

# PINE Chips<sup>2.0</sup>



## United Methodist

*Of Church of the Pines*



*Live Christ's Love*

**NOW!**



At Church of the Pines, we offer everyone an opportunity to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to grow in a committed relationship with God.

We are Living Christ's Love NOW through Nurture, Outreach, and Worship.



**"...Behold I am making all things new..."**

**Revelation 21:5**

**Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
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](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org)

## Pastor's Pen

PASTOR'S  
PEN



### A New Year; A New Normal “...Behold I am making all things new...” Rev 21:5

A new year has begun, and 2020 is behind us. The year 2020 was one of the most unique years we have ever experienced. In many ways, 2020 was all about survival because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also because of all the ways the normal routines and patterns in our lives were changed. We all long for the familiar to return to our lives and 2021 is an opportunity to return to normal. Yet I wonder, is ‘normal’ okay?

As the pandemic changed our ‘normal’ lives, it was difficult and exhausting in our personal lives. We also saw the painful realities of our society. Social, racial, and economic injustice and oppression that normally have been ‘swept under the rug’ are now revealed as the matters of life and death that they are. We are seeing how the normal patterns of focusing on profit and personal preference have led to the difficult challenges of 2020.

Not only as a society but also as churches and communities of faith, we are longing for the church to return to normal, yet ‘normal’ has been (not just for our church but most of all churches) and an inward focus and decline. Is normal okay? Our mission as a United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the **transformation** of the world. With all that we have gone through and had to face in 2020, we have an opportunity not to fall back to the old normal of life but to transform ‘normal’ into a new normal. A new normal that more reflects the glory of God’s coming Kingdom.

In this new year and the years to come, I want us to work towards creating this new normal in our church, community, and world. We will do this by challenging ourselves to examine the things we need to let go of in our lives, recognizing what we need to keep, and opening ourselves to new things that will move us forward.

One of those new things I want us to identify is addressing a specific need in our community. Perhaps this focus will be partnering with the Lakeland Food Pantry and other groups to work on addressing the root causes of hunger in our community. Or we can, as other UMCs in Wisconsin have, work to eliminate medical debt in our community.

On this journey of transformation towards a new normal, the first step is a familiar one. It is to once again partner with God in the transformative work God is doing. In our Methodist tradition, we have a wonderful resource in the covenant prayer of John Wesley. You can find this prayer inside this newsletter. I encourage you to find it, read it, pray it, and look for the new things God is doing in you and the world.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

## Leadership, Prayer Requests, Prayer Chain

### Church Staff & Leadership

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

**Church Administrator:**  
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office@umchurchofthepines.org

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Rudy Vlosak  
(715) 892-2949

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Lisa Hernandez  
lisa.hernandez@ldfschool.org

**Lay Leader:**  
Emerson Coy  
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#### **Staff-Parish Relations**

**Committee Chair:**  
Holly Nash  
nashholly@yahoo.com

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

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Jerry Weber  
jerryweber727@outlook.com

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Bob Schuld, bob.pat1@frontier.com

**Treasurer:**  
Cherie' Hein, cheriehein@mac.com

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



God wants us to care for others by praying for them. Jesus prays for others and wants us to follow His example. God answers prayers, and praying for others is something we can all do.

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

**Please pray for...**

*Sally Ham*

*Patty Stone*

*Family of Barbara Jurries, who passed away on November 14th*

*Family of Ken Schmidt, who passed away on November 27th.*



*"...the Lord our God is near to us whenever we pray to him..."*  
- Deuteronomy 4:7b

Thank you to all of our links on the Prayer Chain for your faithful service on behalf of others! In our Guidelines, we are encouraged to pray immediately, so we don't forget to pray God's will and pray fervently. We are dedicated to confidentiality unless asked to spread the word. Prayer is powerful and a great support to those in need. Many thanks to our very active Prayer Chain. Call Patty Frandy at 715-356-2172 to learn how you can become a member of the Prayer Chain - email or phone chain.

**Call 1-715-203-1990**

to hear our latest sermon  
CHURCH OF THE PINES



sermonbyphone.com

***The Church building remains closed.***

**If you are in need of assistance, please call 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org and your call will be returned or you will receive an email response. THANKS!**

## Birthdays, Wesley's Covenant Prayer

### Wesley's Covenant Prayer

"I am no longer my own, but Yours.

Put me to what You will, rank me

with whom You will;

put me to doing,

put me to suffering;

let me be employed for You, or laid

aside for You,

exalted for You,

or brought low for You;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly

yield all things

to Your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

You are mine and I am Yours.

So be it.

And the covenant now made on

earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen."

– John Wesley

## JANUARY



## BIRTHDAYS

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

### *Happy birthday to...*

January 1	Robert Van Order
January 4	Molly Jorgensen
January 8	Rich Klatt
January 11	Bruce Berklund
January 12	Micah Gilbert
January 12	Jessica Hilgart
January 14	Val Susor
January 16	Mark Gilbert
January 17	Sylvi Berklund
January 19	Alysse Teichmiller
January 19	Nancy Berklund
January 21	Cameron Gee
January 21	Nancy Grandy
January 23	Isabel Carlton
January 25	Fran Bechtolt
January 27	Fred Melms
January 28	Kristin Kroening

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

What matters is not  
how long you live... but  
how you live.

Martin Luther King

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

January 18, 2021

## Livestream Worship Services, United Methodist Women



To watch worship services live, go to <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/live/>  
If you have a prayer request, please email it in advance to [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org) or write the request as a comment at the beginning of the service.

If you do not have access to Facebook, you can watch the worship service LIVE by clicking on the following link. To see the worship service live, you will need to go to this link just prior to the time of the service.

<https://united-methodist-church-of-the-pines.freeonlinechurch.com/live>

Following each worship service, a video of the service is placed on our church website, which can be viewed at any time. The link to our church website is:

<https://www.umchurchofthepines.org/>

Once you are on our website home page, scroll down until you see a box that says "Worship Service Videos". Click on this box and you will be taken to a listing of all of the archived services for Sunday worship services and Wednesday prayer services.

Worship Services will continue to be livestreamed on our church Facebook page, and also via a special Livestream link. Videos are also placed on our church website. Contact Merry if you would like worship service DVDs mailed to you. *When you watch worship services, be sure to record your attendance on the "check-in" link or type your name and the name(s) of anyone else watching with you in the comment section on Facebook or on our church website.*

### United Methodist Women Circle News



**Dawn Circle** - Plans are being made to meet virtually and Jeanne Heck is arranging a zoom meeting. Date and time are yet to be decided. If you do not have a study book, contact Kay Rhyner. We are in need of a Circle Chair. Please prayerfully consider volunteering.

**Deborah Circle** - Thank you to all our Deborah Circle members who provided gifts for our Christmas family. This was our biggest family ever, having six children!

United Methodist Women

**Use your Thank Offering box . . .** Start off the new year thinking of others. Put a quarter in your Thank Offering box.

**UMW Executive Board . . .** Will be having a zoom meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2020.

## Lay Leader



### “Words to Live By” the Lay Leader Emerson Coy

As we begin another New Year in the midst of winter, I look forward, am honored, and excited to serve as the lay leader for a wonderful congregation. Many thanks to Gretchen Voigt for her faith and service this past year. The good news is that she is now serving as the assistant lay leader and helping out.

2020 was a challenging year for everybody with many changes, confinement, and even grief and despair. But in the midst of our darkest time of the year, January is a month of new beginnings. Outside, the temperature drops, and the snow gently falls. The winter enthusiast wishes for more snow and others not so much. But you know it is cold when you walk in the snow and hear it crunch under your feet. Nature seems to be at peace. We should be at peace too. So, as we gather closer to the fire for warmth, it is also a time to dream and look ahead at the New Year and the opportunity to experience it. It is a fresh start, starting a new chapter in your life. And we also need to believe that there is a better day tomorrow. Yes, there are ups and downs, but just the same, we hope for more ups than downs.

I hope your year is off to a good start. You may have heard about the man who was setting goals for the new year. One of his goals was to clean up his desk. Another one of his goals was to find the goals he lost last year. Some of us can relate to that, especially me. But making a commitment or striving towards good is something we can work at. As New Year resolutions are most often broken or not taken seriously, we have the opportunity to set a goal and then plan smaller steps to achieve it. It can be fun and hard work at the same time. In doing so, it is important to be yourself. You are special and unique and have a lot to offer to friends, family, a congregation, community, and the world. It is okay to like yourself. It's important not to belittle yourself. Be proud of who you are, what you have experienced, encountered in life thus far, and the relationship you have with the God of us all. Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul. And love your neighbor **as yourself.**” Valuing yourself will bring a better day.

As we look forward to this coming year, may we look forward with some plans. It certainly cannot hurt. Try to put your dreams into action. We can do this as individuals and even stronger together. Know that we are important and loved by God, the Creator of us all. Remember, we can be comforted that there is always faith, hope, and love. Peace.

## Stephen Ministry



### 5 Ways to Fulfill Your New Year's Resolutions

These are excerpts taken from the article published in *Christianity Today* by Heidi Wheeler, Jan. 2018.

setting manageable goals is key to meeting them.

For many of us, the New Year marks a time for making personal improvements. Though our intentions are noble, the success rate of keeping resolutions is bleak. Is real, sustained change possible? As we seek to change and *be* changed this New Year, keep in mind these five insights:

A friend of mine decided that, instead of resolving to pray for a set amount of time daily, she would ask people she'd otherwise promise (and forget) to pray for, "May I pray with you right now?" The more she prayed with the hurting, grieving, and fearful, the more her desire for prayer grew. She formed a holy habit through simple love in action, not by attempting to keep an appointment with a clock.

#### 1. Expect change to come slowly, subtly, and in a non-linear progression.

In today's "there's an app for that" culture, slow change is often seen as failure. We hope for sweeping, overnight character transformation. If we look to the Creator's rhythms in the natural world—the way an ocean sculpts the side of a cliff—we remember that beautiful transformation takes place over seasons.

#### 2. Reorient your desires.

Change starts with contemplation before action. James K. A. Smith suggests that our habits are an outcome of our soul-level affections: "You are what you love because you live toward what you want."

Accordingly, if we listen to the Holy Spirit whisper both God's love and conviction, he can illuminate our false affections and unhealthy motives. Only then can we reorient our desires toward Christ.

#### 3. Aim lower.

Keeping realistic expectations prevents despair. A perfectionist approach puts up a barrier to change. Relapsing into old patterns leads to demoralization and shame, so

#### 4. Don't go it alone.

Scripture and science agree that we don't change as well without others' support. Some resolutions need the accountability of a friend, others benefit from a coach or counselor, and certain addictions may need serious pastoral council. The church community, in particular, offers a unique context for this accountability.

#### 5. Trust in God's transformational power.

Our success or failure with resolutions doesn't determine or derail God's transformational plans for us. God takes the initiative in our redemption, sustains it, and will bring it to completion. He looks beyond external behaviors to the sins, motives, and wounds of our hearts, and *there* is where he desires to free and heal us.

If there are changes in your life that you want to make, having support is important. A Stephen Minister can help.

For more information, contact Holly Nash, Stephen Leader, 715-356-6861.

## Mission Highlights, Human Relations Day

### Mission Highlights

**Caritas**, St. Matthias' Episcopal Church's major service mission, distributes funds to those in urgent and immediate need of assistance. Caritas is the Latin word meaning charity, the Christian concept of spiritual and brotherly love for all people. Assistance included medications, duplicate driver's licenses, work books/clothing, household items, furniture, and auto repair. Caritas may assist with utility bills or gasoline purchases. Needs are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and a must be present for an interview. Clients agree that Caritas provides more than money and referrals. They listen, offer compassion, problem solving, and more importantly, they offer hope to those who are in desperate need. [www.stmatthiasminocqua.com](http://www.stmatthiasminocqua.com)

**Northcott Neighborhood House** is a multipurpose center created by the United Methodist Church in 1961. We provide education, employment opportunities and basic necessities to youth, families and senior citizens in the Milwaukee area. Our goal is to life the spirit of the whole community through our mission: To empower families to meet their survival needs and provide good parenting to their children; to provide a safe place for youth as well as recreational and skill-building activities—after school, on Saturdays, and in the summer; to provide the neighborhood with space, activities, and the opportunity to engage in community building and crime prevention. [www.northcotthouse.org](http://www.northcotthouse.org)



**Are you leaving for the winter?** Please call or email the church office and let us know. We'd like to stay connected with you over the winter months!

715-356-3041 [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org)

If you would like to arrange to provide flowers or a plant for the Altar on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office at 715-356-3041 for information.



Altar Flowers



## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

*strengthening community  
outreach and empowering  
at-risk youth*



**Sunday,  
January 17, 2020**

# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  	2
3 10:00a Livestream Sunday Worship/ Communion	4	5 2p UMW Executive Board (Zoom)	6 10:00a Livestream Prayer Service	7	8	9
10 10:00a Livestream Sunday Worship	11	12	13 10:00a Livestream Prayer Service	14	15	16
17 10:00a Livestream Sunday Worship	18 7:00p SPRC (Zoom) 	19	20 10:00a Livestream Prayer Service	21	22	23
24 10:00a Livestream Sunday Worship	25	26	27 10:00a Livestream Prayer Service	28	29	30
31 10:00a Livestream Sunday Worship						

Have something for Pine Chips 2.0? Email the church at [office@umchurchofthepines.org](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org).  
**To appear in the February Pine Chips, email information no later than January 15th**  
 Announcements for weekly updates are due Monday for the following weekend.  
 Call the Church Office at 715-356-3041 with questions.



<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 the web at  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

