



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.



"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

1 John 4:7

Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen	2
Leadership Prayer Requests Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
Brunch Valentine's Day Cards Hospitality Ministry Winter Weather Policy	4
Bible Study Church Directory	5
Emergency Contacts Odd Couples Keenagers	6
Membership Class Lent/Easter Schedule Lenten Study	7
There's a Place for YOU at Church of the Pines!	8
Lay Leader	9
Stephen Ministry	10
Ministry Council	11
United Methodist Women	12
Missions	13
Finance	14
Calendar - March	15

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



I sometimes struggle with Valentine's Day. It seems to me the joke of Valentine's Day being a made-up holiday by the greeting card companies to sell cards, has some validity. It is easy to think this with all the commercials and story displays encouraging us to tell that special someone that we love them.

I also hear of people who are feeling forced into some insincere expression of romantic love. The worst thing I hear about Valentine's Day is the number of people who feel unloved and alone. With all the focus on love, it is understandable that people might feel unloved if they don't have a valentine.

My struggle is this. February and Valentine's Day are calling us to focus on love and I think that is a good thing. I enjoy letting the special people in my life know that I love them. However, I think that the greeting card companies and many others have too small of an understanding of love. We hear in 1 John 4 that God **is** love and that **all** love is from God – yes, even the romantic love found on Valentines' cards. Focusing on love should lead us to focus on God and focusing on God should lead us to loving one another.

That's why this February we are going to focus on **love** – not Valentine's Day, but on the wonderful depth of God's amazing gift of love. We will express our love for God, we will hear how God expresses love to us, and we will share love with one another and will all others.

As we move into February, this last part is especially important. We must share love with all people. Everyone in the world needs to know that they are loved, by God and by us. No one should ever feel unloved because God is Love and God loves everyone. If you know of someone struggling to feel loved, please take the time to let them know that God loves them and that you do, too. If you ever feel that no one loves you, know that God loves you and I love you, too.

Hopefully, we will see this Valentine's Day as something to be excited about and not something to complain about. It is a wonderful thing to be loved and to love another. Let us be people who live Christ's Love every day!

Love,

Pastor Mark



Leadership, Prayer

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:
Gretchen Voigt
gretchen.voigt@gmail.com

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

Ministry Council Chair:
Ted Voigt, ted.voigt@gmail.com

Trustees Co-Chair:
Jerry Weber
jerryweber727@outlook.com
Val Susor
valaries@parkcitycu.org

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

Treasurer:
Cherie' Hein, cheriehein@mac.com

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



Please pray for:
Irene Boudreaux

Temba Nkomozi,
missionary

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.

FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday to....

February 1	Stephanie Hilgart
February 3	Noah Lottig
February 7	Dick Rhyner
February 7	Vi Steinbicer
February 9	Gary Johnson
February 10	Sue McDougall
February 12	Maria Caroselli
February 12	Pat Schuld
February 13	Marion Burmeister
February 14	Betty Hewitt
February 16	Gretchen Voigt
February 18	Karen Stinemates
February 25	Alice Fager

Happy anniversary to....

February 17	Emerson & Julie Coy
February 24	Larry & Bonnie Duffee

Blessings to you on your special day!

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



Hospitality, Winter Weather, Brunch, Valentine's Day Cards

All Church Brunch



February 16th - 11:00 a.m.

Pancakes (special mix, blueberry & chocolate chip); casseroles; sausages, fresh fruit, coffee, juice and milk.

Free-will offering

Bring your family, neighbors & friends!



HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Please consider becoming involved in our Church of the Pines' Hospitality Ministry. As a member of this important ministry, we have the opportunity to organize Coffee Fellowships each Sunday morning after the worship service. The Coffee Fellowship sign-up sheet for 2020 is now available and can be found on the counter in the Ministry Center. Those who volunteer to host Sunday Coffee Fellowships provide some type of refreshments (coffee cake, cheese/crackers, fruit, breakfast breads, donuts, etc. — something simple); come in prior to the worship service to set up; serve; and clean up. Call the church office at 715-356-3041 if you would like to become involved with our Coffee Fellowship Hospitality Ministry.



Please stop in the Ministry Center following the worship service on February 2nd to sign Valentine's Day cards that will be sent to people who are homebound, live in assisted living or nursing homes, those who have moved and those who are away for the winter.

Taking a few minutes to sign cards is a very easy way to let others know how much we care.

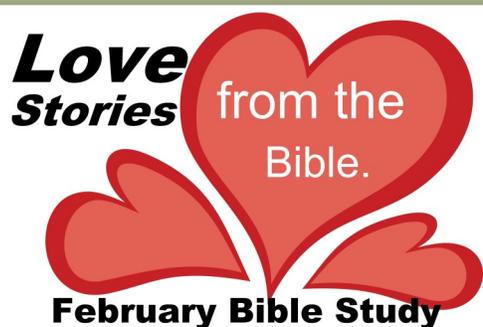
"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." - Maya Angelou



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, please either email the church office at office@umchurchofthepines.org and request to be placed on this e-list or you can 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 email office@umchurchofthepines.org.

Bible Study, Church Directory



Who doesn't love a good love story?

The Bible is full of love stories. In fact, the Bible tells the love story of God and humanity. This February we are going to look at three Biblical love stories. Each one will reveal the power and struggle of our human relationships as well as the depth of God's love for each and every one of us.

The Bible study will meet on Tuesdays beginning February 11th and meet through February 25th at 10:00 a.m. in the Library.

February 11 - Samson and Delilah
(Judges 16)

February 18 - Ruth and Boaz
(Ruth 1:1-4:22)

February 25th - Jesus and a Sinful Woman/Us
(Luke 7:36-50)

Register to attend by calling the church office at 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org.

New Church Directory

If you participated in the church directory and would like to request a paper copy of the directory, please place your name on the sign up sheet located in the Ministry Center. Those with an email address in the directory can access the directory from the church website or from your cell phone. A contribution of \$13.00 per directory would be appreciated.

Church Directories for the Pews

The new Church of the Pines directories, which also include photos of church activities and members of the congregation in action, will be placed in the pews at the end of February, so be sure to "take a look" at them! Contributions will gratefully be accepted to help underwrite the cost of printing these directories. There will be special offerings on February 23rd and March 1 during the Sunday morning worship services, you can drop off a contribution to the church office or mail a check to Church of the Pines, P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, Wisconsin 54548.

Church Directories for our members who are homebound

Please consider contributing \$13.00 per directory so that directories can be given to church members who are homebound. It's a great way to help those who cannot participate feel connected to Church of the Pines!

Be sure to write "Church Directory" in the memo line of your check. THANKS!

Emergency Contacts, Odd Couples, Keenagers

Who in your family to **CONTACT** in case of an emergency



There have been times when we have had to try to contact family members of people who attend Church of the Pines as a result of an illness or other emergency situation. We would like to offer to place emergency contact information for your family members in your church record.

An Emergency Contact Information form is available from the church office. Complete, sign and return the form to the church office and the information will be placed in your church record. Call Merry at 715-356-3041 should you have questions about this.



ODD Couples!

Friday, February 14th - 5:00 p.m.

Norwood Pines

(Friday night fish fry menu
& separate checks)

Celebrate Valentine's Day by coming to Odd Couples. Decadent desserts and coffee will be served in the Ministry Center at church after dinner.

Please make your reservation by February 11 by calling hosts, Kay and Dick Rhyner, at 715-356-6291.

See you there!



KEENAGERS

Wednesday, February 19th

12:00 p.m. - Potluck

in the Ministry Center

Joanne Fitzpatrick will be telling us about her adventurous trek on the Appalachian Trail. All are welcome to attend. Just bring a dish to pass. If you'd like to come for the program only, arrive about 12:30 pm.

Guests are welcome...

Invite your friends!

New Church Member Class, Lent/Easter, Lenten Study



"There's a place for you at Church of the Pines!"

Saturday, February 22 or 29
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
in the Ministry Center

Join Pastor Mark to learn about becoming a member of Church of the Pines. It's a chance to ask questions and learn more about our church mission, membership, and all the opportunities for getting involved. New members will be received on March 22 or 29 at the 10:00 a.m. service.

**UNITED METHODIST
 CHURCH OF THE PINES**
 415 Chippewa Street
 Minocqua, Wisconsin 54548

RSVP to Merry - 715-356-3041

Lent & Easter Worship Schedule



Ash Wednesday, February 26th
 6:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday - April 5th
 10:00 a.m.

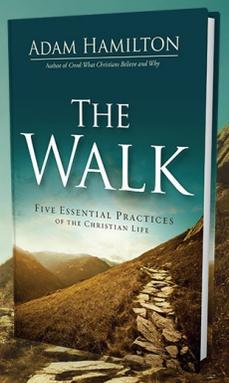
Maundy Thursday - April 9th
 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 10th
 12:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 12
 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

An Easter Potluck will be held at
 11:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center

Discover five spiritual
 practices to help you
WALK CLOSER
 with **GOD**



Lenten Study Offered

Sundays
March 1st through March 29th
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
in the Ministry Center

We will be using Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* to help us prepare to walk with Jesus towards the cross and the power of Easter. Each week we will encourage one another to enhance our practice of our faith in worship.

Please contact Merry in the church office to register for the study and to order a copy of the book.

Cost per book is \$15.00 and must be ordered by February 12th.

There's a Place for You at Church of the Pines!



Lay Leader



Valentine's Day is fast approaching. The holiday of love. Hallmark cards are sent to loved ones to let them know that you care.

I was just thinking about what God's valentine to us would be and realized that God does not just let us know of his love one day a year but anytime that we want, by going to His Word.

God loves us and by that I mean each and every one of us individually. There is nothing that any one of us needs to do. God loves us, simply because He loves us. God is love. Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. 1 John 4:8. He simply cannot be any other way. There is absolutely nothing that we can do to cause God to stop loving us. Our job or our part in this is by faith simply accepting His love for us so that He can work in our lives as he wants to do and give us an abundant life. The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy, I came that they may have and **enjoy life and have it in abundance** [to the full, til it overflows].

John 10:10

God has loved us even before we were born. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 19:11

God loves us with a steadfast love, full of mercies, that are renewed everyday. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

God fills us with love so that we can love others. We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

Then there is always John 3:16. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The Bible is full of scriptures that tell us how much God loves us. It truly is a Valentine of love from God himself to all of us.

Blessings to you all.

Gretchen Voigt, Lay Leader

Stephen Ministry



Listen!

One of the main things a Stephen Minister does is LISTEN. Listening is both an art and a skill. Some people are just good listeners. Others of us have to work at it and develop our skills. Would you like some helpful hints on how to be a good listener?

Don't interrupt the person who is talking, even if it is to agree with them. Wait for a pause to ask a question or make a statement.

Pay attention to the speaker.

Remove distractions. Don't answer your phone or continue to work on your computer. Turn off the TV.

Make eye contact. Look at the person who is speaking; better yet, make some eye contact which will help them know you are listening.



Ask questions to be sure you understand what they are saying.

Silence can be a friend. Don't avoid or be afraid of silence. The person may need time to think about what to say. During the silence, quietly reflect on what they have already said or silently pray for them.

Watch body language, both the speaker's and yours. Look for any nonverbal clues as to how the person feels. Listen not only to the words but the tone of voice. Show interest by smiling or nodding. Lean toward the person; don't back away.

Think before speaking. Don't change the subject. Don't impose solutions, but offer suggestions for consideration.

Empathize. Try to put yourself in the other person's shoes. Offer a touch on the shoulder, if appropriate. Help the person feel supported. Validate their feelings.

Keep an open mind. Listen with a nonjudgmental attitude.

Thanks for listening!

Holly Nash, Stephen Leader

Ministry Council, I Love My Church...

Summary of Ministry Council Meeting - January 21, 2020

Church of the Pines Ministry Council met on January 21, 2020 with the following members in attendance: Jodi Capacio, Sue Claffin, Tom Frandy, Pastor Mark Gilbert, Merry Jorgensen, Rich Klatt, Dave Kozeluh, Sue Loeffler, Holly Nash, Perry Schuette, Bob Schuld, Gretchen Voigt, Ted Voigt, Jerry Weber, and Sharry Wuest. Jim Anderson was not present.

Pastor Mark opened with Prayer, followed by the listing of Church of the Pines accomplishments during the month of January: Approximately 70 people attended Community Table held at St. Matthias' Church and coordinated by members of Church of the Pines; the sale of Rocking Horse items and additional work of painting, etc.; appreciation to the Informational Team for their work related to the General Conference decision regarding human sexuality; Christmas Eve worship was fun; there was a lot of help decorating and taking down Christmas decorations; the new Church Directory; and the good turnout for Keenagers and Odd Couples in January.

Photos of Ministry Council members were taken and will be placed on a new bulletin board in the Pine Room to help members of the congregation and others identify the church leadership. Names of Council members and their contact information will soon be listed on our church website. The online photo directory can now be accessed to those who participated in the directory and who included their email addresses. Paper directories will be placed in the pews by the end of February. Copies will be provided for our homebound members.

The Leadership Orientation had to be canceled. Pastor Mark will be attending upcoming meetings of various church committees to share important orientation information.

There was a sale of furnishings and supplies from the Rocking Horse Child Care Center to five child-care centers, to the Rhinelander YMCA, and church members. Items were also donated to Good Will. The proceeds from the sale will benefit a local charity yet to be determined. The church's LOGO program will be occupying the previous Rocking Horse Child Care Center space located in the lower level of the church.

As part of our Congregational Care Ministry, the placing of emergency contact information for our church members was successfully implemented. Forms are available from the church office.

The 2020 Church budget was presented to the Council and was approved.

The next meeting of the Ministry Council is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pine Room.



"...I feel at home here." "...everyone is friendly."
 "...we get to pray and play together!" "...there's a whole lot of love here!"
 "...we have FUN!" "...of all the good that is done for our community."

Why do you love Church of the Pines?

There's a place for you at Church of the Pines!

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women February Activities

Use your Thank Offering box

Lincoln was our 16th president. Washington was our 1st president.
Put 17 cents in your Thank Offering.

Circle Meetings

Dawn Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 12th at 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center. Hosts are Marilyn Remien and Nancy Berklund.

Deborah Circle will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center on Tuesday, February 11th. Valentines will be made for the shut-ins. Heather Berklund will host.

Esther Circle meets at 12:00 p.m. in the Pine Room on Wednesday, February 5th. Jeanne Van Order hosts. Those attending should bring a sandwich.

Lydia Circle will meet in the Ministry Center at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 13th. The last chapter in the study will be discussed. Sharry Wuest hosts.

Martha Circle will meet Thursday, February 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Helen Wentz. Hedy Blank is hosting.

Ruth Circle meets Wednesday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m. in the Pine Room. Sue Shapiro is hosting.

Executive Board meets at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 17th in the Pine Room.

Funeral Teams

The UMW is changing the way support is offered to grieving families. Instead of Circles serving funeral lunches, there will be teams. Members of the teams do not have to be a member of UMW. To serve as part of a team, please contact Sara Kozeluh or Patty Frandy. There is also an opportunity to serve only occasionally as an extra for a larger funeral.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Mission Highlights, 2020 Special Sunday Offerings

Mission Highlights

Africa University

Africa University is the first and only fully-accredited institution of higher learning established on the African continent by action of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. This amazing institution was founded in response to the call by African Bishops for a university for the whole of Africa to foster intellectual, moral, ethical and spiritual growth in its students.

As the flagship mission of higher education of The United Methodist Church on the African continent, Africa University remains true to the enduring pan-African vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. Africa University is pan-African by design and is home to students, faculty and staff from more than 28 African countries. Thanks to this diversity, which is stronger than ever, Africa University is a place where Africa happens every day.

Africa University is a private institution that is self-governing and independent. Africa University is governed by an international Board of Directors that represents stakeholders from Africa, Europe and North America.

The University offers over 50 cutting-edge undergraduate and graduate programs that focus on meeting Africa's vital needs such as food security, improved public health, peace, good governance and sustainable economic growth. Degrees, diplomas and certificates are awarded from the following Colleges: College of Health, Agriculture and Natural Sciences; College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance and College of Social Sciences, Theology, Humanities and Education.

Guided by the faith-inspired vision, commitment and action of United Methodists and with steadfast investment from a diverse group of partners and friends, Africa University has developed into a world-class center of academic excellence and institution of choice for leadership development in Africa. <http://www.africau.edu/>

Harbor House

Harbor House Crisis Shelters' mission is to provide hospitable shelter, transitional living and services for homeless women and families. They are committed to ending homelessness by providing direct services for homeless single women and families by public education, analysis of model programs and practices that create permanent housing opportunities and by shaping policies to prevent permanent future homelessness.

harborhousecs.org.

Finance Report

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES
FINANCE REPORT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>December Actual</u>	<u>Year Actual</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Versus Year Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Church *	25,446	235,852	21,342
Rocking Horse	0	205,494	(57,035)
Total Income	<u>25,446</u>	<u>441,346</u>	<u>(35,693)</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Rocking Horse	961	224,482	(34,427)
Pastor **	7,813	98,942	1,572
Worship	994	9,665	(4,600)
Nurture	270	4,885	(1,015)
Outreach	82	3,370	(3,480)
Finance & Administration	4,831	60,959	190
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	8,001	48,254	5,623
Capital Improvements Fund	3,449	3,449	3,449
Youth Fund	0	0	0
Missions Fund ***	236	8,443	(507)
Reserve Fund	428	2,181	679
Conference Apportionment ****	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	<u>27,065</u>	<u>464,630</u>	<u>(32,516)</u>
Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)	(1,619)	(23,284)	(3,177)
Total Available Funds 12-31-19		229,831	

* Church Income needs to average 17,000 per month to cover budgeted Church Expenditures

** Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

*** Includes Special Sundays

**** 2019 Assessment is 37,236

Net cash deficiency (income minus expenditures) for the full year is 23,284 which is 3,177 worse than the approved operating budget. This unfavorable result was primarily due to the Rocking Horse closing which resulted in severance and bonus payments, 12,832, plus unrecovered facilities operation expenses, 4,760. There were also unbudgeted capital improvements for audiovisual equipment in the sanctuary, 1,766, and LED lighting for the entire church, 1,683. These were partly offset by a higher investment return of 14,654 in the Morgan Stanley Reserve Fund.

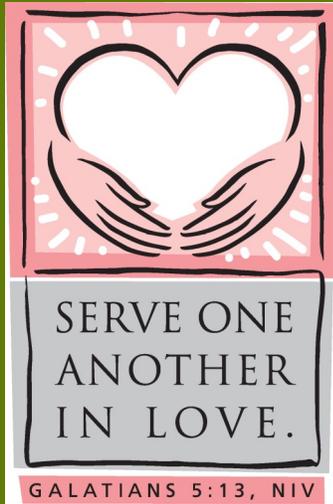
FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00a Worship/ Communion/No Children's Church 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:00a Sign Valentine's Day Cards	3 9:00a UMW Kitchen Cleanup	4 8:30a Leader- ship Committee 10:00a Lay Leader Meeting	5 12:00p Esther Circle 3:50-6:15p LOGOS	6 1:00p Martha Circle	7	8
9 10:00a Sunday Worship/No Chil- dren's Church 11:00a Coffee Fellowship	10 1:00p Prayer Shawl	11 10:00a Worship at Milestone 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Deborah Circle	12 9:30a Dawn Circle 1:00p Ruth Circle 3:50-6:15p LOGOS	13 9:30a Lydia Circle 1:00p Stephen Ministry	14 5:00p Odd Couples 	15
16 10:00a Laity Sunday Worship/ Children's Church 11:00a All Church Brunch	17 10:00a UMW Executive Board 7:00p SPRC	18 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Ministry Council	19 12:00p Keenagers 3:50-6:15p LOGOS	20 5:30p Turn the Pages Book Club	21	22 10:00a New Church Member Class
23 10:00a Sunday Worship/ Children's Church 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 	24	25 10:00a Between Friends 10:00a Bible Study	26 3:50-6:15p LOGOS 6:00p Ash Wednesday Service 	27 8:00a Men's Breakfast	28	29 10:00a New Church Member - Alternate Class 

Have something for Pine Chips 2.0? Email the church at office@umchurchofthepines.org.
To appear in the March Pine Chips, email information no later February 15th.
 Announcements for bulletins & weekly updates are due Monday for the following weekend.
 Call the Church Office at 715-356-3041 with questions.



If you want to know what is happening at Church of the Pines, go to our Facebook page:
facebook.com/churchofthepines



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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

