



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.



"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

- Psalm 100:4

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

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Did you get Pine Chips 2.0 in your email?

Not only is the monthly Pine Chips 2.0 sent to our church community via email, but we also have weekly announcements and events emailed and posted online!

Contact the church at (715)356-3041 or email office@umchurchofthepines.org

Pastor's Pen



Pastor's Pen

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! I had to say that first because it often gets forgotten being sandwiched between Halloween and Christmas, and I will talk about Christmas in a moment. First, however, it is time to give

thanks.

I want to thank you all for your tremendous support of the Life and Ministry of the Church of the Pines this year and in 2022. Estimate of Giving Cards are already being returned and counted. You are all giving beautiful gifts to God through the Church or the Pines. I know that together we will continue to do great things for God into the future.

I am also so thankful for how we continue to find ways to be a community of faith together with the ongoing challenges of COVID. We have come back to in-person worship as well as our online worship continues to connect with people who usually couldn't attend worship. Children's ministry has resumed as the kids and youth in our congregation grow and learn about faith. It fills the church with life and energy again. Finally, we will get to worship together again for Christmas Eve.

I know we are still waiting to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and family, but I am too excited not to talk about Advent and Christmas. Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving this year, so it is a quick transition. We will need to 'hang the greens' in the church before Thanksgiving, so they are ready for the first Sunday of Advent. So join us after worship on Sunday, November 21st, to prepare the church for Advent.

We have a few exciting things planned for Advent this year. First, we will be following a traditional lectionary cycle for worship. We will hear the scriptures of Advent connecting us to our tradition and preparing us for the future with Christ. We are also planning a fun Caroling event for December 17th. This will be a fun outdoor event from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. We will have a campfire, hot chocolate, and cider as we gather to sing familiar Christmas carols. Come as you can for an easy time of fellowship and Christmas fun. More information will be coming!

This Advent and Christmas season will indeed be special for us. It marks the first Christmas Eve since the pandemic started that we will be together again for worship. Last year's Christmas Eve service was unique as we lit the luminaries that we made together, but it was hard not being together. Right now, we are planning to have multiple services on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm so that people can worship with greater physical distancing and as safely as possible.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving this year, and I hope you are excited for our Advent and Christmas seasons too!



Leadership, Prayer Requests, Church Office Closings

Church Staff & Leadership

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

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

Custodian:
Rudy Vlosak
(715) 892-2949

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

Lay Leader:
Emerson Coy
emersoncoy@frontier.com

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

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

Trustees Chair:
Jerry Weber
jerryweber727@outlook.com

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

Treasurer:
Cherie' Hein, cheriehein@mac.com

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



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

For the family of Joan Crawford
(Joan passed away on October 6th in Jacksonville, Illinois)

Clayton Crum

Louise Douma

Bonnie Duffee

Sally Ham

For the family of Ann Luckert
*(Ann's Memorial Service was held at UMCOP
on October 23rd,)*

For the family of Sue Nienow
(Sue passed away on October 5th)

Call 1-715-203-1990

to hear our latest sermon
CHURCH OF THE PINES



The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th, 2021 in celebration of Thanksgiving.

Worship, Birthdays & Anniversaries, Charge Conference



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

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

Watch videos of Sunday Services on our church website.

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

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



**United Methodist
Church of the Pines**

**Annual Charge
Conference**

**Tuesday, November 16th
7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

District Superintendent, Tsukar Yang, will facilitate our annual meeting. If you do not have internet, you are welcome to come to the church Ministry Center to participate in the Zoom meeting.

NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday to...

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| November 1 | Sue Damske |
| November 2 | Norah Gilbert |
| November 2 | Bev Melms |
| November 5 | Don Pallin |
| November 8 | Bob Schuld |
| November 9 | Chuck Wickman |
| November 12 | Patty Frandy |
| November 16 | Anna Gilbert |
| November 18 | Dave Kozeluh |
| November 18 | Mike Lakich |
| November 22 | Meyer Lottig |
| November 22 | Pat Bechtel |
| November 23 | Donna Clark |
| November 24 | Mary McCadden |
| November 26 | Corbin Lottig |
| November 27 | Louise Caroselli |
| November 27 | John Fisher |
| November 27 | Jeanne Van Order |

Happy anniversary to...

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| November 22 | Gretchen & Ted Voigt |
| November 26 | Peggy & Dennis Eberwein |

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

Blessings to you on your special day!



Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 2:00 a.m.** On Saturday night, set your clocks back one hour (i.e., gaining one hour) to "fall back." Note: Since the time changes at 2:00 a.m., we generally change our clocks before bed on Saturday.

November Worship Themes, Stewardship



NOVEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

November 7th, 2021

Theme: Remembering and Honoring our loved ones.

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39

This All Saints Day we honor those whom we have loved and who have died. We also acknowledge that we continue to deal with the effects of the COVID pandemic, showing us that life is precious and fragile—but, God is the God of life and of death. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Mission Trip Blessing - The mission team going to Midwest Distribution Center will be blessed during the service.

November 14th, 2021

Laity Sunday led by Emerson Coy and Gretchen Voigt.

Theme: Rise Up and Revive God's Gift

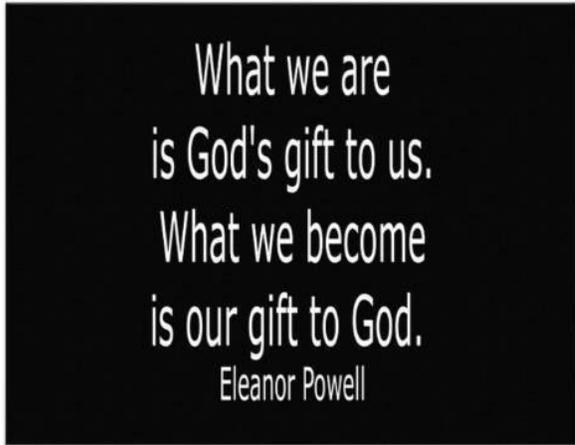
Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of all Christians to love God, neighbor and even ourselves. The lay leaders invite you to join us in worship on November 14 either in person or via Facebook live or phone. As lay leaders we want to celebrate and give thanks to you and all members and friends who serve all in their own special ways. The worship service will have several persons from the congregation tell us about their experiences in serving others. We have done a lot from calling crews, committees, technical support, youth operation compassion, serving in the community, mission support and the list goes on. So, let's celebrate together on Laity Sunday, 10 a.m. service. We are a church community, a church family of God's love. Rise up and revive God's gift.

November 21st, 2021

Theme: Recognizing Jesus' Kingdom.

Scripture: John 18:33-37

We don't often hear about Jesus on the cross this time of year. However, today we hear of Jesus' driving vision—the Kingdom of God. We can only see it in part in this world, but through Jesus' words on the cross we can see a powerful image of what is to come as well as hope to make it a reality in this world.



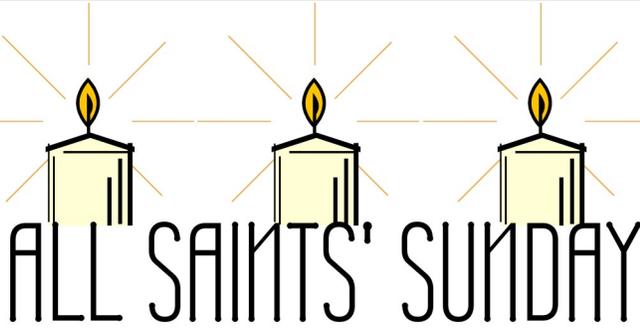
What we are
is God's gift to us.
What we become
is our gift to God.
Eleanor Powell

Stewardship - 2022

As we think about Eleanor Powell's quote, "What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God," we first thank God for who we are and all the various gifts that are given. We then ask ourselves how we want to take those gifts and become and do something extraordinary as a gift back to God. As we ponder this idea, we will understand that Christian Stewardship is not about selling a ministry or personal preference, but is about our relationship with God - how we use what we are given.

All are asked to prayerfully fill out your 2022 Estimate of Giving Card recently mailed to you and return it to the church. You can return it by using the self-addressed envelope provided to you, or you can bring it to worship of October 31st. **Please return your card by November 2nd.** We look forward to seeing how we can give wonderful gifts back to God!

All Saints' Day



On Sunday, November 7th, during our 10:00 a.m. All Saints' Sunday worship service, we will light candles in memory of:

*Jean Marie Bentley
 Rojean "Jean" A. Bishop
 Donna Braida
 Marian Burmeister
 Beverly Charlson
 Alice Fager
 Earlene Homola
 Barbara Ann Jurries
 Brant A. Loichinger
 Ann M. Luckert
 Dorothy Jane Maas
 Nancy Louise McDougall
 Kenneth Arnold Schmidt
 Richard Smith
 Dorothy A. Wright*

Perhaps they are not really
Stars in the *Sky*
 but rather openings
 where our *Loved Ones*
 shine down
 to let us know they are
 happy.

If you have the name of someone who has passed away this past year that you would like to include on All Saints' Sunday, please call the church office at 715-456-3041 **before October 29th.**

2021
 VETERANS
 DAY

Honoring all who served



Nonagenarian Birthdays

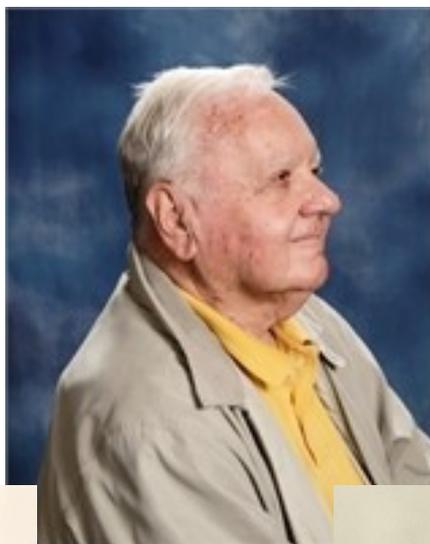


NOVEMBER NONAGENARIAN BIRTHDAYS

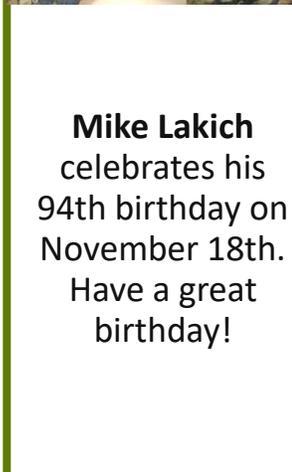
Congratulations and Happy Birthday to our Church of the Pines members who celebrate their NONAGENARIAN birthdays in November.



Bev Melms celebrates her 90th birthday on November 2nd. Welcome to the Nonagenarian Birthday Club!



Chuck Wickman celebrates his 94th birthday on November 9th! Happy birthday to you!



Mike Lakich celebrates his 94th birthday on November 18th. Have a great birthday!



Jeanne VanOrder celebrates her 92nd birthday on November 27th. Happy birthday!



Blessings to each of you on your special day!

If you would like to send Bev, Chuck, Mike, and Jeanne your birthday greetings and need their addresses, contact the church office at 715-356-3041 or email Merry at office@umchurchofthepines.org.



Stephen Ministry

stephen
MINISTRY®

One night four candles were slowly burning in a room and their ambience was so soft you could hear them speak...

The First Candle said, "I Am Peace, but in these days there is so much catastrophe and violence everywhere and it seems the world doesn't want me anymore and nobody wants to keep me lit."



Then Peace's flame slowly diminished and went out completely.

The Second Candle said, "I Am Trust, but these days, there is so much deceit and so many lies, I don't think I am needed anymore. Therefore, I am also leaving."

Then Trust's flame slowly diminished and went out completely.

Sadly, The Third Candle spoke, "I Am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them."

Waiting no longer, Love went out completely.

Suddenly...A child entered the room and saw the three candles no longer burning. The child cried, "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end!"

Then The Fourth Candle spoke gently to the little child, "Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

With Shining Eyes the child took the Candle Of Hope and lit the other three candles.

Never let the Flame of Hope go out of your life. With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are...Peace, Trust and Love can Shine Brightly in our lives.

If you need hope, a Stephen Minister can help. Call Holly Nash, the Stephen Leader for more information at 715-356-6861.

Lay Leader

Words to Live By *"Thankfulness the Magic Engine Additive"*

Emerson Coy, Lay Leader

The old saying "Time flies when you are having fun" seems all too true when we are greeted with the bareness of November. The desolate feeling of winter begins to creep up on us. Where did summer go? What happened to the colorful fall season? It wasn't long ago that we were basking in the sun, or fishing in a boat at our favorite spot. We enjoyed more daylight hours for sure. Time does elude us when we are too busy doing the business of life and forget to pause to be thankful for what we have.

A certain man was depressed. His friend said, "Sam, you really look down. What's wrong?" Sam replied, "Well, two weeks ago my Aunt died and left me \$50,000. "I'm sorry to hear about her death" the friend said, "but why are you depressed?" Sam answered, "Why? Last week my uncle died and left me \$75,000. "What's so bad about that?" the friend asked again. "What's so bad about that?" said Sam. "This week - nothing." Not many of us have been left with \$50,000 and \$75,000 in that time sequence, if at all. But sometimes we have to be careful of falling into a pattern of concentrating on what we did not get or have rather than what we have. As we approach thanksgiving this year perhaps we can remember to take inventory on what we have and count our blessings, not the items that are not on the shelves.

November may be a month of transition between harvest and winter, but it does usher in a time that forces us to reflect

and be thankful. It also starts us out on the holidays both religious and secular like Advent, Christmas, New Years. We have a lot to be thankful for and look forward with hope and expectation. And don't look back and regret anything. Let's don't take things for granted. Look at today and count the things for which you can be thankful. Think about your friends, close family, spouse or significant other, children, grandchildren and the love you have between you. Your community, church family, and good old America. Be thankful, honor and respect our beautiful natural surroundings. Be thankful for God who is with us in all circumstances of life. Many persons who can't find something to be thankful for on the bad days have trouble finding something to be thankful for on the good days. Thankfulness is a habit not a result. Like many things, when you practice it, you will have it.

The words thank you are two of the most magical words in any language. As two men were leaving an elevator one said thank you to the operator. The other man questioned why he did such a thing as the elevator operator was being paid. The first man responded by saying "I thanked her not because of the kind of person she is, but because of the type of person I am."

When one is thankful and remembers to say it you can turn a stranger into a friend, make a dreary day seem brighter, and it can also make you feel better. Say thank you to someone. Thank you.

*"Say THANK YOU
 to someone today!"*



New Church Member Sundays



Become Part of *Our* Church Family

New Church Member Sundays Scheduled in December

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

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

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

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



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

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

Other times by appointment.

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

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

Mission Highlights



Six missionaries from Church of the Pines (Dave Kozeluh, Sara Kozeluh, Sue Claflin, Jayne Claflin, Sue Loeffler, and Holly Nash) will be going to Midwest Distribution Center to volunteer from November 9th - 14th. **Contact Sue Loeffler (815-546-5033) if you are interested** in participating in this mission trip. midwestmission.org



MIDWEST MISSION
DISTRIBUTION CENTER
midwestmission.org

Midwest Distribution Center

Midwest Mission specializes in education, health, disaster relief, and micro-business supplies. They are a non-profit organization that was started with a grant from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2000. They are a Co-operating Depot in the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Supply Network. Midwest Mission also partners with the US Military, Food for the Poor, and many other non-profits to bring humanitarian aid around the world.

Missionaries make the work happen. Midwest Mission has only six full-time and two part-time staff members who are there to run the behind-the-scenes operations and to equip the missionaries to do the ministry. All of the assembly and restoration of supplies is done by the missionaries. midwestmission.org

Lakeland Sharing Foundation

Your gift brings joy to children on Christmas morning! At the end of January, volunteer shoppers start prowling local stores and Internet sites for year-end close outs on thermal gloves and stylish hats. Local knitting and quilting clubs start working on items that they will donate for distribution in December.

In November, donation boxes are placed throughout the community. Teams of volunteers clean and sort through the used toy donations to make certain all the pieces are included and that the mechanical toys work. An annual appeal for cash contributions to fund the direct purchase of new toys and books at discount prices also begins.

The project is coordinated with schools, childcare centers, and social service agencies such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to distribute invitations to families who qualify for the program. The invitation process is entirely anonymous. The families who receive invitations choose from a list of gifts, and mail in their requests. The gifts are ordered and packages for distribution. Distribution generally occurs the first week of December. When parents arrive at the pick-up site (without their children), volunteers greet them with coffee and cookies.

Parents are then provided with the pre-packaged bag of gifts. There are also limited stocking stuffers, and hats and gloves available. After the parents have finished shopping, batteries are provided for all the mechanical toys, and a coupon from Lakeland Food Pantry (www.lakelandpantry.com) is given to each family to complete a holiday dinner.

Volunteers then help to load all the goodies into cars and wish the families a Merry Christmas!

Snowbirds, Winter Weather Policy, Contact Information



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

CONTACT information



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

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

Thanks.

WINTER *Weather Policy*

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

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

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

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

Advent & Christmas Worship Themes



Advent 2021

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

But there is a deeper and more profound invitation being offered in the season of Advent. The invitation is to remember

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

Week 1 - November 28, 2021

Theme: Time to Go Home

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36

The first week of Advent has to deal with the shock. Is it time? Already? Sure, the world has been giving Christmas hints for months now, but it still seems to surprise us every year. Perhaps it is because we don't start with the Christmas story. That might be a little more palatable. No, we start with the warning signs, with the forecast for cloudy skies ahead. We start with a prophetic call to look at the world we inhabit. How close are we to the kin-dom we proclaim week after week? How close are we to this coming "on earth as it is in heaven" for which we pray regularly? Advent is about being honest.



Week 2 - December 5, 2021

Theme: The Fear of Home

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

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



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

Advent & Christmas Worship Themes

Week 3 - December 12, 2021

Theme: The Joy of Home

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

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



Week 4 - December 19, 2021

Theme: The Blessing of Home

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

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



Christmas Eve - December 24, 2021

Theme: Welcome Home

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

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



First Sunday after Christmas - December 26, 2021

Theme: Lost at Home

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

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



Advent & Christmas, Poinsettia Plants

Sunday, November 21st
11:00 a.m.

Hanging of the Greens



"Many hands make light work."

Please plan to stay following the worship service on November 21st for the ***Hanging of the Greens.***

With your help, it won't take long at all to decorate the church for Christmas!

Come Worship With Us!

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

*Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship Services*

4:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

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

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

Advent

A Calendar of
Devotions



JOE KIM

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

Advent: A Calendar of Daily Devotions

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



**Purchase Poinsettia Plants to
decorate the sanctuary for Christmas**

Poinsettia plants will be available to order to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. How to order, cost, and other details will be available soon. To receive an order form by mail, please contact Merry at 715-356-3041 or email her at office@umchurchofthepines.org.

Plants can be removed from the sanctuary after the December 26th worship service.

Campfire & Carols, 30 Days of Gratitude, Volunteer Needs



Campfire
and
Christmas
Carols

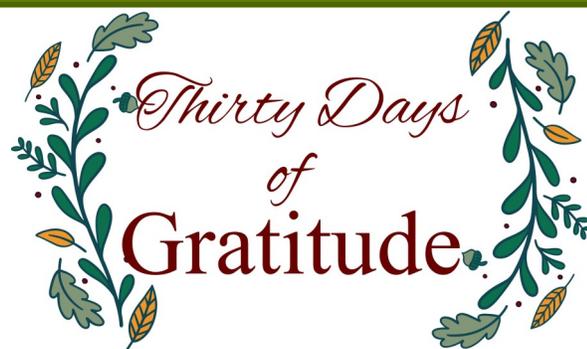
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

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

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

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



For the next 30 days, let's challenge ourselves to purposefully set aside time to show our gratitude for all of our blessings.

Go to the church's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines> each day beginning November 1st to read about one of our many blessings, along with a daily scripture to read. Write something in the Comments to let us know you were there.

You can also go to our church website and click on Thirty Days of Gratitude. If you don't have access to the Internet, contact Merry at 715-356-3041 and she will mail these to you each week during November.

Ways you can **SERVE** on Sundays

Here are some ways to serve on Sunday mornings:

Ushers

Greeters

Communion Servers

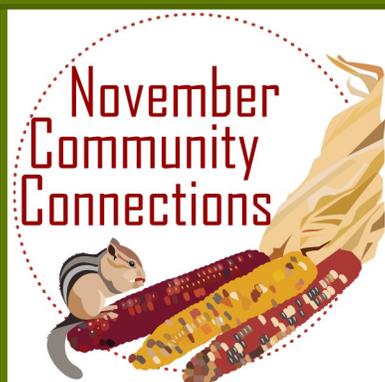
Hospitality Hosts at Sign-in Tables

Liturgists

Special Music

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

Community Connections, Congregational Care



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



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

 A graphic for Congregational Care Ministry. The text "CONGREGATIONAL CARE Ministry" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. "CONGREGATIONAL" is on the top line, "CARE" is on the second line, and "Ministry" is on the third line. The background is a colorful, abstract watercolor-style wash in shades of purple, blue, green, and yellow.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE Ministry

Congregation Care Ministry *"Caring for One Another"*

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

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

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

Calling Crew - make phone calls.

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

Meal Ministry - Prepare periodic meals when needed.

Transportation Provider - Take people to medical appointments, etc.

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

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

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

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

Operation Christmas Shoebox



Molly & Jaime Jorgensen, creators of our church's **OPERATION: COMPASSION MINISTRY** already have their shoeboxes to fill!

They are asking you to consider either filling a box full of gifts for a boy or girl or go online and build a shoebox.

Our goal is to fill 30 boxes to bring back to church before November 15th and to build 30 boxes online—for a total of 60 Christmas Shoeboxes.

Molly and Jaime say ***"Thank you for caring and having compassion for helping children to have a Merry Christmas!"***

OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX BEGINS

EVERYONE is invited to participate in our Church of the Pines' **THIRD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX CAMPAIGN!** We had a great turnout of adults and children who filled shoeboxes with gifts during our Christmas Shoebox Campaign two years ago. There were 32 boxes blessed during a worship service. Last year, because we were all at home abiding by the governor's stay-at-home order, we were able to go online to build shoeboxes that were sent to children worldwide to brighten their Christmas and let them know that God loves them.

This year, you can pick up a Christmas shoebox at church and take it home to pack it full of fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. You can add a donation of \$9.00 per box to cover shipping costs. If not, maybe someone else from the congregation can help by covering the shipping cost. There is also a way that you can learn the destination of your shoebox! All filled boxes need to be dropped off at Church of the Pines no later than November 19th, and we will see that the boxes get delivered to the local processing location. The Christmas Shoeboxes will be blessed at the November 21st worship service.

Or, you can choose to go online to Build Your Shoebox. Go to our church website www.umchurchofthepines.org, scroll down and click where it says "Click on the shoebox above and build a shoebox online." And with just a few clicks, you can select items to pack and then personalize your shoebox with a note and a photo. Samaritan's Purse will do the rest. If you don't have access to the internet, you can send a check to Church of the Pines for \$25 (write Christmas Shoebox in the check memo, and we'll build a box for you). Our goal is to build 30 Christmas shoeboxes before Christmas Eve. **Please let Merry know if you built a Shoebox online, by sending her an email at office@umchurchofthepines.org or call 715-356-3041 to let us know that you did this so that your name can be included with the others who donated to the Christmas Shoebox Campaign for 2021. THANKS!**



Church Photo Directory, Ministry Council Meeting Summary



It's Time to Update our Church Directory

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

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

If you were not previously in the directory, please consider having your photo and information included. Contact Merry at 715-356-3041 to receive a directory form. Complete the form and return it to Merry. You can also email her a photo of yourself or of your family and email the photo to office@umchurchofthepines.org. or you can arrange to have your photo taken.

Please plan to do this before the end of November. Questions? Call the church office for the answers. **THANKS!**

Ministry Council Meeting Summary

The Ministry Council met on October 21, 2021, with the following members in attendance: Chris Anderson, Jim Anderson, Jodi Capacio, Sue Claflin, Emerson Coy, Tom Frandy, Pastor Mark Gilbert, Merry Jorgensen, Dave Kozeluh, Sue Loeffler, Holly Nash, Perry Schuette, Bob Schuld, and Ted Voigt. Absent were: Donna Clark, Rich Klatt, Noah Lottig, and Jerry Weber.

The Trustees asked the Ministry Council to approve the rental of a room in the lower level of the church to a local psychologist for therapy purposes. The church would receive approximately \$5,000 per year in rental income. After discussion of the details of how this would work, the Ministry Council approved the Trustee's request.

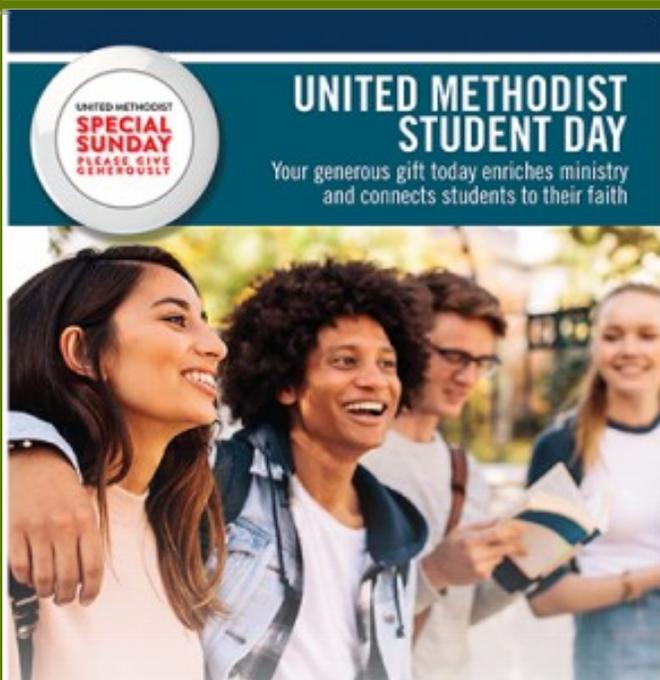
Church of the Pines' Annual Charge Conference will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. Wisconsin Conference District Superintendent, Tsukar Yang, will facilitate the meeting. People who do not have access to Zoom are welcome to come to Church of the Pines in the Ministry Center to participate in the Zoom meeting.

Bob Schuld gave an update on the bookkeeper position vacancy. Cherie' Hein will be retiring as the church's bookkeeper before the end of December. A new bookkeeper is currently being oriented to the bookkeeping position by Cherie'.

Sue Loeffler reported to the Council that the Ministry Council will continue to meet the third Tuesday of the month as we move into the new year.

The next Ministry Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 15th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center.

United Methodist Student Day



United Methodist Student Day November 28

**Education matters.
Please give generously!**

The United Methodist Church believes that every person has the right to education and that the responsibility of educating young people rests with the family, faith communities, and the government. On United Methodist Student Day, we have the opportunity to support scholarships and low-interest loans that help young leaders achieve their dreams.

Morgan Murdock, a 2018 graduate of North Carolina State University, was a Gift of Hope scholar. According to her, when we give on United Methodist Student Day, “You are reminding and encouraging students of all majors and walks of life to remain constant in their faith and to continue to uphold the great qualities that The United Methodist Church has instilled in us.

The church has shown me so much unconditional love over the years in many forms, and this was a very meaningful form of that love. I was encouraged to pursue more in my community and remember the church that helped make me who I am.”

As a child who experienced being bullied, Benjamin Carlson found refuge in his church. As a college student, the Gift of Hope scholarship offset some of his college expenses and he says it “reinforced my understanding that The United Methodist Church supports [its] students.”

As a community of faith, let’s make this United Methodist Student Day the most successful yet. We have the opportunity to contribute to the development of young people like Morgan and Benjamin. Together, we can help propel the next generation toward success.

You can make an online gift to United Methodist Student Day by going to our church website, click on GIVE and follow the prompts for giving. On the drop down box, scroll down and click on Missions - UM Student Day. You can also text the word GIVE to 833-358-0472. You will be guided through an initial registration for your first contribution. A check can also be made out to Church of the Pines and mailed to P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, Wisconsin 54548. Write “Missions - UM Student Day” on the memo line of your check.



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

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

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

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

United Methodist Women, Lakeland Sharing Foundation



Use your Thank Offering box . . . Put in a dime for each United Methodist Church in Oneida, Vilas and Iron County (3 churches).

Circle Meetings:

Dawn Circle will meet at 9:30 am on Thursday, November 4th, in the Ministry Center.

Deborah Circle meets Wednesday, November 10th, at 6 pm in the Ministry Center. We will continue the video series from Adam Hamilton, "Christianity and World Religions."

Esther/Martha Circle will meet at the home of Sarah Stewart on Tuesday, November 2nd, at noon.

Lydia Circle meets on Thursday, November 4th at 9:30 am at the home of Sue Claflin. The study of Adam Hamilton's "Christianity & World Religions" will resume.

Ruth Circle meets on Wednesday, November 10th at 1 pm in the Ministry Center.

Mission Trip . . . Last chance for individuals or couples that are interested in going on the UMW mission trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Springfield, IL. You can contact Sue Loeffler at susanellenLoeffler@gmail.com or call 815-546-5033 for more information. This is a great opportunity to do some worthwhile mission work. The trip is planned for November 9th-14th.

Cookie Walk . . . We are hoping to have our annual Cookie Walk/Craft Sale in some form on

Saturday, December 11th. What we do will depend upon church guidelines at the time. We appreciate the support of our congregation whether it's in making cookies, making crafts, or purchasing at the sale!

Upcoming dates:

November 9-14—Mission Trip

December 11—Cookie Walk

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

United Methodist Women wants to **THANK EVERYONE** who helped in any way to make our Fall Rummage and Bake Sale a success. It is because of your help that we were able to raise approximately \$1,900 for UMW missions. A donation was given to the American Legion for allowing UMW to hold the sale at their site. The sale couldn't happen without the great help of the men of Church of the Pines!

THANKS SO MUCH!

Sue Claflin and United Methodist Women



DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S TOYS, BOOKS, AND GAMES ARE NEEDED!

UMW is collecting new toys, games and books for the **Lakeland Sharing Foundation**. Everyone is invited to participate. There is a plastic bin at the back of the Sanctuary to collect new toys, games, and books for children. **Gifts should not be wrapped. Items will be collected through November 15th.**

This is an opportunity to bring joy this holiday to children in need. THANK YOU!

Giving, Altar Flowers, Upper Room

GIVING

IS EASIER THAN EVER

Mobile — Online — Text — Mail a Check — ACH



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

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

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

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

ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar Flowers

You can provide flowers for the Altar on Sunday morning and dedicate them in honor of a person or special life event or memory of a loved one. To reserve one or more Sundays in 2021, please call the church office at 715-356-3041. office@churchofthepines.org. You can also send an email to the church office at office@umchurchofthepines.org. Include the date you want the flowers placed on the Altar, the name

of the person, indicate if the flowers are given in honor or memory of the person, and any additional formation you like to have shared in the Weekly Update and announced during the Sunday worship service. You can arrange to provide the flowers yourself and bring them to the church, or request that we order the flowers for you. The minimum order is \$35.00. Please get in touch with the church office to discuss how to make these arrangements. If you leave a voice message on the church office phone or send an email, please make sure to leave your phone number for a follow-up call.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021
THE UPPER ROOM
WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY



Upper Room - November/December 2021

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

Finance Report

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES FINANCE REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

| | <u>September Actual</u> | <u>Year Actual</u> | <u>Incr (Decr) Versus Year Budget</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <u>Income</u> | | | |
| Operating * | 13,534 | 165,032 | (72) |
| Reserve Fund | 7,999 | 38,360 | 27,973 |
| Total Income | <u>21,533</u> | <u>203,392</u> | <u>27,901</u> |
| <u>Expenditures</u> | | | |
| Pastor ** | 8,222 | 71,347 | (3,613) |
| Worship | 972 | 4,678 | (2,514) |
| Nurture | 256 | 824 | (941) |
| Outreach | 543 | 2,879 | 1,179 |
| Finance & Administration | 5,599 | 48,713 | (911) |
| Facilities Operation & Maintenance | 3,112 | 25,415 | (5,250) |
| Capital Improvements Fund | 0 | 1,463 | 963 |
| Youth Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Missions Fund *** | 0 | 1,793 | (3,001) |
| Reserve Fund | 255 | 2,596 | 241 |
| Conference Apportionment **** | 1,250 | 3,750 | 0 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>20,209</u> | <u>163,458</u> | <u>(13,847)</u> |
| Net Cash Excess (Deficiency) | 1,324 | 39,934 | 41,748 |
| Total Available Funds 9-30-21 | | 309,876 | |

* Prepaid Pledges of 32,399 were included in January

** Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

*** Includes Special Sundays

**** 2021 Assessment is 36,840

Net cash excess (income minus expenditures) for 9 months is 39,934 which is 41,748 better than the approved operating budget.

Offering
ENVELOPES

Offering envelope packets for 2022 are available for those who ordered them and can be picked at the church. You will find them at the Information Center in the Pine Room.

Call Merry at 715-356-3041
to arrange to have them mailed to you.

November



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| | 1 Charge Conference Reports Due | 2 Estimate of Giving Cards Due 12:00pm - Esther/Martha Circle (Sarah Stewart's home) | 3 3:30pm - Church School | 4 9:30am - Dawn Circle (Ministry Center) 9:30am - Lydia Circle (Sue Claflin's home) | 5 | 6 Turn back your clocks one hour tonight!  |
| 7 Daylight Savings Time Ends All Saints Sunday 10:00am - Worship Service/Communion (In-person and Livestream) 11:00am - Fellowship | 8 1:00pm - Prayer Shawl (Pine Room) 7:00pm - SPRC (Zoom) 7:00pm - SPRC (Zoom) | 9 UMW Mission Trip 7:00pm - Panel Discussion (Facebook Live) | 10 UMW Mission Trip 1:00pm - Ruth Circle (Ministry Center) 3:30pm - Church School 6:00pm - Deborah Circle (Ministry Center) | 11 UMW Mission Trip | 12 UMW Mission Trip | 13 UMW Mission Trip |
| 14 UMW Mission Trip 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream) 11:00am - Fellowship | 15 December Pine Chips Information is Due 7:00pm - Ministry Council (Ministry Center) | 16 10:00am - Milestone Worship 1:00pm - Stephen Ministry (Library) 7:00pm - Charge Conference (Ministry Center) | 17 3:30pm - Church School | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Hanging of the Greens 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream) 11:00am - Fellowship & Hanging of the Greens | 22 | 23 6:30pm - Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club (Ministry Center) | 24 | 25 Office - Closed  | 26 Office - Closed | 27 |
| 28 UM Student Sunday First Sunday of Advent 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream) 11:00am - Fellowship | 29 10:00am - UMW Executive Board (Ministry Center) | 30 | | | | |

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



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



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



Contact Us

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

