



# Entering the Season of Lent

A Lenten Invitation from First United Methodist Church

## OGALLALA FIRST UMC

### SERVICE TIMES:

#### OGALLALA:

Sundays @ 9:00 AM

#### BIG SPRINGS:

2nd—4th Sundays @ 10:45 AM

1st Saturday @ 5:30 PM

#### OUR VISION

"To be a dynamic church, sharing and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ"

#### OUR MISSION

"To love God, love each other and extend that love beyond our church"

## ONLINE SERVICE

[methodistchurchogallala.com/live-stream](http://methodistchurchogallala.com/live-stream)

Watch LIVE during any of our service times above.

### NEED TO CATCH UP?

Watch all past services on our website at any time.

All services are archived for viewing.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



@OgallalaUMC



@BigSpringsNebraskaUMC



@OgallalaUMC

## GIVING

We appreciate your giving. Did you

 know that you can also give online? Go to our website and click on the donate tab on our homepage. Or simply scan the QR Code.

You can also stop by and drop your offering in the offering box in the sanctuary.

## *A Word as We Begin*

Dear Church Family,

On **February 18**, we begin the season of **Lent** with **Ash Wednesday**, marking the start of a sacred journey that leads us toward Easter.

According to *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, meaning *spring*. It is a season of preparation, renewal, and reflection as we ready our hearts for the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Historically, Lent began as a time of fasting and preparation for baptism and later became a season of repentance and spiritual growth for all Christians.

## *Begin Lent with Us*

### **Ash Wednesday – February 18**

We invite you to a meaningful Ash Wednesday service as we enter the season of Lent together.

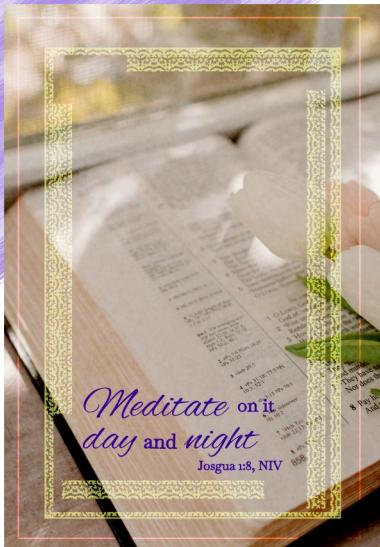
**Ogallala – 5:00 pm**

**Big Springs – 7:00 pm**

A time for reflection, prayer, and receiving ashes as a sign of repentance and hope.

**All are welcome.**





## What Is Lent?

During Lent, we are invited to reflect deeply on our faith and examine the things that either draw us closer to God or pull us away.

Some people choose to fast from something that distracts them. Others choose to take on a spiritual practice that helps them grow. For example:

- ◊ Fasting from social media and using that time for prayer
- ◊ Spending more time reading Scripture
- ◊ Committing to regular weekly worship
- ◊ Joining a Bible study or small group

Lent is not about perfection. It is about intention.

### *A Lenten Practice to Consider*

Choose one small way to make space for God this season.

- ◊ A few minutes of prayer
- ◊ A daily Scripture reading
- ◊ Worship each week

## *A Lenten Focus: Growing in God's Word*

This Lent, I want to encourage our congregation to grow in **biblical literacy** and to spend more intentional time in the Bible.

The Bible is one of our primary sources for understanding God and our faith. If we do not read it, it becomes difficult to truly know either.

If you do not own a Bible, the church would be happy to provide one to you **free of charge**. We have Bibles available on the shelf next to the nursery. Please feel free to take one.



## *Lenten Invitations to Carry Beyond the Season*

I invite you to consider these practices during Lent and, hopefully, continue them throughout the year:

- ◊ Carry your Bible with you, especially to worship on Sundays
- ◊ Spend time each day reading Scripture, even if only a few minutes
- ◊ Join a Bible study or gather a small group of friends to read and discuss Scripture together

These practices may seem simple, but many people share that they struggle to find time or do not know where to begin. Carrying your Bible with you often reveals unexpected moments throughout the day when you can open its pages. The more you read, the more familiar and meaningful it becomes.

## Where Do I Start Reading?

For those who are new to reading the Bible, getting started can feel intimidating. The simplest approach is just to begin.

I recommend starting in the **New Testament**, reading one or two chapters a day.

Each week, we also provide daily readings from the **Revised Common Lectionary** printed in the bulletin. These can be taken home and placed inside your Bible as a helpful guide.

In addition, I offer a daily podcast based on these readings, including the Scripture and a short reflection.

## Learning Together: Lenten Book Study

Reading Scripture on your own is important, but engaging in conversation with others is just as valuable.

This Lent, I will be leading a book study beginning **February 24**:

- ◊ **9:00 am in Ogallala**
- ◊ **6:30 pm in Big Springs**

We will be studying *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?* by **Adam Hamilton**.

If you are unable to attend this study, I encourage you to form your own group of two or more people. You might:

- ◊ Read a chapter a day in the Gospel of Matthew
- ◊ Meet weekly to discuss what you've read
- ◊ Use *The Upper Room* devotional for group discussion

At the back of *The Upper Room* booklets, available near the front door of the church, you will find helpful weekly discussion questions. If you would like help starting a group, please reach out to me.

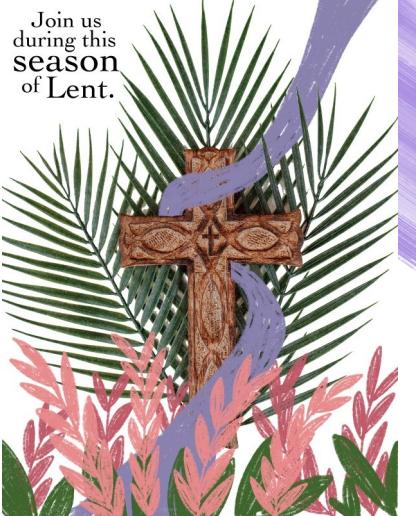
## A Closing Prayer

My hope and prayer is that this Lenten season will be meaningful, reflective, and life-giving for you. May it be a time of growth, renewal, and deeper connection with God and one another.

In Christ,



Rev. Curt Magelky  
Pastor, Ogallala & Big Springs UMC



## Daily Lenten Listening



Find “**Pastor Curt’s Pulpit**” on your favorite podcast platform for daily Scripture

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



# Ogallala First United Methodist Church

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## Important Dates: Mark Your Calendars!

### Ash Wednesday Services

- ◊ February 18 – 5:00 pm in Ogallala  
Address: 421 North Spruce Street
- ◊ February 18 – 7:00 pm in Big Springs  
Address: 208 East 3rd St, Big Springs

### Palm Sunday

- ◊ March 29 – during regular worship  
(children will wave the palms)

Address: 421 North Spruce Street

### Stations of the Cross

- ◊ March 30 – April 4
- ◊ 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
- ◊ Ogallala Sanctuary

Address: 421 North Spruce Street

### Holy Thursday Worship

- ◊ April 2 – 6:30 pm in Big Springs

Address: 208 East 3rd St, Big Springs

### Good Friday Tenebrae Service

- ◊ April 3 – 7:00 pm in Ogallala

Address: 421 North Spruce Street

### Easter Sunday – April 5

- ◊ Sunrise Service – 6:20 am (location to be determined)
- ◊ Easter Services – regular worship times
- ◊ Easter Egg Hunt following the Ogallala service

Address: 421 North Spruce Street

Ogallala Website: [methodistchurchogallala.com/live-stream](http://methodistchurchogallala.com/live-stream)

Big Springs Social: <https://www.facebook.com/BigSpringsNebraskaUMC/>