

INMISSION

A PUBLICATION OF PARKWAY HEIGHTS UMC

FEBRUARY 2026

“Could You Not?”... A Message from Keith About Lent

We are rapidly approaching Lent. That’s the 40 days, not counting Sundays, that come before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and reaches its crescendo on Holy Week. The church established it long ago to help remind believers to be in a posture of repentance and renewed discipline as they prepare for the highest holy day of the year, Easter.

When I was growing up, my church used to ask all the children, “What are you going to give up?” One Lenten tradition is to practice abstaining from something and to devote that time and attention to God. One year, I gave up pizza when I actually ate it more regularly. My friends might give up chocolate. Now, someone might give up social media. It’s a healthy exercise in discipline.

As we approach this Lenten season, we want to invite the congregation into a time of Lenten disciplines. Based on Matthew 26:40, we want to ask, “Could you not?” Jesus makes a simple request: keep watch and pray in the Garden, and the disciples fail miserably. Without deliberate intention, we rarely follow through.

Scripture is full of imperatives that Jesus insists will make us better disciples and lead to a more robust faith. We want to commit to those things. This Lent, we’re simply asking Jesus’ question, “Could

you not?” Our Parkway Heights Pillars are fixed in the idea that we should be “rooted, committed and transformed.” How can we ensure that our faith has those holistic qualities? Simple: we practice our Lenten disciplines. Instead of giving something up for Lent, why not take something up?

Could you not...

1. Engage in worship regularly and attend to the Lord’s Supper when available? Improve your regular worship attendance patterns.
 2. Find a small group or discipleship opportunity to begin or continue? Connect to a Bible study, Sunday school class or accountability group.
 3. Commit to daily devotional time that includes scripture reading and guided prayer?
 4. Find a new way to serve the church and others? Volunteer for a role on Sunday mornings, like greeting or scripture reading. Serve at the Fieldhouse. Sign up for our Honduras mission trip in June. Help Church on Campus or the Wesley Foundation by serving away from our church’s campus. Serve at Edwards Street.
- Starting February 22, there will be a section in the bulletin each week to help guide you in a time of reflection and prayer for that week’s scripture passage. As we approach the completion and dedication of

our beautiful new Prayer Chapel, we’ll encourage you to use it on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. We will also offer weekly communion at 9:30 a.m. Watch your bulletin for more details.

These four simple requests will help you in 2026. They’ll prepare your heart and mind to encounter and be transformed by the resurrected Lord. We’re asking you, like Jesus did, to step up. Go at least one step further in your discipleship journey. I hope you’ll pledge to do at least one of those four things in the spirit of Lent. It’d be great if you’d commit to doing all four more faithfully. Remember, Jesus asks, “Could you not?” Let’s keep watch with him during this holiest of seasons.

- Keith Keeton
Lead Pastor

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 18 at 6 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian
Church

Keith Keeton will preach during this combined service. Westminster has also invited us to dinner at 5:30 p.m. If you plan to attend the meal, please email parkwayheights@parkwayheights.org.

Lucas Lenten Series

This year during Lent, five area churches will host the inaugural Lucas Lenten Series. This series consists of midday concerts and fellowship lunches each Wednesday. Lunch will begin at 11 a.m. every week, with the concert following around 12:10 p.m.



This series is appropriately named in honor of Ella and Aubrey Lucas. Whenever faith, the fine arts and community come together, it is difficult to imagine an occasion without their presence.

For more information, please pick up a series brochure in the Atrium. We hope you will support these special concerts by attending each week. If you plan to eat lunch, please make a reservation at the host church by calling one week ahead of time. The calendar of events is as follows:

- ▷ **February 25** - Deep South Ringers handbell choir at Trinity Episcopal Church - For lunch reservations, call 601.544.5551.
- ▷ **March 4** - Dr. Katrina Cox, vocalist, accompanied by Dr. Christina Mathis on piano at Main Street UMC - For lunch reservations, call 601.582.5557.
- ▷ **March 11** - Organist Dr. Bradley Hunter Welch at Westminster Presbyterian Church - For lunch reservations, call 601.584.7574.
- ▷ **March 18** - Dr. Kristina Finch, harpist, at Parkway Heights - For lunch reservations, visit parkwayheights.org/calendar or call 601.550.2466.
- ▷ **March 25** - Ecumenical Choir composed of host churches, Southern Chorale and William Carey University Chorale at Main Street Baptist Church - For lunch reservations, call 601.296.8000.

First Wednesday Lunch

Adults 55+ are invited to join us for the First Wednesday Lunch on February 4, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in Founders Hall. Our program will feature Presbyterian Christian School's choir. Seasoned with Love will cater our meal of lemon pepper chicken, wild rice, green beans, garden salad, roll and pretzel crusted brownies. Cost for the meal is \$12. Please reserve your meal in the Sunday bulletin or at parkwayheights.org/calendar by February 2.

NOTE: The 2026 North of 70 directories will be available at the luncheon!

Scout Sunday & Chili Fundraiser

Scout Sunday will be celebrated on February 8, which is the anniversary of the founding of Scouting America. Scouts from Parkway Heights' troop and pack will be serving our congregation, so please thank them for their service!

The Scouts will also hold their annual chili fundraiser on this day. The Scouts will be selling chili that morning for you to enjoy during the Super Bowl that night. Thank you for supporting our Scouts!

New Grand Piano for Sanctuary

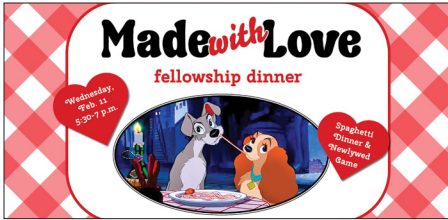
Over the years, our Sanctuary has been filled with beautiful music. Anyone who has worshipped at Parkway Heights understands that the arts are an integral part of our church's DNA. Countless hours and extensive dedication by all of our musicians have enhanced our opportunities to worship. That said, every piece of equipment in a church has a life cycle. In most churches, equipment is used well past its expected "expiration" date. That is certainly the case for our current piano. It has served us well. Its strings, hammers and keys have embedded a soundtrack into our lives of faith. However, it can no longer hold tuning with the organ. That's why we have placed a deposit on a new instrument that will provide the soundtrack of faith for our generation, our children and our grandchildren. Like the current piano, it will be what congregants hear for the next 50-plus years.

That's where you come in. If you value how our music enhances our worship, we hope you'll contribute to our piano fund. With every gift, we will shade in the piano keys on a featured poster in the Atrium until the piano is paid in full. Each key represents \$1,000. You can buy multiple keys, one key or add your donation to others to equal one key.

To make a gift to this piano fund, you can designate it on your check or use this QR code.



This church has always been a great supporter of our Music Ministry and worship. Thank you for your continued generosity.



"Made with Love" Fellowship Meal

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us at "Made with Love," our Wednesday Fellowship Meal on February 11, 5:30-7 p.m., in Founders Hall. We'll enjoy delicious spaghetti and meatballs and have tons of fun with the Parkway Heights' Newlywed Game! Don't miss it! Cost is \$5 per person with a family maximum cost of \$20. College students eat free. Please sign up by February 8 in the bulletin or at parkwayheights.org/calendar.

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

Parkway Heights women, save the dates of April 24-25 for the Women's Ministry Spring Retreat. Watch for more details soon!



Wednesday Night Live Fundraiser: March 4

Our annual Youth Ministry fundraiser, Wednesday Night Live, will take place Wednesday, March 4, with the silent auction beginning at 5 p.m. in Founders Hall. Please buy a ticket and come to this entertaining night that features dinner, a silent auction and a variety show. The meal will include a baked potato/salad bar, dessert and drink.

If you can help by providing a NEW item for the silent auction (gift item, food, service, gift card, condo rental, etc.) or showcasing your talent in the variety show, sign up by emailing kaitlinbabington@parkwayheights.org.

Tickets are on sale now for \$10 each, with a family maximum cost of \$40. Pizza will also be available for children for \$1 per slice. Buy your tickets on Sunday morning in the Atrium starting February 8 or at parkwayheights.org/calendar.

Temporary Schedule Changes Coming Soon

We have some big changes coming to Parkway Heights after Easter! Our Trustees recently approved a nearly \$1 million proposal to redesign and replace the Sanctuary's climate control system. For years, the church has battled aging equipment, rampant humidity and a struggling system that never allowed the space to feel comfortable. This will be an investment in the future of our beautiful facility.

The good news is that the finance committee has allocated the funds necessary to pay for the renovations. We will not need a building campaign or a loan to make it happen. Your continued generosity to the ministry here has made that possible. We are financially strong and able to weather such a big expense.

However, the project will require significant time away from the Sanctuary while all the work is done. This should start after Easter. That's where we want to be creative. We will not move the traditional worship service into Founders Hall as we've done in the past. Instead, we're going to go back to our roots and move into the original Sanctuary/Youth Chapel. To accommodate the number of people we

typically see at the traditional service, we will have two traditional services on Sunday mornings. One will run concurrently with our Founders Hall service.

That means that we will have an 8:30 traditional service in the Youth Chapel, an 8:30 contemporary service in Founders Hall and a 10:45 traditional service in the Youth Chapel. Our 10:45 service will be in the style of our current traditional worship service. The other early traditional service will be a simplified, participatory service. We'll pick and call out hymns. Then we'll sing them as many times as we need to, so God demands an encore. We'll let kids and youth collect the offering. We will make the entire worship service center around one idea – everyone contributes. It'll be fun. We'll need at least one-third of our regular 10:45 attendees to choose that service in order for everyone to fit.

It's still a ways off, but I wanted to plant the seed for how we'll handle this situation. I hope you'll be praying for this exciting time, even if it is inconvenient. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for more information about when these transitions will occur.

- Keith Keeton



Galentine's Gathering
Thursday, February 12
6:00 p.m. at Tabella

Women's Ministry Connection Event

Parkway Heights' Women's Ministry invites all our women and their friends to a Galentine's Gathering on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6 p.m. at Tabella!

Let's enjoy an evening of connecting with other women over a delicious meal. Please sign up by Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the bulletin or by emailing Susan Eaton at susaneaton@parkwayheights.org.

Great Studies Coming in February!

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

It's the last book of the Bible, but it's often one of the most confusing and avoided. In fact, it almost didn't make it in the Bible at all. It's time we take a deeper look at the apocalyptic literature of Revelation. What does it have to do with us today? What does God have to say to a suffering community?

Join Keith Keeton as we explore ideas of faithfulness, hardship, community, hope and desperation. Hopefully, you'll gain a better understanding of this important biblical addition. This study will be offered on Sundays at 5:30 p.m., beginning February 15, for around four to six weeks.

REST FOR OUR SOULS: HEAL CHRONIC STRESS & LIVE IN GOD'S PEACE

In this four-week series, led by Anna Valentine of March Holistic Christian Counseling, we'll explore how God created our minds, bodies and spirits to work together. We'll talk about our nervous system (how our bodies respond to stress and safety), how relationships shape us and how God designed us for secure, loving connection with him and with others. This series is for anyone who wants to better understand themselves, grow in emotional and spiritual health and experience deeper peace, trust and connection with God in everyday life.

This class will be held on Sundays at 5:30 p.m., starting February 15.

Stephen Ministry: Continuing Education Update

Stephen Ministers do not serve alone. We meet on the first Sunday of the month for continuing education and peer group supervision. It's a time for Stephen Ministers to not only continue to build their caregiving skills but also to support and encourage one another. In February, our Stephen Ministers will study the impact of divorce to better understand the experience of divorce and be better able to care for people who are experiencing divorce. Through this training, Stephen Ministers will learn how to provide spiritual care for divorced or divorcing people and their family and friends.



As part of our Stephen Ministry, trained lay church members known as Stephen Ministers, provide confidential emotional and spiritual care to individuals experiencing life challenges such as grief from the loss of a loved one, divorce, unemployment, medical crises and difficulties in starting or adding to a family. Stephen Ministers are individually assigned by our supervising minister, Julie Collins, and are available to support, encourage, listen, comfort and provide confidential care with the help of God.

Please complete the form found at parkwayheights.org/stephen-ministry or contact Julie Collins at juliecollins@parkwayheights.org if you are interested in learning more or have questions about Stephen Ministry.

Living with Arthritis Workshop

St. Paul UMC invites everyone to attend a free, informative event, "Living with Arthritis," on Monday, Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. in St. Paul's Family Life Center, 215 E. 5th Street in Hattiesburg.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Portia Harris, who specializes in rheumatoid arthritis.

For more information, contact: Jimmie Jones at jajones72@ftcweb.net or 601-325-0625.

OUTREACH

February's Communion Offering

The communion offering collected in February will go to our Congregational Benevolence Fund. This fund provides support to members of our congregation who are facing a crisis and could use financial assistance. To give to this offering, designate it on your check or select "communion offering" as the fund if you give online at parkwayheights.org/give. Thanks!

Help Us Stock the Pantry at the Wesley Foundation

As a new semester has begun, the Southern Miss Wesley Foundation needs to stock its pantry with personal items. The pantry assists students throughout the year. If you'd like to help, please bring donations to the Atrium by February 22.

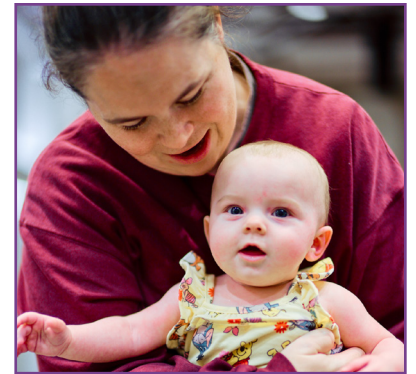
Some suggested items are: toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, laundry detergent, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, dish soap and feminine hygiene products. Thank you for your help!

Blood Drive Scheduled for February 15

Help us save lives! Our next church blood drive will be held Sunday, Feb. 15, from 8 a.m. until noon, in the bloodmobile in the church parking lot. To sign up for an appointment, use the QR code to the right or find the link on our Facebook page or website. We need you to donate! Thank you!



PH HAPPENINGS



WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL We "Chilled and Grilled" at our Wednesday Fellowship Meal on January 14. Everyone enjoyed a yummy BBQ supper and bingo fun, thanks to our Hospitality Team.



THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who helped take down and store our Christmas decorations on January 7.

NEW MEMBER In January, we welcomed Jessica Hendry as a new member of our congregation. Please let her know how happy we are to have her in our church family!



YOUTH

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live is coming quickly - March 4! Parents, please have your students begin securing auction items and preparing talent show acts! Kaitlin will be reaching out to parents this month to help organize this big fundraiser. If you can help in any way, please reach out to Kaitlin at 985.640.0407. This is an all-hands-on-deck event! Parents, remember your child will receive all the credit for his/her items sold in the auction and for volunteering at the event. They can use this credit to help pay for youth retreats and activities.

Super Bowl Party

On Sunday, Feb. 8, we encourage our youth to wear your favorite team colors, **bring your favorite tailgate food** and come have some fun with us at our Youth Super Bowl Party starting at 5:30 p.m.!

Important Dates

- **Feb. 8** - SN@P Super Bowl Party
- **Feb. 18** - Ash Wednesday Service at Westminster Presbyterian (D-Groups are encouraged to attend together!)
- **March 4** - WNL fundraiser!

SN@P SNAPS



Our students kicked off the new year with a bonfire, s'mores

and capture the flag. It was a great night! Thanks to the Sims family for hosting us!

BREAKTHRU RETREAT 2026



BreakThru 2026 was a wonderful weekend! Our students spent time in worship, small groups and mission opportunities. In addition, our team came back with the victory in the color wars!



This semester, students are diving into a new series called "This Is the Gospel." We are breaking down the Gospel narrative to help students develop a language for sharing their faith with those around them!



Our students learned a new game called SPUD on January 11 that kept the students on their toes and running. It was an awesome night of fun, laughter and community!

CHILDREN

Bible Black Belts Returns

Children in K-6th grade will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays, beginning February 15, to learn about the books of the Bible through Bible Black Belts! Activities incorporate physical motion to help children memorize Scripture. Children can attend even if they have not participated before. Pizza will be available each week for \$3 per child. Sign up now in Sunday's bulletin or via the SignUpGenius link.

Camp Wesley Pines

It's time to plan for Camp Wesley Pines! Parkway Heights will coordinate transportation to and from camp for the following summer camp sessions:

- Younger Elementary Camp (rising 2nd and 3rd graders) June 8-10
- Older Elementary Camp (rising 3rd - 6th graders) June 8-13.

Register at wesleypines.com by March 15 for a \$50 discount.

Created by God

Nineteen children participated in Created by God on Saturday, Jan. 10. The Created by God class is a God-centered introduction to human sexuality and respectful relationships designed for fifth and sixth graders. Our teaching and support team included: Kyle Birdwell, Stewart Eaton, Keith Keeton, Jessie Marshall, Kristin McNair, David Morris and David Sellers. Thank you to these adults for investing in our children!



There's a class for all ages in our Children's Sunday School program!

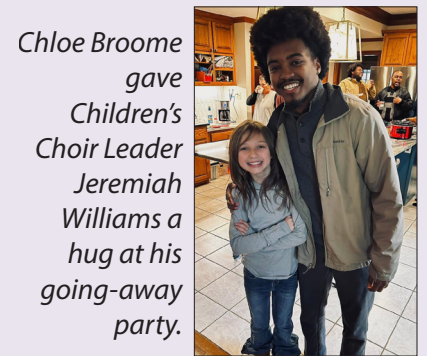


Children in Preschool Sunday School pretended to be in the desert before learning about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

- KIDS IN ACTION -



Sid Collins & Susan Walck took their Sunday School class on a "field trip" to the baptismal font.



Chloe Broome gave Children's Choir Leader Jeremiah Williams a hug at his going-away party.



Preschool Family Play Day

Preschoolers and their families are invited to gather together at Shooting Stars (4957 Old Highway 11) from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, for fellowship and fun! The facility is located on the Southern States Soccer campus toward the back of the property. Please let Lesley know if you are planning to come. The church will cover the cost of admission.

Loft Visit to Escape Room

All fifth and sixth graders will meet at Gold Post (2210 Hardy Street) for lunch on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 12:30 p.m. and then walk over to Time Will Tell Escape Games (2206 Hardy) for some escape room fun from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. Please bring money for lunch; the church will cover the cost of the escape room.



SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD JUNE 29 - JULY 2, 2026!

Mail Room

Dear Parkway Heights UMC Friends,

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” ~ Isaiah 43:19

Many individuals who visit Edwards Street Fellowship Center feel like they are living in a wasteland, unable to navigate out of a dark wilderness. However, thanks to your kindness and generosity, they can experience hope as refreshing as a bubbling stream! Your support of Edwards Street provides food for those who are hungry, healthcare for those who are sick and a message of love and inherent worth to neighbors who visit our campus.

It is often the smallest gestures that mean the most when people are walking through a difficult season. Thank you for being part of the myriad of small and large things that remind those we serve that they matter, such as...

- ... seeing colorful drawings and scripture decorating their grocery bags of food at the pantry;
- ... receiving a birthday cake kit during their birth month;
- ... selecting a book or a Bible from the Little Free Library in the pantry lobby;
- ... having a nurse walk them through multiple education sessions to understand their chronic health conditions (like diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol);
- ... receiving baby diapers through the diaper bank; and
- ... knowing their family has nourishing, nutritious food for the days ahead.

Your generosity touches lives with help, hope and healing in an atmosphere of love, respect and dignity. Thank you for your kind financial support to help those who visit Edwards Street know there is a way out of the wilderness. God bless you for shining the light of God’s love so brightly across the Pine Belt!

With Gratitude,
Ann McCullen, Executive Director
Edwards Street Fellowship Center

Dear Parkway Heights United Methodist Church Congregation,

Thank you so very much for your kind and generous donations to the Hattiesburg Clinic Dialysis Unit patients. The blankets were the perfect gift for dialysis patients as they are often cold during their dialysis treatments. Also, the snack drive was so very much appreciated for our less fortunate patients. God bless all of you for your generosity to our patients!

Sincerely,
Linda Allbritton, supervisor

A Note to Say Thank You -

Wes, again, you have been so very helpful for our theatre! Our Christmas show was wonderful, and we appreciate the gift of hospitality from PHUMC.

On Behalf of Legacy Actors Theatre Experience,
Sheri Marengo

PHUMC Finances	
December 2025	
Income	\$240,825
Expenses	\$132,484
Net	\$108,341
YTD Actual	
Income	\$1,673,927
Expenses	\$1,404,762
Net	\$269,165
YTD Comparison	
Budgeted Income	\$1,646,176
Actual Income	\$1,673,927
Budget Surplus	\$27,751

Prayer Concerns

Rita Cox, Warren Hood, Buddy Klein, Lynn Royse, Benson St. Louis & Evelyn Stone

Sympathy To...

- the family of Joanne Hetrick
- Kathy Wheeler, on the death of her husband, Ed

Our mission:

“To connect, equip and send people for Christ”

Our website:



Our app:



Give online:



Stephen Ministry:



Parkway Heights UMC
2420 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5911
parkwayheights.org
601.544.7873
parkwayheights@parkwayheights.org



Sunday Worship Times:

- 8:30 a.m.: Founders Hall Service
- 9:40-10:30 a.m.: Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m.: Sanctuary Service

Both worship services are livestreamed on various platforms.