



*COALVILLE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Len McRaney
12298 Shorecrest Rd.
Biloxi, MS 39532
March 2026 Newsletter*



From the Pen of Bro. Len:

**Peace....What everyone
desperately wants but few actually
find**

Have you ever wondered why peace is so elusive? I'm talking about the absence of war or turmoil, but an inner peace that produces a calm sense of well-being. A tranquil spirit comes easily when all is going well, but what happens when your personal world falls apart? Does peace quickly evaporate when your circumstances change?

Jesus gives His followers a type of peace that endures through the most trying situations: "Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor fearful" If you're a Christian, you've probably felt God's peace uphold you in a crisis, but you may be wondering why you don't consistently experience it. We'd all like it to come automatically, but Jesus' promise includes a command—to not let our hearts be troubled or afraid. His peace is freely given, but the way we respond often determines whether we experience it.

The Greek word for "peace" in the New Testament derives from a verb that means "to join," and that's exactly what it does. Through Christ, three areas separated by sin are reconciled. You can think of God's peace as a three-legged stool.

Peace With God. The first essential leg is reconciliation with God. We are all born sinful and alienated from the Lord, and according to "There is no peace for the wicked." But God took the initiative to bring us back into a relationship with

Himself—He did this by sending His Son to die on the cross, thereby bearing the penalty for our sins. If we'll trust in Christ for forgiveness and reconciliation, we'll have peace with God. Instead of being His enemies, we become His beloved children, who are joined to Him via an unbreakable bond.

Peace of God. Once we've been reconciled to the Father through faith in Christ, we can then have the second leg of threefold peace—the peace of God, which guards our heart and mind. It's not something we can manufacture with relaxation exercises or positive thinking. God's peace is produced by the Spirit who indwells us. The Lord has provided everything necessary for us to experience peace in our heart and mind. Therefore, if our spirit is still unsettled, we need to examine ourselves. Since Christ's peace is unaffected by circumstances, the problem is not our situation but rather our response to it. We could be harboring sinful attitudes, thought patterns, or emotions that are robbing us of peace. Anger, impatience, bitterness, resentment, and worry are evidence that we are not walking in the Spirit. Paul said, "The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace." Whenever our thoughts, desires, or expectations aren't aligned with the Spirit, we're in conflict with Him and can have no peace. "For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want." The Spirit's fruit of peace comes only when our life is joined with Him in submission and obedience.

Peace With One Another. The final leg of the stool is peace with other people. Even though we've

likened peace to separate legs on a stool, which are seemingly independent of one another, they're really consecutive in nature. Unless we have peace with God, we can't have the peace of God. And in order to live in peace with others, we must have His peace ruling within us. Many of the emotions that cause inner turmoil also keep us from having harmonious relationships. Think about it. How can we live at peace with others when we're filled with jealousy, resentment, unforgiveness, anger, or bitterness? It's not possible! There will be times when people offend, mistreat, or speak about you with unkind or untrue comments. These things are unavoidable, but you don't have to respond sinfully. When you face such an affront, ask God to give you the grace to do what He has commanded: "Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other." Do you remember the meaning of the Greek word for peace—"joining together" what has been separated? In Christ, we have been reconciled to the Father, united in submission with the Holy Spirit, and knit together with other believers in one body. Genuine, stabilizing peace requires all three legs of the stool, and each one comes from a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Only then will we have peace like a river flowing through our life in every circumstance. Jesus told His disciples, "Do not let your heart be troubled." There is no switch to simply turn off a troubled heart, but Jesus also explained how to do it—believe in God and trust what He says (v. 1) The next time your heart becomes troubled, go immediately to God's Word. As you learn of His greatness, goodness, and love, your trust in Him will increase, and the troubles of your heart will diminish. You can also go to Him in prayer and cast all your anxiety on Him, knowing that He cares for you.

Are you lacking any part of God's three-fold peace? If you're a Christian, you already have peace with God, but maintaining the other two requires cooperation with the Spirit. Thankfully, there are certain practices that can help.

· **GOD'S WORD...**Reading the Bible regularly will calm our heart and fill our mind with truth. Are you filtering your perception of situations through the Lord's promises, purposes, power, and provision? Do your thoughts and emotions reveal trust or distrust of God?

· **OBEDIENCE ...**Is there any rebellion in your spirit? Do you doubt God's goodness and love or become impatient if He doesn't change your situation as fast as you desire? Are you harboring unforgiveness, anger, or resentment against someone who has hurt you? Do you rehearse and relive the offense instead of thinking about what is good, honorable, and true? All these subtle forms of disobedience are obstacles to peace.

· **PRAYER...**Instead of being anxious, we should pray about everything. Do you bring your worries and fears to the Lord and leave them with Him, or are you quick to take them back?

Scriptures to Meditate upon: Isaiah 26:3 Psalm 119:165 John 14:27 Isaiah 48:22 Romans 5:1-2; 8:6; 12:17-18 Philippians 4:6-9 Galatians 5:17; 22-23 Colossians 3:12-16 2 Thessalonians 3:16 1 Peter 5:7

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Brothers and Sisters

March winds blow in a Spiritual revival of our souls. This March we are in the season of Lent. It is a time to open our hearts to our Lord for His guidance in the cleansing process of our souls. Prayer is our communication with our Lord. It is an essential part of our spiritual restoration during Lent. As we read and pray these scriptures, may we experience His presence, His Holy Spirit, working in us. Amen

March 2nd - 6th: Self-examination is necessary to live a life aligned with His Holy Spirit. Matt. 7:3-5

March 9th -13th: True fasting is more than what we don't eat; it is pleasing God by applying His word to our society. Isaiah 58:6-9

March 16th - 20th: God's love flows deeply when we rend our hearts & yield our all to Him. Joel 2:12-13

March 23rd - 27th: Read and meditate on God's Word. Joshua 1:8

Scripture for Holy Week:

March 29th - April 3rd:

Palm Sunday - Matt. 21:1-11

Monday - Prophecy fulfilled. Zach. 9:9

Tuesday - Jesus entered Jerusalem. Matt. 21:19

Wednesday - Importance of faith. Matt. 21:21

Maundy Thursday - Jesus demonstrates an incredible amount of love. & remembrance of the Last Supper. Matt. 26: 20-75

Good Friday - Reminds us of our desperate need for a Savior, outpouring of His love and obedience. Day of crucifixion. Matt. 27:1-61

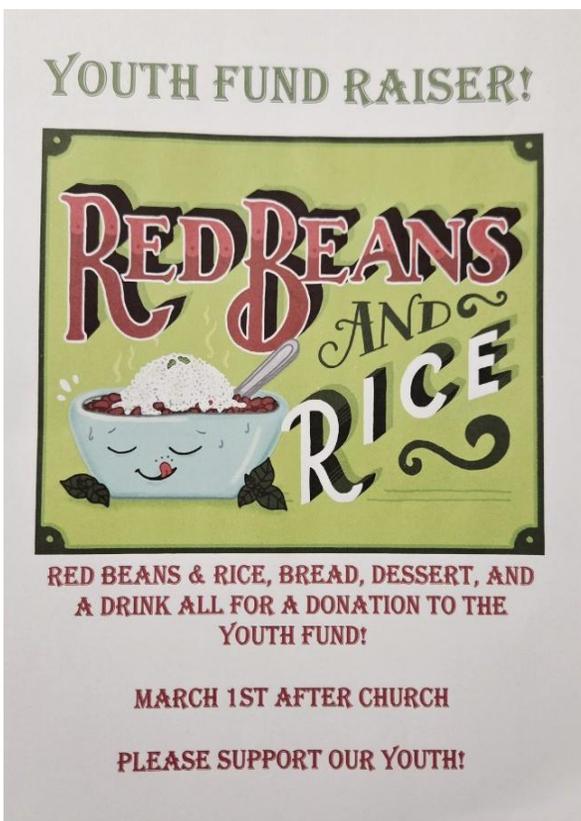
CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone. Welcome to March!

We have been thinking a lot about "keeping the faith." What does it mean? How does one do it? How do any of us keep the faith that God is leading us when we are in difficult times? Some of Max Lucado's quotes on faith are: "Faith is trusting what the eye cannot see." "Waiting is a sustained effort to stay focused on God through prayer and belief." "You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good." Max's advice is often centered on finding peace through the understanding that God is in control of the ultimate outcome. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Ms. Norma Day was a long-time member of Coalville until she passed away in 2009. Ms. Norma's favorite verse in the whole bible was Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." That's a powerful verse to live by, and Ms. Norma did. She was an inspiration in that way. In Cornerstone, we always find encouraging messages through the lyrics of the songs we sing. Like the song Goodness of God by Bethel Music and Jenn Johnson: "Lord, Your mercy never fails me. All my days, I've been held in Your hands. All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so, so good. You have led me through the fire. In darkest night, You are close like no other. You lead me and guide me by Your Spirit and Your Word, I have never walked alone." So.... we can all "keep the faith" by remembering God has done all these things. God also continues to reassure us through scripture, music, friends, sermons, and lots of other ways, if we only pay attention. And we can continue to "sing of the goodness of God!"

~~~~~YOUTH~~~~~

The youth will be busy in March. On the first Sunday they will have their Red Beans and Rice fundraiser. On the 8th they are having a Disney Movie fun night and on the 29th they will be helping with the Easter Egg Hunt. Please continue to keep the youth program in your prayers.



EASTER EGG HUNT!

The whole church is invited to come and enjoy some good food and fellowship!

J.A.M.

The JAM kids will once again be participating in Palm Sunday with their marching in and waving of the Palm branches as well as a cute song to celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry. You don't want to miss this!

!VBS SAVE THE DATE!

VBS Will be June 24th-28th

*This year's theme is Stompers and Chompers
Building Dino-Sized Faith in God's Big Plan*

***MARCH 15 is UMCOR SUNDAY! We will
take a special offering.***

UMCOR Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this day, we support the United Methodist Committee on Relief—better known as UMCOR—the disaster response and humanitarian relief agency of our church. When people face crisis—whether from natural disaster, conflict, or hunger—UMCOR is there to help. UMCOR Sunday matters because it sustains that foundation. By covering UMCOR's administrative costs, this Special Sunday makes sure the Church is equipped to respond whenever and wherever help is

needed—without delay. When we support UMCOR Sunday, we're not just reacting to emergencies. We're making it possible for the Church to be a consistent, trusted presence in moments of urgent need.

SHOEBOX MINISTRY

**Ms. Carolyn asks that you please donate any leftover Mardi Gras beads to Shoeboxes. Just leave them in the shoebox room in the Fellowship Hall.
THANK YOU**

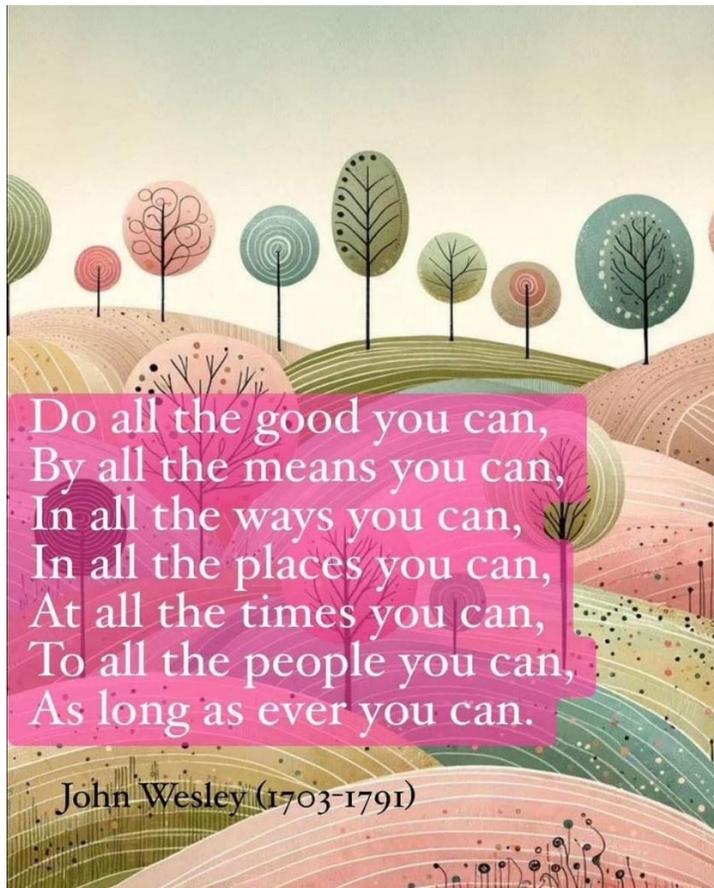
*******MISSIONS TEAM*******

RADA KNIFE SALE thru March 22

***!!BUNCO!!
5 PM March 28***

***If you have any events to be placed on the 2026 church calendar, please e-mail or call the office. Coalvilleumc@outlook.com**

228-392-5970



Bottled Water Donations

Seashore Mission is committed to serving individuals in our homeless community who rely on us for daily support, compassion, and essential resources. As we continue our outreach, one of our most urgent and ongoing needs is bottled water. Whether a few cases or a larger contribution, every donation will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who depend on Seashore Mission for basic necessities. Every donation directly supports our mission and helps ensure that no one in our community goes without this essential resource. If you are able to contribute, or if you would like more information, please feel free to contact me. Your generosity strengthens our community and provides comfort and dignity to those who need it most.

Thank you for considering this request and for supporting Seashore Mission's work on the Gulf Coast.

Reverend Elijah Mitchell
Executive Director, Seashore Mission, Inc.
(228)-234-2814

Gulf Pines Disaster Response

North Mississippi Disaster Response Need

Our friends in North Mississippi need our help as they recover from the ice storm. Many people are dealing with damaged and fallen trees and limbs. Volunteers and chainsaws are urgently needed. If you are interested and able to be part of a team to help with the clean-up in North Mississippi, please contact Rev. David Huffman as soon as possible at 662-416-5948.



130 Years of Hope & Healing

Methodist Children's Homes of
Mississippi (MCH) has been

providing care for children and families in Mississippi since 1896. Originally known as the "Methodist Orphanage," we've cared for more than 11,000 children in over a century. We have grown from our original location in Water Valley to provide state-wide services to children in foster care through our campus in Jackson, MS.

Our history shows that our mission drives everything we do. We believe that the children and youth who are placed in our care are dearly loved by God. He knows the trauma and abuse children have endured before being brought into our care. Through Christ, we provide what children need to begin to heal.

We hope that you will join us as we celebrate this milestone and continue the healing work. It takes all of us to bring hope and healing to hurting children!

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!



Anniversaries

Birthday

Monthly Events

Scheduled Meetings

Weekly Events

CLC – Christian Life Center

FH – Fellowship Hall

S – Sanctuary

CW – Contemporary Worship

TW – Traditional Worship

AB – Administrative Board

BG – BUNCO Group

CB – Cornerstone Band

CC – Cemetery Committee

DT – Daisy Troop

FISH – Young Adults

JAM – Children's Ministry

MT – Mission Team

SL – Senior Luncheon

UMYF – Youth

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
1 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S Gil Holland, BD Youth Red Beans Fundraiser 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	2 Janie Foote, BD	3 11:30 AM, SL, FH 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	4	5	6 Billie Jones, BD World Day of Prayer 7 PM, AA, FH	7		
8 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S Daylight Savings Time 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	9 6 PM, AB, FH	10 CLC VOTING ALL DAY 6:30 PM, CB, S	11	12 Danny Crosby, BD 12 – 3 PM, BG, FH	13 7 PM, AA, FH	14		
15 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S UMCOR Sunday 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	16	17 Happy St Patrick's Day Gabby Causin, BD Rossi Trochesset, BD Gilbert & May Nell Holland 69 Years 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	18 Paula Yennie, BD Valerie Moore, BD	19	20 7 PM, AA, FH	21 Candy Webb, BD		
22 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S RADA orders due 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	23	24 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	25	26	27 CLC RESERVED ALL DAY 7 PM, AA, FH	28 CLC RESERVED ALL DAY BUNCO 5 PM		
29 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S PALM SUNDAY Easter Egg Hunt Megan Laferrier, BD 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	30 Monday of Holy Week Joel Byrd, BD	31 Tuesday of Holy Week Robert Arnold, BD 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 M, CB, S	Backpack Blessings: 03/01 Peanut Butter 03/08 Small Cereal 03/15 Chicken Noodle Soup 03/22 Oatmeal/Grits 03/29 Beanie Weanies				RADA Knife SALE THRU Mar 22	