

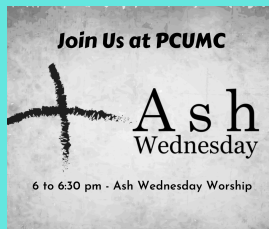
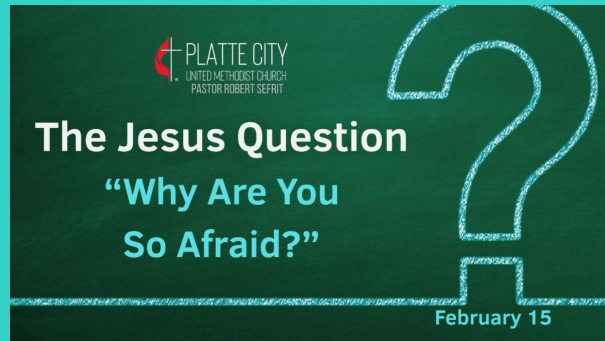


Weekly E-News
February 18, 2026

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Hello PCUMC Family,

Today is Ash Wednesday, and so I invite you to join me in the Sanctuary tonight for a short worship service from 6 to 6:30 where we will be receiving the traditional ashes on our foreheads.

As we observe Ash Wednesday today, I am reminded that before His earthly ministry began, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness fasting, facing temptation, and drawing near to God. That season prepared Him for what was ahead.

In a similar way, the forty days of Lent (not counting Sundays) invite us into a time of spiritual awareness, repentance, and renewal.

You know, in some ways, **Lent is like Christmas** – we remember that God has come near to us in Jesus,

And so a simple prayer for this season might be:

“Jesus, I invite you into my life more deeply than ever. Draw me closer to you. Help me to desire you more each day.”

In other ways, **Lent is like Good Friday** – a time to reflect on Christ’s sacrifice and to ask what needs to die in us.

So, another prayer for this season might be:

“Lord, show me what is not like You in me. Cleanse my heart and help me turn from anything that pulls me away from You.”

And **Lent is like Easter** – the celebration of resurrection and new life.

So, another prayer for this season might be:

“Jesus, do a new work in me. Renew my hope, deepen my love, and help me become more like you.”

Grace and Peace,

Robert

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent in the Christian calendar. Worship often includes the imposition of ashes in the shape of a cross on the forehead. The ashes –

traditionally made from the previous year's Palm Sunday branches – remind us of our human mortality ("from dust you came...") and our need to repent and turn back to God (ashes were often used in the Bible as a sign of our desire to repent).



What is Lent?

Lent is the 40-day season (excluding Sundays) leading to Easter.

It is a time for spiritual renewal through prayer, fasting, generosity, and acts of mercy, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

The word *Lent* comes from an Old English word, *lencten*, meaning "spring" or "lengthening (of days)." Just as we see the renewal of new life in springtime, Lent is a season of spiritual renewal and preparation for new life in Christ.

Check Out Sunday's 10:45 Worship Songs Here

Want to hear the songs we are singing this week in the 10:45 Blended Service or familiarize yourself with the songs so you are ready to sing with us on Sunday?

[Check out Sunday's Playlist here.](#)

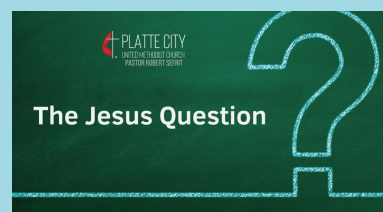
Sunday, February 22, 2026 – First Sunday in Lent

Message: *The Jesus Question: "Why Have You Forsaken Me?"*

- **9 am - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary - Presentation of Third Grade Bibles. Watch online at Facebook Live and YouTube**
- **9:50 to 10:45 am - Pancakes and Porridge in Fellowship Hall**
- **10 am - The Mustard Seed Guild (Garden Group) in the Library**
- **10:45 am - Blended Worship in the Sanctuary**
- **11:30 am to 1:30 pm - Wags and Wipes Distribution**
- **4:30 to 6 pm - Confirmation Class**
- **6 to 8 pm - Youth Group Gathering**

Mark Your Calendar

- **Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday Service** from 6 to 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary
- **Wednesday, February 18 - Good and Beautiful You** at 6:30 pm in the Music Room guided by Pastor Robert
- **Thursday, February 19 - Brothers in Christ AT** at 6:30 pm at Dave Tucker's home (13380 N Highway)
- **Monday, February 23 - Mondays with the Minister** from 12:30 to 2:30 pm at Price Chopper/Starbucks
- **Tuesday, February 24 - Prayer Team meets at Noon** in the Prayer Chapel (See group picture below)
- **Tuesday, February 24 - LIFT** from 4 to 5:30 pm
- **Tuesday, February 24 - Good and Beautiful You** at 6:30 pm in the Library, guided by Joyce Cashier
- **Wednesday, February 25 - Good and Beautiful You** at 9:30 am in the Music Room, guided by Pastor Robert
- **Wednesday, February 25 - Good and Beautiful You** at 6:30 pm in the Music Room guided by Pastor Robert
- **Thursday, February 26 - Brothers in Christ AT** at 6:30 pm at Dave Tucker's home (13380 N Highway)



The Jesus Question

Many come to church with questions. And while Jesus is often called the answer, he also asked a lot of questions. Jesus may have the answers that we seek, but he also asks the questions we need to hear. What's your answer when The Jesus Question comes your way?

February 01: Who Do You Say I Am?

February 08: Why Do You Call Me Lord? (Boy Scout Sunday)

February 15: Why Are You So Afraid?
February 22: Why Have You Forsaken Me?

With the beginning of Lent, two PCUMC traditions continue:

- **Pancakes and Porridge** (replacing the Austerity Lunch) on February 22. The meal will be served from 9:50 to 10:45 am, between the Traditional and Blended Services. This meal marks the beginning of Lent. Funds will be collected in lieu of our normal Sunday Brunch expenses.
- **Change for Mozambique** in the small water bottles.



All money collected from these events will go to support our sister church in Mozambique.



If you would like to contribute to the **Blessing Box or Wags and Wipes**, please place the items in the grocery cart outside of Fellowship Hall.

This weeks requests: (FYI – NO canned goods are needed):
Toaster pastries, Instant oatmeal, Cereal, Small bottles of cooking oil, Spaghetti sauce, Spaghetti sauce mix, Dry noodles, Hearty soups, Toilet paper, Paper towels, Wet wipes, Diapers, sizes 5, 6

PLEASE check expiration dates before you donate!
Several expired items have been received recently.

Save the Date!

This is the Easter Eggstravaganza and will require lots of help.
Watch for signups detailing ways you can participate!



Children's Church (Sunday School)

The February unit is "Israel's Wanderings and Wonderings" from the books of Numbers and Joshua.

[Click here to check out the Children's page on the website for full details.](#)



Our Bible Memory Buddy, Rockette the flying squirrel, wants us to remember:

"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your god is with you wherever you go." ~Joshua 1:9

Additional teachers and helpers are needed for Children's Church and the Nursery on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please reach out to Carrie. There is also a sign up sheet at the Connect Center.

Our unit this month's theme is "We Go Together" and comes from the books of 1 Samuel, 2 Kings, Galatians and the Gospel of John.

The memory verse this month is:
"As iron sharpens iron, one person sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17 NIV)

[Click here to read full details on the Children's page of the website.](#)



Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 and begins with dinner.

All students in Middle School and High School are invited to attend.

Always a Good Time! Invite your Friends!

New Series begins on February 15

FIND YOUR WAY: A 4-Week Series from Matthew on Spiritual Growth

SERIES OVERVIEW: Life can feel confusing. We hit moments where we're not sure which way to go, what decision to make, or how to figure things out. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a map that could guide us through life—not just for directions, but for making choices, living life, and knowing God better? If you've ever been there, good news! The Bible is more than an old book—it's a map that helps us find our way. In this 4-week series from the book of Matthew, we'll discover how **the Bible helps us see things differently, shows us how to be like Jesus, reveals what God is like, and teaches us what is true.**



Use this QR code to sign up to provide a meal for the group. There is also a sign up sheet at the Connect Center.

Info from the Leadership Council

The Council generally meets the second Tuesday of each month. As part of the meeting, the financial situation of the Church is reviewed.

January 2026 and Year to Date

Income = \$23,332.80
Expenses = \$26,654.60
Net Loss = (\$3,321.80)

Approved meeting minutes are available if you are interested and can be picked up at the office or can be requested by email at plattecityumc@gmail.com.

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

John C. Maxwell



This is the Prayer Team that meets every Tuesday at Noon - Joyce, Mike, Jason, Barb, Terry and Lori, along with Pastor Robert

New people are always welcome!

Father, help me to remain
consistent in prayer
throughout this month. Let
every day be filled with
Your presence, guidance,
and peace. In Jesus' name,
Amen



One of the clearest marks of a healthy church is a commitment to prayer. Prayer binds us together. Prayer helps us grow closer to God. Prayer shapes who we are and what we do. Prayer changes things.

- Every Tuesday at noon, The Prayer Team meets in the Prayer Chapel.
- Every Wednesday afternoon, the Prayer Chain email group receives a list of Prayer Concerns. If you would like to be a part of this Prayer Ministry, please respond to this email or call the church office.

As always, if you have prayer requests, you may complete a Prayer Request Card or contact the church office or Pastor Robert.



Our Mission

To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

Ignite: Faith. Hope. Love

PCUMC is a place where FAITH is kindled, HOPE is ignited, and God's LOVE burns bright through us into our church, community, and world.



You can view past worship services any time using these links.
FYI - Facebook only retains the videos for 30 days.

Click [here](#) for all staff email addresses.



Click [here](#) for info about giving options and [here](#) for a form to schedule automatic payments.

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