self-examination, genuine repentance of sin, confession and forgiveness. This Psalm reminds us how the burden of sin saps our strength, like a yoke weighing down on one’s shoulders, or like a husk of corn drying up in the hot sunshine without life giving water. As a younger adult I struggled with the notion of being sinful and needing forgiveness. It was difficult for me to acknowledge my sin without feeling shame or guilt. In the original Hebrew, the word most often used for “sin” is “chata” which translates into “failure to fulfill a goal” or departing from the right path. When I think about sin in this context, I realize that sin is behaviors, thoughts, or patterns that move me away from God, that steer me off the path into a wrong direction. And God is patiently waiting for me to recognize my error, ask forgiveness and move back onto the path that leads me into closer relationship with him. During this season of Lent, let us self-examine how we are on the path to right relationship with God and how we might be straying from that path. Let us strengthen our faith in the redeeming power of Christ’s sacrifice and God’s forgiveness.

Prayer: Dear Lord, in this season of holy Lent, help us remember your constant presence, and your promise to forgive us when we fall short of the goal, stray from the path, or make mistakes that separate us from your love. Help us to genuinely repent, confess where we have erred and experience the joy your forgiveness gives. In the name of Christ Jesus we pray, Amen.

Linda Cox, Monticello UMC, Monticello



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Thursday, March 12, 2026

Scripture: “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit in me.” Psalm 51:10

Reflection: The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to remove clutter in our spiritual lives that hinders spiritual growth. Take this time to meditate on things above as you deepen your relationship with God.

Prayer: Begin your prayer with a true repenting spirit. Allow God to renew your spirit placing you in the righteous position with him.

Debbie Hughes, Clergy Capital River District

Friday, March 13, 2026

Scripture: “Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

Reflection: Lent reminds us that faithfulness is often quiet and unseen. Few places reflect this truth more clearly than our schools. Teachers and school staff do good works every day—often without applause, often while tired, stretched thin, or discouraged. Lessons are taught, patience is practiced, kindness is extended, and seeds are planted that may not be seen for years. In this season of reflection, we pray for perseverance. May those who serve in our schools be reminded that their work matters, that God sees their faithfulness, and that goodness, done again and again, is never wasted.

Prayer: Faithful God, You call us not to grow weary in doing good. Today we lift up our schools and those who serve within them. When teachers feel exhausted, renew their strength. When their efforts feel unseen, remind them You are at work. Help our schools be places where goodness continues— in patience, fairness, courage, and care for one another. Give all who teach and learn the grace to keep showing up, trusting that You will bring growth in Your time. Amen

Kim Burkett, Johnston Chapel UMC, Summit



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Saturday, March 14, 2026

Scripture: “My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don’t lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.” Proverbs 4:20-22 NLT

Reflection: Precious one, in each season or circumstance, be reminded of Solomon’s instruction to let scriptures penetrate deeply into our innermost being, letting them settle and consume because they begin to restore what’s broken, bring balance to our thoughts, restraint to our actions, and peace to our lives. This same Word became flesh, sacrificed His life, and resurrected from death to redeem and restore us to life abundant and everlasting.

Prayer: Pray for the sick in mind, body, and spirit who need the Healer to penetrate the depths of their being so healing and wholeness may begin. Amen

Chris Richardson, Clergy Capital River District
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator

Sunday, March 15, 2026 + Every Sunday is Easter

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41





A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Monday, March 16, 2026

Scripture: “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.” 1 Peter 2:21 (NIV)

Reflection: Lent’s journey is long and often difficult. Try as we may, we often lose focus and are often unaware of the footsteps we make during this time. The Apostle Peter reminds us of Christ’s suffering on our behalf. Born to die that we may live, came to earth new life to give, born of Mary, born so low many years ago. This is the greatest Love Story ever told. As we follow in His steps throughout this Lenten season may we fully realize that God is with us, and God is for us!

Prayer: Gracious God, open our ears, our eyes and hearts so we might have a glimpse of your incredible love. You loved us while we were yet sinners – that really does prove your love for us. May we learn to follow Christ’s example and may we always follow in His footsteps.

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Scripture: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” Romans 5: 1-5

Reflection: We live in an insane world. If we think it is crazy for adults, imagine what it must be like for our youth. In the midst of trying to figure out who they are and what they think and feel, they are bombarded every day with hundreds of answers from the world. All those answers can be promising, but none of them are true and everlasting. As adults, let us commit ourselves to speak truth and provide safety for those youth and children in our homes and churches and communities.

Prayer: Dear Lord, during the Lenten Season please help guide our youth. Guide them in a way that is pleasing to you. Help those struggling with who they are and how they fit into your world. Let them find the peace that only you can give. Allow them the courage and strength to be who they are and that they are loved as they are. Let them rid themselves of things that are not pleasing to you, Lord. Allow them to know that they are loved beyond measure even when they feel they have gone against your will. Give them the security that the struggles they face now aren’t permanent. Let them know that the people treat them badly will move on and the pains that they face will pass. In your heavenly name we pray. Amen.

David Fischer, Centenary UMC, McComb



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Scripture: “Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.” Luke 21:37-38 (NIV)

Reflection: Even Jesus knew he couldn’t keep up with the demands of the crowds. Every day they were seeking him, needing him, and looking for him to change their lives. And every night, he went to the garden to rest in the arms of his Heavenly Father and be renewed for the next day.

Too many times, “church” burns folks out. It is constant and the needs and responsibilities are never ending. But the reason we burn out is not because there is too much to do, it is because we are trying to do it all on our own. In the busy season, realize your capacity and take time to rest in the embrace of God in prayer and silence.

Prayer: Lord of the Sabbath, give us a desire to rest in you just as strong as our desire to serve you and please you. Amen.

Trey Harper, District Superintendent





A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Thursday, March 19, 2026

Scripture: “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.” Isaiah 58: 6-9a

Reflection: The Holy Season of Lent provides a time for private pondering and praying, for personal fasting and forbearance, for individual repentance and revitalization. As faithful believers in Christ, we have received life through the light and love of our Savior. During these 40 days of Lent, not only are we led to concentrate on turning away from our transgressions and accepting that light and love to feed and nourish the hunger of our souls but also we are compelled to serve our Lord and our fellow man. We must reach beyond our own interests to recognize and address the needs of the people around us.

As God through the prophet Isaiah admonished the people of Israel, who had returned from captivity in Babylon, we, too, are summoned to personal commitment and self-denial. However, the kind of fasting required of us includes action to feed the hungry. We are called to share our resources and our time through our churches and charitable organizations to lend help to those in our communities who face food insecurity. Then God’s glory will be upon us, and we always will be assured that he is present with us and hears our every prayer.

Prayer: During Lent and through every season, O God, we seek remission for our sins. Enable us to open our eyes, our hearts, our hands, to share with those in need around us the bounty of your blessings. Amen.

Lem Mitchell, Magnolia United Methodist Church, Magnolia



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Friday, March 20, 2026

Scripture: “Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.” Psalms 62:5-6 NIV

Reflection: How many times a day do you find your spirit shaken by the trials of life? In the midst of the chaos and the storms of life, God offers us shelter in His presence. We can lay our burdens at His feet, He will give us peace in the storm and hope for the future.

Prayer: Merciful Father, thank you for offering us the shelter of your presence when the storms hit. We will not be shaken, because you are mighty and in you we find our fortress in the hard times. We lay at your feet our worries, our troubles, our storms, knowing our hope comes from you, Father. Walk with us through the daily storms of life. We ask these things In Jesus name.
Amen.

Kayra Johnson, Associate Conference Lay Leader, Brookhaven

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Scripture: “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness but have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)

Reflection: Under the Old Covenant, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year. Before he made the first step, he sacrificed on his behalf and entered the place with fear and trembling to make sacrifice for the people. Our high priest removed the curtain that separated God from humanity as He offered the perfect sacrifice – unblemished and without sin. He opened the way for us to enter boldly, not just one time a year but anytime of our choosing.

Come, He said, come with confidence before the throne of Grace. Come, and receive...

Prayer: Lord God, we do hold firmly to the faith we profess. Help us realize the great privilege we have as your beloved children. We do not need anyone to go before your throne of grace on our behalf. We come on our own and we come with confidence, finding grace for each moment of each day.

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Sunday, March 22, 2026+ Every Sunday is Easter

Ezekial 37:1-14

Psalm 130 (UMH 848)

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

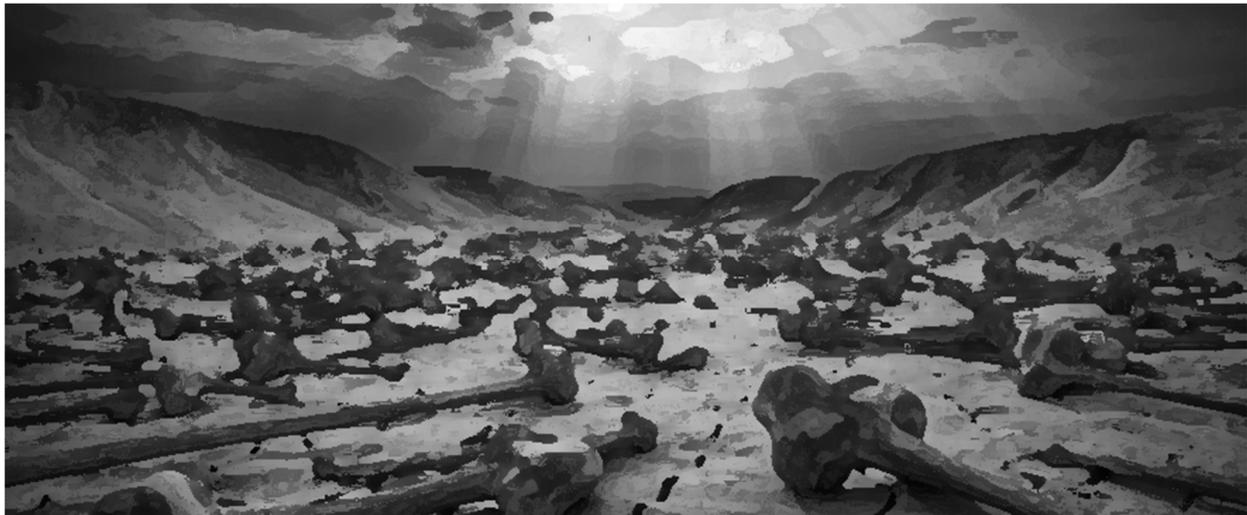
Monday, March 23, 2026

Scripture: “The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.” Ezekiel 37:1

Reflection: In this Lenten season, Ezekiel 37:1 invites us to notice the barren places of our lives where God’s hand is still present and ready to breathe new life.

Prayer: God who breathes into us new life. May we notice your life-giving presence in our lives, even during the most difficult times. Amen.

Rev. Walter Roberts, Jr., Pastor of Leavell Woods United Methodist Church





A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Scripture: “Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” – 1 Kings 19:(1-2), 3-5, (7-8).

Reflection: After Advent, Christmas, and the start of the new year, we are spent in every way. We are not ready for the next battle and it can be tempting to give in to fear of the future, of the what-ifs, and of people who threaten our peace. With seemingly nothing left to give, it is easy to forget what God has brought us through. Life may be hard and giving up might be an option but let us not do that. Others have gone before us and finished their course, but the work is not ours alone. The God who redeems and restores us is with us just as he was with those before us. Even at our lowest, God is there. The promise of Lent is rest, renewal, and revival when we submit to God’s call, not out of fear, but in humble submission to God’s will. As we seek to surrender to that call in this Lenten season, may we, like Elijah, awake to tables of bread in the presence of our enemies. May our cups overflow. Surely when we are ready, we will find strength for the journey. Goodness and Mercy will be with us and go before us. God will provide. Surely.

Prayer: Loving God, as we win public battles that everyone can see, help us to have victory in the private ones that we fight alone, unseen. When we are tempted to give up, find us wherever we are and feed us. Revive us again. And again. Feed us til we want no more and grant us strength for the journey by your gracious hand. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Reverend Maxine Simmons Bolden, Pastor, White Oak United Methodist Church/Chaplain,
Methodist Rehabilitation Center



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Scripture: “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” I Peter 2:9

Reflection: We are a people belonging to God. God affirmed that fact at our Baptism. God chose us, God anointed us, and God set us apart. God did these things so we might share His goodness and declare His Good News to a broken and darkened world. We are God’s wonderful light and may our light shine throughout this Holy season so that the world might know of God’s wonderful love.

Prayer: Lord God, we often forget who and Whose we are. We are your beloved children, and we have the greatest opportunity in the world to share Your Good News with a world who does not know You. Help us to shine brightly during this season of Lent. Help us to be faithful in the darkness and help us to declare your Good News to a broken and dying world.

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Scripture: I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. Psalm 34:4-5

Reflection: During this Season of Lent, let this be a time that we earnestly seek God and renew our faith—trusting that God hears us and will deliver us from all our fears. In His faithfulness, we will not be put to shame.

Prayer: Father God, we come to you in humble submission during this time of renewal placing all our fears in your hands. In You we trust. So, Lord we rejoice and give you praise that you always hear us. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen!

Deborah Bracey, Pastor Mt Pleasant UMC, Vaughan



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Friday, March 27, 2026

Scripture: “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.” But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” Acts 9:13-16

Reflection: Transformational experiences are profound and life-altering. I recall a time in my life when I refused to sing one of the most well-known hymns in all of Christendom—Amazing Grace. Its presence in Protestant churches and its ties to Protestantism were not the only reasons for my aversion; I was deeply troubled after learning that its lyricist was once a human trafficker, complicit in the suffering of countless African people and families. His particular cruelty extended to rape and abuse, especially towards young African girls and women.

The Lyricist’s Journey: My perspective shifted when I learned about the lyricist’s own transformational experience. Research revealed that he endured a near-death encounter at sea. As he attempted to climb above deck to escape drowning, a massive wave swept away a close fellow sailor right before his eyes. In that moment, the full weight of his past actions—the cries of innocent victims, the violence he inflicted, the destruction of families—rose to the surface. He realized that his life needed to change, and that this moment might be his only opportunity for redemption. Through this harrowing journey, he began the grueling process of transformation, eventually becoming a minister, lyricist, and outspoken abolitionist. The one who had been a human trafficker became a powerful voice against slavery. This transformation served as a testament to the possibility of change in even the darkest of circumstances.

Understanding Ananias’ Reluctance: With this story in mind, I could understand why Ananias was hesitant to obey God’s command in Acts 9:13-16. Ananias was to go to Straight Street and lay hands on a notorious murderer, blasphemer, and assassin. Despite his objections, God assured him that this individual had undergone a transformative change and would continue to transform as he fulfilled God’s purposes.

Embracing God’s Transformative Power: Like Ananias, I too grappled with the reality that God can use anyone, regardless of their past. This realization was itself a transformational experience for me, affirming that nothing can separate us from the love of God, as later declared in Romans 8:38.

A Hope for the Journey: As I continue on this Lenten journey and anticipate seasons yet to come, my hope is to keep experiencing, growing through, and benefiting from transformational experiences. I pray to give myself away so that God can use me—Lord, I give myself away, so you can use me, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayer: Lord, please forgive me for the people I’ve heard and the harm that I have done. Help me to forgive myself. Lord, I come just as I am. I too was blind. But now I see. Thank you, Lord. In Jesus name. Amen and Ashe.

Rev. Dr. Lewis E. Logan, II, Pastor Aldersgate UMC, Jackson



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Saturday, March 28, 2026

Scripture: “And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.” Luke 9:51 (KJV)

“Now when the time was almost come for Jesus to be received up, He steadfastly and determinedly set His face to go to Jerusalem.” Luke 9:51 (Amplified)

“As the time approached for Him to taken up to heaven, Jesus, resolutely set out for Jerusalem.” Luke 9:51 (NIV)

“When it came close to the time for His Ascension, he gathered up His courage and steeled Himself for the journey to Jerusalem.” Luke 9:51 (The Message)

Reflection: My beloved child, the Cross loomed upon the horizon before the foundations of the earth were laid. But, there came a time when I steadfastly, determinedly, resolutely steeled My face toward Jerusalem. The Scarlet Thread of Redemption woven throughout Scripture found its fulfillment as I made this journey. Come, walk the journey with me and experience the fulness of Redemption.

Prayer: Gracious God, we acknowledge our anxious moments as we begin the journey of Holy Week. Empower us to walk as Jesus walked, eyes steadfastly, determinedly, resolutely fixed upon the Cross – our Redemption!

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator





A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Sunday, March 29, 2026 + Palm/Passion Sunday

Scripture: “The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel. John 12:12-13

Reflection: I have been spending the last few days in Bethany with Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.

Many were present at the tomb of Lazarus as I spoke these words to Martha, I am the Resurrection and the life. When Lazarus came forth from the grave some believed but some made their way to Jerusalem to inform the Pharisees. A plot began to form to take My life. The day has arrived – I am going to Jerusalem. The Hosannas of this day are short lived. The plot has already taken shape – The chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone found out where Jesus was, he should report it so they might arrest Him. (John 11:57)

Prayer: Gracious God, we continue the journey with Jesus. We acknowledge we are part of the crowd and yet we are guarded. We too cry Hosanna but our hearts tremble at what lies ahead. Give us strength for the journey as we gaze more closely at the Cross which lies at the end of this road. Amen.

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator





A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Monday, March 30, 2026 + Holy Monday

Scripture: “Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves...My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.”

Matthew 21:12-13 (NIV)

Reflection: The Hosannas still ring in My ears and yet I am enraged at what I see happening in My Father’s House. Sheep rustling, doves caged, coins jingling – there is much going on. But who is praying? I cannot watch, I cannot stand by as My Father’s House is defiled in such a way.

Prayer: Lord God, this journey has taken a sudden turn. Now we are more fearful. Jesus has done the unthinkable – he has disrupted the temple regimen. We are committed to walk with Jesus; it is a difficult journey. Strengthen us as we continue our steps.

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 + Holy Tuesday

Scripture: “It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love...so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet... John 13:1, 4-5 (NIV)

Reflection: My time has come. I am going to do the unthinkable for my beloved disciples. I will take on the role of servant as I wash their feet. I have set for you an example that you should do as I have done for you. They are shocked and do not understand what I am doing but one day they will understand, and one day they will follow my example.

Prayer: Lord God, our hearts are humbled as we watch this scene unfold. In a few short hours Jesus will be arrested and yet he performs this unspeakable act of love on behalf of His beloved. Make us a servant, humble and meek. Lord may we lift those who are weak. And may the prayer of our heart always be, Make us a servant, Make us a servant, Make us a servant today. Amen

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Wednesday, April 1, 2026 + Holy Wednesday

Scripture: “When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. While they were eating Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, Take and eat; this is My Body. Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:20, 26-28 (NIV)

Reflection: This will be the last Passover celebration I share with My friends. Just as they did not fully understand my role as servant, they will not fully understand what I am about to do during this holy meal. I will break bread; I will offer wine. I will fulfill the old covenant and usher in the new covenant, sealed by my own blood. They will remember and in time, others will remember also.

Prayer: LORD, we continue to watch as the scenes of Holy Week unfold. Jesus celebrates the old and yet makes way for the new. Oh, how we give thanks for this holy Sacrament. We come to the table, and we remember Your great act of love on our behalf. We remember and we give thanks.

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator

Thursday, April 2, 2026 + Maundy Thursday

Scripture: “Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. He withdrew about a stone’s throw away, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” Luke 22:39, 41-42 (NIV)

Reflection: I am going to a familiar place. I have been there many times before to pray. I know what I am facing, and I am willing. But, I pray and ask My Father to take this cup away from me. My Father sent angels to strengthen me. I am ready, not My will Father. May your will be done.

Prayer: Father, it is here that the battle over sin was won. Adam chose his will. Jesus chose Your will. May His prayer be our prayer – nevertheless not our will but Yours be done now and always. Amen.

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator



A Right and Holy Lenten Season



Friday, April 3, 2026 + Good Friday

Scripture: “So, the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull. Here they crucified Him...” John 19:17-18 (NIV)

REFLECTION: Just as Isaac carried the wood for his own offering, so I carried my own cross. The weight seemed unbearable at times. I fell, face down in the dust. My Father made a way for me to continue, each step a strain but Simon eased my load. The nails pierced my hands and feet. I hung, as suspended in mid-air. My breath slowly leaving My body. I cried out, Father, forgive them. For this I came into this world and for this I leave this world. IT IS FINISHED.

PRAYER: Great and merciful God, there are no words as we stand face-to face, eyes fixed upon the Cross. Your love is indescribable and immeasurable. Love so amazing, so divine, demands our soul, our lives, our all. May it be so!

Connie Felter, Centenary UMC, McComb
Capital River District Prayer Coordinator

Saturday, April 4, 2026 + Holy Saturday

Scripture: “Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.” Mark 15: 40-41

Reflection: Endings are hard. We know that the scripture tells us that everything has a season, but when a season ends we often find ourselves at a loss. It is easy for us modern followers to forget that those who followed Jesus, who proclaim him Messiah, and then watched him beaten and executed weren't yet aware of what was coming next. For them it was a painful and devastating ending. The women in our text today, most with names lost to history, stood there. They had dedicated themselves to following and caring and serving the Messiah. They had left homes and responsibilities to follow him triumphantly into Jerusalem. Now their caring work was done. No doubt most went home, back to the life they had known. But a few didn't stop the work. They continued to care, even after the cross.

Prayer: Lord, during this Holy Saturday, let us not avoid the pain of loss and skip ahead to the joy of tomorrow. Let us sit and remember. Let us feel and reflect. Let us bury those things in which we died with Christ. But let us commit ourselves to not going back. God is not done yet.
Amen.

Trey Harper, District Superintendent



A Right and Holy Lenten Season

Sunday, April 5, 2026 + Resurrection Sunday

Scripture: “When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” Mark 16: 1-7

Reflection: They didn’t stop caring for Jesus, and because of their faithfulness then women became the first to witness the Resurrection and receive the Good News that JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! In the darkest times in our life, we are often just a moment away from the inbreaking of God’s light in our lives, but we give up too soon. Of all the lessons we can take away from this Lenten season, I hope that the lesson of holding on is the greatest. Hold on in the darkness, the light is coming. Hold on in the grief, the comfort is coming. Hold on in the pain, for solace is coming. Hold on in the anxiety, for peace is coming. Hold on and be Resurrected with Christ! HAPPY EASTER!

Trey Harper, District Superintendent

