



United Methodist Church of the Pines

715-356-3041

Email: office@umchurchofthepines.org

Website: www.umchurchofthepines.org

www.facebook.com/churchofthepines

415 Chippewa Street, Minocqua, WI

Mailing: P.O. Box 144

Minocqua, WI 54548



January 10 - 16, 2021

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:4-11

*Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite all the darkness. —
Archbishop Desmond Tutu.*

What kept us going in 2020? For many of us, it was...*hope!* Next year will be better we thought. It has to be.

We watched a lot of movies and TV in 2020, including reruns. Perhaps you watched some episodes of the crime drama, “Monk,” a show infused with a lot of humor. Tony Shalhoub plays the lead character, a detective, Adrian Monk. A germaphobe, Monk’s work is complicated by obsessive habits and a variety of phobias.

This is why he sees a psychiatrist several times a week. In Season 5, Episode 7, while investigating the murder of a cleaning lady in the office of his psychiatrist, Dr. Kroger, Monk happens to see his own file that Kroger has compiled. He’s only able to get a quick glance at it. But he is shocked by what he sees in the margin near the bottom of a page: No Hope. Monk is understandably distressed, believing that his shrink has come to a professional diagnosis that there is no hope for him. A confrontation ensues:

KROGER: And you read your file?

MONK: I couldn’t help it. I happened to glance down. And I saw something. Two words. “No hope.”

KROGER: “No hope?”

MONK: Is that what you think?

KROGER: Oh, Adrian, I would never say that about anyone, especially about you. Kroger went on to explain that Monk in his haste had read “No hope,” when what it really said was, “N. Hope,” a reference to New Hope, Pennsylvania, where Monk’s father lived.

It’s a terrible thing to live without hope. So, as we peer into the year before, it’s hard not to have some feeling of hope for the coming year. Hope is so important that it is enshrined in culture as the middle of the three virtues: Faith, Hope and Love. And although the apostle Paul declared Love to be the greatest of the three, without Hope, Love cannot live and breathe.

Nurture the hope within you, the hope God has given you a hope that rests solidly on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For if hope could shine even in the darkness of Calvary, then it can shine anywhere.

—Timothy Merrill

***Prayer:** Thank you, God, for not only giving me hope, but for rewarding my patience, as I watch all things work together according to your infinite wisdom. Amen.*

CHURCH CONNECTIONS ACTIVITY PAGE

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Sunday: Genesis 37-39

Monday: Genesis 40-42

Tuesday: Genesis 43-46

Wednesday: Genesis 47-50

Thursday: Matthew 1-4

Friday: Matthew 5-7

Saturday: Psalms 1-3

Verse to Remember

“Happy are those . . . [whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by the streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.” -

Psalm 1:1-3

MIXED MESSAGE

DIRECTIONS: Write a word to fit each definition. Then, transfer the letters to the numbered boxes.

A large, dangerous sea creature with a fin on its back	—	—	—	—	—
	15	20	5	23	3
A place to shop	—	—	—	—	
	8	7	1	16	
A red vegetable	—	—	—	—	
	9	4	14	21	
To work hard, sweating	—	—	—	—	
	10	11	2	6	
A shack	—	—	—		
	13	18	12		
To grow old	—	—	—		
	17	19	22		

THE BEATITUDES

S W B I N R U O M H Y C U N X
 W D L D N C O M F O R T E D D
 N E V A E H Z T E S D R O O P
 L R E A B L E S S E D G K V M
 X U U Z N K L R M L K O N W I
 B P X D B P E I I K Q Z Y I I
 Z M Z Z D G B H F T E R N V K
 L M M Y N F C T Y B S T Z W O
 V K H U N H C R B W M B V Z I
 H D H M A B Q A Q T N P A X H
 O J J S H S A E V Y W P F O X
 W L W E V J Z H L J E X F Z Y
 S I A Q M B Y S B C U S L W E
 T A I H C M W E H Q H J M S I
 V W S F T L E R E A C Y J P E

Directions: Look for these words from the Matthew 5 reading listed above: blessed, children, comforted, earth, filled, God, heart, heaven, hunger, inherit, kingdom, meek, mourn, poor, pure, thirst.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Answers:
 shark,
 mall,
 beet,
 toil,
 hut,
 age.
 Like a
 lamb to
 the
 slaughter.





As we begin the new year, we find ourselves still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and we still need to commit to wearing face masks, practice social distancing, washing our hands and refraining from being in groups of people. It's been challenging for everyone! Staying connected with you is very important to our Church of the Pines' congregation.

And, one of the ways to do this is through our "Church Connections." The second issue of 2021 is enclosed. There are scripture readings, prayers, devotionals, and activities, which can be mailed or emailed. It's easy to subscribe and it's FREE! If you know of someone who would like to subscribe to Church Connections, have them call Merry at 715-356-3041 or email her at office@umchurchofthepines.org.



If you haven't attended Church of the Pines' worship services on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. **YOU ARE INVITED!**

If you have a Facebook page on the internet, go to <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/live/> just prior to 10:00 a.m.

If you don't have Facebook, you can watch a video after the service ends by going to our church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org and clicking on "Worship Service Videos" and then click on date of the service.

Pastor Mark Gilbert also leads a Prayer Service on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. You can participate by going to the same sites as listed above for Sunday worship.

You can also listen to Church of the Pines Sunday sermons by using your phone. It's simple....just use your telephone and call 1-715-203-1990 and listen to the most recent sermon. It's easy...and you can listen any time and at your convenience.



If you have a need and would like to be lifted in prayer, please call Church of the Pines at 715-356-3041 or email office@umchurchofthepines.org. and we will pray for you.



If you are alone or you know someone who is isolated and could use a friend, let us know and we can connect you with one of our Community Care Calling Crew members who will give you a call of encouragement and support. Call Merry at 715-356-3041 or email at office@umchurchofthepines.org for more information.