

St. John's United Methodist Church



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Reflections from the Rev.

On February 18th, we will observe Ash Wednesday which is the official start of the season we call Lent. For my newsletter article this month, let's talk about our Lenten traditions. Why they were adopted, how they were practiced and any significant changes to those practices in our time. We'll also talk about the risk we might take in observing the practice of giving up something for Lent.

A conversation about Lent and Lenten traditions needs to start by talking about the day before Ash Wednesday. We call this day Fat Tuesday. You might better know it as Mardi Gras. When we say Mardi Gras, you might be tempted to think about the wild and outlandish celebrations in New Orleans. But there is more to Mardi Gras than that. Lent was associated with fasting and repentance. So back in medieval times people started using the Tuesday before as a time to clean out all of the sugar and yeast so they wouldn't be tempted during lent. They also used up any meat they had. Today, many churches celebrate this day with a pancake supper. Our family always observes Fat Tuesday by making pancakes for dinner.

To understand the timing of Ash Wednesday and Lent, we need to look forward to Easter. What did the medieval church use to set the date for Easter? They used the moon. Yes, you heard me right, the moon. Easter is on the first Sunday on or after the first full moon after the spring equinox. This year the Spring Equinox or first day of spring is on March 20th. The next full moon after that is on April 2nd. The next Sunday after that is April 5th, which makes that our Easter Sunday this year. Now that we have that date, we count 46 days back and where does that land us? Wednesday, February 18th, Ash Wednesday for 2026. So we say that Lent is 40 days, but we just counted back 46 days. What gives?

You're right. Lent is 40 days spanning over 6 weeks. But each week we have a Sunday. Every Sunday is considered a mini-Easter? When you walk into church each Sunday, you're walking into a mini celebration of the resurrection. So the reason why we only count 40 days of Lent even though there are 46 days until Easter is we don't count the Sundays. Fasting is strongly encouraged during lent. But everyone gets a break from fasting on Sundays.

One of my favorite observances of Ash Wednesday is the Imposition of Ashes. Why do we do this? The tradition goes back not just to Christian but to Jewish history. Ashes were a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose. We become dust/dirt/ash. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their heads and wear sackcloth or burlap. This was to remind them of how uncomfortable sin is and how it leads to a death of the spirit. Ashes were a way to confess sins and ask for forgiveness.

Where do our ashes come from? Traditionally, ashes come from the palm leaves that are waved on the prior Palm Sunday. With this, we remember that the palm leaves were used in celebration on Palm Sunday and then less than a week later Jesus is killed. Palms that were waved in joy become ashes of sorrow. Originally, the ashes were mixed with a little bit of water to represent tears. Since then, we've learned that using a mixture of ashes and water is caustic. It creates lye! So now we use oil or nothing.

During the imposition, ashes are rubbed across one's forehead in the sign of a cross. The ashes remind us of our mortality and sin. The cross reminds us of Jesus's resurrection and forgiveness.

Lent is a season of repentance. There are many ways to do this. The most common way is to fast or "give up something" for lent. This doesn't have to be just food. You can do things like give up online games, or sleeping in. Service is another way to celebrate this season of repentance. Instead of giving up something you can take on something. Finally, we can pray and pray intentionally.

This year, our Lenten Sermon series will be a call for us to Pause. To experience Lent through the Psalms. We will begin on Ash Wednesday with Psalm 51 where we ask God to create in us a clean heart. May Lent 2026 move us to a spirit of reflection and repentance.

Blessings!

Rev. Amy



2026 Calendar of Events

- † Confirmation Class—begins Sunday, February 1
- † Valentine's Cookie Exchange for 1st Responders—Saturday, February 14
- † Lenten Lunches—begin Friday, February 20
Every Friday thru March 27
- † Spring Fling—Saturday, March 21
- † Maundy Thursday, April 2
- † Good Friday, April 3
- † Easter Sunday, April 5
- † Walk to Emmaus Gathering, Saturday, April 11
- † Mother's Day Tea—Saturday, May 2
- † Vacation Bible School—June 8 thru June 11
- † Dinner and a Show—Wednesday, July 8
- † Walk to Emmaus—September 24 thru September 27
- † Pumpkin Patch—October—don't have exact dates yet
- † Thanksgiving Potluck—Sunday, November 22
- † Advent Lunches—Fridays, December 4, 11, and 18

A Message from Our Finance Team

Finance Report for December

	Dec. 2025	Dec. 2024 (PY)	\$ Change	% Change
Tithes & Offerings	\$18,446.67	\$12,510.65	\$5,936.02	47.45%
Other Income	\$11,716.48	\$766.86	\$10,949.60	1427.85%
Total Income	\$30,163.15	\$13,277.51	\$16,885.60	127.17%
Total Expenditure	\$21,513.10	\$39,261.56	(\$17,748.50)	(45.21%)
Net Income	\$8,650.05	(\$25,984.05)	\$34,634.10	133.29%

Year-to-Date Finance Report January—December 2025

	Jan-Dec 2025	Jan-Dec 2024 (PY)	Change	% Change
Tithes & Offerings	\$138,936.87	\$141,657.51	(\$2,720.64)	(1.92%)
Other Income	\$78,504.08	\$42,471.36	\$36,032.72	84.84%
Total Income	\$217,440.95	\$184,128.87	\$33,312.08	18.09%
Total Expenditure	\$299,166.78	\$314,028.78	(\$14,862.00)	(4.73%)
Net Income	(\$81,725.83)	(\$129,899.91)	\$48,174.08	37.09%

In Christ,

Tracy Sheehy
Finance Director

Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m. Modern Praise
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
and
Christian Folk Worship
Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

February 1st	<i>Some Humility Required</i> Scripture: Micah 6:1-8 NRSVUE
February 8th	<i>Who's Mind is it Anyway?</i> Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 NRSVUE
February 15th	<i>And Then There Was One</i> Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9 NRSVUE
February 18th Ash Wednesday	<i>Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 PM</i> <i>Pause: A Clean Heart</i> Scripture: Psalm 51 NRSVUE
February 22nd Lent ~ 1	<i>Pause: Paths</i> Scripture: Psalm 25 NRSVUE



Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. ~ Chancel Adult Choir—Thursdays (September thru May)

A Message from Our Lay Leader

Good, Good, Good Vibrations

Music seems to be common among all societies and all religions. In the movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind, it was assumed to be the best way to communicate to aliens to our planet. Sound, song is about vibrations and their affect on our bodies. Have you ever had a cat in your lap purring? It is a very soothing vibration. When I am in extreme stress, I like to open the church hymnal and sing the songs I know, until my vibration returns to a calm state. Fifteen or twenty minutes will do that for me.

Put your palm to the front of your throat and hum. Feel the vibration?

I want to share the magic healing vibrations of song with you. I want to start a group of people who want to share in healing vibration with me. This group is not about performance or talent. It is about the power of learning and healing through vibration. We might decide to sing for others or not. We might decide for some of us to share with others or not. The group is for all ages and genders.

Good singers, bad singers, everyone can learn to make soothing vibrations. I believe our lives are about learning. My father lived to almost 100 years old. He was always curious. Curiosity gives us forward momentum, a future, an adventure.

Let's talk about this. Let me know if you are interested.

*Sharing with Others to Know
More About Life,*

Terry Crawford
Lay Leader



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesdays at 8 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study

Potluck at 5:30 p.m. followed by Study at 6 p.m.



Board of Trustees ~ Meets 1st Tuesday of Each Quarter at 5:30 p.m.
(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 in the Resource Center

Nurture Team ~ Meets 3rd Thursday of Each Quarter at 4:00 p.m.
(January, April, July, October)

Next Meeting is: Thursday, April 16, 2026 in the Resource Center

Finance Team ~ Meets the 4th Tuesday of Each Quarter at 5:00 p.m.
(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 in the Resource Center

Church Council ~ Meets the 4th Tuesday of Each Quarter at 5:30 p.m.
(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 in the Resource Center

Christian Folk Worship



Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Christian Folk Worship here at
St. John's UMC

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US!

Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026



7 a.m. ~ 9 a.m.	<i>Imposition of Ashes</i> St. John's UMC Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	<i>Ash Wednesday Worship Service</i>

Lenten Lunches are a time once a week for the 6-weeks of Lent for us to come together for a Short Worship followed by Lunch and Fellowship.



Lenten Lunches will begin on Friday, February 20th at 12:30 p.m. and continue every Friday at 12:30 p.m. through Friday, March 27th

February 20	Songs: Change My Heart, O God/Make Me a Servant
February 27	Songs: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying Make Me a Servant
March 6	Songs: In His Time/Make Me a Servant
March 13	Songs: Bind Us Together/Make Me a Servant
March 20	Songs: Make Us One/Make Me a Servant
March 27	Songs: Sanctuary/Make Me a Servant

Wednesday Night Potluck & Bible Study

Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesdays beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a Potluck followed by Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Holy Week

March 29	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 9 a.m. Modern Praise 10:30 a.m. Traditional
April 2	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> Worship Service
April 3	<i>Good Friday</i> Worship Service



Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 2026

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship

8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Modern Praise Worship

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

Wednesday Night Potluck & Bible Study

**Everyone is invited to join us!
5:30 p.m. Potluck followed by
Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.**

Men's Bible Study

Men of ALL ages are invited to come and discover the truths of God's word.
Join us on Wednesday mornings at
8:00 a.m. for Fellowship followed by
Bible Study at 8:30 a.m.
All Men are Welcome!

Men's Breakfast Fellowship



Men's Breakfast Fellowship!!!
All Men are invited to join us on:
Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 8 a.m.
For Food, Fellowship, and FUN!!!

WWF

Widow & Widowers Fellowship

We will be meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 11 a.m.

*We will be gathering at the church for a
Potluck and Games*



*All are invited to bring a dish to share and
join us for some Fellowship and Fun!*



Saturday, March 21, 2026

12 p.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Bunny Car Hop
(Think Trunk Or Treat with a Spring Theme)

To Register, please go to:
<https://www.stjohnsumc.com/events>
Or use the QR Code Below:



Easter Bunny

Games



Easter Egg Hunt



Food Trucks



FUN!!!

1730 Kino Avenue
Kingman, Arizona



Mark Your Calendars!
Saturday, February 14, 2026
11 a.m.

We will be having a 'Cookie Exchange' where we will mix and match the Cookies that we bring into plates to take to our First Responders. We will also have some fun, easy Valentines Crafts. Everyone is invited to join us for Fellowship and Fun!!!

Women Doing Life Together

**This group will provide an opportunity for
Women to share with each other.**

**We will gather Every Other Tuesday at
10:00 a.m. at St. John's UMC
(1730 Kino Avenue, Kingman, AZ)
February 2026 Gatherings:
February 3 and February 17**

**Please contact Barb Parker at:
(928) 530-2156
For More Information or with Questions.**

OPEN TO ALL WOMEN!!!



Nana's Pantry located here at St. John's UMC is:

***OPEN FRIDAYS FROM
9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.***

St. John's UMC also has a small clothing closet that is open on Fridays during our Food Box distributions

If you are interested in being part of this ministry here at St. John's, please contact Heidi in the Church Office at: (928) 692-8828 or st.johns@citlink.net

DONATIONS NEEDED:

***Canned Veggies; Canned Meat; Canned Beans;
Canned Fruit; Spaghetti Sauce; Dried Pasta;
Rice; Cereal; Canned Soup; Mac & Cheese; Toilet Paper***

PLEASE NOTE:

**THE CLOTHING CLOSET IS NOT CURRENTLY
ACCEPTING DONATIONS AT THIS TIME.**

**Because of your very generous
donations we are currently out of
space to store everything.**

Prayers for our North District Churches

As part of the United Methodist connection we pray to support one another in ministry. During the month of February please pray for these churches, ministries, pastors, congregations, and communities.

- 1) Community UMC, Caliente, Nevada
- 2) Community UMC, Williams, Arizona
- 3) Desert Spring UMC, Las Vegas, Nevada



Pray Every Day for our Military Members—

Devin Arrants, Brian Barnacle, Justin Bayles, John Belcher, Chris Bradley, Greg Brewer, Dan Brocklehurst, Stacie Brown, Brady Burr, Ryan Burr, Erik Burris, Lucas James Butler, Clint Caldwell, Bobby Carlson, Charles Carroll, Nathaniel Castor, Amber Caswell, Richard Cole, Anthony Costa, Jenny Dalton, Colin Dyer, Daniel Eagan, Karen Eagan, Anthony Elliot, Adam Ernesti, Austin Ernesti, Ben Ferrell, Christie Francis, Adam Georges, Ethan Granger, Holly Gibbons, Joey Gormany, Brenton Green, George Hatchell Jr., Colin Arno Henry, Camerron Higbee, Jessica Huffer, Isaiah Huynh, Brian Illes, Jeremiah Johnson, Travis Johnson, David Kent, Jeffery Lederhouse, Ryan Miller, Danny Morales, Jennifer Parker, Jonathan Parker, Katrina Powell, Tyler Radcliffe, Will Ray, William Ritchie, Juan Roman, Jamuel Ruiz, Bryson Salazar, Ben Schwartfigure, Sean Schwartfigure, Jared Shulpa, Matthew Simone, Troy Smith, Daniel Travis, Jeff Vicario, Ashley Caswell Walker, Andrew Weatherford, Jason Williams, Chad Wright

Long Term Prayer List

To make changes to this list, please call the church office at (928) 692-8828 Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. —4 p.m. or email us at stjohnsprayerchain@citlink.net.
We make every effort to keep the names on this list current, and we have a quarterly meeting to do so. Your help is appreciated so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Family of Roger Anders; Family of Carol Anderson; Lois Baker; Family of Warren Bard; Family of Susan Bethel; Jennifer Casey; Nicole Castro; Dale Conner; Sally Diehl; Debra Eberly; Gary Forde; Steven Frazine; Family of Arno Gates; Patty George; Dana Godfrey; Jeffrey Gordon; Carol Halen; Jean Hardy; Spencer Hess; Paula Hupp; Family of Julie Jensen; Kimberley Jones; Ed Krause; Amy Lunsford; Betty Mixon; Krista Nielson; Paul Player; Kevin Pratt; Family of Barbara Ricca; Sandra Robison; Patty Roderick; Betty Rowe; Nandhini Sankar; Gert Schacht; Marc Schacht; Debbie Scott; Rodney Shutts; Jennifer Sievert; Martin Sievert; Wade Sievert; Ernestine Stein; Jeremy Thomas; Dr. Tom Thompson; Melissa Van Pelt; Don Waller; Lois Waller; John Walls; Pam Wally; Scott White

For Your Information

Publication Deadlines

Bulletin Announcements for church events are due to the church office by **Tuesdays at 12:00 PM.** Bulletins are printed on Tuesday afternoons.

St. John's Connection for church events and happenings are due to the church office no later than **Tuesdays at 12 p.m.**

The Connection Email is sent out on Wednesday mornings.



The **March 2026 Newsletter** deadline is:
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 by 4:00 PM.

You can e-mail your submissions, with Bulletin, Newsletter, or Connection in the subject line to Heidi at:
st.johns@citlink.net.



Group meetings Saturday mornings at
10:30 a.m. in the
St. John's UMC Multi-Purpose Room

Other Groups that meet here at St. John's UMC

Morning Glories

Third Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. (September-June)

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Friday mornings:

Weigh-In begins at 8 a.m.

Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.

Cerbat Garden Club

Second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. (August-June)

Bible Readings; Birthdays; Anniversaries



February Daily Bible Readings

February 1	Psalm 51, 54; Mark 6:47-56
February 2	Psalm 138, 139; Mark 7:1-23
February 3	Psalm 24, 29; John 7:14-31
February 4	Psalm 64, 65; Mark 7:24-37
February 5	Psalm 68; Mark 8:1-10
February 6	Psalm 72; Mark 8:11-26
February 7	Psalm 70, 71; Mark 8:27-9:1
February 8	Psalm 69, 73; Mark 9:2-13
February 9	Psalm 75, 76; Mark 9:14-29
February 10	Psalm 114, 115; John 12:24-32
February 11	Psalm 25; John 1:1-18
February 12	Psalm 26, 28; John 1:19-28
February 13	Psalm 102, 130; Luke 18:9-14
February 14	Psalm 37; John 1:29-34
February 15	Psalm 31, 35; John 1:35-42
February 16	Psalm 30, 32; John 1:43-51
February 17	Psalm 98, 103; Mark 2:18-22
February 18	Psalm 41, 44; John 2:1-12
February 19	Psalm 47, 48; John 2:13-22
February 20	Psalm 49, 53; John 2:23—3:15
February 21	Psalm 59, 60; John 3:16-21
February 22	Psalm 51, 54; John 3:22-36
February 23	Psalm 138, 139; John 4:1-26
February 24	Psalm 24, 29; Mark 3:31-4:9
February 25	Psalm 57, 58; John 4:27-42
February 26	Psalm 61, 62; John 4:43-54
February 27	Psalm 72; John 5:1-18
February 28	Psalm 70, 71; John 5:19-29

February Birthdays

February 1—Greg Cropper

**February 5—Chris Moody
Lesa Vishon**

February 7—Terry Anderson

February 12—Scott Larson

February 15—Lupe Flores

**February 17—Gianna Graszer
Meg Kalm**

**February 23—Chance Heer-Elliott
Dave Kopecky**

February 28—Dee Hudson



February 2026 Calendar

Sunday, February 1	8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, February 2	5:30 PM Monday Big Book Study
Tuesday, February 3	12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline 10:00 AM Women Doing Life Together 4:00 PM Community Book Club
Wednesday, February 4	Cornerstone Pick-Up 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 1:00 PM Garden Club Board Meeting 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study
Thursday, February 5	4:30 PM GriefShare 5:30 PM Christian Folk Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 6	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes'
Saturday, February 7	BLOOD DRIVE 9:00 AM St. Michael's Catholic Church; 10:00 AM NA Meeting; 5:00 PM NA 1st Saturday
Sunday, February 8	8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, February 9	5:30 PM Monday Big Book Study
Tuesday, February 10	12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline 5:30 PM Leadership Retreat
Wednesday, February 11	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 10:00 AM Cerbat Garden Club 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study
Thursday, February 12	11:00 AM Widow & Widowers; 4:30 PM GriefShare 5:30 PM Christian Folk Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 13	Cornerstone Pick-Up 8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes'
Saturday, February 14	9:00 AM St. Michael's Catholic Church; 10:00 AM NA Meeting; 11:00 AM Valentine's Day Cookie Exchange
Sunday, February 15	8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship



February 2026 Calendar

Monday, February 16	5:30 PM Monday Big Book Study
Tuesday, February 17	<i>12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline</i> 10:00 AM Women Doing Life Together
Wednesday, February 18	Ash Wednesday 7 AM ~ 9 AM Imposition of Ashes 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday, February 19	Cornerstone Pick-Up 9:00 AM Morning Glories; 4:30 PM GriefShare 5:30 PM Christian Folk Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 20	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes' 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch 6:00 PM Young Adults & Singles Group
Saturday, February 21	8:00 AM Men's Fellowship; 9:00 AM St. Michael's Catholic Church; 10:00 AM NA Meeting
Sunday, February 22	Lent ~ 1 8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, February 23	Cornerstone Pick-Up 5:30 PM Monday Big Book Study
Tuesday, February 24	<i>12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline</i>
Wednesday, February 25	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study
Thursday, February 26	4:30 PM GriefShare 5:30 PM Christian Folk Worship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 27	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes' 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch
Saturday, February 28	9:00 AM St. Michael's Catholic Church; 10:00 AM NA Meeting





1730 Kino Avenue
Kingman, Arizona 86409

Church Staff

Senior Pastor	Rev. Amy Kalm
Office Administrator	Heidi Heer
Treasurer	Tracy Sheehy
Modern Praise Music Director	Chris Commisso
Traditional Music Director	Karin Kopecky
Christian Folk Music Director	Mike Mixon
Preschool Director	Mande Padilla

Connection Staff

District Superintendent	Rev. Timote Piukala
Resident Bishop	Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Closed for Lunch: 1 p.m.-2 p.m.
Friday 8 am-2:00 pm
(928) 692-8828/Fax (928) 692-8799

Worship at St. John's UMC

Sundays:

*9:00 AM ~ Modern Praise
10:30 AM Traditional Worship*

*Christian Folk Worship
Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.*

Email: st.johns@citlink.net
Website: stjohnsumc.com

