

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

February is a very cool month. Literally, it's one of the coolest months of the year, at least in Missouri, coming in third to January and December, respectively, having an average temp of about 39 degrees. (January, 34; December, 37). Figuratively, it's very cool, too, and mysterious in that you never know how many days are in it. Is it 28? 29? Who can keep up?

February is Black History Month, Humpback Whale Awareness Month, National Cancer Prevention Month, and American Heart Month. In February we celebrate Ground Hog Day, President's Day, National Tater Tot Day, and Ice Cream for Breakfast Day. Valentine's Day, February 14, happens on a Saturday this Year, and Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, comes up on February 17, which is right in front of Ash Wednesday on February 18.

Oh, yeah, Super Bowl Sunday is February 8, but who cares, right?

February is a special month for me personally because Donna and I were married on February 12, 1999, so we'll be celebrating our 27th anniversary this year (nobody saw that coming!). My mom's birthday is February 22—she would have been 106. Her mother's birthday was the previous day, February 21.

February is also a special month for the church for at least a couple of reasons. Transfiguration Sunday is February 15 when Jesus gave some of his disciples a glimpse into what his divine glory was really all about. And the season of Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday (this special day has also happened a few times in March).

Lent is a very cool season for the church. It is the 40-day trek (not counting Sundays) in which we follow Jesus to the cross. It culminates on Easter Sunday when he overcame death for us.

And it all begins this month February. It's a very cool month.

Blessings on yer heads! Pastor Rob

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School group will be starting a study for the Lent season, "An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story," by Rachel Billups. We would love for you to join us. Just reach out to Angie to get a book.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Please plan to join us for a special service on Ash Wednesday on February 18th. The service will start at 6:30p.m.

FEBRUARY POTLUCK

Potluck Sunday is Feb 22nd right after church. Please bring a dish and friend or neighbor, the more the merrier!

PARADISE RUBIES

The Rubies are not meeting this month. But please plan to attend their March meeting on the 7th when the objective is to give the church a good spring cleaning.

OUTREACH/MISSIONS

Your continued support of our missions collections, as well as things you do outside the church for others, is so much appreciated.

January Missions Collections

Smithville Pantry: Paper Towels 73 rolls, 27 canned fruit, & 85 cans of meat/soup;

Trimble Food Pantry \$225;

Valor Ranch \$20;

Smithville Pantry \$26.05;

Human Relations Sunday \$290;

AMen \$170

February Collections

Smithville Pantry - Canned Fruit

Monetary - Fishes & Loaves (Lang's unhoused ministry)

Plattsburg Food Pantry - monetary

March Collections

Smithville Pantry - Canned Meat

Monetary - UMCOR Cleaning Buckets

Unhoused Meals

We have again committed to providing meals to Scott & Darcy's Fishes & Loaves Ministry to serve to unhoused people. Tooti & Angie will be providing a meal in the first quarter and the Howards will provide a meal in May. We are looking for volunteers for each of the following months of August & December. Please let Tracy Howard know if you would like to provide meals.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Progress is being made in getting our youth ministry up and running! We've hired Erin Clouse to be our youth minister and she has been attending worship with us over the course of the past month. We're hosting a Meet and Greet for Erin on Sunday, the 8th, during Coffee Time so please join us in welcoming her to our church family.

Erin and the council are working on carving out an area in the basement for the youth. Stay tuned for possible items needed to make the area comfortable and functional for them.

Also, please be in prayer for this new ministry at our church and give some thought to families or youths, grades 6 through 12, in your life who may be interested in youth fellowship.

CHURCH CONNECT APP

Church cancellation via text - Have you received a text message from a phone number claiming to be Paradise UMC? Our church management software uses a local phone number, 816.357.9047, to send text messages. Please save that phone number in your phone. This is a way to send messages to everyone that we have a cell phone number for in the

church management software. If you need to update your profile or create one - please see Tooti Roe.

MONTHLY REPORT

The monthly report for January 2026 is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$59,362.74
General Offerings:	+\$9,869.55
Capital Improvement:	+\$882.50
Expenses:	-\$5,231.47
Final Balance:	\$64,883.32