

JANUARY 2023

# PINE Chips<sup>2.0</sup>

## 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.



**Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.**  
**In-person and Livestreamed**

#### *Inside this issue:*

Pastor's Message	2
Leadership Prayers Altar Flowers	3
Worship Birthdays/Anniversaries Endowment Fund	4
January Worship Themes Pancake Breakfast Keenagers	5
Stephen Ministry	6
Ministry Council Meeting Summary Winter Weather Policy	7
New Church Member Classes Human Relations Sunday	8
United Women in Faith Giving	9
Finance Report	10
January Calendar	11

#### **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](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org)

## Pastor's Message

### *New Year's Message* FROM THE PASTOR

#### **Community, Spirituality, and Enthusiasm**

Last year, the Ministry Council was working through a visioning process that would help refocus our vision and mission here at Church of the Pines. We concluded that process in December and are now excited to share the focus areas for our church for the coming years. However, before I do, I want to share a little about our process.

We started by asking ourselves, 'if we were a part of a vital church, what would that church look like to you?' We then reflected on other questions about the Church of the Pines, such as 'what are things that have changed that we miss?' Or, 'what has changed that we enjoy?' Finally, we also asked ourselves questions about things we might have to let go of, what we have to hold onto and what is something new we may need to embrace.

We identified three focus areas through these questions and the Council's thoughtful and sincere response. First, our response pointed towards a sense of Community, greater Spirituality, and growing Energy/Enthusiasm within our church.

**Community** is our connections to one another, God, and the larger community around us. We see this already in Church of the Pines in all the ways that we care for one another, in the welcoming, friendly feeling you create for others, and in the ways that we get to know one another. Community is something that we feel we need to hold on to no matter what and to keep fostering ways for us to deepen our relationships together. That is why Ministry Council is planning and hosting a church-wide social gathering during the first three months of the year to foster our sense of Community! Look for details coming soon!

**Spirituality** is challenging to define, but it is part of what makes our church unique from all other service organizations. It is our foundation with God, making us followers of Christ. The best way for us to think about Spirituality is our relationship with God, our awareness of and responsiveness to the presence of God in our lives. This sense of Spirituality is also what God desires from us. To help us all engage our relationship with God in meaningful ways the Ministry Council and I are going to lead by example. We have all committed to reflecting on our relationships with God and exploring ways to deepen that relationship. There will even be a few members of the Ministry Council sharing with us during worship about their personal experiences of God's presence in their lives.

**Energy/Enthusiasm** might not seem like something you find in a church vision focus. Yet through the work of the Council last year, it became clear just how vital a sense of positive energy is to the life of a church – Church of the Pines included. We also realized that enthusiasm is something we need to be intentional about, we are not just going to wait for it to happen. Instead, we will work to build that sense of positive energy and enthusiasm in our church. Again, the members of Ministry Council are committing to model this by seeking ways to share positive affirmations of what they see happening in the life of our church with everyone they can.

As the new year begins I am genuinely excited about the work we are starting in building Community, Spirituality, and Energy. Brothers and sisters, this is a moment to look and see what God is about to do right here and now!

Blessings

Pastor Mark

# Leadership, Prayers, Altar Flowers

## 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

**Co-Lay Leaders:**  
Venus Hilgart  
venusm.0609@gmail.com  
Dave Kozeluh  
dskozeluh@gmail.com

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

**Ministry Council Chair:**  
Sue Loeffler  
SusanellenLoeffler@gmail.com

**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

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



## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday - 9 am - 5 pm  
Friday - 9 am - Noon

There are times when we are away from the office, so it is a good idea to call in advance to ensure we are available to assist you. Call 715-356-3041.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR...** office@umchurchofthepines.org.

*Please pray for...*

*Marian Bloch*

*Bruce Currie*

If you would like to be a member of our E-Prayer Chain or Telephone Prayer Chain, let Patty Frandy know by giving her a call at 715-356-2172 or email her at pattyandtom@frontier.com for more information.

Please consider signing up to provide a flower arrangement or a plant for the altar on Sunday mornings in 2023. Our goal is to have flowers or a plant on the altar every Sunday. It is a nice way to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion.



*Altar Flowers*

**Altar flower requests are now being taken for 2023.  
Contact Merry if you would like to reserve dates on the  
calendar for altar flowers for the coming year.**



I want to thank everyone for all the phone calls, cards you sent and the visits to wish me a Happy Birthday! I miss being able to come to church, so your kindness is greatly appreciated. I want you to know how much it means to me to be able to stay in touch with my church family! Have a very happy New Year!

Love,  
Jeanne Van Order

## Worship, Birthdays & Anniversaries, Endowment Fund

### Worship in the New Year

#### Worship Services

**Attend** the 10:00 a.m. worship services each Sunday held in the sanctuary.

**Watch Sunday morning worship services** on our Church of the Pines' YouTube channel by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/@umchurchofthepines>

**Livestream of Sunday Worship Services** on Church of the Pines' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/live/>

**Watch videos** of Sunday Services on our church website: <https://www.umchurchofthepines.org/worship-videos.html>

**Have information for the February Pine Chips newsletter?**

Email the information to [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org) by January 15th.



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

### *Happy birthday to...*

January 4	Molly Jorgensen
January 8	Rich Klatt
January 11	Bruce Berklund
January 12	Jessica Hilgart
January 12	Micah Gilbert
January 14	Val Susor
January 16	Mark Gilbert
January 17	Sylvi Berklund
January 19	Nancy Berklund
January 21	Nancy Grandy
January 23	Isabel Carlton
January 27	Fred Melms
January 28	Kristin Kroening

### *Blessings to you on your special day!*

## United Methodist Church of the Pines



### ENDOWMENT FUND



Thank you for considering an endowment gift to United Methodist Church of the Pines.



We are the seeds of hope for those who succeed us. We are called to partner in faith with those who have gone before us and to offer the best that we have to give to those who will follow.

Contact the church at 715-356-3041 or send an email to: [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org) to arrange a confidential consultation with a member of the Endowment Committee.



## January Worship Themes, Pancake Breakfast, Keenagers

### Glimpses of the Kin-dom

We are counting the weeks after Epiphany and attempting to get a glimpse of what life as the people of God might be like. We consider some of the most famous passages of scripture to help us shape a vision of the life we are called to live—not just a special, rise-to-the-occasion kind of life, but an everyday life, an ordinary life that isn't ordinary. Because we believe that followers of Christ who live their faith day by day are anything but ordinary. They stand out; they become models and mentors; they are examples of what life is all about. At least that is our hope and our belief: that our lives represent the kin-dom of God. We are the evidence that our faith is true and our God is at work in the world. In other words, we are now the epiphany, the light shining forth for the world to see. And of course, we will fail from time to time. But how we deal with failure is also a sign of that presence and glimpse of the kin-dom. So, this ordinary time is extra-ordinary in the living of it. Let us embrace the call with grace and with joy.

### January 1, 2023 – New Year's Day

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Theme: Another Road.

### January 8, 2023 - Baptism of the Lord - "The Water's Fine"

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17

Theme: The Water's Fine

### January 15, 2023

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Psalm 40:1-11

Theme: Nothing is Lacking.

### January 22, 2023

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Theme: Have the same Mind.

### January 29, 2023

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8

Theme: Walking Humbly.



### Pancake breakfast

#### Big announcement:

We are having a pancake breakfast after the worship service on Sunday, January 15th. The proceeds from the meal will be used to purchase rice meals from the Midwest Distribution Center. We will assemble the rice meals and return them to the center, where they will be distributed around the world. The breakfast will include pancakes, egg casseroles, muffins, juice, and coffee. It will be a free-will donation with a minimum of \$5 per person and \$10 per family. I will be looking for food and beverage donations and help with clean up. Sign-up sheets will be available on Wednesday, January 4th. If you have any questions, please let me know. My home number is 715-358-5502, or you can text me at 715-892-9579. I am excited to spearhead this event and look forward to your support and participation.

- Venus Hilgart



Keenagers will meet for potluck at noon in the Ministry Center on Wednesday, January 18. Join us for some good food and a trip to Cornwall as Tom and Patty Frandy show their pictures from their fall trip to England. Anyone is welcome to attend. If you'd like to come for the program only, arrive about 12:30 pm.

## Stephen Ministry



### New Stephen Ministry Grief Outreach Program

In January 2023, a new UMCOP Stephen Ministry Grief Outreach Program will be launched. So many in our congregation have lost loved ones, and the Stephen Ministry Team asked ourselves "What can we do to help?"

The international Stephen Ministry office has a *Journeying through Grief* series of booklets that were developed by the Stephen Ministry founder, Kenneth C. Hauck. The four booklets are helpful in four crucial times during the first year after a person has lost a loved one. The Stephen Ministry Team will send out the books, along with a personal letter at the appropriate times, and hold you in their prayers, as well.

Book 1, *A Time to Grieve* – three weeks after the loss

Book 2, *Experiencing Grief* – three months after the loss

Book 3, *Finding Hope and Healing* - six months after the loss

Book 4, *Rebuilding and Remembering* – eleven months after a loss



Dr. Hauck explains, "Each of the four books focuses on the feelings and issues a person is likely to be experiencing at that point in his or her grief, offering comfort, help, and hope throughout that first difficult year."

Please remember that if you are grieving, or have another difficult situation, you can always talk one-on-one with a Stephen Minister. The Stephen Minister will listen and provide support. Everything is confidential and nonjudgmental. If you would like to talk to a Stephen Minister, please contact our Stephen Leader, Holly Nash, at 715-356-6861.

## Ministry Council Meeting Summary, Winter Weather Policy

The Ministry Council met on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, with the following members in attendance: Chris Anderson, Jim Anderson, Sue Claflin, Mary Fasse, Tom Frandy, Pastor Mark Gilbert, Merry Jorgensen, Sue Loeffler, and Bob Schuld. Absent members were Jodi Capacio, Donna Clark, Emerson Coy, Rich Klatt, Noah Lottig, Holly Nash, and Jerry Weber.

Comments about recent Church of the Pines accomplishments included: A successful Cookie Walk & Craft Sale; Caroling will take place on Wednesday night at One Penny Place and Country Terrace; the Children's Christmas program; having Barb Hallock's students play the Prelude at Sunday worship services; Victor Sandberg playing the organ through the end of the year; Wednesday Church School is on Christmas break and will resume after the first of the year.

Pastor Mark will meet with Dr. Holmes regarding his office rental lease for 2023.

The Infection Control Team reviewed the current status of COVID and recommended a reminder be announced during the Sunday worship service and in our church publications reminding the congregation to 1) Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines; 2) Get tested if you have symptoms; 3) Wear a mask if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19; 4) Wear a mask on public transportation. Masks are highly recommended, but not required in the church building and you may at any time as an additional precaution to protect yourself and others; 5) If you are at high risk for severe illness, consider wearing a mask indoors in public and taking additional precautions.

The Council continued its visioning process and discussion of the future priorities of the church. (Refer to the pastor's message for more information on page 2 of this newsletter.)

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center.



### 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: worship stewards will be notified; local television 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](http://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](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org).

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



## New Church Member Classes, Human Relations Sunday

### New Church MEMBER CLASSES

### Interested in Becoming a Member of Church of the Pines?

If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of Church of the Pines, plan to attend one of our New Church Member Classes:

**Saturday January 29th or February 4th**

9:00 a.m. - Noon

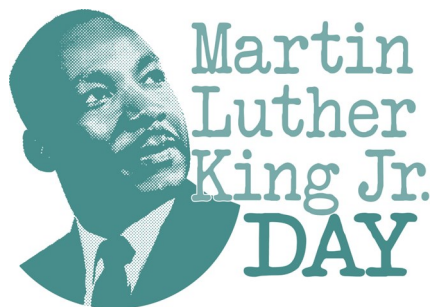
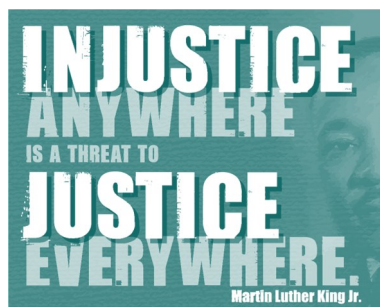
Ministry Center

**Call 715-2356-3041 or send an email to [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org) to let us know you plan to attend.**

On Human Relations Day, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together for the common good, building community and sharing God's love.

**HOW TO GIVE:** Write a check to Church of the Pines and write "Human Relations Day" in the memo line. You can also make a gift by going to our church website, click on "Give online today," select "Missions - Human Relations Day" in the drop down box and follow the prompts.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to be part of extending healing and hope that can guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our gifts and support, we partner with God and God's people to strengthen Christ's loving presence in a hurting world. United Methodist Special Sunday celebrations invest in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step into a grace-filled new beginning with faithful determination. We know how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to resources, as a denomination, our gifts on Human Relations Day work together to empower faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. Thank you for partnering your spiritual and financial gifts to build up what the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called "the beloved community."





## United Women in Faith, Giving



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Thank offering...** Drop a quarter as you give thanks for the opportunity to serve God in new ways in 2023.

### Circle meetings

**Ruth..** January 11th at 12:30 p.m. at Heart II.

**Deborah...** January 11th at 6 p.m. in the Ministry Center. Sue McDougall is hosting. "The Case for Christ" will be viewed. Thank you to circle members for your generosity for our Christmas family.

**Dawn...** January 5th at the home of Pat Bechtel.

**Lydia...** January 12th at 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center.

**Esther/Ruth...** January 3rd at noon at the home of Jeanne Van Order.

### Upcoming dates:

January 11th...Executive board meeting at 10 a.m. in the Ministry Center

January 25th..General meeting at 10 a.m. in Ministry Center. Ester/Ruth Circle will host.



Members and friends of Deborah Circle braved the snow and ice this past Wednesday for Christmas caroling at Country Terrace and One Penney Place. From left to right: Loran Susor, Val Susor, Suvi Novak, Chrissy Novak, Tom Frandy, Eli Novak, Venus Hilgart, Hakken Berklund, Rosalie Widstrand, Bryce Berklund, Sue McDougall, Mary Fasse, and Patty Frandy (not pictured).

### Deborah Circle and friends Christmas Caroling



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

Thank you for continuing to financially contribute to Church of the Pines as you are able. **There are a variety of ways to make your gifts:**

- Text "give" to 833-358-0472.
- Use ACH (Automatic Clearing House) to contribute from your checking or savings account.
- Go to [www.umchurchofthepines.org](http://www.umchurchofthepines.org) and click on the GIVE button to make an electronic gift using your debit or checking account.
- Drop off or mail a check made out to Church of the Pines to P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, WI 54548.

# Finance Report

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES FINANCE REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2022

	<u>November Actual</u>	<u>Year Actual</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Versus Year Budget</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Operating *	16,978	187,790	(22,676)
Reserve Fund	7,647	( 271)	(14,171)
Endowment Fund	0	9,800	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>24,625</b>	<b>197,319</b>	<b>(36,847))</b>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>			
Pastor **	8,197	93,661	197
Worship	42	3,349	( 683)
Nurture	154	4,590	1,550
Outreach	147	3,439	1,148
Finance & Administration	5,767	63,824	145
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	2,338	43,008	( 475)
Capital Improvements Fund	0	8,706	4,856
Youth Fund	0	0	0
Missions Fund ***	875	7,680	2,195
Reserve Fund	191	2,425	( 825)
Conference Apportionment ****	0	13,264	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>17,711</b>	<b>243,946</b>	<b>8,108</b>
<b>Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)</b>	<b>6,914</b>	<b>(46,627)</b>	<b>(44,955)</b>
<b>Total Available Funds 11-30-22</b>		<b>224,117</b>	

\* Prepaid Pledges of 50,602 were included in January Operating Income

\*\* Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

\*\*\* Includes Special Sundays

\*\*\*\* 2022 Assessment is 36,528

Net cash deficiency (income minus expenditures) for 11 months is 46,627 which is 44,955 worse than the approved operating budget.

Watch our church services on



In addition to watching Sunday morning worship services on Facebook, you can also watch services on our church YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@umchurchofthepines>



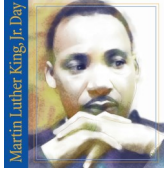


<https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/>



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.

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am - Worship Service/ Communion 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship 	2 Church office is closed	3 12:00pm - Esther/ Martha Circle (lunch at Jeanne Van Order's home)	4	5 9:30am - Dawn Circle (at Pat Bechtel's home)	6 <b>Epiphany</b>	7
8 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship 11:00am - Take down Christmas decorations	9 1:00pm - Prayer Shawl (Pine Room)	10 5:00pm - Community Table (St. Matthias' Church)	11 10:00am - United Women in Faith Executive Board (Ministry Center) 12:30pm - Ruth Circle (Heart II) 3:30pm - Church School 6:00pm - Deborah Circle (Ministry Center)	12 9:30am - Lydia Circle (Ministry Center) 1:00pm - Stephen Ministry (Library)	13	14
15 Human Relations Sunday 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship 11:00am - Pancake Breakfast 	16 <b>Martin King, Jr. Day</b> 7:00pm - SPRC (Library) 	17 7:00pm - Ministry Council (Ministry Center)	18 12:00pm - Keenagers (Ministry Center)	19 5:30pm - Turn the Page Book Club (Pam Schoville's home)	20	21
22 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	23	24 8:00am - Men's Breakfast (Our Place) 9:30am - Between Friends (Ministry Center)	25 10:00am - United Women in Faith General Meeting (Ministry Center)	26	27	28 9:00am - Noon - New Church Member Class
29 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	30	31				

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



Monday - Thursday  
 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Friday  
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

There are times when we are away from the office, so it is a good idea to call in advance to ensure we are available to assist you.  
 Call 715-356-3041.



## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.umchurchofthepines.org](http://www.umchurchofthepines.org)

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

