

September 2023



PINE Chips^{2.0}

United Methodist

Of Church of the Pines



Live Christ's Love
NOW!



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

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



Sunday Worship -
8:30 a.m. - Outdoor Worship
10:00 a.m. - in the Sanctuary (year round)
In-person and Livestreamed

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Did you get Pine Chips 2.0 in your email?

Not only is the monthly Pine Chips 2.0 sent to our church community via email, but we also have weekly announcements and events emailed and posted online.
Contact the church at (715)356-3041 or email office@umchurchofthepines.org.

Pastor's Message



Service to the World

I pray that all of you reading this had a good healthy breakfast today. Do you know what you will have for dinner? On the day I am writing this, my family will be having home-made chicken marsala for dinner. It is a blessing to feel full and have no doubt about where the next meal comes from. But thousands of people in our area and millions worldwide don't share in this blessing.

We talk about this in terms of hunger or food insecurity, and it affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide. I bring this up because of Church of the Pines' focus on spirituality and spiritual practices. We understand spirituality as our awareness of and responsiveness to the presence of God in our lives. Our spirituality grows as we engage in certain activities that God is consistently present. One of these practices that we can do as a community of faith together is acts of service to the world. That is to say that together we will take action to meet a need in our world.

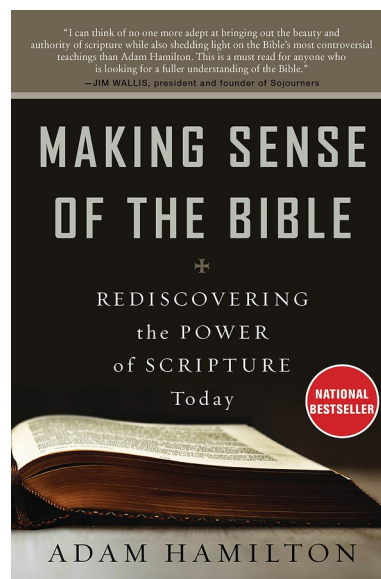
When it comes to the need of food insecurity, I guarantee you that God is working there already. As a church, when we work to meet this need, we will be coming closer to God and responding to God's command to 'give them food to eat.'

Considering this, the ministry council this

year has been reflecting on our focus areas and spiritual practices, and our mission focus as a church and recently decided to focus our mission on addressing food insecurity in our community and throughout the world. This means that we will engage in various activities for the next four years to help people feel full and know where and when their next meal will be. We will have opportunities to learn, give, partner with others, and address this important issue hands-on.

This focus is an exciting opportunity for our church to make a real and tangible difference in the world for God. I ask you to be praying for our church as we begin this journey of service to the world together.

Pastor Mark



Four-week Study begins September 7th
Noon - Ministry Center

Details are on page 12 of this Pine Chips.

Leadership, Prayers, Altar Flowers, Worship Information, School Supplies Project

Church Staff & Leadership

Pastor Mark D. Gilbert, ext. 4
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Church Administrator:
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Treasurer: Pat Bridges
patbridges622@gmail.com

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

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



Office Hours

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

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

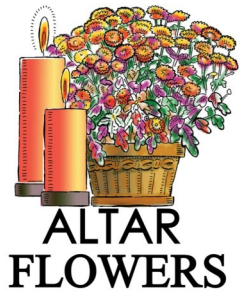
The church office will be closed on
Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2023.



To have your name or the name of a loved one included on our Prayer List, in the Weekly Update, Prayer List, or on our Prayer Chain, please contact the church office. 715-356-3041 or office@umchurchofthepines.org.

Altar Flowers

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



Contact Merry if you would like to reserve dates on the calendar for altar flowers.

Worship Information

Attend the 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship services year round held in the sanctuary.

Outdoor worship services are held at 8:30 a.m. in the back yard of the church beginning May 28th through September 3rd.

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

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

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



Thank you to all who donated items for the School Bag project! It has been a great success. The youth will assemble the school bags on Wednesday, October 19th, and the school bags will be blessed on October 22nd. They will be delivered to Midwest Mission Distribution Center on October 24th. Stay tuned to find out where the school bags have been shipped.

- Venus Hilgart

September Birthdays & Anniversaries, September Worship Themes



September BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays in September

September 1	Dan Frankfother
September 3	Mary Johnson
September 8	Bob Bucklew
September 10	Richard Burnes
September 20	Dick Wechter
September 20	Sandy Bassett
September 21	Diane Salls
September 21	Pat Lightfoot
September 25	Jacob Kroening
September 25	Carolyn Smith
September 26	Char Binette
September 26	Carolyn Hendry
September 28	Tessa Lenz
September 30	Logan Ziehmke

Anniversaries in September

September 2	Bruce & Nancy Berklund
September 4	Bob & Holly Nash
September 7	Jim & Nancy Kranpitz
September 11	Bob & Sandy Bucklew
September 15	Gary & Mary Johnson
September 17	Dick & Pat Bechtel
September 20	Bryce & Heather Berklund
September 23	John & Bonnie Margitan
September 28	Doug & Donna Clark

Blessings to you on your special day!

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



Season of Joy and Promise

Throughout the Bible we hear encouragement to find and choose joy. From the Apostle telling us to rejoice always to a multitude of Psalms of praise lifting joy to the Lord, God clearly want us to be joyful people. Yet sometimes it is easier for us, when we look at the challenges and difficulties of the world and life, to choose despair instead of joy. This September, we will practice choosing joy together in worship through a season of joy and praise.

September 3

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord Always! Paul sets the stage for us to explore joy, encouraging us to rejoice in the Lord always. Joy should be one of our first choices. Do you choose joy?

At the 10 a.m. service on September 3rd, Autumn Schacherl will be a guest soloist, singing "O Divine Redeemer" by Charles Gounod. Autumn is the granddaughter of John and Mary McCadden.

September 10

Scripture: Psalm 63:5-9; 66:2-4; 104:31-35

Psalms of Joy. We can find joy in the world around us in the presence of God, or in the confidence of knowing that God is active in our lives. How do you express your Joy to God?

September 17

Scripture: Psalm 4:7, Romans 8:35-39

Joy in Hard Times. Let's face it, sometimes choosing joy is hard. We all experience pain, suffering, and grief. Are we supposed to ignore these emotions and pretend to be joyful? When the events of life steal away our joy, where can we turn?

September 24

Scripture: John 10:10, 15:7-11

The Joy of God. Choosing joy is a wonderful thing. It is what God desires for us. It is part of the abundant and full life that God wishes for each and every one of us. How can we experience joy? How can we make God's joy complete?

Stephen Ministry

How Stephen Ministry Helped Me...



Fourteen months ago, I was at a point where I needed someone to talk to about the struggles in my life. My pastor recommended I consider meeting with a Stephen Minister—another man, trained as a caregiver, who would walk with me during this difficult time. Trusting someone with personal information about my life was something I feared at first, but my pastor reassured me that everything was confidential, so I agreed to give it a try. I'm so glad I did!

Soon after meeting my Stephen Minister, I quickly sensed I could trust him. Part of that trust came from knowing he was trained to help people through their problems. He made me feel comfortable, did not pry for information, but instead just let me share what was on my mind. Any questions he did ask fit our conversation appropriately. Probably the best thing he did for me was not judge me for my past decisions; rather, he was there to help me move forward.

I think another significant trust-building factor was being able to talk with someone who was not in my regular circle of friends. My friends certainly continued to have a very important place in my life, but I also needed someone who could see me objectively. That helped make it easier to share personal parts of my life. Also, knowing my Stephen Minister would be there for me "next week" (we usually met for an hour each week) gave me confidence. I see now how much I needed regular encouragement as I rode the roller coaster of emotions that came during this period of instability in my life.

I really appreciated our times together. Our weekly visits were more than just meeting to talk. They also helped keep me accountable between times, to carry through with the changes I said I wanted to make. My Stephen Minister often went out of his way to help me in my struggle.

My life experience during the 10 months I met with my Stephen Minister was not always one of progress. It took courage for me to honestly share when I had my failures and setbacks too. Even then my Stephen Minister was there for me. He encouraged me not to give up, but to pick up and keep going forward. That genuine acceptance spoke to me the most; not to accept failure, but to confess, turn, and receive forgiveness. Having someone assure me of that biblical truth was really encouraging and was exactly what I needed.

My Stephen Minister walked with me through a really dark part of my life, pointing me to the truth and love that is in Christ. I thank the Lord for my Stephen Minister who did not try to solve all my problems but lovingly, as a Christian brother, walked along with me through this valley in my life.

If you are dealing with some type of crisis or difficulty in life,
I encourage you to meet with a Stephen Minister. You won't regret it!

Call Holly Nash, Stephen
Leader, at 715-356-6861.

Written by a man who received care from a Stephen Minister at Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church in Steinbach, Manitoba. Reprinted from Stephen Ministries St. Louis with permission.

Ministry Council Meeting Summary, Lay Member to Annual Conference Report

Ministry Council Meeting Summary

The Ministry Council met on August 15th, with the following members in attendance: Chris Anderson, Jim Anderson, Sue Claflin, Mary Fasse, Pastor Mark Gilbert, Merry Jorgensen, Dave Kozeluh, Sarah Kozeluh, Sue Loeffler, Bob Schuld, and Jerry Weber. Absent: Donna Clark, Noah Lottig, and Holly Nash.

Highlights from the past month included: the Pancake Breakfast was well attended; Vacation Bible School was held at Ascension Lutheran Church; eight people became church members on July 23rd, "A Green Bible" study is off to a good start; twenty-two people attended the first Odd Couples dinner outing and twenty-three people plan to attend the August outing at Holiday Café.

The theme for the fall stewardship campaign is "Defying Gravity: Being a Generous Church, and will be held from October 8th through October 29th. There will also be a food collection for the Lakeland Pantry during October.

The Council reviewed a six-month worship attendance report, as one of a multitude of ways to measure engagement.

A Fall Fun Day will be held on October 1st. Coordinated by Dave and Sara Kozeluh, there will be a hiking and biking outing on the Bearskin Trail, and indoor board games held at the church, followed by a soup supper potluck.

It was proposed that we consider having Hanging of the Green as an event, combined with a meal of some sort on December 1st rather than decorating the church on a Sunday after the worship service.

Pastor Mark will lead a Bible study, "Making Sense of the Bible" in September, and Venus Hilgart will lead an Advent Study.

The Council continues to discuss the church's new mission focus on food security. An ad hoc group, consisting of Pastor Mark, Sue Loeffler, and Jim Anderson, and a few others will meet to work on an implementation plan that will be brought back to the Council and then communicated with the congregation.

The Council approved distribution of two mission donations to the Lakeland Pantry and the sponsorship of a table for the Food for Kidz event that takes place in October.

Ongoing efforts continue in the gathering and organization of all church policies.

The next Ministry Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th, at 7:00 p.m.

Lay Member to Annual Conference Report



The Annual Conference of the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church was held in Green Bay from June 9th through 11th. The theme was "On Earth as it is in Heaven." Recognition that we were entering into a "new season" in the life

of the Conference was expressed in opening worship. Bishop Jun reflected on what keeps him grounded during a time of change. He preached that in Jesus we find salvation in building up instead of tearing down, healing instead of wounding, and in life instead of death. This year's conference was one filled with emotion during our worship services, Bible Study, and as we addressed all components of the business meeting. There was sorrow expressed as approval was given to the churches that sought disaffiliation over issues of human sexuality. Bishop Jung reminded us that it was not time for taking sides, but a time for prayer and generous care for one another. Hope for our future was expressed. It is a time to reclaim, revive, and renew because the world needs us. We have the potential to be a place where everyone can thrive, no matter the demographics of our communities.

- Sue Loeffler
Lay Member to Annual Conference

Upper Room, Instant Church Directory



The Upper Room for September-October 2023 is now available. This 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.

Are you listed in our Instant Church Directory?

It has been three and a half years since Church of the Pines published our online Instant Church Directory. Currently, there are currently 53 church members and participants listed in the directory.

The directory is where you can go to find emails, addresses, and birthday and anniversary dates of church members and participants. **Only those who have their information in the directory can access the Directory.** The directory can be accessed via a link on your computer and tablet through our church website. Or, you can download a free Instant Church Directory app on your cell phone. Go to the app store on your phone and search for "Instant Church Directory."



The Directory is being updated during the month of September.

If you are currently listed in the directory, please go into the directory and check to make sure all of your information is correct? You are able to make and submit changes. You can also upload a new photo to appear in the directory. If you did not have your phone number or email listed, please consider adding this information, especially if you serve in church leadership roles or are involved in church activities. When the directory was first published, there was an opportunity for you to set up a password for access. Go to our website at www.umchurchofthepines.org and in the top menu bar, select "More," and then click on "Church Directory" in the dropdown box. You can also do this on your phone if you have downloaded the Instant Church Directory app. If you originally set up a password, sign in using the email that you used in the directory and enter the password you previously established. If you cannot remember your password or if you did not initially set up a password, you will need to contact the church office for assistance.

If you are not currently in the directory and would like to participate, you will first need to complete a form, which can be obtained from the church office. You can email a digital photo to office@umchurchofthepines.org or contact Merry to arrange to have a photo taken at church. Thanks. Some additional features will be added to the directory in 2024!

New Church Members

Welcome, New Church Members!

On July 23rd, we welcomed eight new members to our Church of the Pines' family. You may have already gotten to know them as they are already actively involved as ushers, greeter, liturgists, volunteers with Wednesday Church School, chime choir, active with United Women in Faith, and have attended Odd Couples, Bible studies, and other church activities.



From the left: Brett Myers, Nicole Myers, Deb Harris, Rosalie Widstrand, Pastor Mark Gilbert, John Ross, Sandy Bassett, Skip Bassett, and Sue Henning.

Sandy and Skip Bassett were members of Church of the Pines before work took them to Florida. Now that they are

both retired, they will spend their summer months in Minocqua and the winter in Florida. They were both born and raised in Wisconsin and enjoy all that the state of Wisconsin offers.

Most of their adult lives, they lived in Rib Mountain. However, they owned a cottage on Fence Lake for many years and spend many weekends in the Lakeland area. It was these experiences that motivated them to stay in the area for the summer months.

Deb Harris grew up in Rockford, Illinois, with two dreams. The first was to be a teacher and the other was to move "Up North." God blessed her with both wishes for which she is very grateful. She met her husband when she became a principal at two schools in Rhinelander for ten years. Now, as a retiree, she enjoys hiking in the woods, reading, gardening, and baking. Bob died in April, which left a huge hole in her heart. Since then, she has been finding her way. One way is by attending GriefShare weekly classes. She has also become a volunteer at Howard Young and hopes to be a hospice volunteer. It turns out that to serve as a hospice volunteer, she has to wait a year after a loss. As part of finding her way, she pursued finding a new church family. Deb says "My 'old' church just wasn't meeting my needs, so I went searching. By attending only one service at Church of the Pines, I knew I was in the right place. I became a member of Church of Pines for many reasons. I want to mention a few. Pastor Mark delivers a service that speaks to me in many heartfelt ways. Each week, he makes me feel welcome and a part of the congregation. My church family has adopted me as one of their own by including me in activities and especially visiting during coffee hour. And, yes, they have already reached out to me for various volunteer activities. I can't say "no" and never will. I'm so happy to be part of a church that serves others in an enjoyable way. It's a joy to wake up on Sunday morning knowing I have a 'place to be' where I can actually feel God at work. Thanks for having me!"

Sue Henning moved to Minocqua two years ago from northeast Iowa to be closer to her daughter, husband, and two daughters (six and eight years old.) Her other daughter, husband and three children (sons, 16 and 12 years old and daughter, age 14), live in Pella, Iowa. Sue taught high school business classes for 30 years. She is now a substitute teacher at AV-W and loves the lower elementary kids. Before her teaching career, she served four years in the US Air Force, being stationed in Andrews AFB in Washington DC.

Sue has always enjoyed small churches, so attending Church of the Pines was a good choice for her. She shares "I love the friendliness of everyone and all the opportunities for serving others."

Brett and Nicole Myers were welcomed as new members.

Read more about our new church members on page 9.

New Church Members, Fall Fun Day & Soup Supper

Welcome, New Church Members, continued.

John Ross was born in Milwaukee “a very long time ago” (according to him) and was educated at Washington High School and University of Wisconsin. He served in the USAF and upon returning home, married his wife, Karolynn, and entered the insurance marketing business, which became a lifetime career. He lived in Milwaukee for 40 years and finally came back home to their summer home which was built by his wife’s parents in the early 1930s. His family spent their summers on Mid Lake since the 1960s. John has a son, William, in Topeka, Kansas, and a daughter, Katie, who lives in Manhattan Beach, California, and also three granddaughters (one is an RN and the other two are in college.) They were members of a Presbyterian Church about 30 miles from Minocqua. John says “to be active and close to the activities there was too difficult, with a 60 mile round trip as one gets older. We found the pastor and people of this church to be very open and welcoming. So, that is why we chose Church of the Pines.”

Rosalie Widstrand started attending United Methodist Church of the Pines in fifth grade when her family moved up north from southern Wisconsin. After a 34-year teaching career on the east side of Wisconsin, she retired in June of 2021 and returned to the Lakeland area. Rosalie shares “I’m now renewing my membership at Church of the Pines and am excited to, again, be part of the congregation.” Rosalie enjoys going to Packer games, spending time with her family and friends, traveling, and playing in the community band.

Fall Fun Day & Soup Supper

Colors should be near their peak on Sunday, October 1, when your church family will gather for our Fall Fun Day. At 2:00 p.m. (no Packer game that day) we will meet at the Bearskin State Trail just behind the post office in downtown Minocqua for your choice of either a leisurely bike ride or hike.

Not interested in hiking or biking? Then head straight over to the church for an afternoon of snacks, games, and conversation.

At 3:30 p.m. the hikers and bikers will return to church for our 4:00 p.m. soup supper potluck. Prepare your favorite soup, side dish, or dessert to share. The church will provide beverages.

Following supper, Pastor Mark will once again lead us in a rousing game of Family Feud.



Questions? Contact Dave or Sara Kozeluh at dskozeluh@gmail.com or 715-892-8611.

Fun for all ages. Please join us!

Mission Trip

Go West, Old Veterinarian

For many years, Christian Veterinary Mission has sent a team to Pine Ridge every Spring and Fall. In September, there will be approximately 30 of us from all over the country going to Pine Ridge. This includes veterinarians, veterinarian technicians, and support staff including the all-important cooks. While there, we will work primarily with cats and dogs, providing spays and neuters, rabies vaccination, and parasite control. There will also be a small amount of horse work. Our work with CVM is largely focused on providing the people a service that they otherwise would not have access to. The nearest veterinarian is forty miles away, and with an average annual income of about \$9,000, few of the people could afford the service. Last Spring, the team provided care for over 650 animals. We hope to do the same this Fall.



We will be going to 5 different sites on the reservation, which encompasses approximately 3,500 square miles. The reservation is bordered by the Black Hills, the Badlands, and seemingly endless prairie. This is a very poor area. Oglala Lakota County, which lies within the reservation, has the lowest per capita income (\$8,768) in the country and ranks as the “poorest” county in the nation. The tribe we work with are the Oglala band of the Lakota. Lakota is their preferred name, versus Sioux.

The Wounded Knee Massacre of December 29, 1890 occurred within the reservation. After the fighting largely ended between the Army and the Lakota, the Church was enlisted to help with “control” of the Lakota and other Natives through cultural assimilation and a somewhat forced conversion to Christianity. As a

mission worker explained to the team from CVM a few years back, “in the name of Christ they were stripped of their language, clothing, customs and religion”.

Many people have likened the problems on the reservation to being like the problems of the inner city for the African Americans. Some say that the Reservation is a “rural ghetto”. That is an apt description. On Pine Ridge there is about 80% unemployment, the high school graduation rate is less than 40% and nearly 50% of the adults are drug or alcohol dependent. These are very stark, sad statistics. Other serious problems include a high rate of suicide, teen pregnancy, and sexual abuse of children. While these problems exist across the country, they are especially high on the Reservation.

But there are examples of hope there. Previous teams have met native people who are believers and good providers for their families. They have, with much effort, been able to resist the forces of evil that pervade the area. There is a parochial school there that teaches them their language to restore pride and boasts a graduation rate of nearly 90%. Many of their graduates have gone on to college. There are many Christian workers on the Reservation who tirelessly work with the Lakota to better their lives and bring them to Christ. Some live there year-round, and others come for regular mission trips.

I am really looking forward to this mission trip and would appreciate your support, especially through prayers for myself, the team, and the people we will serve. If you would want to support it financially, please make the check out to Christian Veterinary Mission and give it to me or the church office. I look forward to telling you more about the people and our work when I return.

Holly Nash

Children, Youth & Family Ministries, September Church Activities



Wednesday Church School is Back!

Wednesday Church School begins September 13th, and we are excited for you to be a part of this wonderful ministry. Wednesday Church School is for kids in 1st through 8th grades. We have a combined class for 1st through 5th graders, taught by a wonderful rotation of teachers. The kids will be hearing stories from the New and Old Testaments, learning about God and people just like us. They will be using the Holy Moly curriculum, which provides exciting and engaging material for kids at age-appropriate levels.

Grades 6th through 8th meet with Pastor Mark learning to take their faith to a new level. This year, the youth will learn about what the Bible is and how to properly use it, as well as learning key tenants and the history of the Christian Faith. Through this class the middle school youth will learn about how to affirm their baptismal vows and become eligible for church membership.

To print off the registration form for Wednesday Church School, go to our church website at www.umchurchofthepines.org. Completed forms can be mailed to the church office at P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, WI 54548 or dropped off at the church.

Children, Youth & Family Ministries Potlucks

Throughout the school year, monthly potlucks are held for anyone interested in our Children, Youth & Family Ministries. The first CYF Potluck for this school year is planned for Wednesday, September 13th at 5:30 p.m. in the Ministry Center. We will talk about upcoming CYF events and opportunities.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, you might enjoy becoming involved with our Prayer Shawl Ministry, which meets in person once a month. If you are unable to meet at the church, you can still be a part of this Ministry and make the prayer shawls at home. The next gathering is Monday, September 11th, from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. Call the church office for more information at 715-356-3041

Church of the Pines hosts the September 12th



Tom's Community Table

Held at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Church of the Pines serves as a host, along with Faith Church and the Unitarian Fellowship, for the upcoming September 12th, 5:00 p.m., Tom's Community Table, at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church. The menu includes barbecued chicken sandwiches, salads and desserts. The meal is free and all are invited to attend.

Mary Fasse, coordinator of this meal for Church of the Pines, shares that we will be recruiting two shifts of volunteers. The first shift will meet at St. Matthias' Church at 3:30 p.m. to set up and help until 5:30 p.m. A second shift will be at St. Matthias' Church from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. and will help with the clean up.

Sign up sheets to participate can be found on a table in the Ministry Center.



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

September Church Activities, Blanket Sunday

Keenagers will meet for a potluck at 12:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center on Wednesday, September 20th. Just bring a dish to pass! Following lunch, Sara and Dave Kozeluh will present a travelogue on their trip to South America last winter. They were in Argentina when that country won the FIFA World Cup in soccer, so there was a little extra adventure in their trip. Everyone is invited to attend. If you'd like to come for the program only, arrive about 12:30 p.m.

Odd Couples dining group's next outing will be on Thursday, September 21st, at El Terasco Mexican Restaurant. It has an extensive, reasonably priced menu, and very good TripAdvisor and Yelp reviews. The reservation will be 6:00 p.m. followed by coffee and dessert at the church. All who wish to attend should contact either Mary McCadden or Bob Schuld by September 14th.

A volunteer from the group is needed to provide the coffee and dessert that night. Advise Mary McCadden if you would be willing to handle that responsibility which is greatly appreciated.

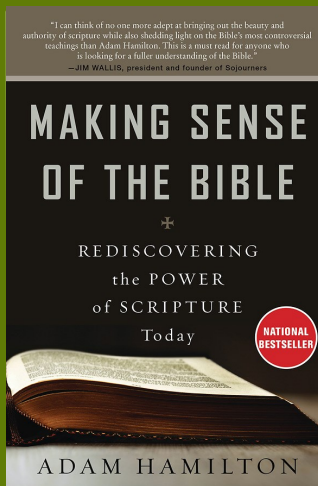
Between Friends will meet on Tuesday, September 26th, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Pack your lunch and your sewing or craft project and meet in the Ministry Center and enjoy the day visiting with friends while you work on your projects.

Men's Breakfast meets at Holiday Cafe, 1107 1st Ave, Woodruff on Thursday, September 28th, at 8:00 a.m.

Turn the Page Book Group will meet on September 28th in the Pine Room at 5:30 p.m. If able, bring an appetizer or snack to share. Contact Sara Kozeluh at 715-482-4089 for more information.

Did you know?

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



Making Sense of the Bible - Adam Hamilton

This year we have been learning about Spiritual Practices that help us grow in our awareness of and responsiveness to the presence of God in our lives. A key spiritual practice is the reading and studying of the Bible. However, this can be intimidating to many. We

hear so many things about the Bible and it is often confusing when we read it. If you have ever struggled to make sense of the Bible, you are invited to join Pastor Mark as we work through Adam Hamilton's book, *Making Sense of the Bible*. This book study will help us better understand how to read the Bible and engage in this key spiritual practice better.

The class will meet Thursday at noon at Church of the Pines, from September 7th through September 28th. Each class will be recorded and placed on YouTube to watch if you are unable to attend class.

There is a book to accompany the study, which can be ordered from the church office for \$12.99 per book. Please note that books ordered now may not arrive prior to the first class. RSVPs can be made on the sign up sheet in the Ministry Center or call the church office at 715-356-3041.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th



CWS Blanket Sunday

"They are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity." - 2 Corinthians 8:2

Please support Blanket Sunday by making a contribution to benefit our most vulnerable neighbors around the world with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

United Women in Faith, Fall Rummage & Bake Sale



United
Women
in Faith

The UWF circles will begin to meet again in September.

Lydia Circle: Thursday, September 7th - 9:30 a.m. - Pine Room.

Dawn Circle: Thursday, September 7th - 9:30 a.m. - Ministry Center.

Ruth Circle: Wednesday, September 13th - 12:30 p.m. - Ministry Center.

Esther/Martha Circle: Tuesday, September 5th - Noon - Jeanne Van Order's home.

Deborah Circle: Wednesday, September 6th - 6:00 p.m. - Venus Hilgart's home for an annual potluck. Spaghetti pie will be the main dish. Please bring a dish to pass.

The Quilt Show & Pie Sale was a huge success. Seventy-nine people enjoyed viewing the quilts and 42 pies were sold.

Thank Offering: We are thankful for the seasons and their changing beauty. Put a quarter in your Thank Offering.

Upcoming Events:

Fall Rummage & Bake Sale: September 12th - 15th at the American Legion in Minocqua. Drop off is Tuesday and Wednesday; Early Sale is Wednesday evening and the Rummage & Bake Sale is Thursday all day and Friday morning.

UWF General Meeting: Wednesday, September 27th - 10:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center. Dawn Circle hosts.

UWF General Meeting: Wednesday, October 18th - 10:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center. Lydia Circle hosts.

UWF Sunday: October 1st.

FALL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

EARLY SALE - 9/13 - 5-7 PM

SALE - 9/14 - 9 AM - 5 PM

REDUCED PRICES - 9/15 - 9-NOON

AMERICAN LEGION
121 FRONT ST. - MINOCQUA



United
Women
in Faith

It's time to gather up items to donate to the United Women in Faith's Fall Rummage & Bake Sale. Donations of clean clothing, shoes, jewelry, books, antiques, household goods, outdoor/garage/sport items, crafts, small furniture, and collectibles will be accepted at the American Legion Hall. **Old electronics of any kind, microwaves, coffee makers, or other old appliances are not accepted.**

Drop off at the American Legion: Tuesday, September 12 - 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, September 13 - 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Questions? Contact Sue Claflin at 715-358-0343 or email her at dcsc2129@charter.net.

Finance Report, Giving

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES FINANCE REPORT AS OF JULY 31, 2023

	<u>July Actual</u>	<u>Year Actual</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Versus Year Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Operating *	9,704	121,139	(1,281)
Reserve Fund	4,804	1,627	(4,778)
Endowment Fund	1,000	6,400	1,000
Total Income	15,508	129,166	(5,059)
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Pastor **	8,335	58,969	45
Worship	748	2,956	311
Nurture	297	3,128	336
Outreach	556	2,402	1,235
Finance & Administration	5,624	41,180	(329)
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	3,467	25,489	1,317
Capital Improvements Fund	0	2,601	1,701
Youth Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000
Missions Fund ***	355	3,036	(269)
Reserve Fund	545	1,931	356
Conference Apportionment ****	0	7,952	0
Total Expenditures	20,927	150,644	5,703
Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)	(5,419)	(21,478)	(10,762)
Total Available Funds 7-31-23		261,817	

* Prepaid Pledges of 26,986 were included in January Operating Income

** Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

*** Includes Special Sundays

**** 2023 Assessment is 37,305

Net cash deficiency (income minus expenditures) for 7 months is 21,478 which is 10,762 worse than the approved operating budget.

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

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

Thank you for continuing to financially contribute to Church of the Pines as you are able. There are a variety of ways to make your gifts: Text "give" to 833-358-0472; use ACH (Automatic Clearing House) to contribute from your checking or savings account; go to www.umchurchofthepines.org and click on the GIVE graphic 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, or place in the offering plate on Sunday.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Deadline for donating school supplies	2
3 8:30am Outdoor Worship Service/ Communion 10:00am - Worship Service/ Communion 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	4 Labor Day Church office is closed. 	5 10:45am - Worship at Milestone 12:00pm - Esther/ Martha Circle (Jeanne Van Order's home) 1:00pm - Worship at One Penny Place	6 6:00pm - Deborah Circle (Venus Hilgart's home)	7 9:30am - Lydia Circle (Pine Room) 9:30am - Dawn Circle (Ministry Center) 10:00am - Key Leader Meeting (Library) 12:00pm - Bible Study #1 (Ministry Center)	8	9
10 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	11 1:00pm - Prayer Shawl (Pine Room)	12 9:00am - Leadership Development (Library) 9:00am - Table Set Up (American Legion) 12:00 - 5:00pm - Rummage Sale Drop Off (American Legion) 5:00pm - Community Table (St. Matthias' Church)	13 9:00am - 3:30pm - Rummage Sale Drop Off (American Legion) 12:30pm - Ruth Circle (Ministry Center) 3:30pm - Church School (Lower Level) 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Early Rummage Sale (American Legion) 5:30pm - CYF Potluck	14 5:30am - 11:00 am - Donut Hole Making (Kitchen) 9:00am - 5:00pm - Rummage & Bake Sale (American Legion) 12:00pm - Bible Study #2 (Ministry Center)	15 9:00am - 12:00pm - Rummage & Bake Sale 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Rummage Sale Clean Up	16
17 Blanket Sunday 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	18	19 7:00pm - Ministry Council (Ministry Center)	20 12:00pm - Keenagers (Ministry Center) 3:30pm - Church School (Lower Level)	21 12:00pm - Bible Study #3 (Ministry Center) 6:00pm - Odd Couples (El Terasco) 7:15pm - Odd Couples (Ministry Center)	22	23  First Day of Autumn
24 10:00am - Worship Service 11:00am - Coffee Fellowship	25	26 9:30am - 3:00pm - Between Friends (Ministry Center) 1:00pm - Stephen Ministry (Library)	27 10:00am - UWF General Meeting (Ministry Center) 3:30pm - Church School (Lower Level)	28 8:00am - Men's Breakfast (Holiday Cafe) 12:00pm - Bible Study #4 (Ministry Center)	29	30

Have something for Pine Chips 2.0? Email the church at office@umchurchofthepines.org.
The deadline for receiving information for the October Pine Chips 2.0 is September 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.



Visit us on Facebook.

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

Watch our church services on



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



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

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



Contact Us

UM Church of the Pines
415 Chippewa Street
PO Box 144
Minocqua, WI 54548

Office Phone: 715-356-3041

Visit us on the web at
www.umchurchofthepines.org

Visit us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/churchofthepines

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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