

MARCH 2023

PINE Chips^{2.0}

United Methodist

Of Church of the Pines

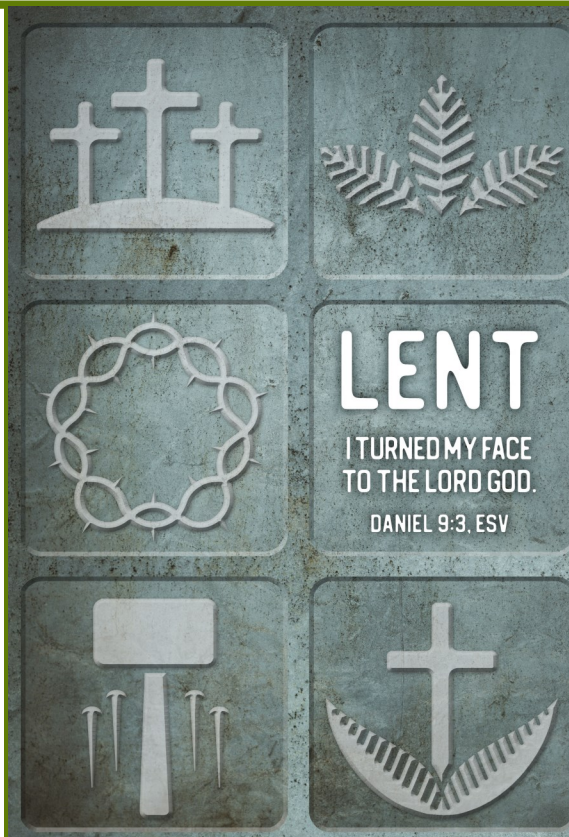


Live Christ's Love
NOW!



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.



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

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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 Message

*Pastor's
Message
for Lent*



Today Years Old...

There is a popular slang term that is going around in our culture. It is an expression of bewilderment about learning something new about a topic you thought you already knew. So it goes, 'I was today years old when I learned...' You can insert whatever you learned that you hadn't known before. For example, I was today years old when I realized the plastic things at the end of shoelaces were called 'aglets.'

While the phrase is just a humorous way of expressing surprise at learning something new, I like the idea that we are never too old to learn new things. Especially learning new things about topics that we thought we already knew about. I share all this because I was today years old when I learned about a new way to understand the parable of the talents that blew me away.

I recently read a discussion about the parable in Matthew 25:14-30 about how we have traditionally understood this parable may not be the way Jesus intended it to be understood. We usually think of God as the master who gives differing amounts of gold to three servants before leaving on the trip. We hear what each servant does with the gold while the master is away. We also hear how the master deals with each servant based on what they did with the gold given to them.

The first two servants use the gold to make more money for the master, which pleases the master and rewards them. The third servant buries the gold one in the ground and gives the master back the same amount. The master is mad at the third servant and punishes him. We typically think this parable calls us to use God's gifts to create some return or profit for God, thereby gaining a reward from God.

Now here is the part that flips this all around. In the parable, the third servant describes the master as a 'hard man' (some translations even say 'evil man') who reaps where he does not sow... This line calls us to rethink our understanding of the parable. In all of the parables that Jesus shares, I cannot find another example of him describing God as a hard or 'evil' master like this. Let alone the idea that we have to earn a reward from God is a direct contradiction of the free grace of God. I had read and preached this parable countless times before and never thought about it this way.

The discussion I heard this in lifted that perhaps Jesus was encouraging us to examine how we participate in the systems of this world that exploit others...' reaping what we do not sow.' It could call us to stand against the injustice and inequality of human economics. To add support to this idea, this parable is immediately followed by the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew's Gospel. A parable that calls us to act for justice and mercy for all people.

I share all this for two reasons. First is to remind you that you are never too old to experience the Bible in new ways. The second is to invite you to a Bible study this year. I will lead a class starting in May (more information coming next month) about the parables of Jesus, where we will have opportunities to learn something new together and say, 'I was today years old....'

Pastor Mark

Leadership, Lent/Holy Week/Easter Sunday

Church Staff & Leadership

Pastor Mark D. Gilbert, ext. 4
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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.



Lent

*This Lenten season, we'll
be exploring both looking
inward and moving
outward.
We are learning to live
inside out.*

Lent Worship Services:

February 26
First Sunday of Lent
Theme: *If You Fall Down*
Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

March 5
Second Sunday of Lent
Theme: *Movement*
Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4
and John 3:1-17

March 12
Third Sunday of Lent
Theme: *Why am I Always
Thirsty?*
Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7 and
John 4:5-15

March 19
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Theme: *God Chooses You*
Scripture: I Samuel 16:1-13

March 26
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Theme: *A Foretaste of Glory
Divine*
Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday
April 2nd - 10:00 a.m.
Theme: *In Awe of Grace*
Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11
& Matthew 26:14-27:66

Maundy Thursday
April 6 - 7:00 p.m.
Theme: *A Place at the Table*
Scripture: John 13:1-17,
31b-35

Good Friday
April 7 - 12:00 p.m.
Theme: *The Passion of Christ*
Scripture: John 18:1-19:42

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunrise Service
April 9
Torpy Park - 8:00 a.m.

**Easter Sunday Worship
Service**
April 9
Sanctuary - 10:00 a.m.

Theme: *It's Easter! Celebrate
the day of Resurrection!*
Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10



Worship, Birthdays & Anniversaries, Endowment Fund

Welcome
to Worship!

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>

Watch our church services on



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>



Reminder: Move your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11th.

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



Happy birthday to...

March 2	Adam Hinkens
March 3	Jaime Jorgensen
March 4	Sue Claflin
March 6	George Douma
March 9	Brylee Citta
March 12	Bonnie Noonan
March 17	Erin Jorgensen
March 17	Lynn Romleski
March 17	Julie Coy
March 19	Bob Van Order
March 19	Andy Lenz
March 20	Carli Capacio
March 22	Richard Theile
March 27	Tom Frandy
March 27	Sarah Stewart
March 31	Jodi Capacio

Happy anniversary to...

March 22 Liz Stone & Richard Theile

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 to arrange a confidential consultation with a member of the Endowment Committee.

Pray for..., Altar Flowers, Upper Room



To have your name or the name of a loved one included on our Prayer List, in the Weekly Update Prayer List, or on our Prayer Chain, please contact the church office.

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 pray for...

The family and friends of Jim Jurries. Jim passed away on February 17th.

Lynn Tosch

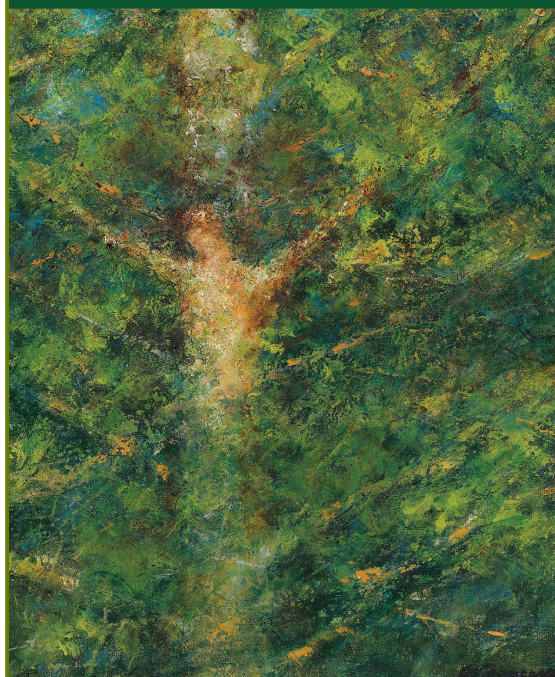
Altar Flowers

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.



MARCH-APRIL 2023

THE UPPER ROOM®
WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY



The Upper Room

The Upper Room is a daily devotional magazine published in more than 35 languages and 100 countries around the world. The daily meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others interested in sharing their faith experiences through writing.

The March/April 2023 issue of The Upper Room is now available. If you would like to subscribe to this publication, please contact Merry at 715-356-3041 or email her at office@umchurchofthepines.org. There is no cost for the subscription; however donations to help underwrite the cost are appreciated. You can pick up your copy at church or make arrangements to have it mailed to you.

Keenagers, Men's Breakfast, Between Friends, Rice Meals



KEENAGERS Potluck & Program Wednesday, March 15th - Noon - Ministry Center

Bart, from the Northwoods Wildlife Center, will be here to tell us about our neighbors in the woods and fields. His programs are always informative, educational, and entertaining.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a dish to pass for lunch. Or, if you want to come for the program only, come around 12:30 p.m.

Northwoods Wildlife has a wish list, some of which are listed here. We are collecting these items and hope you will consider donating items. There is a bin in the back of the sanctuary where items can be placed from March 1st through March 15th.



ITEMS NEEDED

Paper Towels	
Hand Sanitizer	Scrub brushes (large or small)
Q-Tips	Pet Puzzle Feeders
Clear Liquid Soap Refills	Disinfecting Wipes
Copy Paper	HP 61 Printer Ink Cartridges
Toilet Paper	



Men's Breakfast
Tuesday, March 28th
8:00 a.m. - Our Place Café
Great food...
Great fellowship!



March 28th

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
in the Ministry Center.

Bring a sack lunch.

Visit with your friends while working on your sewing or craft projects.

Rice Meal Packs

Everything for preparing the rice meals has arrived! Thanks to all who helped helped, attended, and contributed funds to the pancake breakfast. We purchased 240 rice meal packets which will feed 1,440 people.

The youth of the congregation will assemble the rice meals on Wednesday, March 8th, during Church School. The rice meal packets will be delivered to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center on Saturday, March 11th. From there, the packets will be dispersed to communities that are in need.

Following the rice meal packing, there will be a Children, Youth, and Family potluck. Members of the Deborah Circle have volunteered to wash dishes! Thanks, Deborah Circle and to all who are planning to help. What a wonderful mission project for our church!

Stephen Ministry Anniversary of Commissioning

The UMCOP Stephen Ministry Team will celebrate the 17th anniversary of the commissioning of the Stephen Ministers on March 12, 2023.

Stephen Ministers undergo intense training by Stephen Leaders to be equipped to listen to and support people in crisis. Stephen ministers do not replace pastors, but help to share in the church's ministry of caring. They free the pastor to do what only he/she can do as the Stephen Ministers can devote much more time to an individual with special needs. By having trained lay persons, the pastor can have reassurance that people are receiving quality care.



The Stephen Ministry logo consists of a cross and circle, together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person behind the cross symbolizes the brokenness in our lives, while the whole person in front of the cross symbolizes how we are made whole again through the cross of Jesus. The circle represents both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us.



Stephen Ministers
Holly Nash, Ted Voigt, and
Gretchen Voigt

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, try taking the follow quiz. Match the statement on the left with the number on the right. Numbers may be used more than once. Good luck!

(Answers are shown at the bottom of page 13)

1. Stephen Ministry Training Started at UMCOP
2. Stephen Ministers Commissioned at UMCOP
3. Original number of Stephen Leaders at UMCOP
4. Pounds of materials both Holly Nash and Pastor Gary Cole received at leadership training
5. Minimum years a person commits to the Stephen Ministry program when starting
6. Number of Stephen Ministers commissioned at UMCOP
7. Minimum hours of initial training for a Stephen Minister
8. Countries with a Stephen Ministry program
9. Denominations represented in Stephen Ministry
10. Stephen Ministry first began in what year
11. Number of Stephen Ministers worldwide

- a. 2
- b. 12
- c. 30+
- d. 35
- e. 50
- f. 190
- g. 1975
- h. 2005
- i. 2006
- j. 600,000+

Stephen Ministers receive many benefits in addition to the fact they are helping others by spreading God's love. Stephen Ministry moves them beyond "it's the pastor's job" mindset and helps them in their own spiritual growth. The skills they learn help them in other ministries, committee work, and their personal and work lives.

The Stephen Ministry team wants to thank the congregation for their support. We encourage you to seek out a Stephen Minister if you or someone you care about are facing difficulties by contacting Holly Nash at 715-356-6861 or through the church office.

Stephen Ministry



Believe it or not, by the calendar, it will soon be Spring, my favorite season. A season when we can see new life all around us—trees budding, flowers peeking through the ground, new birds arriving, frogs peeping, and newborn animals abounding.

It can also be a time for new life for each of us, when we shed the winter doldrums and look to see how we, too, can blossom.

One of my favorite hymns is *This is a Day of New Beginnings*. It goes like this:

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember, and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past, and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

I pray that as you see the coming signs of Spring, you can step out in the power of the Holy Spirit, leave the past behind, and look forward to all that God has to offer. If you could use a bit of help with that, always feel free to ask for a Stephen Minister to step out with you. Just call Holly Nash at 715-356-6861.

Words: Brian Wren

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stephen
MINISTRY®

Cabin Fever Fun Day

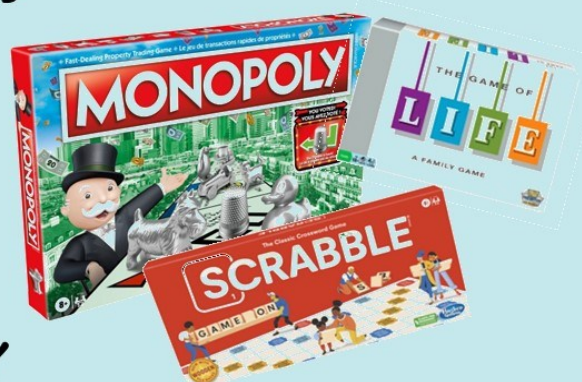
CABIN FEVER FUN DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH

2:00 P.M.

Hosted by Church of the Pines
Ministry Council

It's a long winter here in Minocqua! So, let's have our first ever **CHURCH CABIN FEVER FUN DAY!** There will be a variety of fun activities, topped off with an early **SOUP SUPPER POTLUCK** at 4:00 p.m. at the church.



CROSS COUNTRY SKI & SNOWSHOE



Shake off the winter doldrums and join Sara & Dave Kozeluh for a ski or snowshoe outing on the Raven Trail. Meet at the trailhead parking lot just past the Clear Lake Campground on

Woodruff Road at 2:00 p.m. Enjoy an hour-long, leisurely tramp or glide through a beautiful woodland setting. Return to the church around 3:30 p.m. to warm up with good fellowship and a soup supper!

Contact Dave at 715-892-8611 or Sara at 715-482-4089 if you plan to ski or snowshoe or for directions to the trail or assistance locating skis or snowshoes.



BOARD GAMES & MORE

If you don't feel like hitting the trails, come to the church at 2:00 p.m. for some fun games including Family Feud-style quiz games emceed by Pastor Mark, or play a variety of other board games. Invite friends to join in the fun!

SOUP SUPPER

Bring your family's favorite soup to share or a yummy side dish to go with all the soups. Soup crackers and beverages, including hot cider, hot chocolate, milk, juice, and coffee will be provided.

Call the church office at 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org to let us know you plan to participate in this church activity and attend the soup supper.

Meet our Co-Lay Leaders

Committee Leadership of Church of the Pines—Lay Leaders

Over the next few months, leaders of the committees of Church of the Pines will be featured in each Pine Chips. Here is a chance to learn more about what it takes to make our church what it is and introduce those who serve as our church leaders. This month's feature is Lay Leader. This year we have two people who are sharing the Lay Leader role, Venus Hilgart and Dave Kozeluh.

Our Lay Leaders work, with the pastor, staff, and the leadership to help the congregation fulfill its missions and vision. As a Lay Leader, they serve as a role model to the congregation, are a standing member of all SPRC, Ministry Council, and Leadership Development committees; assist the pastor in the services of sacraments; assist in planning and leading worship; and lead studies. Lay Leaders have been a professing member of the congregation for at least two year and serve for three-year terms.

Meet our Co-Lay Leaders for 2023:



Venus Hilgart

The Hilgart family, Bill, Venus, Stephanie, Jessica, and Jason moved to the Minocqua area in April 2002. Venus is a registered nurse who worked in the operating room for 40 years. The first ten years were at Beloit Memorial Hospital, and following a deployment to Saudi Arabia (member of Wisconsin Army National Guard for 22 years), completed her nursing career at Howard Young Medical Center. She has been involved with Church of the Pines for the past 20 years as choir member, liturgist, director of the children's Christmas program, and most recently as co-lay leader with Dave Kozeluh. She recently traveled to Israel for the first time and hopes to share stories with the congregation.

Venus' passion is to serve the Lord in whatever way He sees fit. Initially, she was reluctant to serve as a lay leader, but her hope is that it will bring her closer to God, rather than a task-oriented job. Her plan is to lead a Lenten study and Advent study. She spearheaded our recent pancake breakfast to raise funds for rice meals. She previously attended three mission trips to Guatemala and, most recently participated in the mission trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center. This mission trip motivated her, not only to coordinate the rice meal project, but all the other projects the mission is involved with. She has

been crocheting baby sweaters and recently purchased a lot of fabric at thrift stores to sew school bags. As co-lay leader, she will serve you, the congregation.

Venus can be contacted at 715-358-5502 (home) or 715-892-9579 (cell) or email her at venusm.0609@gmail.com



Dave Kozeluh

Dave Kozeluh thanks the congregation for the opportunity to serve along with Venus Hilgart as Co-Lay Leaders. Dave will primarily be taking on an administrative role, serving on the Ministry Council, Pastor/Staff-Parish

Relations Committee (SPRC), Trustees, and Key Leaders Working Group, while Venus will serve in a more creative and spiritual role.

Dave and his wife, Sara, came to Church of the Pines in 1981 after receiving their dental and dental hygiene degrees from the University of Iowa. They were building a dental program for the Lac du Flambeau Tribe, relocating far from home and remember being so warmly welcome by the people of this church. With no family near, the members of this church became Dave's and Sara's extended family and that's still the case today - over forty years later.

(continued on page 11)

Co-Lay Leaders, Ministry Council Meeting Summary

(Lay Leaders continued from page 8)

Dave and Sara believe in the importance of community and that people with a strong commitment to each other lead healthier, happier, and more productive lives. Dave's personal goal as Lay Leader for the next three years is to do what he can to build on the strong sense of community that this congregation has always possessed.

Now retired, having practiced public health and private practice dentistry in the Lakeland area for 38 years, he continues to enjoy and have more time for the things that have always brought him joy. Spending time with friends and family keeps their schedule full. Their two children, their spouses, and one grandchild are an especially high priority for connecting with regularly. In addition to their church activities, they have been in leadership roles at Minocqua Winter Park for many years. Gardening, paddle sports, biking, and cross country skiing allows him to be outdoors daily throughout the year. Dave and Sara feel blessed in many ways.

Dave can be contacted by phone at 715-356-4089 or 715-892-8611 (cell), or send him an email at dskozeluh@gmail.com.

Ministry Council Meeting Summary

The Ministry Council met on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, with the following members in attendance: Sue Claflin, Donna Clark, Mary Fasse, Tom Frandy, Pastor Mark Gilbert, Merry Jorgensen, Sue Loeffler, Noah Lottig, Holly Nash, and Bob Schuld. Absent: Chris Anderson, Jim Anderson, Dave Kozeluh, and Sara Kozeluh.

Highlights from this past month were shared: The Children, Youth, and Family Ministry potluck; donations of socks and underwear for Ukraine; fire response donations; Pastor Mark was quoted in a Lakeland Times article where he spoke about the Rocking Horse Child Care Center's closing due to the employment shortage in

our community.

The standing church committee job descriptions have been updated and were approved by the Ministry Council. Each of the committees will be highlighted in upcoming newsletters. Lay Leadership is highlighted in this newsletter on pages 10 and 11.

The Ministry Council is sponsoring the March 5th Cabin Fever Fun Day. Dave and Sara Kozeluh are leading a cross-country ski and snowshoe outdoor adventure beginning at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Mark will organize indoor games at the church beginning at 2:00 pm. All will gather in the Ministry Center for a soup supper at 4:00 p.m.

Discussion related to spirituality in the church will continue at future Council meetings.

The Council talked about how enthusiasm is being shown at church and in our activities. The Key Leaders Group is working on creating an annual church calendar to create a greater awareness of what is occurring throughout the year.

The Council continues to explore other income streams for the church. Tom Frandy shared an idea of a way another church raises funds each week during the worship service to fund such things as scholarships, food pantry, or other mission-oriented projects. He will present additional information to the Council at its March meetings.

Pastor Mark will be gathering more information from the Minocqua Chamber of Commerce to help determine if there is a need for temporary office space by people while they are in the area.

The Children, Youth, and Family Ministry has decided that the church will pay \$250 of the church camp fee for each child from our church who registers for summer church camp.

The next Ministry Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

CYF Ministry, Stay Connected, Volunteer Opportunities

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

*"Let the little children
come to me."
- Luke 18:16*

Wednesday Church School

K-8th graders meet on March 1, 9, 22, and 29 at 3:30 p.m. It's a time for kids to learn, grow, and serve others in faith. Class begins with snacks, followed by the weekly lessons and activities.

CYF MINISTRY POTLUCK

Everyone who is interested in our church's Children, Youth, and Family Ministry is invited to attend a monthly potluck. The group gathers once a month in the Ministry Center for food and fellowship. Time is also spent planning and working on upcoming children, youth, and family activities. The March potluck will be held on March 8th following the Rice Meal Packaging Project.

YOUTH GROUP

Middle and high school youth will gather at Church of the Pines for fun and fellowship from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The group plays games, explores questions of faith, and finds ways to serve our community in practical ways. Please note that on March 5th, the Youth Group will participate in Cabin Fever Fun Day.

WORSHIP - Children are an important

and valuable part of our church Family. On Sunday mornings,

during worship, there is Children's time

with the pastor.

There are children's bulletins, Bibles for children, and special bags filled with crayons and other activities that can be found at the back of the sanctuary as you enter for worship. There is also a Cry Room at the back of the sanctuary, if that would be of use to you during the service. Please feel free to meet your children's needs throughout the service. During the service, the pastor invites the children to come forward for a special Time for Children.

stayCONNECTED



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

Church of the Pines website:
www.umchurchofthepines.org



Sign up to receive the Pine Chips 2.0 newsletter and Weekly Update electronically by going to our website, click on NEWSLETTER in the menu at the top of the page, and type in your name and email address.

<https://www.instagram.com/churchofthepinesminocqua/>



VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

We wish we had more...

Ushers
Greeters
Liturgists
Communion Stewards
Hospitality Hosts for
Coffee Fellowship
Altar Flowers
Musicians

**If you can help our wishes
come true, please contact
the church office.**

United Women in Faith, Spring Rummage & Bake Sale



United
Women
in Faith

Thank Offering: By the end of this month the year is one quarter done. Put one quarter in your Offering Box.

Circle Meetings:

Deborah Circle meets on Wednesday, March 8th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library. The group will continue to watch "The Case for Christ." Venus will host.

Lydia Circle's meeting will be on Thursday, March 9th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center.

Dawn Circle will meet on Thursday, March 2nd, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center.

Esther/Martha Circle meets Tuesday, March 7th, at noon at Jeanne Van Order's home.

Ruth Circle's meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8th, at Heart II at 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming Dates:

Executive Board meeting - Wednesday, March 8th, 10:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center.

General meeting - Wednesday, March 22nd, 10:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Spring Rummage
and
Bake Sale

Wednesday thru Friday - April 26, 27 and 28

Sponsored by United Women in Faith

All proceeds go to MISSIONS

It's time to think about **SPRING CLEANING** and setting aside items for the United Women in Faith's **Spring Rummage & Bake Sale.**

Drop off items at the American Legion on:

Tuesday, April 25 - 12-5 p.m. or

Wednesday, April 26 - 9a.m. - 5 p.m.

Early Sale - April 26 - 5-7 p.m.

Sale - April 27 - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sale (Reduced prices) - April 28 - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Donations of clean clothing, shoes, jewelry, books, antiques, household goods, outdoor/garage/sport items, crafts, small furniture, collectibles will be accepted. Please NO old electronics of any kind, microwaves, coffee makers, or other old appliances.

Answers to the Stephen Ministry Quiz from page 7

1 h, 2 i, 3 a, 4 d, 5 a, 6 b, 7 e, 8 c, 9 f, 10 g, 11 j

Mission Highlights, Winter Weather Policy

Mission Highlights

Family and Children's Services provides services predominately for the poor and focuses on crisis intervention, rebuilding lives, and strengthening families. These ministries are very dependent on contributions from the Conference and congregations since they are used as matching funds to obtain foundation, business, and government grants. Services are in the area of head-start programs, life-skill training, homeless shelters, food pantries, gang prevention, nutrition education, parenting training, and transitional living.

UMCOR US Disaster Response - When disaster happens, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding, that disaster response is local, forms the foundation for UMCOR's US disaster training and response.

When responding to a disaster in the United State, UMCOR works with the conference disaster response ministries to provide the following:

Financial Assistance - Emergency grants may be sent when a bishop of the affected conference contacts UMCOR.

Expertise - UMCOR's disaster response experience and knowledge are made available to those in need.

Networking - Connections with NGOs, volunteers, experts, local government and other organizations can help communities recover from disaster.

UMCOR Sunday is March 19th. Please consider making a contribution to our special offering or mail a check made out to Church of the Pines and place UMCOR in the check memo line.

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 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.

In Memory, Be the Church



Jim (JJ) Jurries

July 16, 1938 - February 17, 2023

On Friday, February 17, Church of the Pines lost a member of our church family. Jim (JJ) Jurries was a long-time member of Church of the Pines, along with his wife, Barbara, who passed away in 2020.

For 48 years, Jim, with the help of his family, planted the beautiful flowers under our church sign and in our church window boxes. The photo to the right was taken on May 28, 2022, when Jim and his family spent that Saturday planting flowers beneath our Church of the Pines' sign. He will be missed by everyone!



♥ There are so many members and friends of our congregation who are serving God through their service to others. We see this happening every day here at Church of the Pines. Members of your church group or committees are involved in mission projects or are reaching out to help others or doing awesome Acts of Kindness. If you would like to share how you, your group or committees are serving others, consider sharing this by taking photos and/or writing an article for the Pine Chips or Weekly Update.



Be THE CHURCH
everyone. everywhere. everyday.

The church is so much more than a building. It's all of us serving inside and outside of its walls with caring and grateful hearts.

*O, Lord, help us to remember
we are the shadow
of your cross
that we don't just go to
church,
the church resides
in each of us. AMEN!*

Finance - 2023 Budget

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES APPROVED 2023 OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>2023 Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Operating	195,775
Reserve Fund	10,950
Endowment Fund	16,100
Total Income	<u>222,825</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Pastor *	101,067
Worship	5,159
Nurture	4,500
Outreach	5,200
Finance & Administration	70,824
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	41,989
Capital Improvements Fund	900
Youth Fund	0
Missions Fund **	5,355
Reserve Fund	2,700
Conference Apportionment ***	18,652
Total Expenditures	<u>256,346</u>
Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)	(33,521)
* Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses	
** Includes Special Sundays	
*** 2023 Assessment is 37,305	
Church Operations	(39,219)
Conference Apportionment	(18,652)
Reserve & Endowment Funds	<u>24,350</u>
Net Cash Deficiency	(33,521)



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 and click on the GIVE button to make an electronic gift using your debit or checking account; or drop off or mail a check made out to Church of the Pines to P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, WI 54548.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30pm - Church School	2 9:30am - Dawn Circle 10:00am - Key Leaders 2:00pm - Lenten Study	3	4
5 Second Sunday of Lent 10:00am - Worship Service/Communion 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship 2:00pm - Cabin Fever Fun Day (Cross-country ski/snowshoe/games at the church) 4:00pm - Soup Supper	6	7 12:00pm - Esther/Martha Circle	8 10:00am - United Women in Faith Executive Board 12:30pm - Ruth Circle 3:00pm - Rice Meal Preparation 3:30pm - Church School 5:30pm - CYF Potluck 6:00pm - Deborah Circle	9 9:30am - Lydia Circle 2:00pm - Lenten Study	10	11
12 Third Sunday of Lent 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	13 Spring Break 1:00pm - Prayer Shawl	14 Spring Break 10:00am - Worship at Milestone 1:00pm - Worship at One Penny Place 5:00pm - Community Table (St. Matthias' Church)	15 Spring Break 12:00pm - Keen-agers	16 Spring Break 5:30pm - Turn the Page Book Club	17 Spring Break 	18
19 Fourth Sunday of Lent 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	20 7:00pm - SPRC 	21 7:00pm - Ministry Council	22 10:00am - United Women in Faith General Meeting 3:30pm - Church School	23 2:00pm - Lenten Study	24	25
26 Fifth Sunday of Lent 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	27	28 8:00am - Men's Breakfast 9:30am - Between Friends 6:30pm - Lakeland Gem Club	29 3:30pm - Church School	30	31	

Did you know? You can keep up-to-date on additional activities that have been added to the church calendar or stay informed of any calendar changes by going to our church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org and clicking on "Upcoming Events" in the menu dropdown box.

*Have something for Pine Chips 2.0? Email the church at office@umchurchofthepines.org.
The deadline for receiving information for the April Pine Chips 2.0 is March 15th.
 Announcements for weekly updates are due no later than Monday for the following weekend.*

Do you need to reserve a room for a meeting or activity? Would you like to have your meetings or activities promoted in the Pine Chips, Weekly Update, bulletin inserts, Facebook, our church website, or Instagram? You can now submit information online by going to our church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org and click on the menu dropdown box, then click on "Event/Room Reservation Form." Fill out the form and click on submit. Everyone with internet can submit this information electronically. If you need assistance, contact Merry Jorgensen.



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

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](https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines)

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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