



# The Lenten Journey 2026

BOLD STEPS FORWARD

New River  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Eustacia Moffett Marshall, PhD, Senior Pastor



# ASH WEDNESDAY

*Service of Reflection and Imposition of Ashes*

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026 12:00 - 12:40 PM**

**ONSITE ONLY**

**LIGHT LUNCH FOLLOWING**

**New River**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# 2026 Lenten Devotion

## *Letter from the Pastor*

Dear Beloved New River Family,

Lent is the forty-day season in the Christian calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and leads us to Easter. It mirrors Jesus' forty days in the wilderness and invites us into intentional reflection, repentance, prayer, and renewal. **Lent is holy preparation - a sacred invitation to draw nearer to Christ so that we may share more fully in His resurrection life.** As we journey this year under the theme, *Bold Steps Forward*, we are walking deliberately through reflection, surrender, and renewed commitment.

**During the season of Lent, you are invited to follow this devotion each day.** We also encourage you to consider giving something up or taking something on as a way to draw near to Christ in this sacred season.

**With regard to giving something up,** think about one way you can make room in your life for God by releasing what distracts you. For some, that may be a traditional fast from certain foods. For others, it may be a fast from social media, unnecessary spending, constant noise, or a behavior that keeps you spiritually disconnected.

**With regard to taking something on,** perhaps consider adding one healthy spiritual practice to your daily life. For instance, what would it look like to add ten extra minutes of prayer each day? Ten minutes of walking? Ten minutes of silence before the Lord? A daily scripture reading pattern? An intentional act of generosity each week?

Remember Lent is not about being perfect, it's about progressing in faith and obedience so that when Easter arrives, we are not only celebrating resurrection, we are living it.

May this season shape us into disciples who trust God deeply and move faithfully with bold steps forward.

With Love,



Rev. Dr. Eustacia Moffett Marshall

Rev. Dr. Eustacia Moffett Marshall, Pastor



## Wednesday, February 18, 2026

**Scripture:** Joel 2:12

**Reflection:** Returning to God is the first bold step forward.

**Prayer Prompt:** Lord, what needs to turn in me?

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## Thursday, February 19, 2026

**Scripture:** Genesis 2:7

**Reflection:** You are dust filled with divine breath.

**Prayer Prompt:** Breathe fresh courage into me.

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## Friday, February 20, 2026

**Scripture:** Isaiah 43:19

**Reflection:** God grows new life in unlikely places.

**Prayer Prompt:** Help me perceive what You are doing.

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## Saturday, February 21, 2026

**Scripture:** Psalms 139:23

**Reflection:** Boldness begins with honest self-examination.

**Prayer Prompt:** Search me and refine me.

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## Sunday, February 22, 2026

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:31

**Reflection:** Waiting strengthens spiritual endurance.

**Prayer Prompt:** Renew my strength as I wait.

## Weekly Reflection & Journaling

## Monday, February 23, 2026

**Scripture:** Joshua 1:9

**Reflection:** Courage flows from God's presence.

**Prayer Prompt:** Make me brave in obedience.

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## Tuesday, February 24, 2026

**Scripture:** Psalms 46:10

**Reflection:** Stillness prepares us for movement.

**Prayer Prompt:** Teach me disciplined rest.

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## Wednesday, February 25, 2026

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:4

**Reflection:** God's Word sustains more deeply than comfort.

**Prayer Prompt:** Feed me with truth.

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## Thursday, February 26, 2026

**Scripture:** James 1:22

**Reflection:** Hearing must lead to doing.

**Prayer Prompt:** Move me into action.

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## Friday, February 27, 2026

**Scripture:** Hebrews 12:2

**Reflection:** Focus fuels faithful endurance.

**Prayer Prompt:** Fix my eyes on Jesus.

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## Saturday, February 28, 2026

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 12:9

**Reflection:** Weakness invites divine strength.

**Prayer Prompt:** Let Your power rest on me.

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## Sunday, March 1, 2026

**Scripture:** Micah 6:8

**Reflection:** Justice is everyday obedience.

**Prayer Prompt:** Align my steps with Your justice.

## Weekly Reflection & Journaling

## Monday, March 2, 2026

**Scripture:** 1 John 3:18

**Reflection:** Love must become visible.

**Prayer Prompt:** Make my love tangible.

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## Tuesday, March 3, 2026

**Scripture:** Romans 12:12

**Reflection:** Joy, patience, and prayer sustain the journey.

**Prayer Prompt:** Stabilize my spirit.

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## Wednesday, March 4, 2026

**Scripture:** Matthew 14:29

**Reflection:** Faith steps out before certainty.

**Prayer Prompt:** What boat must I leave?

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## Thursday, March 5, 2026

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:13

**Reflection:** Stand firm when pressure rises.

**Prayer Prompt:** Strengthen me to resist fear.

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## Friday, March 6, 2026

**Scripture:** Luke 10:33

**Reflection:** Compassion interrupts convenience.

**Prayer Prompt:** Make me interruptible.

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## Saturday, March 7, 2026

**Scripture:** Galatians 6:2

**Reflection:** We move forward together.

**Prayer Prompt:** Show me who to lift.

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## Sunday, March 8, 2026

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:9

**Reflection:** Peacemaking is bold work.

**Prayer Prompt:** Use me as an instrument of peace.

## Weekly Reflection & Journaling

## Monday, March 9, 2026

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:8

**Reflection:** Humility is holy strength.

**Prayer Prompt:** Teach me obedient surrender.

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## Tuesday, March 10, 2026

**Scripture:** Mark 8:34

**Reflection:** Discipleship requires daily choosing.

**Prayer Prompt:** Help me carry my cross.

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## Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**Scripture:** John 12:24

**Reflection:** Burial precedes breakthrough.

**Prayer Prompt:** What must I release?

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## Thursday, March 12, 2026

**Scripture:** Psalms 56:3

**Reflection:** Fear does not cancel faith.

**Prayer Prompt:** I trust You here.

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## Friday, March 13, 2026

**Scripture:** Hebrews 10:36

**Reflection:** Endurance builds maturity.

**Prayer Prompt:** Strengthen my perseverance.

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## Saturday, March 14, 2026

**Scripture:** Romans 8:14

**Reflection:** You are led by the Spirit.

**Prayer Prompt:** Guide my steps.

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## Sunday, March 15, 2026

**Scripture:** Isaiah 30:21

**Reflection:** God directs the attentive heart.

**Prayer Prompt:** Help me listen closely.

## Weekly Reflection & Journaling

## Monday, March 16, 2026

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:23

**Reflection:** Faithfulness honors God.

**Prayer Prompt:** Let excellence mark my work.

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## Tuesday, March 17, 2026

**Scripture:** Proverbs 3:5

**Reflection:** Trust exceeds understanding.

**Prayer Prompt:** Deepen my reliance on You.

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## Wednesday, March 18, 2026

**Scripture:** Luke 22:42

**Reflection:** Surrender is sacred strength.

**Prayer Prompt:** Align my will with Yours.

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## Thursday, March 19, 2026

**Scripture:** Isaiah 53:7

**Reflection:** Quiet obedience carries power.

**Prayer Prompt:** Teach me restraint.

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## Friday, March 20, 2026

**Scripture:** John 19:30

**Reflection:** Completion is holy.

**Prayer Prompt:** Help me finish well.

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## Saturday, March 21, 2026

**Scripture:** Lamentations 3:25

**Reflection:** Hope waits faithfully.

**Prayer Prompt:** Sustain me in the in-between.

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## Sunday, March 22, 2026

**Scripture:** John 15:4

**Reflection:** Fruitful boldness flows from abiding, not striving.

**Prayer Prompt:** Help me remain so my steps bear lasting fruit.

## Weekly Reflection & Journaling

## Monday, March 23, 2026

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:20

**Reflection:** You are never sent alone.

**Prayer Prompt:** Remind me You are with me.

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## Tuesday, March 24, 2026

**Scripture:** Ephesians 3:20

**Reflection:** God exceeds expectation.

**Prayer Prompt:** Expand my vision.

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## Wednesday, March 25, 2026

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 29:11

**Reflection:** God's future holds hope.

**Prayer Prompt:** Steady me in trust.

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## Thursday, March 26, 2026

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 1:7

**Reflection:** Fear is not your inheritance.

**Prayer Prompt:** Replace fear with boldness.

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## Friday, March 27, 2026

**Scripture:** Romans 8:11

**Reflection:** Resurrection power lives in you.

**Prayer Prompt:** Awaken resurrection life in me.

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## Saturday, March 28, 2026

**Scripture:** Isaiah 61:3

**Reflection:** Ashes become beauty in God's hands.

**Prayer Prompt:** Transform what has broken me.

## Weekly Reflection & Journaling

## PASSION WEEK - HOLY WEEK

### Sunday, March 29, 2026 – PALM SUNDAY

**Scripture:** Matthew 21:9

**Reflection:** The same crowd that shouted “hosanna” will soon fall silent.

**Prayer Prompt:** Lord, anchor me in your will – whether celebrated or misunderstood.

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### Monday, March 30, 2026

**Scripture:** John 12:1–3

**Reflection:** Extravagant love prepares us for costly obedience.

**Prayer Prompt:** Teach me to pour out what I cling to.

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### Tuesday, March 31, 2026

**Scripture:** Matthew 21:12–13

**Reflection:** Holy love challenges anything that distorts worship or harms justice.

**Prayer Prompt:** Cleanse my heart of what crowds out Your presence.

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### Wednesday, April 1, 2026

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:14–16

**Reflection:** Betrayal often begins where devotion has grown thin.

**Prayer Prompt:** Guard my heart from quiet compromise.

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### Thursday, April 2, 2026 – Maundy Thursday

**Scripture:** John 13:14–15

**Reflection:** Love chooses humility and service; love is an action word.

**Prayer Prompt:** Give me the humility to serve as You have served me.

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### Friday, April 3, 2026 – Good Friday

**Scripture:** Luke 23:46

**Reflection:** Even in suffering, Jesus entrusts Himself fully to God.

**Prayer Prompt:** Help me trust You when the road feels like a cross.

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### Saturday, April 4, 2026 – Holy Saturday

**Scripture:** Lamentations 3:25–26

**Reflection:** God is still at work in the silence between death and dawn.

**Prayer Prompt:** Sustain my hope in seasons of waiting.

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### Sunday, April 5, 2026 – Easter Sunday

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:6

**Reflection:** The stone has moved, and new life stands before us.

**Prayer Prompt:** Lead me boldly into resurrection living.

## Weekly Reflection & Journaling