



PINE Chips^{2.0}

United Methodist

Of Church of the Pines



Live Christ's Love
NOW!



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.



"For to us a child is born...and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.
In-person and Livestreamed on Facebook

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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



I am the youngest of five kids in my family, and we lived in an old farmhouse. Seven people in a small house, we were always on top of each other. I remember

the feeling of finally getting a bedroom to myself when my second sister went to college. I remember dreaming about the day all my brothers and sisters would leave home and have all the room I wanted. It was beautiful, except during December.

After each of my siblings would leave, I couldn't wait for them to come home for Christmas. The house felt warmer and cozier, the Christmas tree was brighter, and the crowded dinner table felt right. The house only felt like home during Christmas when everyone was home and together.

I have a similar sense of longing for home this Advent as I did as a child. Longing for home is what Advent is all about, especially that desire to have everyone present and together. It is what God desires, for us to all to be together. It is why Jesus came to earth to be born as a human. Jesus came to build God's home with us and to build the kingdom of God. The Kingdom/Kin-dom of God is the great multitude of all people of every tribe and race, color, and language together with God for eternity. God wants all of God's family together again, just like how I wanted my sisters and brothers home for Christmas.

Advent fills us with a sense of wonder and anticipation as we wait to arrive home. Our true home is with God and one another. It is the light that the prophets and others speak of, the place of hope, peace, love, and joy. So, as we go through the Advent

season into Christmas, I pray that as we hear familiar scriptures, sing carols, and gather family and friends, we will feel the warm nostalgic feelings of home, especially our home with God.

I also pray that we will have that sense that we are not quite home yet. Yes, we can gather in person for worship and other Christmas traditions; yes, God has made a home with us in Jesus, but not everyone is here yet. There is still so much that divides and separates us as God's family; there are still too many who feel excluded by the lights of Christmas. May we be moved by that longing to honestly share the love and grace of God to all people so that everyone will know they are welcome home with God.

Blessings.

Joy to the world,
the Lord
is come!
Let earth receive
her King!
LET EVERY
HEART, PREPARE HIM ROOM.
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING, AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING,
AND HEAVEN AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING.

A Special Message

Important Message

November 16, 2021

Dear members and friends of Church of the Pines,

This letter is from me, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), and the Ministry Council. During the past few months, the SPRC and I have planned a Pastoral Renewal Leave for me in 2022. A Pastoral Renewal Leave is an extended period of time, up to 12 weeks, spent away from the church. This is a time for a pastor to focus on resting and rejuvenating his/her body and soul to return to a more vital ministry in the local church.

2022 will mark 20 years that I have served churches as a pastor, 10 of those at the UMCOP. In that time, I have been a part of thousands of worship services and sermons, hundreds of funerals, countless hours of pastoral care, untold numbers of meetings, and much more. All of these take a lot out of a pastor physically, emotionally, and spiritually. In 20 years, I have developed skills and abilities that help me serve you as a pastor, as well as tendencies, habits, and routines, not all of which are beneficial.

All vocations are demanding, and pastoral ministry is not unique in this regard. However, I have found that the last couple of years have been especially difficult for me. As I worked with SPRC this year, we realized that I was struggling with significant burn-out. It is impacting my personal and spiritual health and my professional performance. So, in September, we began to seriously explore a three-month Pastoral Renewal Leave to address this.

The Renewal Leave will be from January 4, 2022, to March 26, 2022. While three months is a long time for me to be away from my regular pastoral duties and responsibilities at the Church of the Pines, it is not just an extended vacation. Yes, there is time for rest and relaxation, but this is a time for me to be reinvigorated as a pastor so that I am better able to serve you.

First, I will care for myself physically and emotionally, creating healthier habits and activities to in-

crease my resiliency. Second, I will spend time nourishing my soul and growing my own spirituality to nourish you better and help you grow spiritually. Third, I will participate in continuing education classes to improve my professional and leadership skills and pastoral caring skills. Finally, we are also planning an intentionally staggered return to ministry over the last four weeks of the leave to carefully implement new plans and routines.

As a result of my Renewal Leave, I am not the only one who will benefit; it will also provide the congregation with benefits. You can expect that I will return from my leave with a renewed energy, spiritual commitment, and vision for the UMCOP. Additional benefits include:

- The involvement of more lay people in the day-to-day running of the church.
- Time for the congregation to reevaluate ministries and where it wants to go.
- I will return with more energy, effectiveness, and a renewed vision for the UMCOP. I will have developed new skills to help the congregation implement their goals for the future of the UMCOP while embracing the accomplishments of the past. A renewed understanding and appreciation of the pastor's role in the church.

The SPRC and others in leadership positions in the church will ensure a smooth transition into the time of the Renewal Leave and again during my return. For each of my daily tasks, a person from the UMCOP has been identified to perform those tasks in my absence.

The SPRC has prepared a list of anticipated questions and answers about the Leave. These **Q & A's accompany this letter.**

This time will be a different experience for all of us, but it will be meaningful. So again, I thank you all for your generous support. I especially thank the members of SPRC and others that have put in significant work to plan and make this opportunity possible.

Mark Gilbert, Pastor
Holly Nash, SPRC Chair
Jim Anderson, Ministry Council Chair

Q & As about Pastoral Renewal Leave

What is Renewal Leave? A Pastoral Renewal Leave is an extended period of time, up to 12 weeks, spent away from the church, for a pastor to focus on resting and rejuvenating his/her body and soul to return to a more vital ministry in the local church. Pastor Mark will rest, reflect, and take a break from his pastoral duties during the first four weeks. The second four weeks of the Leave will be a time to rejuvenate and reignite his passion for ministry through continuing education classes, a personal spiritual retreat, and working with a mentor. The final four weeks of the Renewal Leave will be a time for him to phase back into the life of the UMCOP.

How long will the Renewal Leave last?

The Renewal Leave will last 12 weeks, from January 4 to March 27, 2022.

Will Pastor Mark be paid during the Renewal Leave?

Yes, the UMCOP will continue to pay Pastor Mark his salary and benefits during the Renewal Leave. According to Paragraphs 350 and 351 in the 2016 United Methodist Church Book of Discipline, a pastor on renewal leave maintains his/her appointment to the local church during the Renewal Leave. The Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church interprets that to mean the local church is responsible for paying the Pastor's salary and benefits during the Leave. We have applied for financial assistance from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation to partially cover the cost of the Leave.

Is the Renewal Leave considered part of Pastor Mark's vacation?

No, the Renewal Leave is separate from vacation leave.

Does Pastor Mark communicate with the church during the Renewal Leave?

Pastor Mark will not communicate with the church during the first two months of the Leave. If a member or friend of the congregation needs something the pastor would normally do, that person should contact Merry Jorgensen, the Church Administrator (715-356-3041; office@umchurchofthepines.org), and the concern will be forwarded to the appropriate person. Emerson Coy, Pat Nolet, or other area pastors will be available if there is a death or serious situation with a church member. If there is a crisis situation, Pastor Mark may be contacted by the leadership.

What happens to the continuity in the life of the church?

As much as possible, we will try to keep the church running as it is now. Worship times, online worship and in-person worship, Church School for children, committee meetings, church communications, etc., will all continue. Pastor Mark and the lay leadership have already planned a Lenten devotional and activities for Lent.

Who will take on Pastor Mark's duties while he is gone?

The multiple tasks of the pastor have been assigned to various people within the congregation. For instance, Holly Nash, Emerson Coy, and Pat Nolet will take the lead in worship and provide the message. Jim Andersen (Council of Ministries Chair), Emerson Coy (Lay Leader), Holly Nash (SPRC Chair), and Merry Jorgensen (Church Administrator) will take the lead in the administration duties of Pastor Mark while he is on Leave. Merry Jorgensen (Church Administrator) will serve as a clearinghouse for questions. During the Renewal Leave, if a member or friend of the congregation needs something the pastor would normally do, that person should contact Merry Jorgensen (715-356-3041; office@umchurchofthepines.org) and the concern will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

Will the Committees of the UMCOP still be able to meet and function?

Yes, all the Committees will continue to meet and function in Pastor Mark's absence. However, if a critical issue develops, the District Superintendent would be able to assist us.

Are we assured Pastor Mark will not be moved to a new church in 2022?

The Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church cannot assure us that Pastor Mark will not receive an assignment to a new church in 2022. However, we have asked that if we are to cover the cost of the Leave, our congregation should have time to benefit from it. Therefore, we have asked the Cabinet of the Wisconsin Conference not to reappoint Pastor Mark in 2022.

If I have questions regarding the Renewal Leave, who should I contact?

Before the Renewal Leave, you may contact Pastor Mark (715-356-3041) or the members of the SPRC Renewal Team: Holly Nash (715-356-6861), George Douma (715-356-7443), or Sara Rausch (715-571-9614).

Leadership, Prayer Requests, Church Office Closings

Church Staff & Leadership

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

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

Custodian:
Rudy Vlosak
(715) 892-2949

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

Lay Leader:
Emerson Coy
emersoncoy@frontier.com

**Staff-Parish Relations
Committee Chair:**
Holly Nash
nashholly@yahoo.com

Ministry Council Chair:
Jim Anderson, ander045@umn.edu

Trustees Chair:
Jerry Weber
jerryweber727@outlook.com

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

Treasurer: Pat Bridges
patbridges622@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry Leader:
Holly Nash, nashholly@yahoo.com



To have your name or the name of a loved one included on this Prayer List, in the Weekly Update Prayer List, or on our Prayer Chain, please call the church office at 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org.

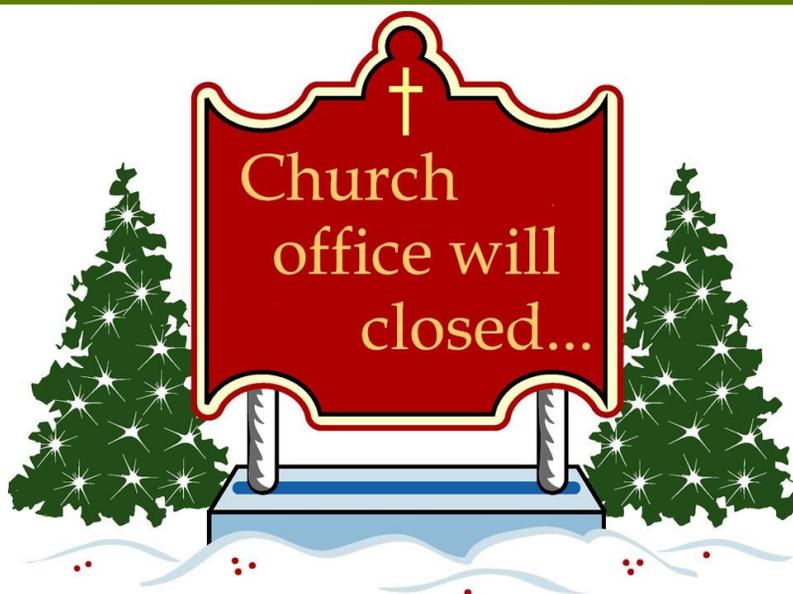
Clayton Crum

Louise Douma

Sally Ham

Bonnie Noonan

Lynn Tosch



Call 1-715-203-1990
to hear our latest sermon
CHURCH OF THE PINES



sermonbyphone.com

In celebration of Christmas and New Year's Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, December 27, 2021 and January 3, 2022.

Worship, Birthdays & Anniversaries, Christmas Shoeboxes



Welcome
to
Worship

On Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of Church of the Pines. Fellowship follows the worship service in the Ministry Center.

Livestream of Sunday Worship Services on Church of the Pines' Facebook page.

Watch videos of Sunday Services on our church website.

Listen to Sunday Messages each week by calling 1-715-203-1990 or by going to our church website.

DVDs of the worship service. Call the church to order at 715-356-3041.



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday to...

December 3	Chris Anderson
December 6	Josie Hinkens
December 6	Sue Shapiro
December 9	Hailey Coy
December 13	Rudy Vlosak
December 15	Florence Melka
December 21	Doug Clark
December 23	Rick Rausch
December 26	Skip Tosch
December 29	Mary Peterson
December 30	Alexis Kroening

Happy anniversary to...

December 29 Rich & Nancy Klatt

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

Blessings to you on your special day!



BLESS A CHILD IN NEED IN
JUST A FEW EASY CLICKS

Build-a-Shoebox!
ONLINE

CHURCH OF THE PINES THANKS YOU!



OUR SHOEBOX GOAL IS 30
BUILD YOUR SHOEBOXES BY
DECEMBER 24

Did you Build a Christmas Shoebox Online?

If you went online to Build-a-Shoebox, please send Merry an email letter her know that you participated and the number of boxes you ordered. You can still go to <https://sampur.se/3aBzTdz> and build a shoebox before December 24th. **We only need 9 more shoeboxes to reach our online shoebox goal of 30.**

To everyone who has participated, we say **THANK YOU** for sending a Christmas shoebox filled with gifts for a girl or boy somewhere in the world. Your gift might be the only gift they receive. THANKS for taking the time to make a difference for a child!

The twenty Christmas Shoeboxes that were blessed at the November 21st worship service have begun their journey to children in other parts of the world.

Advent & Christmas Worship Themes

Advent 2021



Advent is an invitation. For many, it is the invitation to get into that Christmas spirit, to count down the days to the grand celebration, and let the holiday transform everything around us.

But there is a deeper and more profound invitation being offered in the season of Advent. The invitation is to remember that we are heading for home. Or if we're not, if we've forgotten that there is a home toward which to head, it is the invitation to long for the home we call the kin-dom of God. It is where family resides, where peace resides, where justice abides, and hope will rise. Advent reminds us that we shouldn't be complacent about the way things are - not that we want to become angrily attuned to every perceived failing in those around us or the world at large; but that we want to be those who look forward to something greater, something more that is just on the horizon. Advent is the call to come home.

Week 2 - December 5, 2021

Theme: The Fear of Home

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 3:1-6

This second Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that going home is never as easy as it sounds. We are often afraid to go home, afraid of home. Maybe we've experienced pain there; maybe we have felt unfairly judged, neglected, or unloved. Despite our desire to have home be positive for everyone, there are many who would be afraid of going home. So, as we worship, we can acknowledge that hesitancy. We can confess the times when we have not provided the sense of home that we wanted to, that we haven't been as hospitable as we could be. We can offer invitations to reconciliation, even in the most complicated of relationships. The call to come home means overcoming our fears that it won't work the way we hope, and it means committing to be an example of the kin-dom in our life together.



For many, the second Sunday of Advent is when we light the candle of peace. This is a time of coming together, of building a community of faith that is open to all.

Week 3 - December 12, 2021

Theme: The Joy of Home

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20 & Luke 3:7-18

Week three is the time to throw the parties! This is the joy Sunday, the celebration of the gift that comes and the gift we are to and with one another. Let there be shouts of praise and hope. Let there be laughter and joy. But don't let it be simply a surface experience, a pretending all is well when there are many for whom all is not well. But let there be a deep reservoir from which joy can be drawn and tasted. Speak of the joy that sustains, the presence that abides, even in the difficult moments, even on the cloudy days. All of which means we don't force people into a certain kind of response; we simply make an offer - an offer of joy.



Advent & Christmas Worship Themes

Week 4 - December 19, 2021

Theme: The Blessing of Home

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a & Luke 1:39-45

The story takes over this week. Let's just admit it. The story that we've learned and told and retold, the story that we've sentimentalized and Disney-fied, the story that has produced songs and dramas, movies and poems. And yet through it all, the story persists. The story draws. It defies explanation. It is an act of beauty and awe and is best met with open-mouthed wonder. God, our God, promised to be born in the flesh, like our flesh. It amazes when you stop to wonder again.



Christmas Eve - December 24, 2021

Theme: Welcome Home

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:1-20

It's Christmas Eve. You don't need me to tell you what to do. Do what you've always done. I know, there is something in you, in the faithful worship team, that says you've got to do something new, you've got to come up with a different way of telling this story. That sentiment is understandable. Week by week, that is the task of the team, the worship leader. How can we repackage this text, this message, this theme so that it will break through the dull ears and hearts of the worshipers? That is understandable, but it is not necessary tonight. See, the new thing has been done. Tonight is about the tradition, about the familiar, about feeling at home in this space.



First Sunday after Christmas - December 26, 2021

Theme: Lost at Home

Scripture: I Samuel 2:18-20 & Luke 2:41-52

Yesterday was Christmas. Whew, we're worn out. But we are home for Christmas, home with our family of faith.



Christmas Gift



Please Consider a Year-end Gift to Church of the Pines

Your generosity shown this past year by continuing to financially support Church of the Pines is greatly appreciated. Please consider making a year-end Christmas gift to the church before December 31st. You can go to our website www.umchurchofthepines.org to make an online gift or a check can be made out to Church of the Pines and mailed to P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, WI 54548.

THANKS & GOD BLESS!

Stephen Ministry

stephen
MINISTRY®

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.



That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the

(continued on page 10)

Stephen Ministry, Ministry Council Meeting Summary

Stephen Ministry, continued

first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

By Nancy W. Gavin

May the spirit of Christmas remain with you all through the year. If you are having difficulty feeling that spirit, contact our Stephen Ministry team through Holly Nash, 715-356-6861.

Ministry Council Meeting Summary

The Ministry Council met on November 15, 2021, with the following members in attendance: Chris Anderson, Jim Anderson, Jean Butler, Jodi Capacio, Sue Claflin, George Douma (SPRC), Emerson Coy, Tom Frandy, Pastor Mark Gilbert, Merry Jorgensen, Rich Klatt, Dave Kozeluh, Noah Lottig, Holly Nash, Sara Rausch (SPRC), Bob Schuld, Ted Voigt, and Jerry Weber. Donna Clark and Perry Schuette were absent.

Church of the Pines' highlights from the previous month included the mission trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center sponsored by the UMW, a successful Laity Sunday, and the Men's Breakfast that resumed meeting at Perkin's Restaurant.

Updates on church activities included: A rental contract is being finalized for the rental of one of the lower level rooms to a psychologist for office space for \$5,000 rent per year; Charge Conference is set for November 16th; a new church bookkeeper has been hired and is currently going through training; appreciation was expressed to outgoing Council members, Tom Frandy, Dave Kozeluh, Perry Schuette, and Ted Voigt; a welcome was expressed to Jean Butler as a new Member-at-Large of the Council beginning January 1, 2022; Hanging of the Greens will take place on November 21st; and Poinsettia plant orders are being taken.

Action items from SPRC included: 1) Vote to amend the November 19, 2019, minutes to reflect the results of an email vote of the Council of an approved Severance Policy. 2) Approval of an updated job description for the Church Administrator. 3) Approval of salary and wages for Church Administrator and Janitor for 2022. 4) Approval of Pastoral Renewal Leave for Pastor Mark.

The next Ministry Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14th, at 7:00 p.m.

Lay Leader

Words to Live By Emerson Coy, Lay Leader “Our Role at Christmas”

There are numerous roles all sorts of people have when it come time for Christmas. Do you wonder what your role is? Do you like to receive or give? Would you rather be alone or share the holiday spirit? There are no minor roles in the drama of Christmas. Even the smallest gift can make a difference.

For those of us who are adults, one thing that makes Christmas so joyful is seeing the wide-eyed expressions of wonder on little faces. Children know about joy. Adults can lose their joy so easily. Have you ever seen a child's letter to Santa Claus?

“Dear Santa: In my house there are three boys. Richard is two. Jeffrey is four. Norman is seven. Richard is good sometimes. Jeffery is good sometimes. Norman is good all the time. Signed, Norman.

“Dear Santa: Last year you didn't leave me anything good. The year before last you didn't leave anything good. This year is your last change. Signed, Alfred.

These unforgettable letters to Santa can put excitement in the holidays. They are masterpieces that can create a million smiles and giggles. They create some of the joy that is part of the season. Joy does not have to come from opening the biggest present under the tree, but opening your heart to the spirit of the holidays.

Let me suggest something that may be hard

for some people. If your heart is aching this Christmas for any reason- the loss of love in marriage, the memory of someone you loved who is now with God. Or, concern about a teenage child, concerns about health, don't let despair defeat you. Our grief can be and is very real. We can't help our feelings. Don't wait until Christmas Eve or Day to have our emotions overcome us. Instead, set aside a special time to grieve before Christmas and don't be afraid to talk to someone if you need to. One of our Stephen Ministers or the Pastor is a good choice.

So, find some way this special season to defeat the blues. Join a group that is singing carols, work for the less fortunate, adopt a nearby child for Christmas, think about the shut-ins who have no one to care about them. Do something positive, something heartwarming, something that will bring someone else joy. For joy has a way of boomeranging and giving the person who gives it more joy than the one who receives it.

You may feel that the contribution you make for the Christmas season is quite insignificant, whether you are an adult or a child. But that is never true. Each of us has the ability to add something to or subtract something from the lives of the people around us at this beautiful season of the year. Be joyful. That may be your present to yourself and a present to everyone that is around you this Christmas. Play your part well. Your life and your spirit do make a difference.

New Church Member Sundays, Office Hours



Become Part of *Our* Church Family

New Church Member Sundays Scheduled in December

If you have an interest in becoming a member of United Methodist Church of the Pines, there will be opportunities to join the church in December.

There will be three opportunities to become a member of the church on Sunday, December 5th, 12th, or 19th during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service.

If you are interested in becoming a member and would like more information, please contact the church office at 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org.

We look forward to having you become a member of our church family!



Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Other times by appointment.

Please call the church administrator or pastor at 715-356-3041 in advance to ensure that someone is available to assist you.

Call 715-356-3041
Merry Jorgensen - Ext. 2
office@umchurchofthepines.org
Pastor Mark Gilbert - Ext. 4
pastor@umchurchofthepines.org

Mission Highlights, Mission Trip

Lakeland Food Pantry

The Lakeland Pantry's mission is to provide individuals and families with a dependable source of supplemental food, household, and hygiene products plus offer programs designed to improve quality of life for those in need in the Arbor Vitae, Hazelhurst, Lac du Flambeau, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua, and Woodruff area.

Harbor House Crisis Shelters

Harbor House Crisis Shelters (HHCS) is a Ministry of Faith United Methodist Church in Superior, WI. Emergency Shelter- Harbor House provides thirty days of emergency shelter for homeless women and children and families. The shelter is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year providing daily needs such as clothing, bedding, hygiene products, food, diapers and cleaning supplies. Case Management- HHCS case management incorporates coaching, life skill enhancement, goal setting, assessments, referrals, and community resource support on a bi-weekly basis. Transitional Living Center (TLC) is supportive housing assistance for homeless families and single women. All residents participate in weekly case management and monthly resident meetings. This is Advance Special of the Minnesota Conference and The Wisconsin Annual Conference #7788 Your help makes a difference in the lives of homeless women and children.

harborhousecs.org



Mission Trip 2021 to Midwest Mission

Meet Church of the Pines' 2021 Mission Team:

(From the Left):

Sue Loeffler, Team Leader

Sue Clafin

John Douglas

Jayne

Clafin

Dave Kozeluh

Sara Kozeluh

Holly Nash

The mission trip was sponsored and organized by the United Methodist Women of Church of the Pines. These seven Mission Trip team members traveled to Pawnee, Illinois, and spent several days volunteering at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

The trip took place the week of November 9th through the 11th.

United Methodist Women is a supportive, inclusive Christian membership organization where women like you grow spiritually, develop as leaders and serve and work to create a world in which all women, children and youth thrive. United Methodist Women is celebrated as the women's ministry of The United Methodist Church. **Become a member of UMW TODAY!**

Snowbirds, Winter Weather Policy, Contact Information



To those of you who will be leaving your Northwoods home for the winter, this is a reminder for you to send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org or call 715-356-3041 to temporarily change your mailing address, and to let us know the date you will be leaving and the date you plan to return home. Let's stay connected this winter!

CONTACT information



Over the next couple of months, we will be updating our church records for our church members and friends of Church of the Pines. You will be receiving an Update form in the mail which can be completed and returned to the church office.

Whenever you have a change in contact information, please send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org to let us know if you have a new address; if you still have a landline phone number; if you have a cell phone number; and make sure we have your correct email address.

Thanks.

WINTER *Weather Policy*

Cancellation of Sunday worship will be considered when there is ice and when there are severe storm warnings. If the weather situation requires cancellation, a decision will be made by 6:00 pm on Saturday evening.

As soon as cancellation has been determined, the following will occur: a voice message will be placed on the church telephone; worship stewards will be notified; local television and radio stations that allow church cancellations will be notified; a mass email will be sent via Mail Chimp to those on the list (this is the Weekly Update and Pine Chips newsletter list); and a mass phone call will be made to the church membership. If you have an email address and are not currently receiving the Weekly Updates each Friday, go to our church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org, click on "newsletters" and request to be placed on the e-mail list.

If you have questions about this policy, please call the church office at 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org.

**Check TV Channels 7 or 9
for closings or delays.**

Christmas Eve Worship, Poinsettias, Advent Devotional



Last Chance to Order Poinsettia Plants

Orders for Poinsettia plants need to be received by Wednesday, December 1st.

To order, call Merry at 715-356-3041 right away to order your plant(s). You can mail a check made out to Church of the Pines and send to P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, WI 54548. To see size and color options, go to our church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services

4:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

The worship services will be livestreamed on our church Facebook page. If you can access Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/live/>. If you don't have access to Facebook, go to <https://united-methodist-church-of-the-pines.freeonlinechurch.com/live>

The services will become live ten minutes prior to the beginning of the service.

Advent

A Calendar of
Devotions



JOE KIM

If you are not able to come to church, contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

Advent: A Calendar of Daily Devotions

A Calendar of Daily Devotions provides daily devotions for you as you prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. This devotional will be given to each family beginning Sunday, November 14th to emphasize the importance of the Advent of our Lord. Each day's reading, from Sunday November 28 to Christmas Day, is based on the Revised Common Lectionary and includes the Scripture, a short devotion, and a brief prayer and it's printed with a larger font for ease of reading.



Do you have information to be placed in the January issue of our Pine Chips newsletter? **Information is due no**

later than December 15th. To have an announcement placed in the Weekly Update of bulletin insert, submit information no later than the Monday prior to Friday's publication.

To subscribe to the Pines Chips and Weekly Update, go to our church website: <https://www.umchurchofthepines.org/newsletter.html> and enter your first and last name and email address. If you want the newsletter mailed to you, include your address in the Comments.

If you do not have access to the internet, call 715-356-3041 to request to have the newsletter mailed to you.

Campfire & Carols, Volunteer Needs, Altar Flowers, Serve

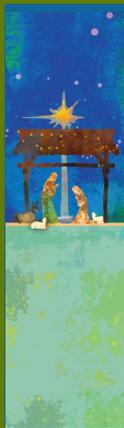


MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, December 17th
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Outdoors at
Church of the Pines

Plan to attend this fun outdoor event at Church of the Pines from 5:00 until 6:00 p.m. Gather around a campfire with hot chocolate or cider while singing familiar Christmas carols.

Come as you can for an easy time of fellowship and Christmas fun!



For Daily Devotionals and Scripture Readings during December, go to our church website
www.umchurchofthepines.org
 and the church's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/>



Sign up for Altar Flowers/Plants for 2022

Flowers or plants for the Altar on Sundays for 2022 can be scheduled through the church office. Call or email the church office to be placed on the calendar for the coming year.

Ways you can SERVE on Sundays

Here are some ways to serve on Sunday mornings:

Ushers

Greeters

Communion Servers

Hospitality Hosts at Sign-in Tables

Liturgists

Special Music

For information and to sign up to volunteer, call the church office - 715-356-3041.

Community Connections, Congregational Care

December



**Community
Connections**

Community Connections is a publication of Church of the Pines for anyone who would like to have an uplifting and thought-provoking weekly devotion, daily scripture readings, and activities to challenge your mind or to do just for fun. If you would like to subscribe to this publication or if you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this, please let them know that Community Connections is available and that they can contact the church office to subscribe.

Call 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org to subscribe.

CONGREGATIONAL
CARE
Ministry

Congregation Care Ministry *"Caring for One Another"*

It is a fact that when we give of ourselves in service to others, we live healthier lives and are able to live a better quality life leading to peace of mind, body, and spirit.

At Church of the Pines, there are unlimited ways to reach out in service to our church family and friends who may be going through difficult times, who are ill, homebound, recovering from surgery, mourning the loss of a loved one, or are going through challenging life changes.

As November - the month for being thankful - begins, it is the perfect time to become involved with one of numerous opportunities at Church of the Pines to reach out to help our church family and friends in one or more of these ways:

Calling Crew - make phone calls.

Operation: Compassion - mail cards, notes, and letters.

Meal Ministry - Prepare periodic meals when needed.

Transportation Provider - Take people to medical appointments, etc.

Prayer Chain - Serve on the E-prayer chain or phone prayer chain.

Special Projects - Help people with home repairs, yard work, computer assistance, etc.

Visitation Team - Provide in-person visits with homebound folks.

For more information, call the church office at 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org

Church Photo Directory, Church Treasurer/Bookkeeper



It's Time to Update our Church Directory

It's been two years since we created our Church Directory, so we have begun the process of updating the directory. **AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

Here's how you can help: If you had your photo and/or contact information in the directory, please go online and make sure your information is correct. To do this, go to our website www.umchurchofthepines.org and click on "Church Directory" at the top of the homepage. Next, you click on the green button that says "Access Church Directory - Click on this button." You will need enter your email address and enter the password you created the first time you signed in. If you have forgotten your password you can create a new password. You can only access the online directory if you included your email in your directory information when you originally signed up. Contact Merry if you have problems accessing your directory profile and photo. You can also add a new photo or you can contact Merry to arrange a time to have your photo taken.

If you were not previously in the directory, please consider having your photo and information included.

Contact Merry at 715-356-3041 to receive a directory form. Complete the form and return it to Merry.

You can also email her a photo of yourself or of your family and email the photo to office@umchurchofthepines.org. or you can arrange to have your photo taken.

Cherie' Hein Resigns as Church Treasurer



After serving as Church of the Pines' Treasurer since September 2015, **Cherie' Hein** will be leaving her position with Church of the Pines to continue her bookkeeping for her family's business. Extra time outside of work will be spent with her family and continuing to serve

the Lord in various ministries and where ever He calls her. We thank Cherie' for her service to Church of the Pines and wish her well in her future endeavors.

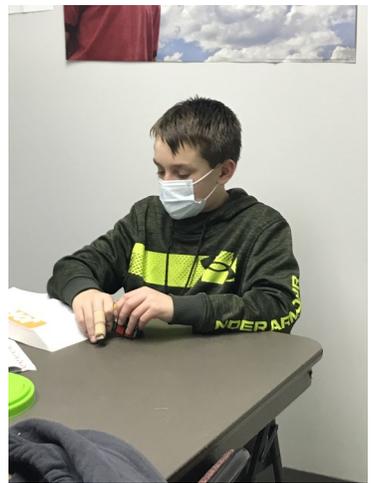
Welcome to Pat Bridges, who is our new Church Treasurer, Pat has been working with Cherie' this past month and has now taken over the church's bookkeeping. Pat began doing public accounting over 40 years ago, She is originally from north-east Wisconsin, but her husband retired last year and they moved to their home in Lake Tomahawk that they purchased four years ago. Pat has three children and two grandkids. We welcome Pat to Church of the Pines as our new Treasurer.



Wednesday Church School



Wednesday Church School After School 2021



Esther/Martha Circle Makes Contributions

UMW Circle Makes Contributions to Local Charities

The **Esther and Martha Circle** of United Methodist Women is committed to supporting local nonprofit organizations that provide much-needed services to others through the Circle's mission efforts.

If you are interested in making a difference for others through the Esther/Martha Circle, contact the Church of the Pines' office to be connected to someone from the Circle. Call 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org.

**Congratulations,
Esther/Martha Circle.**



Jean Butler from the Church of the Pines Esther/Martha Circle presents Lorna a check to benefit the **Food Pantry** in Woodruff. The pantry needs food donations.



The Church of the Pines, Esther/Martha circle member **Sarah Stewart** presents a check to the camp director of **Camp American Legion** to help wounded veterans.



Sue Shapiro from the UMW Esther/Martha Circle presents a check to Mark of **Wild Instincts** to rescue and care for injured animals.



UMW Cookie Walk & Craft Sale

Mark Your Calendar!

Cookie Walk & Craft Sale

Saturday, December 11
9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Church of the Pines
415 Chippewa St. in downtown Minocqua

Cookies & Candy - \$9/pound

Sponsored by United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women



Use your Thank Offering box

Make sure you say grace three times every Sunday this month. Put 3 dimes in your Thank Offering box.

Circle Meetings:

Dawn Circle will not meet in December.

Deborah Circle meets at 6 pm Wednesday, December 8 for supper at the home of Venus Hilgart. We'll be bagging our cookies for the Cookie Walk together. Please bring an extra dozen cookies for our cookie exchange.

Esther/Martha Circle will meet at the home of Sarah Stewart on Tuesday, December 7 at noon.

Lydia Circle will have a Christmas gathering for brunch at the Holiday Cafe on Thursday, December 9th at 9:30 am.

Ruth Circle will meet for a potluck luncheon at noon on Wednesday, December 8 at the June Westphal home. Please bring a white elephant for our gift exchange. A donation for the Oneida County Humane Society is requested.

Special Mission Recognition

Congratulations to Sara Kozeluh and Sue Loeffler who received the Special Mission Recognition awarded during the October General Meeting.

Thanks!

Thank you to all who contributed to the collection of toys for the Lakeland Sharing

Foundation. Your generosity makes a child's Christmas happier.

Upcoming dates:

December 6—Bake Day—9 am to noon

December 10—Cookie Walk set-up—4 pm

December 11—Cookie Walk—9:30-11 am



Sue Loeffler and Sara Kozeluh Receive Special UMW Award

Every year (except 2020), the United Methodist Women honors two individuals who contribute hard work and support for the UMW and the Church of the Pines with a Special Mission Recognition. They each receive a UMW pin and a certificate. This year Sara Kozeluh and Sue Loeffler were presented with the award at the October UMW General Meeting held on Wednesday, October 27. Sara Kozeluh has served the UMW as Treasurer, Circle Chair, Cookie Walk Chair, and President. She has also served the church in many capacities through the years. Sue Loeffler has been especially active in missions, particularly supporting Springfield's Midwest Distribution Center. She has also taken leadership roles in the UMW and the church. **Congratulations to both! Your dedication is appreciated.**

Giving, Altar Flowers, Upper Room

GIVING

IS EASIER THAN EVER

Mobile — Online — Text — Mail a Check — ACH



Giving a contribution to United Methodist Church of the Pines is easy!

We are hopeful that during this time you will continue to financially contribute to Church of the Pines as you are able.

You can text your gift on your cell phone. Text the word "give" to 833-358-0472. You will be guided through an initial registration for your first contribution.

You can also go to our church website: www.churchofthepines.org and click on the green GIVE button on the homepage and give using a debit or credit card or pay from your checking account AND you can designate your contribution to the fund of your choice. Arrangements can be made to have automatic recurring gifts debited from your checking or savings account. For additional information or assistance, please contact Merry Jorgensen at 715-356-3041 or email her at office@umchurchofthepines.org.

Altar Flowers

You can provide flowers for the Altar on Sunday morning and dedicate them in honor of a person or special life event or memory of a loved one. To reserve one or more Sundays in 2021, please call the church office at 715-356-3041. office@churchofthepines.org. You can also send an email to the church office at office@umchurchofthepines.org. Include the date you want the flowers placed on the Altar, the name of the person, indicate if the flowers are given in honor or memory of the person, and any additional formation you like to have shared in the Weekly Update and announced during the Sunday worship service. You can arrange to provide the flowers yourself and bring them to the church, or request that we order the flowers for you. The minimum order is \$35.00. Please get in touch with the church office to discuss how to make these arrangements. If you leave a voice message on the church office phone or send an email, please make sure to leave your phone number for a follow-up call.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022
THE UPPER ROOM
WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY



Upper Room - January/February 2022

The **Upper Room** is a modern **daily devotion** which follows the normal structure of starting with a verse before writing a short and thought provoking article. As well as the main **devotion**, each day also has a 'thought for the day', a prayer, a prayer focus and a related reading. **Contact the church office at 715-356-3041 or email office@umchurchofthepines.org to subscribe to the Upper Room.** Arrange to pick up your copy (regular & large print available) or have your copy mailed to you. Donations are gratefully accepted to help pay for the subscription and mailing costs.

Finance Report, Endowment Fund

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES FINANCE REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2021

	<u>October Actual</u>	<u>Year Actual</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Versus Year Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Operating *	13,185	178,217	(2,335)
Reserve Fund	(5,466)	32,894	21,352
Total Income	<u>7,719</u>	<u>211,111</u>	<u>19,017</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Pastor **	8,065	79,412	(3,943)
Worship	386	5,064	(3,014)
Nurture	1,110	1,934	(384)
Outreach	574	3,453	1,652
Finance & Administration	7,101	55,815	1,116
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	6,262	31,677	(3,415)
Capital Improvements Fund	262	1,724	1,224
Youth Fund	0	0	0
Missions Fund ***	1,440	3,233	(2,121)
Reserve Fund	253	2,849	266
Conference Apportionment ****	0	3,750	0
Total Expenditures	<u>25,453</u>	<u>188,911</u>	<u>(8,619)</u>
Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)	(17,734)	22,200	27,636
Total Available Funds 10-31-21		294,259	

* Prepaid Pledges of 32,399 were included in January

** Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

*** Includes Special Sundays

**** 2021 Assessment is 36,840

Net cash excess (income minus expenditures) for 10 months is 22,200 which is 27,636 better than the approved operating budget.



Consider making a gift that keeps on giving by contributing to our
Church of the Pines Endowment Fund.

Contact the church office for information at 715-356-3041.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30pm - Church School 6:00 & 7:00pm - Joint UM Charge Conference (Zoom)	2	3	4
5 10:00am - Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service/Communion (In-person and Livestream) 11:00am - Fellowship	6 9:00am - Noon - Cookie Baking 7:00pm - SPRC	7 12:00pm - Esther/Martha Circle (Sarah Stewart's home)	8 12:00pm - Ruth Circle (June Westphal's home) 3:30pm - Church School 6:00pm - Deborah Circle (Venus Hilgart's home)	9 9:30am - Lydia (Holiday Café)	10 4:00pm - Set up for Cookie Walk & Craft Sale	11 9:30 - 11:00am - Cookie Walk & Craft Sale
12 10:00am - Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service (In-person and Livestream) 11:00am - Fellowship 4:00pm - Piano/Violin Recital	13 1:00pm - Prayer Shawl (Pine Room)	14 9:30am - Milestone Worship 7:00pm - Ministry Council (Ministry Center)	15 January Pine Chips Information is Due 3:30pm - Church School	16	17 5:00 - 6:00pm - Campfire & Carols	18
19 10:00am - Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service (In-person and Livestream) 11:00am - Fellowship	20	21	22	23	24 4:00, 5:30, and 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Services	25 
26 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream) 11:00am - Fellowship	27 Church office closed	28	29	30	31 	

Have something for Pine Chips 2.0? Email the church at office@umchurchofthepines.org.
To appear in the January Pine Chips, email information no later than December 15th.
 Announcements for weekly updates are due Monday for the following weekend.



<https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/>



The next time you shop online, remember to shop at AmazonSmile.com and register so that a percentage of your purchase is donated to Church of the Pines.



Contact Us

UM Church of the Pines
415 Chippewa Street
PO Box 144
Minocqua, WI 54548

Office Phone: 715-356-3041

Visit us on the web at
www.umchurchofthepines.org

Visit us on Facebook at
[www.facebook.com/
churchofthepines](http://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines)

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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