



PINE Chips^{2.0}

United Methodist

Of Church of the Pines



Live Christ's Love

Nurture Outreach Worship



At Church of the Pines, we offer everyone an opportunity to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to grow in a committed relationship with God. We are **Living Christ's Love NOW** through Nurture, Outreach, and Worship.



THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS CAN NEVER EXTINGUISH IT

JOHN 1 : 5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

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Sunday Worship 10:00am
Wednesday Worship 6:00pm

Did you get Pine Chips 2.0 in your email?

Not only is the monthly Pine Chips 2.0 sent to our church community via email, but we also have weekly announcements and events emailed and posted online!
Contact the church at (715)356-3041 or email office@umchurchofthepines.org

Pastor's Pen

A new month and a new year, welcome 2018. May it be a bright and blessed year for us all. It's hard to explain, but when I think of the month of January, it's always bright. I know that January is still in the middle of winter, there are no fun exciting holidays to look forward to (except, of course, my birthday), yet in my mind, January is one of the brightest months of the year.

I believe this sense of brightness comes from the fact that we notice the days are getting longer. In November and December, we really start to notice that the days are getting shorter and shorter, darker and darker. After December 21st, the days slowly start getting longer and brighter. In January we can really notice the difference, and for people who need the light, this is significant.

The same thing happens spiritually. During Advent and Christmas we in one way acknowledging the darkness. We remember the darkness of the world when Jesus was born, and we acknowledge the darkness in ourselves and our world today. We sing Silent Night in darkness as the light of candles slowly swells. It's a beautiful way of showing how in the birth of Jesus, God is sending love, hope, grace, life and light to us. And as we hear in John 1:5 *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Not only does the darkness not overcome the light, but the light also grows brighter. Just like the days in January get brighter, so does the light of Christ. Are you noticing it? Where in our world do you notice the darkness receding as the light grows? What about in your life? Where there was once concern and fear, but now there is hope and light?

For me, I see the light and hope of our congregation. In particular, I see how amazingly you responded to the flood bucket challenge. As I write this, we are still a little short of our goal of 100 buckets, but I know that we will get there. With each drop, each donation, the light grows brighter and brighter. The light of Christ shines the brightest not only when we believe, but when we also act. Because of your actions, Woodruff ACE Hardware responded by donating 100 buckets and lids to our church to be a part of the growing light. What an amazing thing! These buckets are a powerful act that spreads God's light, bringing hope, love, and life to people in need. The light is shining, and the darkness will not overcome it.

Our worship theme for January is called "Rise Up!" It will help us to see that as the light grows, we can see how God is taking action in our world and lives. It will also encourage us to "Rise Up!" and partner with what God is doing right now. Let's join together with God and not only make January bright, but the whole year, too!

Pastor Mark

Leadership, Prayer List & Birthdays

Church Staff & Leadership

Pastor Mark D. Gilbert, ext. 4
pastor@umchurchofthepines.org

Church Administrator:
Merry Jorgensen, ext 2
office@umchurchofthepines.org

**Director of Rocking Horse
Childcare Center:**
Mary Kollath, ext. 5
rockinghorseccc@yahoo.com

Custodian:
Rudy Vlosak
(715) 892-2949

Organist:
Sue Meyers
suentom2@gmail.com

Choir Director:
Lisa Hernandez
lisa.hernandez@ldfschool.org

Lay Leader:
Holly Nash , nashholly@yahoo.com

**Staff-Parish Relations
Committee Chair:**
Ted Voigt, ted.voigt@gmail.com

Ministry Council Chair:
Noah Lottig, nrlottig@gmail.com

Trustees Chair:
Bill Remien
w-remien@northwestern.edu

Finance Chair:
Bob Schuld, bob.pat1@frontier.com

Treasurer:
Cherie' Hein, cheriehein@mac.com

Stephen Ministry Leaders:
Dennis Harrison,
denlon94@gmail.com
Holly Nash, nashholly@yahoo.com

Please Pray For...

We keep **Eve Luy and family** in our thoughts and prayers. Eve's husband, Warren, passed away on December 13th.



Please keep **Nell Goetz and family** in your thoughts and prayers. Nell's husband, Jim, passed away on December 5th.

Prayers are needed for our missionaries Mateus Francisco and Dan and Rachel Gabler, and for their families. Please also pray for our church and leaders, our pastor, our youth program, and our Stephen Ministers.

If you would like your name or the name of a family member listed here or in the bulletin Prayer List, please call the church office at 715-356-3041 or email the church at office@umchurchofthepines.org.



Happy Birthday!

If you are celebrating your birthday in December and your name is not listed below, please contact the church office so that we can update our records.

January 1	Austin Hallock
January 1	Robert Van Order
January 4	Molly Jorgensen
January 8	Richard Klatt
January 12	Micah Gilbert
January 12	Jessica Hilgart
January 16	Pastor Mark Gilbert
January 16	Christi Ladwig
January 17	Sylviann Berklund
January 19	Alysse Teichmiller
January 21	Cameron Gee
January 21	Nancy Lee
January 25	Frances Bechtolt
January 28	Kristin Kroening

**The church office will be closed on
January 1st.**

Lay Leader

From under...



Meet Our Assistant Lay Leader

For the first time, the UMCOP will have an assistant lay leader, Gretchen Voigt. Gretchen is a woman with deep faith who trusts in God and the love of Jesus Christ. Through daily devotions, Christian music, reading and praying she continues to deepen her faith. Gretchen is a Stephen Minister and cares deeply for others. She and her husband, Ted, have been members of the UMCOP since 1975. This year she hopes to attend the Women's Walk to Emmaus.



Gretchen Voigt will assist me in the various duties of lay leader. She will “learn the ropes” from Pastor Gilbert and me and then become Lay Leader in 2019. In 2019, I will help her as she takes on those duties. Then, in 2020, she will train the new Assistant Lay Leader, and the cycle will continue. The Leadership Development Team and Ministry Council feel this will make the job of Lay Leader less daunting and bring continuity to the position.

What does the Lay Leader do? Some of the duties of Lay Leader include:

- Serving as a liaison between the Pastor and the congregation, helping promote communication and sharing of ideas.
- Working with the pastor and other leaders to launch or strengthen ministries that build discipleship.
- Assisting in advising the church council about opportunities available and the needs expressed for a more effective lay ministry of the church in the community.
- Planning with other leaders in the congregation for celebrating the ministry of lay-people throughout the year.
- Meeting regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and the opportunities for ministry to advance the mission and ministry of the congregation in the community.
- Serving as a member of the charge conference, the church council, the staff-parish relations committee, the finance committee, and the leadership development committee. Lay leaders are voting members of all the aforementioned committees. Each of these committees has specific responsibilities, but the lay leader represents the laity in each situation, as well as serving as an interpreter of the actions and programs of the annual conference and the general church.

Please welcome Gretchen to this new position, thank her for being willing to “get in the boat”, and feel free to talk to her regarding any concerns, ideas, or ministries. I am so looking forward to working with her in this capacity.

Holly Nash

Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry

We, in Stephen Ministry, are always looking for ways to improve our ministry through continuing education, exposing ourselves to new ideas. For the start of 2018, we will read a new resource book from Dr. Kenneth Haugk, who is the founder of the Stephen Ministry program that we have been part of for the last dozen years here at Church of the Pines.

We all face times when a friend, neighbor, co-worker, relative or someone else we know experiences deep suffering in his or her life. We want and need to reach out...but, aren't sure how. *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* is a powerful resource that blends personal experiences, extensive research, psychology, and Biblical truths to provide suggestions and practical examples about what to say or do...and what not to say and do.

The words or actions we use in our attempts to help hurting people may unintentionally add to their burdens instead of easing their pain. From a job loss, to a miscarriage, to hospitalization, to death of a loved one, we all want to successfully relate to those who are suffering. This new resource should provide tools for our Stephen Ministers to provide comfort and care in the best way possible, helping our congregation move forward in a more healthy, wholly (Holy) fashion in this new year.



Thank You

Thank you!

Louise and I want to thank everyone for the prayers, good wishes and physical help during the past several months as I recovered from knee replacement surgeries.

We are blessed with a very compassionate and helpful congregation. God Bless you all.

George Douma

We want to express our most sincere appreciation to all of you for your prayers, hugs, calls and notes of condolences over these past few weeks. Thank you to those who provided transportation and to the Stephen Ministers for being there for our family.

We will be planning a service in memory of Jim this spring.

With appreciation,

The Goetz Family



Missions & Community Table



Human Relations Day Sunday Mission Moments

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

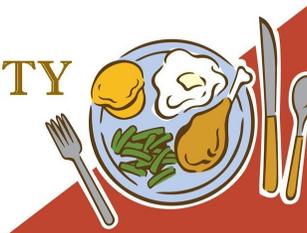
Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential.

Will You Support the Ministry of Christ Among Those on the Margins?

Will you continue to support Human Relations Day? Will you continue nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening communities’ self-improvement efforts and advocating for the oppressed?

Rev. I Malik Safir, whose church works with those gripped by addiction in Little Rock, sums up the work of Human Relations Day by recalling Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan: “to meet the poor, the disadvantaged and the underserved at the places where others have robbed them and help them to recover from the wounds of social inequality.”

COMMUNITY TABLE



The **Community Table** at St. Matthias Church is held the third Tuesday of each month. It is a wonderful time to bring the entire community together for food and fellowship. All are welcome. Church of the Pines hosts this community event three times a year (January, May, and September).

Our next Community outreach is **January 16**. Your help and participation would be greatly appreciated. We generally serve between 80-100 people at the **5:00 p.m.** meal. There will be a signup sheet in the Ministry Center to help with food donations, serving, and cleanup. Sign up today, and please join us for food and fellowship on January 16!

Missions

RESEARCH QUESTION: DOES IT HELP?

For the past several months, the Missions Committee has selected the Mission Emphases a month in advance and publicized them as recipients for your current offerings. We have told about them in Pine Chips articles and posted reminders in the weekly bulletins as to how our offerings that week can express Christ's love for others.

Now, we'd like to know if that makes a difference to you. For many years, we simply decided at the Missions Committee meetings where to send the offerings which had come in the previous month. Then we reported that to you.

So, does telling you how your offerings WILL be used instead of only how they WERE used make a difference to you? Please give your views to any member of the Committee, Pastor Mark, or the Church Office. Thanks for letting us know.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Sue Claflin, Jeanne Heck, Chomingwen Pond, Sue Shapiro

January Mission Giving Opportunities

The Mission Committee is highlighting for members interested to encourage giving to these programs in January 2018.



Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing (NATH)

NATH is committed to ending and preventing homelessness. This corporation exists to provide housing and basic needs to families and individuals who are homeless, within an atmosphere of encouragement, respect, dignity and hope, while nurturing awareness of homelessness by partnering with Northwoods resource agencies and by educating the communities in our service. NATH's service area includes Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. NATH and Frederick Place have established cooperative working relationships with community partners. www.nathnorthwoods.com

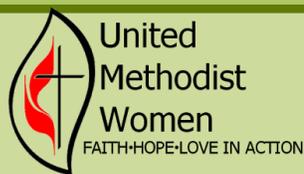


Harbor House

Harbor House Crisis Shelters mission is to provide hospitable shelter, transitional living and services for homeless women and families. They are committed to ending homelessness by providing direct services for homeless single women and families by public education, analysis of model programs and practices that create permanent housing opportunities and by shaping policies to prevent permanent future homelessness.

harborhousecs.org.

UMW, Between Friends & Keenagers



Esther Circle meets Wednesday, January 3rd at 12:00 noon in the Pine Room. Bring a sandwich.

Martha Circle meets Thursday, January 4th, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Hedy Blank. Sara Kozeluh will host.

Deborah Circle meets Tuesday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center. Sue Altschwager will host and also present the program.

Dawn Circle meets Wednesday, January 10th at 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center.

Ruth Circle meets Wednesday, January 10th, in the Pine Room at 1:00 p.m.

Lydia Circle meets Thursday, January 11th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center. They will study the third chapter of "A Grace-Full Life" by Jorge Acevedo and Wes Olds. Kathy Almekinder will host and lead this lesson.

UMW Executive Committee will meet January 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the Pine Room.

UMW General Meeting will meet Wednesday, January 24th, at 12:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center for lunch. There will installation of officers. Patty Stone will have a "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program." A special offering will be received. More information will follow later. Lydia Circle is Hostess.

Between Friends

Between Friends is a group that meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Ministry Center from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We do hand work – quilting, knitting, sewing machine work, etc. or just enjoy conversation!

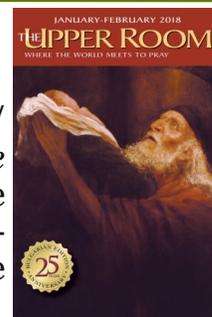
Bring a sandwich and join our circle of friends. For more information, call Lynn Tosch for information at 715-356-6656.

Keenagers

Keenagers will meet for potluck at noon on Wednesday, January 17th. Barb Lawless, an icon painter, will do a presentation on Byzantine icons. If you have an interest in art, or if just like to learn things, you are invited to attend! If you'd like to come for the program only, arrive at about 12:30 p.m.

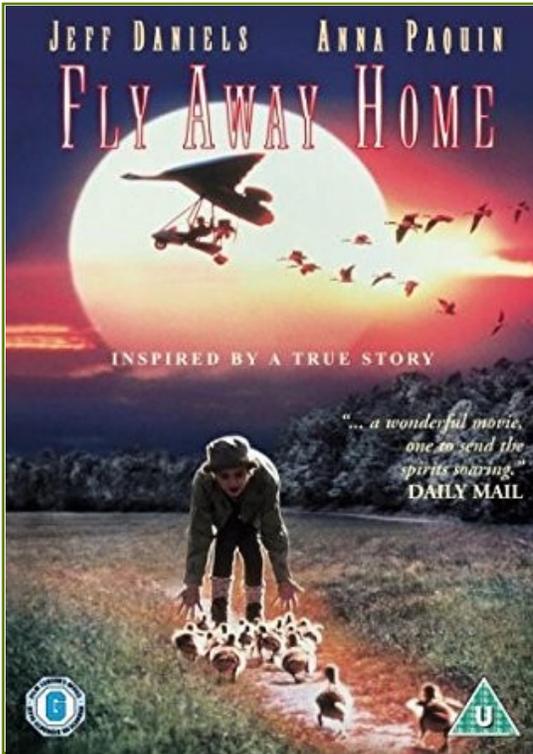
THE UPPER ROOM

Copies of the January/February edition of *The Upper Room* are on the counter of our Information Center in the Pine Room.



The Upper Room magazine's mission is to provide a model of practical Christianity, accessible in varied formats, to help people feel invited and welcomed into God's presence.

Movie & Youth Retreat



Friday Night Movie

January 5th - 6:00 p.m.

at Church of the Pines

Feature Movie: Fly Away Home

Children & adults of all ages are invited to attend!

Children can wear their PJs & bring a sleeping bag or blanket and pillow.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Host for the evening is the Susor family!

FREE food (snacks)...FREE movie...

FREE fellowship...FREE FUN!



G.R.O.W. Youth Retreat

When: January 19th - 20th
Time: Friday 7pm through Saturday 3pm
Where: White Birch Village Resort
 (Sue Altschwager's resort)
Cost: \$20 - to cover the food
RSVP: No later than January 10th

Fun, food and faith for all at our winter retreat. We will watch the movie *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We'll have discussion, activities and make some Turkish delight to help understand the deeper meanings of the story. Breakfast and lunch will be served on Saturday.

Screenagers

Join us for a special screening of

SCREENAGERS

**Saturday
February 24th
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Church of the Pines
Ministry Center**

**For youth in
grades 4th–12th
and their parents**

We are excited to announce that Church of the Pines will be hosting an outreach event for the Minocqua community in February for youth and their parents. Youth in 4th through 12th grades and their parents are invited to participate. On February 24th we will show the film **SCREENAGERS** and then break out into age-appropriate discussion groups.

Synopsis of the film: Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and film maker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time—friction she knew all too well. In **SCREENAGERS**, as with her award-winning documentaries on mental health, Delaney takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, **SCREENAGERS** reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.

Join us as we explore the impact of screen technology on kids and offer parents proven solutions that work.

Finance

FINANCE REPORT As of November 30, 2017

	<u>November</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Vs.</u> <u>Year Budget</u>
Income			
Church	11,856	222,479	622
Rocking Horse	20,378	270,391	(23,000)
Total Income	32,234	492,870	(22,378)
Expenditures			
Rocking Horse	14,129	237,964	(18,141)
Pastor*	7,689	86,333	752
Worship	1,216	12,148	244
Nurture	2,114	27,663	(7,829)
Outreach	3,071	(1,075)	(2,037)
Finance & Administration	5,648	31,990	4,254
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	7,437	35,498	(957)
Capital Improvements Fund	390	30,890	1,340
Youth Fund	180	1,500	1,500
Missions Fund**	259	9,598	1,097
Reserve Fund	618	4,312	692
Conference Apportionment	0	28,728	0
Total Expenditures	42,751	505,549	(19,085)
Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)	(10,517)	(12,679)	(3,293)
Total Available Funds 11-30-17		278,311	

* Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

** Includes Special Sundays



If you requested an offering envelope packet for 2018, you will find your packet on the counter in the Ministry Center.

Journal Scriptures & Usher/Greeter Orientation

S.O.N. Journal Scripture Readings for January 2018

January 1	Matthew 5-7
January 2	Genesis 8-11
January 3	Joshua 11-15
January 4	Psalms 6-8
January 5	Job 5-6
January 6	Isaiah 12-17
January 7	Romans 5-6
January 8	Matthew 8-10
January 9	Genesis 12-15
January 10	Joshua 16-20
January 11	Psalms 9-11
January 12	Job 7-8
January 13	Isaiah 18-22
January 14	Romans 7-8
January 15	Matthew 11-13
January 16	Genesis 16-19
January 17	Joshua 21-24
January 18	Psalms 12-14
January 19	Job 9-10
January 20	Isaiah 23-28
January 21	Romans 9-10
January 22	Matthew 14-16
January 23	Genesis 20-23
January 24	Judges 1-6
January 25	Psalms 15-17
January 26	Job 11-12
January 27	Isaiah 29-33
January 28	Romans 11-12
January 29	Matthew 17-19
January 30	Genesis 24-27
January 31	Judges 7-11
January 31	Psalms 18-20

Additional Journal pages are available from the church office.

Usher & Greeter Orientation



Saturday January 13th

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Here is an opportunity to learn about becoming an Usher and/or Greeter for worship services.

Call the church office at 715-356-3041 if you would like to learn more about serving in this important ministry of Church of the Pines.



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed 	2	3 10:00a UMW Executive Committee 12:00p Esther Circle	4 1:00p Martha Circle 6:00p Choir Rehearsal	5 6:00p Movie Night <i>Fly Away Home</i> canceled	6
7 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 4:00p Flood Bucket Packing Party & Potluck	8 1:00p Prayer Shawl Group 6:30p Trustees	9 10:00a Worship Service at Milestone 6:00p Deborah Circle	10 9:30a Dawn Circle 1:00p Ruth Circle 3:50p LOGOS 6:00p Worship Service 7:00p Youth Co-leaders In-service	11 9:30a Lydia Circle 5:30p Leadership Recognition & Orientation Banquet 6:00p Choir Rehearsal	12	13 10:00a Usher & Greeter Training
14 Special Offering 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 2:00p SPRC Training	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16 9:00a MOPS 5:00p Community Table 7:00p Ministry Council	17 12:00p Keenagers 3:50p LOGOS 6:00p Worship Service	18 10:30a Stephen Ministry	19 7:00p Youth Retreat	20 Youth Retreat
21 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship	22	23 10:00a Between Friends	24 12:00 UMW General Meeting 3:50p LOGOS 6:00p Worship	25 8:00a Men's Breakfast at Perkins 9:00a Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 1:45p UMW Circle Laity Group	29	30	31 3:50p LOGOS 6:00p Worship Service			

Have something for Pine Chips 2.0? Email the church at office@umchurchofthepines.org.
To appear in the February Pine Chips, email information by January 15th, 5:00 pm.
 Announcements for bulletins & weekly updates are due Monday for the following weekend.
 Call the Church Office at 715-356-3041 with questions.



The purpose of Faith Formation Ministries at the Church of the Pines is that everyone grows to love, know and to serve God in their everyday lives no matter what time of season.



Contact Us

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Office Phone: 715-356-3041

www.umchurchofthepines.org

LOGOS Volunteer Director,
Sue Altschwager

Email:
sue@whitebirchvillage.com
(Available Oct-April in the Office)

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

