

PINE CHIPS



United Methodist

Church of the Pines



Living Christ's Love



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 to make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ to love and serve the world through community, spirituality, and generosity.



Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.
In-person and Livestreamed
on Facebook and YouTube

Worship time changes to
9:30 a.m. beginning May 26

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Did you get Pine Chips 2.0 in your email?

Not only is the monthly Pine Chips 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



Conference and Denominational Updates

What an excellent beginning of the year for us here at Church of the Pines. We have had several exciting things going on and beginning. I have shared our new Vision and Mission statements, Special Mission focus, and a new worship time to enhance our worship experience. We have accomplished awesome things during this time. We have begun our food security mission focus with enthusiasm and generosity. The congregational giving challenge is a great example; in just one month, you all donated over \$4000 to increase food security in our community and worldwide.

There are many things to celebrate and look forward to as part of the Church of the Pines—so much so that I have forgotten a few things happening in the Wisconsin Annual Conference and the United Methodist Denomination. So, let me catch you up on what is happening in our larger church community.

First, the United Methodist Church General Conference, initially scheduled for the summer of 2020 and postponed due to the pandemic, is finally being held right now! It started on April 23, 2024, and runs through May 3, 2024. This General Conference has much to do in sorting out the stance of the UMC on human sexuality and regular church business, as well as sorting out the aftermath of the denominational split with the creation of the Global Methodist Denomination. I encourage all of you to pray for this General Conference. We will let you know what comes out of this General Conference and how it may affect us here at the Church of the Pines.

The second thing is that the Wisconsin Annual Conference is undergoing a redistricting to utilize our resources most effectively. We are in the North Central District, and the Rev. Tsuker Yang is our District Superintendent. The district will be redrawn starting in July, and we will become part of the Northeast District. Rev. Yang will be retiring after a long and meaningful ministry. The Rev. Park Hunter will be our new District Superintendent. I have known Park for many years and am excited about his ministry and leadership for us.

Lastly, and most significantly, Bishop Jung, our Bishop for the last 12 years, is retiring. We will be celebrating his ministry during the Wisconsin Annual Conference this June. Bishop Jung came to the Church of the Pines in the Summer of 2013, prayed for our church at our altar, and met with a wonderful group of people from the church. He helped move Church of the Pines forward by encouraging us to, in his words, Imagine Wisconsin Anew!

With Bishop Jung's retirement, we will have a new experience at the Wisconsin Annual Conference. We will be sharing our next bishop with the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. Our conferences are not merging; the same bishop will serve both annual conferences.

I know these are some really big things. I promise to let you know how they will affect us in the months to come. However, none of them will change who we are as the Church of the Pines or the wonderful ministry we are doing here together as we continue to live Christ's love!

Pastor Mark

Leadership, Prayer Request Information

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



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.

Office is closed - Monday, May 27th

PRAYER REQUESTS

How can we pray for you? If you or a loved one is in need of prayer, or you want to share a joy in your life, we are here to lift you or your loved one in prayer.

Prayer requests can be made by going to our church website at

To request prayer, contact the church office at
office@umchurchofthepines.org

www.umchurchofthepines.org and selecting "Prayer Requests" on the homepage menu.

You can also "clip" the Prayer Request form below and submit it to the church office to be distributed as requested.

If you are making a prayer request on behalf of another person, please make sure you have received their permission prior to making the prayer request.

.....

Prayer Request: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Your Name:

First _____ Last _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Private Prayer (Pastor only)

Prayer Chain

Prayer Lists (Weekly Update and Pine Chips)

Prayers of the People during Sunday morning worship)

Prayer request: _____

.....



May Birthdays & Anniversaries, Altar Flowers, Worship Time Change

MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday to . .

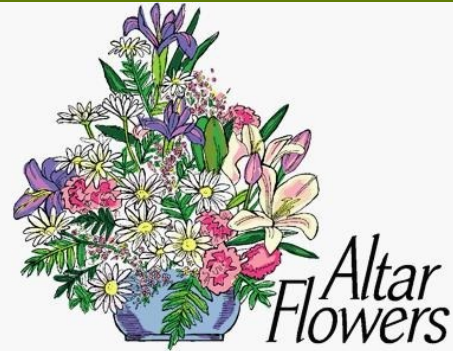
May 1	Debbie Kilps
May 2	Ben Susor
May 3	Ruby Rausch
May 3	Skip Bassett
May 5	Debbie Palmatier
May 7	Barb Schuette
May 7	Jonah Gilbert
May 9	Jeremy Jorgensen
May 11	Bonnie Duffee
May 16	Sandi Hodek
May 16	Eric Kroening
May 18	Kay Rhyner
May 19	June Westphal
May 24	Ella Fieck
May 26	Rikelle Rausch
May 30	Jim Anderson
May 31	John Ross

Happy anniversary to . . .

May 6 - Barb & Perry Schuette
 May 24 - Sara & Dave Kozeluh
 May 28 - Joyce & Dan Frankfother

Blessings to you on your special day!

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



Altar Flowers

Please consider signing up to provide a flower arrangement or a plant for the altar for Sunday mornings. It is a nice way to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion.

Arrangements can be made online at our church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org by completing a reservation form. For folks who don't have internet access, contact the church office at 715-356-3041.

To check to see if a particular Sunday is available, you can view the church calendar link on the homepage of the church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org. On the menu, go to "More." In the drop-down list, click on "Church Calendar," where you can go to the date. If Altar flowers have already been reserved, you will see the words "Altar Flowers - and a name of the person who has reserved that date." In this case, you can select an alternative date, if you would like to do so.

Checks can be made out to Church of the Pines. Please write "Altar flowers" on the check memo line. The minimum order is \$45.00, which includes the delivery fee.



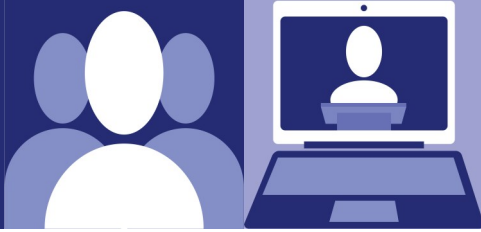
For youth who have completed K through 6th grades. (Older youth 7th grade+ can help out.). **Vacation Bible School Co-hosts:** Church of the Pines Methodist & Ascension Lutheran. **Five Nights of Fun! Sunday, June 9 through Thursday, June 13. 4:30pm - Supper, 5:00 - 8:00pm—Music, Bible Studies, Crafts, & Field Games.** Activities are lead by Bible Camp Counselors from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. **Location:** Ascension Lutheran, 8937 Highway 51 South, Minocqua, WI. **For information,** contact Pastor Sherry Van Lishout at 715-356-4426, Ext. 5. **Register by May 22nd. A link to register is on the Church of the Pines website - www.umchurchofthepines.org.**

Worship, Stay Connected, Graduates, Worship Time Change Coming

Worship With Us

IN PERSON

ONLINE



Attend the 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship services held in the sanctuary. **Service time changes to 9:30 a.m. on May 26, 2024.**

Please be advised that we live-stream our services online through various electronic methods such as Facebook and YouTube. These broadcasts provide valuable information to visitors to our site and those planning to attend our service in person. We may use any recorded media and photos taken from the recorded media in materials produced by and for our church.

Watch Sunday morning worship services on our Church of the Pines YouTube channel by going to: <https://www.youtube.com@umchurchofthepines>.

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

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

stay
CONNECTED

Ways to stay connected at Church of the Pines

*Weekly Update & Pine Chips
Church Directory
Facebook/YouTube/Church Website
Bulletin inserts and bulletin boards*

Contact the church office to subscribe to publications, get help with navigating electronic publications, be included in and have access to the church directory, and submit meeting dates and event information for announcements or to be included in publications.



Beginning Sunday, May 26th, the time of the worship service will be changed from 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and will be held in the sanctuary. This change to a 9:30 a.m. worship service will continue year-

round.

There will be no early outdoor worship service this summer. By moving the 10:00 a.m. service to 9:30 a.m., members of the congregation and summer guests will have the opportunity to attend the worship service and also have more time to enjoy other summer activities on Sunday.

In addition to this change in worship time, coffee will be available before and after the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

We look forward to a fantastic Northwoods summer at Church of the Pines!

Sunday Worship Service time changes to 9:30 a.m. on May 26th.



Graduates will be celebrated in our June Pine Chips newsletter. If you would like to have your graduate's photo and information included, send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org with a photo attached and the following information: Name of student; name(s) of parents and grandparents; indicate whether they are graduating from high or college; name of school (name of city if not local) and their future plans.

May Worship Themes, Giving

Come AND Worship May Worship Themes

May 5 - 10:00 a.m. - Communion Change for Hunger Offering

Theme: A Joyful Noise.

Scripture: Psalm 98

What brings you joy? How do you express the joy you feel? We are reminding ourselves of the ways God has been there for us in our lives. The psalmist encourages us to respond by making a joyful noise!

May 12 - 10:00 a.m. - Mother's Day Reception of New Church Members

Theme: Love Like Jesus.

Scripture: John 15:9-17

What has taught you how to love in your life? Who are your role models in love? How can you honor them? Jesus encourages us to love like him. Let us give honor to all those who have loved us and live the love of Christ.

May 19 - 10:00 a.m. - Pentecost Sunday

Theme: What do you know of Amos, Jonah, and Noah? What do think they would do if they were living now in the Northwoods?

Scripture: Genesis 6:8-10; 17-22, Amos 5:14-17; Jonah 4:1-4.

May 26 - 9:30 a.m. (Note time change of the worship service)

Theme: Here We Are!

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

A familiar imagery from Isaiah of God call out "whom shall I send." Today is a beautiful reminder that God calls each of us, and all of us together to share the Good News!

Beginning Sunday, May 26th, 2024, the worship service time changes to 9:30. a.m.

YOU will be
enriched in every
way *TO* be
GENEROUS
in every way,
which ... will produce
Thanksgiving
TO God.
.....
2 Corinthians 9:11, ESV

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



- Use your smartphone camera to scan the above QR code to make an online gift to Church of the Pines.
 - 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.
- Drop off or mail a check made out to Church of the Pines to P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, WI 54548.

Stephen Ministry



May. Mother's Day. A day to celebrate the important women in our lives who birthed, raised, supported, advised, and educated us. We all can think of many women who influenced our lives. Many of those women faced difficulties in their own lives. So...

What Kind of Woman Would Receive the Care of a Stephen Minister?

- ◆ A woman like **Sarah**... who faced a major change in life at an advanced age and needed someone to listen to both her joy and apprehension.
- ◆ A woman like **Hagar**... who was abandoned along with her child and needed someone to offer her hope and remind her of God's presence.
- ◆ A woman like **Hannah**... who struggled with her inability to bear a child and needed someone with whom to share her sadness and pain.
- ◆ A woman like **Naomi**... who had lost her loved ones and needed someone to hear her sorrow and pain.
- ◆ A woman like **Ruth**... who left everything familiar to her and needed someone to journey with her in her new life.
- ◆ A woman like **Esther**... who was faced with a major decision and needed someone who could listen to her concerns and offer encouragement.
- ◆ A woman like **Mary of Nazareth**... who lived with both the joys and struggles of having an exceptional child and needed someone to help her sort out the ponderings of her heart.
- ◆ A woman like **Martha**... who was burdened by the demands of daily life and needed someone to help her regain sight of what was most important.
- ◆ A woman like **Mary Magdalene**... who received healing from inner turmoil and needed someone to walk with her as she built a new life.
- ◆ **A woman like you.**

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please call Stephen Leader Holly Nash at 715-356-6861.

Celebrating Volunteer Service

Drop a Pebble in the Water

*Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash, and it is gone;
But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,
Spreading, spreading from the center, flowing on out to the sea.
And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.*

*Drop a pebble in the water; in a minute you forget,
But there's little waves a-flowing, and there are ripples circling yet.
And those little waves a-flowing to a great big have grown.
You've disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone.*

*Drop an unkind word, or careless; in a minute it is gone;
But there's a half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on.
They keep spreading, spreading, spreading from the center as they go,
And there is no way to stop them, once you've started them to flow.*

*Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute you forget;
But there's little waves a-flowing, and there are ripples circling yet,
And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears you've stirred,
And disturbed a life was happy ere you dropped that unkind word.
Drop a word of cheer and kindness: just a flash and it is gone;
But there's a half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,
Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave
Till you wouldn't believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.*

*Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute you forget;
But there's gladness still a-swelling, and there's joy a-circling yet,
And you've rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard
Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.*

- written by James W. Foley



The theme of this year's Volunteer Recognition Month was "Celebrate Service" and gives us the opportunity to shine a light on people who have inspired us to serve.

Members of Church of the Pines had the opportunity to shine a light on those members of our church family who came before us, living out our church's mission of "Living Christ's Love" to make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ to love and serve the world, and who served, providing opportunities for others to connect with God, one another, and their neighbors - Community: who helped other grow in awareness and responsiveness to God's presence - Spirituality, and shared all they were and all that they had with God and the world - Generosity.

Here are some of the memories of how the "ripples" left by some of our church members who came before us impacted our church, our community, and the world.

Bev Melms and Jeanne Heck (Memories by Pat Bechtel)

"After Kay Rhyner invited me to her home for a Dawn Circle meeting a number of years ago, my Christian life changed. In Dawn Circle, I met many wonderful ladies to look up and to try to emulate and learn from. Two stand out in my mind. First, Bev Melms and I seemed to make an instant connection. She was a warm, kind woman who always met me with a huge smile and a hug. I looked up to her for guidance just as I would a mother who was always waiting with love in her eyes. One thing I remember about her was how much pride she took in being the "flower lady" and making sure that the altar was always adorned and beautiful on Sundays. She always seemed to be happy doing any job that was needed and coached me on when, what and how these tasks needed to be accomplished. For someone "green" and growing up in another faith, this was invaluable and necessary.

Jeanne Heck was another matron of Dawn Circle. Her long and vast experience as a true Methodist always seemed to show through.

Celebrating Volunteer Service

Jeanne Heck seemed like she was always ready to share some of that knowledge and keep our circle on track. This was and is not an easy task! Whenever you needed advice on or more knowledge about something, Jeannie was the one to go to. I hope that our younger women will also be able to garnish some of that insight that only comes with experience and learn from those that have lived through it.

I know that I have given either of these ladies enough praise or accolades. Neither of them ever looked for praise, which was just another virtue of these two women in the history and life of United Methodist Church of the Pines.

Dawn Circle has been a haven for nurturing and security for many of us because of women like these. I think one of the take-aways of this short bit of recognition is that we all need to have someone to mentor and to nurture us.”

- Pat Bechtel

Bill & Lois Nicholson and Jack Hallock (Memories by Patty Frandy)

“Bill Nicholson was a shining example of a man with a generous loving heart. He often bought a bucket of ice cream and cones for Rocking Horse or for the Sunday School so the children could have a treat. One Sunday in church, Rev. Ray Robinson announced a new project, “Adopt-a-Window.” The outside trim of the sanctuary windows needed a fresh coat of paint, and Rev. Ray was asking families to adopt a window and paint it. Bill didn’t always hear so well, so he thought that Rev. Ray had said “Adopt-a-Widow,” and by the time church was over, he had asked Irma Biek out to lunch and was eyeing up another widow. But that was Bill; he was all about people, not things!

Bill’s wife, Loise, was another one who was always doing things for the church. When she was younger, she taught Sunday School. Here at the Church of the Pines she was very active in the United Methodist Women and served as President. She married Bill when she was 15 years old. Usually, that would be a disaster, but not in this case. Both were dedicated to each other, to their church, and to God.”

Jack Hallock

‘It used to be the custom at Church of the Pines after the 11 o’clock worship service for two ushers to walk the collection money to the bank and put it in the overnight deposit. When Art Boomer was no longer able to do this, I (Patty Frandy) suggested to Rev. Ray Robinson that he ask Jack Hallock to do that duty. Rev. Ray responded, ‘Well, Jack isn’t officially a member of the church.’

No, I said, but he is here every Sunday at the second service and he’s trustworthy.” Rev. Ray agreed and Jack took on that duty and performed it for many years. That describes Jack very well. You could count on him and he was trustworthy.”

- Patty Frandy

Bill Hodek (Memories by Sandi Hodek)

“While Bill was not a member of Church of the Pines, he was always supportive of my efforts to serve. He saw to it that my son, Victor, got to church while I sang in the choir and watched our grandchildren while I served on the building committee. A quiet man, he didn’t say much and might not be remembered by many, but he was always there for me.”

- Sandi Hodek

Evelyn Knight and Helen Evans (Memories by Sandy Bucklew)

Evelyn Knight and Helen Evans were devoted sisters and devoted members of Church of the Pines, becoming members, Evelyn in 1952 and Helen in 1951. They were the epitome of Christian love and giving. One might say they were the backbone of volunteering their services to the church and their community. As a new member in the 70’s, they welcomed me with open arms.

I recall that Helen was in a tornado by Lake Tomahawk many years ago. She was sucked out of her mobile home and a sofa came down on top of her. She only had a broken arm. That same tornado killed the father of one of our family practice doctors. Helen felt the Lord was watching over her.”

- Sandy Bucklew

Celebrating Volunteer Service, Ascension Sunday

Lorraine and Collen Burnes and Ted Hopkins (Memories by Richard Burnes)

“My parents and I attended Church of the Pines. Both of my parents’ funerals were held here at the church. My mother passed away in 2008 and my father passed away in 1995.

Both of my parents encouraged my music skills and were very supportive. At one time Tom Hopkins, the organist at Church of the Pines, invited me to play a duet with him. I played the organ; Ted played the piano. We ended up doing this numerous times. This experience is probably what really got me into playing music in church.

I substituted for Ted on occasion. When we moved to Delevan, my mother was instrumental in getting me a position as the organist at a local church. I enjoyed doing that and did my best to provide meaningful music for the congregation. A number of people seemed to appreciate my contributions to the worship service, and I felt that I was making a difference for them.

I hope that in some small way the encouragement of my parents and my ability helped to bring people closer to Christ in the churches were I served.”

- Richard Burnes

Ann Luckert (Memories by Holly Nash)

“How do I begin to relate what a special person Ann Luckert was? There are so many positive adjectives I could use to describe her Christian, caring, compassionate, loving, honest, generous to a fault, and the list goes on.

We could give Ann a number of names. Helen Robinson and I had a name for her: Saint Ann. And we determined a life like hers needed to have a mission statement. We thought Ann’s mission statement should be:

To service the people of the Northwoods and beyond, whomever, whatever, whenever, wherever, and however I can with no thought of personal gain, reward, or accolade.

Some would call Ann the Roller Derby Queen, not because she was an excellent roller skater, but because at Christmas, she probably rolled out more

sugar cookies and gingerbread men that anyone else in the Northwoods, probably the whole lover 48 states.

She was a Mister Rogers to children. They were drawn to her like a magnet. One of the reasons, I think, was that she was so genuine, and made everyone feel important.

She should have been at least a Board Member of Bounty paper towels because she was a quicker picker upper. She not only was adamant about picking up trash along the roadways, she also picked up many people. Whether she knew them or not, she’d ask someone walking on the shoulder of the road if they needed a ride, and them hop in. And if anyone at church ever needed a ride, they could always count on Ann to pick them up.

She worked hard for the church, Habitat for Humanity, the Lac du Flambeau Domestic Abuse program; financially supported umpteen charitable organizations; and was the caregiver for many shut-ins from church including Ruth Prims and Irma Biek, whom she helped selflessly for years.

She’d take on just about any task, with maybe one exception. She would never help decorate all those cookies she rolled out. But if anything else needed to be done or said, she did.

She was a shining light, the salt of the earth, and a true sheep among the goats.”

- Holly Nash



ASCENSION SUNDAY
Worship Service
MAY 12, 2024 - 10 a.m.

Ministry Council Meeting Summary, Upper Room

Ministry Council Meeting Summary

Pastor Mark opened with prayer and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following people in attendance: Sue Claflin, Mary Fasse, Pastor Mark Gilbert, Jay Hull, Merry Jorgensen, Dave Kozeluh, Sara Kozeluh, Bob Nash, Holly Nash, Bob Schuld, and Jerry Weber. Absent: Sue Loeffler, Noah Lottig.

The following were highlighted as church accomplishments since the last meeting: The goal for the March Mission Match was surpassed, raising over \$4,000 the youth puppet show on Palm Sunday was well received by the congregation, Holy Week services and Easter Sunday worship went well. (Easter attendance: sixty-three people attended the in-person service, and at least twenty people attended the live-streamed service. In 2023, there were two Easter services, with eighty-three people attending in person and twenty-two watching the live-streamed service.)

Pastor Mark spoke about the Worship Time Change that will take place beginning May 26, 2024, when the service time changes from 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Work is being done to create a Welcome Center at the back of the sanctuary. Vision & Values banners that will be hung in the south entryway and the Pine Room are being finalized. Worship Volunteer Training will be held on May 15th. Noah Lottig is changing the live stream schedule. A sign with the new worship time is being made and will be hung on the exterior sign the week before the Memorial Day weekend.

The Ministry Council approved the recommendation from the Children, Youth, and Family Ministries to award Hakken Berklund a \$1000 scholarship from the Lillian Long Fund.

The Trustees will organize an all-church cleaning on May 10, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The Men's Group will provide lunch.

Pastor Mark presented a newly created document entitled "Defining Success Process" that outlines the process that will be used to measure success of the church's ministries, programs, and other activities: Step 1 - Express our Core Values as goals; Step 2 - Categorize all that we are doing and where they primarily fit into our Core Values; Step 3 - Annually, identify one or two ministries in each category to measure and how we will use the information; Step 4 - Identify two measurements for each ministry that will be used for evaluation. One measurement will be numerical/objective, and one will be narrative/subjective. The Ministry Council approved the recommended action item from the Key Leaders by consensus.

The next Ministry Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center.

MAY-JUNE 2024
THE UPPER ROOM
 WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY



The Upper Room for May/June is Available

The **UPPER ROOM** is a daily devotional magazine that is available in 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. Every day, readers of the Upper Room around the world read the same story in many different languages and pray the same prayer together.

You can subscribe to the Upper Room by contacting Merry in the church office and indicate that you would like regular print or large print copies. Arrangements can be made to pick up your copy or you can arrange to have it mailed to you. Any extra copies are placed on the counter in the Pine Room. Donations for the devotional and mailing costs are appreciated.

Missions

MARCH MISSION MATCH

SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the March Mission Match. During March, \$2,345 was received, which means that when the \$2,000 match is added, we raised \$4,345. These funds will increase food security in our community and worldwide. Thank you, everyone, for participating in our March Mission Match!

Church of the Pines' Missions Focus for 2024 through 2027 is to increase food security for people in our community and throughout the world.



Thanks to the Wednesday Church School youth for collecting coins for **Change for Hunger**. The kids remind everyone to bring your coins to worship on Sunday, May 5th, for the special **Change for Hunger** offering!

Change for Hunger Special Offering

On Sunday, May 5th, the ushers will pass our special "Change for Hunger" offering plates during the worship service.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to collect your change and bring your coins and drop your "change" into the decorated cans as the offering plates are passed.

The funds we collect through our "Change for Hunger" offerings will be donated to the Lakeland Pantry, the Midwest Mission Distribution Center for the purchase of rice meal supplies, and Food for Kidz.

And, yes, dollar bills (of all denominations), as well as checks made out to Church of the Pines with "missions" written in the memo line are accepted and greatly appreciated!

Contributions can also be made online by going to www.umchurchofthepines.org, click on "giving", and select "missions match." Or, scan the code below on your smartphone to make a gift.

Text a gift by texting the word "give" to 833-358-0472.

Change for Hunger is one of many ways our congregation is providing food security to people in need. We continue to learn, serve, and give to increase food security for people in our community and worldwide.



Church Directory, Emergency Contacts, Endowment Fund, Pentecost Sunday

Church Directory Update

Sunday, May 5th & 12th

Plan to have a new photo taken and update your contact information following the worship service on May 5th or 12th in the Ministry Center for our online Church Directory.



Church Directory - We invite and encourage everyone to include your contact information and photo in our online Church Directory. If you are currently listed in the directory, would you please check to make sure the information is correct and place a current photo into the directory?

Or, you can stop in the Ministry Center during Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, May 5th or 12th, to have your photo taken and fill out your contact information for the directory. Thanks.

Who in your family to CONTACT

in case of an emergency



There have been times when we have had to try to contact family members of people who attend Church of the Pines as a result of an illness or other emergency situation. We would like to offer to place emergency contact information for your family members in your church record. Emergency Contact forms are available from the church office or they can be printed from our church website: www.umchurchofthepines.org

United Methodist Church of the Pines



ENDOWMENT FUND



Why Donate to the Endowment Fund

Endowments provide a means for sustaining those things you care about, forever! Like many churches today, Church of the Pines has experienced income shortfalls due to declining membership. Your gift will help sustain the United Methodist Church of the Pines for future generations!

Gift Designations & Recognition

The Endowment Fund can receive both directed and non-directed gifts. A directed gift, where the donor designates its specific use, must be a minimum of \$10,000. Non-directed gifts can be of any amount. A permanent display will honor gifts with Bronze (\$5,000+), Silver (\$25,000+), Gold (\$50,000), and Platinum (\$100,000+ designations. Your gift can remain anonymous.

NEXT STEPS: IF YOU HAVE MADE A GIFT, THANK YOU!

If you are still exploring, speak with your advisors. Contact the church by phone at 715-356-3041 or by email at office@umchurchofthepines.org to arrange for a confidential consultation with a member of the Endowment Committee.

Thank you for investing in the future of Church of the Pines!



Worship Volunteer Recognition, Golden Cross Offering



Our **FIESTA TIME Worship Volunteer Celebration & Training** on Wednesday, May 15th (note the date change) is for all current ushers, greeters, organ hymn players, and Audio/Visual Technicians **AND** anyone interested in learning more about these volunteer opportunities.

We will celebrate, beginning at 6:00 p.m., with a **FIESTA meal**. This will be followed by the sharing of important information about upcoming changes related to our worship services and a review of updated job responsibilities.

SIGN UP in the Ministry Center, email office@umchurchofthepines.org, or call the church office at 715-356-3041 to make your reservation.

Reservations are required by Wednesday, May 8th.

Que comience la fiesta!

 A graphic featuring a large, stylized golden cross made of brushstrokes. To the left of the cross, the text reads:

**GOLDEN CROSS
 OFFERING**

Sunday, May 12, 2024

On Sunday, May 12th, a special **Golden Cross Offering** will be taken to support the Health and Welfare Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Pancake Breakfast, Wednesday Church School

Pancake Breakfast Supports Youth Mission Project of Church of the Pines

THANK YOU!



Fifty-seven members and friends of Church of the Pines enjoyed pancakes and all the "fixings" on April 21st. **The breakfast raised \$341.35**, which will be used to purchase the supplies for our church youth's rice meal packet mission project for 2025. The kids plan to package 300 rice meal packets! Thanks to everyone who attended the breakfast to support the church's mission projects. Thank you, Venus Hilgart, co-lay leader of Church of the Pines, for coordinating the breakfast. We are grateful to everyone who helped with the breakfast by "flipping" pancakes, helping to prepare the breakfast, and to everyone who baked egg casseroles and brought the other food items. Everyone enjoyed the breakfast, as can be seen from the photos on page 16 of the newsletter. It was a great day to worship at Church of the Pines, followed by fabulous fellowship, eating delicious pancakes, and raising funds to provide food for people in need in our community and beyond!



From the left:
Venus Hilgart
Valarie Susor
Micah Gilbert

**The Pancake
"Flippers."**

THANKS!

Wednesday Church School Celebration - Last Day of Class



Have a great summer!

Pancake Breakfast Photos



Thanks for Supporting the Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!



THANK YOU!



United Women in Faith



United Women in Faith Huge **Thank You** to all who helped with the Spring Rummage and Bake Sale!
Thank offering: Thank God for open water, for ducks and fish and spring peepers. Put four dimes in your thank offering for four weeks of spring.

Circle meetings:

Ruth Circle meets Wednesday, May 8th, at 12:39 p.m. at Holiday Café.

Deborah Circle meets Wednesday, May 8 at 6 pm in the Ministry Center for a potluck supper, so come hungry. Patty Frandy will bring the main course, everyone else can bring whatever you like.

Dawn Circle meets Thursday, May 2nd, at 9:30 a.m., in the Ministry Center.

Esther/Martha Circle meets Thursday, May 7th, at noon, at Sarah Stewart's home.

Lydia Circle meets Thursday, May 9th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center.

It's time! Time for what, you ask? It's time to start making crafts for the December Cookie Walk and Craft Sale.

Upcoming events:

Wednesday, May 29th - **General Meeting** at 10:00 a.m. Deborah Circle hosts.

Fridays, June 28 and July 19 - **Pie Sales**

Deborah Circle Works on Drawstring Bags for Midwest Mission Distribution Center Mission Project



Deborah Circle members cut and threaded ribbons for the drawstring bags for Midwest Mission Distribution Center's feminine hygiene kits.

Venus Hilgart and Sue Henning sewed fifty drawstring bags in April and will make and additional fifty bags in May. The completed project will be delivered to MMDC in December.

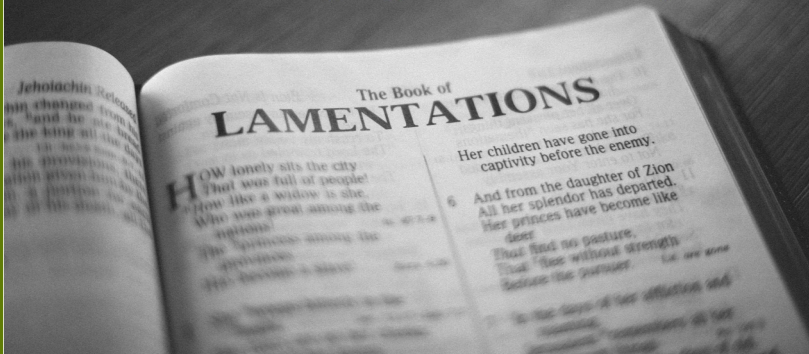


From the left: Patty Frandy, Nicole Bruette, Heather Berklund, Rosalie Widstrand, Valarie Susor, Sue McDougall, and Mary Fasse. Not pictured is Sue Henning, who took the photo.

**Thank you for supporting the
Spring Rummage & Bake Sale!**

Bible Study, Tom's Community Table, Keenagers

Bible Study - Lamentations Four-week Study Begins June 6 - 12:00 p.m.



Registrations are now being taken for a Bible Study of Lamentations that begins on June 6th. The focus of the study is on how lament can help to reach out to the world with love and hope.

Through Jeremiah's powerful lament over the destruction of Jerusalem and of the Temple we hear his heart break. We hear the fury of God's anger, yet in this honest and pained expression of emotion, there is an underlying message of hope.

The study begins on June 6th and continues on Thursdays through June 27th from 12:00 until 1:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center. Bring your lunch. Water and coffee is provided. Each class will be recorded and posted on YouTube so you can participate even if you are unable to attend.

Sign up for the Lamentations Bible Study in the Ministry Center or contact Merry in the church office at 715-356-3041 or email office@umchurchofthepines.org.

Volunteers are needed to bake dessert bars, serve food, and clean up.

Sign up in the Ministry Center to help. May 14th - dinner is at 5 p.m.



Tom's Community Table
St. Matthias' Episcopal Church



Everyone is invited to **Tom's Community Table**, which is a free meal that is serve family-style at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church. The next meal is on Tuesday, May 14, at 5:00 p.m. The menu for May's meal includes grilled hamburgers, potato salad, dessert, and beverages.

Church of the Pines is one of the three host churches for the **May 14th** Tom's Community Table at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church. Volunteers are needed to bake dessert bars, which can be brought to Church of the Pines before 3:00 p.m. on that day.

Volunteers are also needed to serve and wait on tables and to do ongoing clean-up during and after the meal. Volunteers need to be at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church by 4:30 p.m.

If you have questions, contact Mary Fasse, our church's Community Table coordinator, at 715-358-5032.

Keenagers will meet at noon for a potluck in the Ministry Center on Wednesday, May 15th. Bart Kotarba, from the Northwoods Wildlife Center, will talk about our friends, the frogs! Everyone is invited to attend for this fun program. If you want to come for the program only, arrive around 12:30 p.m.

Donations to Northwoods Wildlife Center are welcomed. Paper towels are needed. Old sheets or towels, or something else they could use, please bring them in before the meeting.

Yard Cleanup, Geraniums, Between Friends, Men's Breakfast, Peace with Justice

Churchyard Spring Cleanup

It's springtime, and that means it is time for the churchyard's spring cleanup. On Friday, April 26th, some of the Trustees cleaned up the church grounds by raking, cleaning up fallen limbs, cleaning out the shed, and doing a lot of other chores. Thanks, Jerry Weber, Tom Frandy, Bob Nash, Ron Capacio, Dave Kozeluh, and Larry Duffee, for taking such great care of our church grounds!



Bob Nash, Jerry Weber, Dave Kozeluh, Ron Capacio, Tom Frandy, and Larry Duffee. THANKS!

Geranium Sale - SUCCESS!



Thanks, Holly and Bob Nash, for organizing and providing all of the geraniums for the Spring Geranium Sale, which was a huge success!

All of the geraniums were sold and approximately \$460.00 was donated.

These funds are used to purchase plants for the outdoor gardens, replace needed bushes, and used to maintain the beautiful flower gardens at Church of the Pines.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Geranium Sale and for your generosity!

Between Friends meets on Tuesday, May 28th, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center of Church of the Pines. Bring your lunch and sewing or craft project, or come to visit with your

Holiday Café is the place to be on Thursday, May 23rd, at 8:00 a.m. for the **Men's Breakfast**. Come for great food and fellowship!

SPECIAL SUNDAY PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

In a world plagued by war and terror, violence and destruction, people of faith have a clear call to build peace with justice.

— CHURCH AND SOCIETY, FAITH & FACT CARD ON PEACEBUILDING

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

March Finance Report

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES FINANCE REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

	<u>March Actual</u>	<u>Year Actual</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Versus Year Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Operating *	13,184	93,406	6,202
Reserve Fund	2,165	8,068	4,720
Endowment Fund	0	0	0
Total Income	15,349	101,474	10,922
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Pastor **	8,831	26,431	257
Worship	996	1,450	28
Nurture	176	654	(515)
Outreach	49	476	(149)
Finance & Administration	7,679	20,004	664
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	5,737	10,332	(1,377)
Capital Improvements Fund	545	545	45
Youth Fund	0	0	0
Missions Fund ***	575	795	(130)
Reserve Fund	204	622	(38)
Conference Apportionment ****	1,288	1,288	0
Total Expenditures	26,080	62,597	(1,215)
Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)	(10,731)	38,877	12,137
Total Available Funds 3-31-24		271,052	

* Prepaid Pledges of 49,688 were included in January Operating Income

** Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

*** Includes Special Sundays

**** 2024 Assessment is 37,176

Net cash excess (income minus expenditures) for 3 months is 38,877 which is 12,137 better than the approved operating budget.



Stay connected by visiting us on Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/>

Watch our church services on



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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:30am - Dawn Circle (Ministry Center) 10:00am - Key Leaders (Library)	3	4
5 10:00am - Worship Service/ Communion/ Change for Hunger Offering 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship 11:00am - Photos taken for Directory	6 1:00pm - Missions Team (Ministry Center)	7 12:00 p.m. - Esther/ Martha Circle (Sarah Stewart's home)	8 12:30pm - Ruth Circle (Our Place Cafe)	9 9:30am - Lydia Circle (Ministry Center)	10 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Church Spring Cleaning	11
12 Golden Cross Sunday Mother's Day Ascension Sunday 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship 11:00am - Photos taken for Directory	13 1:00pm - Prayer Shawl (Pine Room)	14 10:00am - Worship at Milestone 1:00pm - Worship at One Penny Place 5:00pm - Tom's Community Table (St. Matthias' Episcopal Church) 7:00pm - Ministry Council (Ministry Center)	15 12:00pm - Keenagers (Ministry Center) 6:00pm - Worship Volunteer Dinner & Training (Ministry Center)	16 5:00pm - Turn the Page Book Group (Pine Room)	17	18
19 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	20	21	22	23 8:00am - Men's Breakfast (Holiday Café)	24	25
26 9:00am - Coffee 9:30am - Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship	27 Church office is closed today.	28 9:00am - 3:00pm - Between Friends	29 10:00am - UWF General Meeting (Ministry Center)	30	31	



Sunday worship service time changes on May 26th to 9:30 a.m.

Have something for Pine Chips 2.0? Email the church at office@umchurchofthepines.org.
The deadline for receiving information for the June Pine Chips is on May 15th.
 Announcements for weekly updates are due no later than Monday for the following weekend.
 Call the Church Office at 715-356-3041 with questions.



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

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

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27th.



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)

