

Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church
First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026

Prelude and Choral Introit

Welcome and Announcements (Birthdays and Anniversaries)

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: When life feels uncertain and the path ahead is unclear,

People: God is still with us.

Leader: When we walk through seasons of waiting and testing,

People: God is still with us.

Leader: Jesus entered the wilderness led by the Spirit,

People: And God sustained Him there.

Leader: We come today with our questions, our burdens, and our hopes,

People: Trusting that God holds us even in the wilderness.

All: Let us worship the God who never leaves us alone.

***Gathering Hymn** *Open My Eyes, That I May See* No. 454

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God, who leads us through every season of life, through abundance and through wilderness, through clarity and through uncertainty.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who entered our human struggle, faced temptation without surrendering to it, and remained faithful to the Father's will.

In Him we see what trust looks like, and through Him we know we are never alone.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who guides, strengthens, and sustains us, anchoring our identity as beloved children of God.

We believe that nothing in life or death, neither hardship nor uncertainty, can separate us from the love of God.

We belong to God.

We are held by grace.

And we walk forward in hope.

Amen.

***The Gloria Patri**

No. 70

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

You call us to trust You, yet we often choose control.

You invite us to depend on Your word, yet we rely on our own understanding.

You offer Your presence, yet we demand proof before we believe.

In seasons of wilderness, we confess that we sometimes doubt Your goodness.

We grow impatient.

We search for shortcuts.

We forget that we are already held by Your love.

Forgive us for the times we have tried to walk alone.

Renew our trust.

Strengthen our faith.

Remind us that Your grace is sufficient for every moment.

(Silence)

Words of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: Jesus entered the wilderness and remained faithful. Through Him, God understands our weakness and meets us with mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer Concerns, Praises & Pastoral Prayer

Hymn of Preparation *Have Thine Own Way Lord* No. 382

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Sharing the Word *Held in the Wilderness* Matthew 4: 1-11

***Sending Hymn** *Only Trust Him* No. 337

***Benediction**

Depart to Serve

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Announcements

Free Food Sunday is TODAY at 3:30. Please have food here by 3:00.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone who wants to host small group gatherings.

As part of a future church goal, we hope to open a thrift store in the Tishomingo Church building. As you begin spring cleaning, please consider setting aside gently used items so we'll be ready when this ministry begins.

The February 2026 newsletter is available at <https://graceumciuka.org/events/newsletters>

The Helpful Samaritan Food Pantry items are Soup and Peanut Butter and Jelly.

Prayer Concerns

Cathy Hollon, Denny McGuff and his family, James Nabors, Carol Armstrong, Mary Ray, Phillip Gray, J.P. Wilemon, and Gus Martin

Assisted Living: Judy Hawkins, Marcell Senter

Choir Rehearsal—meets on Sundays at 5:00 pm.

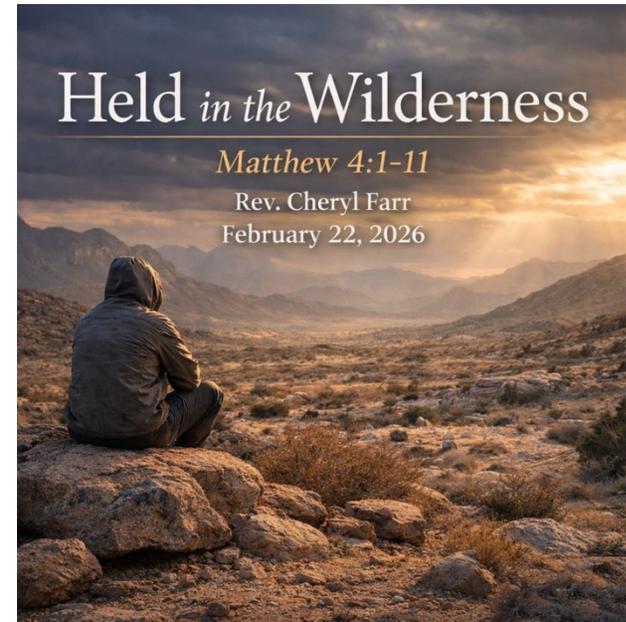
Bible Study--meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm taught by Larry Klatt

Youth Group—meets on Wednesdays 6:00

AA groups meet here on Monday and Friday nights at 7:00 pm.

Pastor, Cheryl Farr, may be contacted by text at **(662) 252-0910** or email at [**cherylfarrgbg@gmail.com**](mailto:cherylfarrgbg@gmail.com)

Grace United Methodist Church *First Sunday of Lent*



205 E Eastport Street
Iuka, Mississippi
Sunday, February 22, 2026
The Reverend Cheryl Farr, Pastor

The Mission of Grace United Methodist Church is to
Magnify God through
Love, Acceptance,
Discipleship and Service.