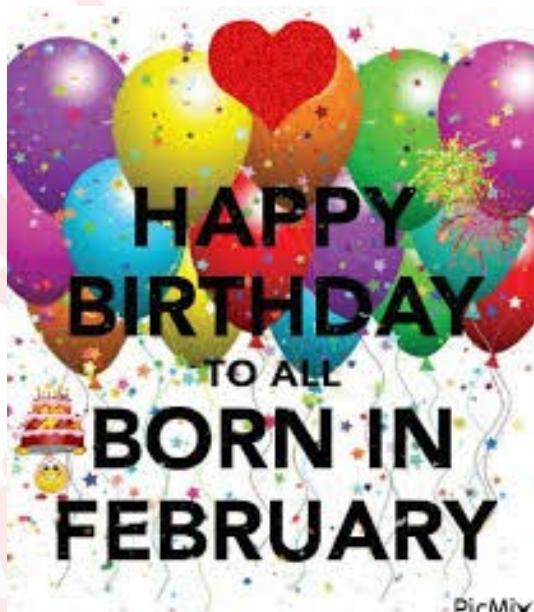


# Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WOOD RIVER FIRST UMC | FEBRUARY 2026

## You're Invited!

If you have a birthday or anniversary in the month of February, come receive a special blessing from Pastor Rachel and the congregation on Sunday, Feb 8 at 9:00! We want to celebrate you!



## Church Events

- **Feb 2 Ruth Circle 1:30**
- **Feb 4 Enchilda Dinner 5:30-7 (or while supplies last)**
- **Feb 4 Youth Group 6:00-8:00**
- **Feb 5 Rachel Circle 1:30**
- **Feb 11 Blood Mobile 12-6 @WR Comm Center**
- **Feb 18 Ash Wednesday WR 6:00; Shelton 7:30**
- **Feb 19 Sewing Circle 9:30**
- **Feb 26 UWF 1:30**

## ***A Season of Return: Lent Begins***



Easter comes early this year. So do Lent and Holy Week. Very soon, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday in the middle of the month, and we will hear the words from Genesis 3:19: "**You are dust, and to dust you shall return,**" as the sign of the cross is traced on our foreheads. The marks left on our foreheads are nothing less than signs that we live by God's mercy. We want to remember this as we begin this season of preparation.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Lent is a season that invites us to pause and be mindful as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's work on the cross. With compassion and truth, we adopt new habits and examine our lives carefully. Traditionally, Christians observe Lent through practices such as prayer, fasting, reading Scripture, and acts of service, which are all ways in which God meets us, shapes us, and renews us.

For some, Lent may mean giving something up. For others, it may mean taking something up: A daily prayer practice, time spent reading Scripture, intentional generosity, or service to neighbors in need. Whatever form it takes, the heart of Lent is not self-denial for its own sake, but deeper discipleship—growing in love for God and neighbor.

Above all, Lent is a season of hope. It reminds us that God is not done with us. No matter how far we may feel from where we want to be spiritually, God is always ready to welcome us with grace. As the prophet Joel declares, "Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love."

As we embark together on this Lenten journey, I pray that this season will be marked by gentle honesty, meaningful growth, and renewed confidence in God's unfailing love. May we walk this path together, supporting one another and keeping our eyes fixed on the promise of Easter that awaits us.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Rachel

## We Did It — and There's More to Celebrate!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our church family and community, the Furnace Fund goal has been fully met!

Even better — the matching gift donors are thrilled to let their contribution support other important needs now that the furnaces are paid for.

Let's celebrate this amazing achievement together at the Feb. 4th Enchilada Dinner!

Your donations at the dinner will now help tackle much needed deferred maintenance, including:

- Bathroom remodel and plumbing updates
- Kitchen repairs and upgrades
- Other essential improvements that keep our church safe, functional, and welcoming

THANK YOU to everyone who has given, prayed, volunteered, and supported this campaign.

Your generosity is making a real difference!



# Enchilada Dinner!

**Wednesday, Feb 4**

**5:30–7 PM (or while supplies last!)**

## **COMMUNITY MEAL FUNDRAISER**

**OPEN TO EVERYONE — FREE WILL DONATION**

**Good food • Good neighbors • Great cause**

**FROZEN ENCHILADAS — \$18/DOZEN ~~ Limited supply  
— take some home before they're gone!**

*All donations help keep our church warm and welcoming!*



Wood  
River  
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Church

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Website: [woodriverumc.org](http://woodriverumc.org)

FB: Wood River First United Methodist Church

# February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30	2 Ruth Circle 1:30	3	4 Bible Study 9:30 Enchilada Dinner 5:30-7 w/Youth Group serving  Lorna Wescoatt	5 Rachel Circle 1:30	6	7
8 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30 Young Disciples 5:00  Adrianne Hypes Kyle & Becky Allan	9	10 Kevin Mayfield	11 Bible Study 9:30  Blood Mobile 12-6 @Comm Center	12	13 Miguel & Lori Rodriguez	14 Ken & Deb Fair- banks Rita Earnest
15 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30	16	17	18 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30-8 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> WR 6:00 Shelton 7:30  Kyle Herber	19 Sewing Circle 9:30  Christian Thompson Jackie Franssen	20 Seth Smith	21
22 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30 Young Disciples 5:00  Megan Cons- bruck Brady & Cindy Schellpeper	23 Cheyanne Hester Ivan Bilsland	24 Kent Luebs Dale Moul Joan Brown	25 Bible Study 9:30  Harleigh Thomp- son Peg Heise	26 UWF 1:30  Kristin Carrol	27 Bob Allan Jr Taryn Mayfield Danielle Devore	28 Madison Brown (29th)

Dear church family,

We have youth group planned for the dates listed below. We have supper between 6:30 -7pm each night, followed by a Bible lesson, and then activities. **We are asking for volunteers to provide a meal for our youth.** There is usually 12-18 youth and volunteers present.

We will be helping serve at the enchilada furnace fundraiser so no meal will be needed Feb 4. Please use the link below to sign up for a slot. Thank you in advance and please let Anna Miller or myself know if you have questions.

Thanks, Mel Frear

Feb 18

March 4, 18

April 1, 15, 29

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48ACAA28A6F94-61764757-2026>



The Blood Mobile will be at the Wood River Community Center (108 W 10th) on Tuesday, Feb 11 ~ 12-6pm.

You can preregister at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Season is upon us. Some dates and worship times to note:

- Wed, Feb 18: Ash Wednesday, service at WR 6:00; Shelton 7:30
- Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service at WR 7:00
- Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm Good Friday service at Shelton 7:00
- Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Sunrise Service (time will be determined closer to Easter, hosted by the Mennonites)

Breakfast to follow at the church

Easter Service 9:00am Wood River; 10:30am Shelton



The Wood River Ministerial Association's annual soup supper will be held on March 15 at 5:00. We are the host church this year! More details to come!!

## Giving Report

Jan: \$12,135

Dec \$10,005

Nov \$13,177

Average weekly attendance: 43

January monthly expenses: \$10,656



For online giving, scan code with smartphone. You will need to create an account and be approved if it's your first time using.