

THE GOOD NEWS

HARDINBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2026

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

“Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.” Isaiah 51:6

This Scripture is one that we can easily get distracted by and lost in. I mean, “the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment” is heavy to hear. Especially as people who currently live on the earth, to die like gnats does not sound pleasant. However, despite the intense language here, this verse describes a beautiful thing: God’s salvation is forever and we will be delivered. This verse gives me hope, especially when things are tough. When I feel the frailty of the earth and heavens as we know it, when others disappoint me (and I disappoint myself); when death seems to be all around; when I feel the challenge of this season so deeply; when the days are quite cold and the night is so dark, it is good news to remember that God is our Deliverer and Savior and will never end.

We are officially in Lent, the season where we prepare our whole selves for the good news of Christ’s resurrection in Easter. At Hardinsburg, we have a couple of different places where we are reflecting on God’s good news, even when we feel clouded by the darkness.

1 – Every Sunday in Lent during our “Prayers of the People”, we will share how we have seen God at work in the past week. I will walk amongst the congregation with a handheld microphone so those who feel led to share can. Consider raising your hand one Sunday to share about how you have seen God move in your life that week.

2 – The “Walk in the Word” journey consists of moving 40 miles and a devotional booklet with 40 scriptures. There are 18 people in our church who have committed to taking up this Lenten practice. Maybe you want to try it for one day and see how God moves as you move.

3 – The Savior book club is meeting at Green Valley II at 5 pm on Mondays (excluding March 9th) to discuss that week’s chapter. Consider joining this group, even for just a week, to glean from different perspectives of Christ’s self-giving love. This also is a part of our commitment to evangelism by being willing to reflect on God’s goodness in a public setting (and supports a local business)!

4 – Pray. Pray for your Lenten journey. Pray for others’ Lenten journeys. Pray for our church. We all have dreams and hopes for our church, but have you ever prayed that God would move in that way? Consider asking God to speak to you in worship, to bring new faces in, and to move powerfully amongst those worshipping in person and online.

It has been almost eight months since I’ve joined the mission and ministry at Hardinsburg United Methodist Church and I am grateful that God has sent me here. This Lent has only been further evidence that God has brought us together. May we be a people responsive to God’s direction and may we hold not to heaven or earth, but to God’s steadfast love, eternal salvation, and never-ending deliverance.

To God be the glory,

Rev. Jess Welch



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Administrative Council will meet Sunday, March 15th, right after worship in the Heart & Soul room. This will be a short meeting to discuss a new fundraising opportunity.



Bible Trivia – March question: Which of these miracles is found in all four gospels?
 A – Christ walking on water.
 B – The water turned to wine at the wedding at Cana
 C – Jesus calms the storm.
 D – The feeding of the five thousand.



MEET AMI HUTCHINSON OUR GUEST PREACHER

On March 8th, Pastor Tess will be on vacation visiting her extended family in Iowa. Ami Hutchinson will be filling in at Hardinsburg UMC. She grew up at Camp Loucon (literally, both of her parents worked on staff), graduated from Asbury University, and now lives at Rough River. Ami loves the Lord and regularly preaches as a fill-in for United Methodist Churches in Hancock County. Ami is currently working on opening a coffee shop in Lewisport. We will certainly be blessed by her message on the 8th.

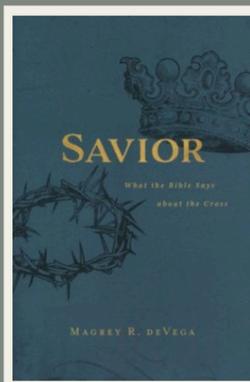


EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS



From March 1–29, you are invited to dedicate an Easter lily for \$20 in loving honor or memory of someone dear to you. These beautiful lilies will fill our sanctuary as we celebrate the joy, hope, and promise of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning.

SAVIOR LENTEN BOOK STUDY



"SAVIOR"
Lenten book study

**Every Monday
Feb. 16 - Mar. 30
(except Mar. 9)
5:00 pm
Feb. 16th - Mar. 30th
at Green Valley II**

We are a few weeks into our Lenten book study held on Mondays at GVII (5 pm). We will have a "catch up" reading day on Monday, March 9th and will not meet in person. Our last session will be Monday, March 30th.

WALKING IN THE WORD LENTEN JOURNEY

The Walking in the Word Lenten Journey has officially started. We have eighteen people committed to moving a mile a day and reading through the Gospel of Mark. Consider asking one of the participants what they've gained through this experience.

TALBERT CHAPEL EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE & BREAKFAST



Our sister church, Talbert Chapel United Methodist Church, will be having their annual Easter sunrise service on April 5th at 7 am and a breakfast after to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. They are collecting new underwear in any size for their Easter mission project and they will be blessed during the sunrise service.



LENTEN LUNCH - MARCH 18TH

Pastor Tess has been invited to speak in the rotation of preachers for the "Hancock County Lenten Lunches" where different churches and pastors rotate hosting and speaking. The meal will take place **Wednesday, March 18th at noon** at Hawesville United Methodist Church (306 Main St, Hawesville KY 42348). If you are interested in carpooling, please let Pastor Tess know. If we have enough interest, we will take the van. The carpool will leave at 11:15 am from Hardinsburg UMC's parking lot.

HUMC IS HAPPY TO HOST BRECK BLUEGRASS in Memorial Hall



Every Tuesday night from 6:00 - 9:00 pm, the Breckinridge County Bluegrass Music Association fills Memorial Hall with the lively sounds of bluegrass music and good company. HUMC is proud to host this weekly jam session that brings musicians and neighbors together. Bring your instrument or just bring a friend - it's open to the public and sure to be a great time.

Made with love



Craft Group

Wednesday, Mar. 25th & Thursday, Mar. 26th beginning at 9:30 am in the Heart & Soul rm



TUESDAY, MAR. 24TH

Trustees Meeting

1:00 PM IN THE HEART & SOUL ROOM




Single Ladies Supper Club
2:30 PM
TUESDAY, MAR. 17TH
AT JOAN SMILEY'S HOME



PHIL THE GOPHER
THIS MONTH'S KIDS COLLECTION IS GOING TO
Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes

BCMS TEACHER OUTREACH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



On Wednesday, March 4th at BCMS from 10 am to 2 pm, our church will be providing a soup appreciation lunch for the teachers and staff. Want to give back this Lent? Consider signing up to bring soup, crackers, cookies or come help set up, chat with teachers at their lunch, and clean up! If you signed up, supplies are due on March 1st. See Tabby DeHaven or Robin Cox for details.

Camp Loucon Registration Now Open!

Our beloved Camp Loucon has officially opened registration for summer camp. The camp season runs from June 7th to July 31st with a variety of options from family camp (all ages) to explorer camp (rising 2nd) to senior high (12th). There are scholarships available. Please let Pastor Tess know when your camper will be attending so we can send campergrams (and maybe volunteers)! Loucon is a special place where kids are loved, safe, and grow spiritually. You can register at www.camploucon.org/summer-camp.



Bible Trivia – February answer
What is not a biblical use for ashes?
A – mourning B – repentance
C – **gardening** D – purification from sin

Ashes have many uses and representations within Scripture. In some instances, ashes from specific sacrifices for cleansing and purification from sin (Numbers 19:9-10, Hebrews 9:13-14). Ashes have been an outward symbol of profound sorrow, which often follows repentance (Esther 4:1, Job 42:6; Jonah 3:6). There are no references to ash's agricultural use in Scripture.

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March 2026 Newsletter



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.