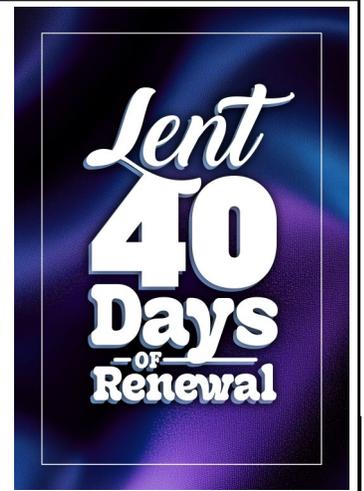


THE MESSENGER

March 2026

A Publication of The United Methodist Church
340 N Newell Ave, Minden, NE 68959



Greetings Members and Friends of PUMC,

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are invited to slow down, reflect, and walk more intentionally with Jesus as he makes his way toward Jerusalem and ultimately toward the cross. Our Lenten journey is moving through our series based on *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. Together we are exploring what it meant for Jesus to walk this path and what it means for us to follow him today.

Throughout March we will focus on several moments in Jesus' final days that reveal the risks he willingly embraced. We will begin by looking at Jesus' teachings and the risk of challenge, where his words confronted systems of power and called people to deeper faithfulness. From there we will move to the first dinner, risking rejection, where hospitality and love were offered even in the face of misunderstanding. We will also reflect on the Last Supper, risking the loss of friends, where Jesus shared a sacred meal with those who would soon scatter in fear. Finally, we will stand with Jesus in Gethsemane, risking temptation, witnessing the moment where faith wrestles honestly with suffering and surrender.

These stories remind us that the journey to the cross was not only about suffering; it was also about courage, faithfulness, and love that refuses to turn away from the difficult path.

As we move into Holy Week, we will also offer a special opportunity for reflection through come-and-go experiential Stations of the Cross. These prayer stations will be available throughout the week so that you may walk through them at your own pace whenever your schedule allows. Each station invites quiet reflection on Christ's journey and helps us enter more deeply into the story of his passion.

Palm Sunday will be a joyful and meaningful day in the life of our church. We will gather not only to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, but also to celebrate our confirmands who have spent months learning, growing, and discerning their faith. Following worship, we will share a potluck meal together as a church family to honor them. On Easter Sunday, these young people will take the next step in their faith journey as they officially join the church.

Lent reminds us that faith is not always comfortable. Following Jesus sometimes means taking risks—risking challenge, rejection, loss, and even temptation. Yet through it all we are reminded that God is always at work bringing redemption, hope, and new life.

May this Lenten season deepen our understanding, strengthen our discipleship, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter morning.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kayla Mangrich
(815) 303-4808

kmangrich@greatplainsumc.org

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Worship 2nd Sunday in Lent 11:15am Confirmation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30pm Ad Council</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Prayer Time 1:30pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Worship 3rd Sunday in Lent 11:15am Confirmation</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8am-4pm WIC</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am United Women in Faith</p> <p>6:30pm Youth Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Prayer Time 1:30pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Worship 4th Sunday in Lent 11:15am Confirmation</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	 <p>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Prayer Time 1:30pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Worship 5th Sunday in Lent 11:15am Confirmation</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30pm Youth Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Prayer Time 1:30pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Worship Passion/Palm Sunday Meal Following Worship 12:30pm Confirmation</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>April 1</p>	<p>April 2</p> <p>Holy Thursday</p>	<p>April 3</p> <p>Good Friday</p>	<p>April 4</p>
Come and Go Stations of the Cross in the Fellowship Hall						



March Birthdays

- 1—Sirena Havens
- 2—Shirley Fellers
- 3—Jonah Craig
- 4—Joe Hultquist
- 5—Janell Shelton
- 6—Vivian Bunger
- 6—Larry Evans
- 6—Payden Havens
- 8—Jane Craig
- 9—Roxanne Sorensen
- 11—Roma Anderson
- 12—Isabelle Martin
- 15—Maliyah Melroy
- 16—LeAnna Warner
- 19—Ginger Frizane
- 20—Sandy Johnson
- 20—Russ Olsen
- 20—Amy Kring
- 22—Laci Loseke
- 23—Lisa Maulsby
- 25—Barrett Strasburg
- 28—David Olsen
- 31—Gene Lundeen

March Anniversaries

- 2—Merlin & Lynette Beahm—51 years
- 9—Ed & Roxanne Sorensen—41 years
- 13—Jason & Corey Smidt—22 years
- 20—Russ & Carolyn Olsen—12 years
- 24—Ray & Karli Havens—19 years
- 28—Lonnie & Marsha Granger—39 years



Family & Friends of Erma Jean Scharff
 Brenda Oltean
 Rod Duffey
 Orlan Grams
 Chad Fries

Please call the office when you know of any illness, hospitalization, new babies, marriages, joyous or sad news among your friends or family members.

If you or your family has a prayer request and you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call Jeanette Wilkinson at 402-756-0772.

February 2026 Financial Report...

General Giving in February	\$7,226
General Fund Giving to Date	\$15,720
General Expenses in February	\$16,518
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$31,383

(This report does not include the final days in February)





Come & Go Stations of the Cross

MONDAY MARCH 30--APRIL 3, 2026

MINDEN UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL



Easter & Confirmation Sunday

Sunday April 5, 2026

Confirmation Photographs



We are looking for a group photo from confirmation classes in 1962, 1965, 1967, 1980, 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2005, and 2006. If you have questions on who was in the class or if you have the photo and would be willing to share them please email them to managerumcminden@msn.com or bring them by the office.

Please Call (308) 832-1995 if you can fill one of the open dates or email managerumcminden@msn.com.

Scripture Reader & Call to Worship:

March 1: Marilyn Rasmussen
 March 8: Scott Jacobsen
 March 15: KayLyn McBride
 March 22: Jodi Boudreau
 March 29: KayLyn McBride



Refreshment Hosts:

March 1:
 March 8: Minden Scouts
 March 15:
 March 22: Jodi Boudreau
 March 29:



Great Plains Annual Conference Choir for the 2026 Ordination Service

At the request of our Bishop, a Conference Choir is being formed to offer music during this sacred service, and we are reaching out to singers and choirs in the Kearney area to take part in this meaningful occasion.

Annual Conference will gather May 27–30 at the Younes Center in Kearney, Nebraska, and the Ordination Service will be held on Saturday morning, May 30. This service stands at the heart of our shared life as a conference—a holy moment when we celebrate God’s call and the Church’s response. Our theme, “Serve Joyfully,” finds beautiful expression in song. What more fitting way to serve than by offering your voice in praise and helping lead God’s people in worship?

A rehearsal will be held on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m. (location details forthcoming), and again on Saturday morning, May 30 at 9:30 a.m. Though the time commitment is brief, the experience promises to be musically enriching and spiritually meaningful.

If you would like more information about this opportunity or have any questions, please contact me directly – sara@fumclawrence.org; (785)691-5341. I will be providing more information as the music and logistics are finalized. Please let me know via email by Tuesday, March 30, if you plan on singing. If possible for everyone, we will wear robes, so please include in your response whether or not you have access to a choir robe.

Sara Wentz, Annual Conference Choir Director

United Methodist Church
340 N. Newell Ave
Minden, NE 68959



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
11:15am Sunday - Confirmation
March 11 & 25 @ 6:30pm Youth Group

Church Contact Info:
308-832-1995
managerumcminden@msn.com
Mindenumc.org



United Campus Ministry
University of Nebraska at Kearney

Sunday
April 12, 2026



United Campus Ministry at UNK walks alongside college students as they grow in faith, ask big questions, and discern God's call. During worship a Free Will Offering will be received to support UCM.

You are invited to give as you feel led.



GUEST PREACHER
Pastor Jen Gibbs