



# 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.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

*"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun."*

*- Ecclesiastes 1:9*

**Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.**

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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



Happy New Year everyone! Our journey through Advent and Christmas seasons has ended and our journey of a new year has begun. We often think about starting the New Year with something new, like a resolution to start a new hobby. I personally have done this, and as your pastor, have also encouraged you to embrace your faith a new at this time of year. However, this New Year I am not asking us to practice anything new. In fact, I am encouraging us to embrace something that is old... very old.

This year, I want us to embrace the fact that God has kept the promises made in the book of Isaiah. God said that light would shine in the darkness and He has kept that promise in the birth of Jesus. During Advent we prepared ourselves to receive this promise as we celebrated the incarnation, the birth of God's son, Jesus. Here is the good news. The light has come, God has come, over 2,000 years ago. That means that we don't have to wait for the light. It is here and so is the peace, hope, joy, and love that Jesus' light brings. We can embrace and live in the light that has been shining for ages.

Jesus was clear in his life and work with the first disciples that he wanted them and us to continue the work that He began. Jesus called his disciples, and we are also his disciples...the salt and light of the world. He also said that we would do the same work, even doing greater things. Jesus showed us that the core of this greater work consists three simple things: Love God, Love Neighbor, and Love ourselves.

Much like when a coach of a team says that the team needs to focus on the fundamentals, we will focus on these three old things this year. We will begin here in January by seeing the light of Epiphany and then we will be empowered by the promises that God makes us to be his servants, to be instruments of love, as well as the promise that God will be with us as we wrestle with our own fear and doubt.

All that we do this year will be centered on these simple things that have always been with us. At times they may feel new, but they will be as they have been before. We might find ourselves led into new understandings, new ministries, and new opportunities, but we will be guided by the Light that was promised so long ago and still shines bright today, and this New Year.

Blessings.

Pastor Mark

## Leadership, Prayer Requests, Community Table

### 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

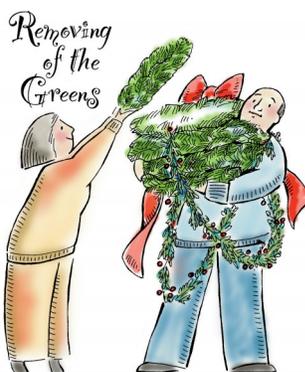


*Please pray for:*

*Family of Bev Scott.  
Bev passed away on  
December 23, 2019*

*Temba Nkomozpi,  
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.



### Removing of the Greens

Help is needed on Sunday, January 5th following the worship service to take down the Christmas decorations throughout the church.

**Thanks.**

*Epiphany Sunday  
January 5, 2019  
10:00 a.m.*



The **Community Table** at St. Matthias Church offers a free meal to everyone in our community on the third Tuesday of each month in cooperation with area churches and organizations. It is a wonderful time to bring the entire community together for food and fellowship. **Church of the Pines will host the Community Table**

**on Tuesday, January 21st at 5:00 p.m. Your help is needed.!** There is a sign up sheet in the Ministry Center to help with food donations, serving, and clean-up. Sign up to participate in this important community outreach, and please join us for food and fellowship on January 21st..

## Birthdays, Hospitality Ministry, Winter Weather Policy



**Church office will be closed on January 1, 2020**



**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.



January 2  
January 4  
January 8  
January 12  
January 12  
January 14  
January 16  
January 17  
January 21  
January 25  
January 27  
January 28

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.

Breanna Semmerling  
Molly Jorgensen  
Rich Klatt  
Micah Gilbert  
Jessica Hilgart  
Val Susor  
Pastor Mark Gilbert  
Sylvi Berklund  
Cameron Gee  
Frances Bechtolt  
Fred Melms  
Kristin Kroening

*Blessings to you on your special day!*



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](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org) and request to be placed on this e-list or you can go to our church website at [www.umchurchofthepines.org](http://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](mailto:office@umchurchofthepines.org).

## Lay Leader



### *Happy New Year!*

Psalm 37:3

Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land,  
and feed on His faithfulness.

I was just meditating on how hard it is to trust the Lord and was thinking that it probably stems from our not understanding how much God loves us, because if we knew, really knew at a gut level that God loves us and has our best interests at heart, we would have no trouble trusting Him at all.

It is no wonder that Jesus loved the little children because they had not become jaded and could accept pure love.

For example: My youngest son, Scott and his wife, have four children, which they love dearly. Those children demonstrate their unconditional trust for their mom and dad often.

The family has a swimming pool in the back yard and it is amazing to see the children just launch themselves into the air to be caught safely in their parents arms.

They are so sure and trusting that they will be caught that there is no hesitation at all.

Why is it so hard for us to do the same? We need to launch ourselves forward in trying to do God's will and even in hard circumstances, know that God loves us unconditionally and promises to catch us. Does that mean that we get everything we want? No, but it does mean we get everything we need.

Gretchen Voigt, lay leader

# Happy New Year

# Stephen Ministry

## The Stephen Ministry Connection



Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry for persons in crisis including grief, hospitalization, terminal illness, caring for an ill family member, family problems, and long-term care. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide one-on-one compassionate, confidential Christian care to persons in need. Could you or someone you know benefit from a listening ear and caring heart? Contact Holly Nash (356-6861) to learn more. We're looking forward to hearing from you. That simple phone call can provide you or someone you care about with help on the journey towards healing and wholeness.



▶ Chris Smith, a single parent with 2 young children, joins the Church of the Pines. You meet Chris, and spend some time talking.

▶ You and Chris start to sit together in church. You and Chris become better acquainted and you give Chris your home number.



▶ Chris calls and you learn that Chris is feeling overwhelmed by family responsibilities and living in a new town. You listen and tell Chris about Stephen Ministry and how a Stephen Minister can help. Chris agrees to your contacting Holly Nash, understanding that all information will be kept confidential.

▶ Holly meets with Chris to discuss Stephen Ministry.

▶ You call Holly and share some basic information about Chris without going into a lot of detail.

▶ Holly calls Chris and they set up a time to meet.

▶ Holly prayerfully considers Chris's situation and assigns Chris a Stephen Minister to meet with Chris on a regular basis.

▶ The Stephen Minister contacts Chris and sets up a time for the two of them to meet.

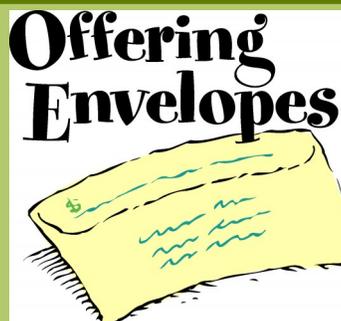


▶ The Stephen Minister and Chris meet for the first caring visit...and caring ministry continues from there.

## Ministry Council, Offering Envelopes

### Summary of Ministry Council Meeting

Ministry Council met on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 with the following members in attendance: Sue Claflin, Tom Frandy, Pastor Mark Gilbert, Merry Jorgensen, Dave Kozeluh, Eric Kroening, Sue Loeffler, Bob Nash, Perry Schuette, Bob Schuld, Gretchen Voigt, Ted Voigt, Jerry Weber, and Sharry Wuest. June Westphal was absent. Some of the congregation's accomplishments this past month included: To-date, this December appears to be one of the busiest times in the church's history - the building is being used a lot (piano/violin recital, Christmas Tea, Madrigal Dinner, Children's Christmas Program, Cookie Walk & Craft Show, Cookie baking and craft-making days); there were many positive comments from Madrigal Dinner guests about the evening and about our beautiful church; Rudy Vlosak and Dave Kozeluh did a great job of cleaning snow from the walkways the night of the Madrigal Dinner. Council members were reminded of the 2020 Leadership Orientation and Potluck that will take place on January 9th at 6:00 pm in the Ministry Center. If the weather prevents the orientation from being held on the 9th, this will be re-scheduled for January 14th. Several local childcare centers were invited to view and purchase items from the Rocking Horse on December 18th and 19th. Additional centers were being contacted. Discussion took place regarding how the proceeds will be allocated in a way to benefit the community's children. It was determined that the space previously utilized as the Rocking Horse Childcare Center be used by the church's LOGOS program beginning in February 2020. It was announced that Rudy Vlosak, church custodian, will retire at the end of 2020. He will, however, continue to work a few hours a week to clean and maintain the church building. SPRC recommended that he be recognized with a bonus for his years of service to Church of the Pines. The Finance Committee recommended, based upon the current financial obligations, that the 2019 apportionment not be paid in 2019. After considerable discussion, the recommendation was approved. The next Ministry Council meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2019.



If you arranged to receive an offering envelope packet for 2020, it can be picked up in the Ministry Center.

## United Methodist Women

### **United Methodist Women**

### **January Activities**



#### **Use your Thank Offering box**

Put a nickel in for every month you intend to keep your New Year's resolution. That's  $12 \times 5 = 60$  cents. Think positive!

#### **Thank you**

A very big thank you to our wonderful UMW (and friends) for completing three major events in rapid succession from the middle of November to the middle of December—first the Fall Pie Sale, then the Cookie Walk, and then the Christmas Tea. This was in addition to your regular circle meetings and other activities. Good job, Ladies!! You are the best!

#### **UMW Circles**

**Dawn Circle** will meet on Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30 am in the Ministry Center.

**Deborah Circle** will meet at 6 pm in the Ministry Center on Tuesday, January 14. We will continue with our Adam Hamilton series, this time looking at Hinduism. Patty Frandy will host.

**Esther Circle** will not meet in January.

**Lydia Circle** will meet in the Ministry Center at 9:30 am on Thursday, January 9. Members will be doing Chapter 11 in our study. Luella Lakich hosts.

**Martha Circle** will meet Thursday, January 9 at 1 pm at the home of Helen Wentz. Nicole Bruette is bringing dessert.

**Ruth Circle** meets Wednesday, January 8th at 1 pm in the Pine Room. Debbie Kilps is hosting.

#### **UMW General Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22 in the Ministry Center. Pat Bechtel will lead us in the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. We will also have Installation of Officers. Join us for fellowship and inspiration. Dawn Circle is hosting. Please RSVP to your Circle chair or to Pat Schuld at 715-356-6872 or email Pat at bob.pat1@frontier.com

**Executive Board** will meet at 10 am on Monday, January 13 in the Pine Room.

# Human Relations Day, 2020 Altar Flowers



## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

*strengthening community  
outreach and empowering  
at-risk youth*



Please consider making a generous donation to our  
January 19th special offering on Human Relations Day.

LIFE'S MOST  
URGENT  
QUESTION IS:  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING FOR  
OTHERS?

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



*Altar  
Flowers  
for 2020*



Thank you to everyone who provided flowers for the Altar this past year. We are now taking requests for Altar flowers for 2020. If you would like to reserve a Sunday on the calendar for flowers, please complete a flower form and return it to the church office. Request forms are located next to the Flower Calendar in the Pine Room.

**WORSHIP  
WITH  
US**



## Greeter/Usher Ministry, 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.



Are you looking for a way to become involved on Sunday mornings? How about serving as a Greeter or Usher? Call Patty Frandy for information at 715-356-2172.

**Odd Couples** will meet Friday, January 17th at 5:30 p.m. at Minocqua Brewing Company for dinner. Dessert will follow at Church of the Pines. Jerry Weber and Sue Damske will serve as hosts. RSVP by Tuesday, January 14th by calling 715-356-3135.



**Keenagers** will meet for potluck in the Ministry Center at noon on Wednesday, January 15. Program to be announced. Anyone is welcome to join us. Just bring a dish to pass. Michael Spiegler of Enhanced Vision will be speaking on and demonstrating technology to help those with vision problems improve their quality of life.

## Mission Highlights, 2020 Special Sunday Offerings

### Mission Highlights

#### ***United Methodist Children's Services***

Based upon their fundamental belief in God's love, United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, Inc. Values the dignity, potential, and worth of each individual, and creates a nurturing environment and sense of community in which miracles happen.

They understand the interconnected nature of poverty and use a multi-faceted approach to address the struggles families face. UMCS recues barriers to basic needs to that families can focus on developing roots in the community, building capacity, and meeting their individualized goals.

Through housing, childcare, resources, and community engagement, we act as a stepping stone for families on their way towards stability. [umcs-wi.org](http://umcs-wi.org)

#### ***Grace Children's Hospital***

Grace Children's Hospital, founded in 1967, is recognized as Haiti's leading medical facility dedicated to treatment of children with tuberculosis (TB). Each year, the hospital receives thousands of children who are suffering from TB, HIV, and other diseases.

Children who are seriously ill are admitted to the inpatient ward, where they receive constant care from the hospital's all-Haitian staff. Both children and adults can be treated at one of Grace Children's Hospitals' many outpatient clinics. People living in the slums around the hospital receive vaccinations, prenatal care, and other basic health services from specially-trained community health workers and volunteers. [internationalchild-care.org](http://internationalchild-care.org)



### **SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS - 2020**

January 19	Human Relations	Global Human Relations
March 22	UMCOR Sunday	Global UMCOR
April 26	Native American Ministries	National
May 10	Golden Cross Sunday	WI UM Health & Welfare
June 7	Peace with Justice	Global Work for Justice
July 12	Blanket Sunday	Global Church World Service
October 4	World Communion	Global Scholarships
November 29	UM Student Day	UM Student Scholarship

# Finance Report

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES  
FINANCE REPORT  
AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2019**

	<u>November Actual</u>	<u>Year Actual</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Versus Year Budget</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Church *	18,308	210,406	15,322
Rocking Horse	<u>1,179</u>	<u>205,494</u>	<u>(35,199)</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>19,487</u></b>	<b><u>415,900</u></b>	<b><u>(19,877)</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>			
Rocking Horse	15,860	223,521	(13,414)
Pastor **	8,126	91,129	1,953
Worship	820	8,671	( 4,572)
Nurture	587	4,615	( 794)
Outreach	1,947	3,288	( 479)
Finance & Administration	5,727	56,128	517
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	4,168	40,253	1,493
Capital Improvements Fund	0	0	0
Youth Fund	0	0	0
Missions Fund ***	1,956	8,207	( 174)
Reserve Fund	0	1,753	583
Conference Apportionment ****	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b><u>39,191</u></b>	<b><u>437,565</u></b>	<b><u>(14,887)</u></b>
<b>Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)</b>	<b>(19,704)</b>	<b>(21,665)</b>	<b>( 4,990)</b>
<b>Total Available Funds 11-30-19</b>		<b>185,577</b>	

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

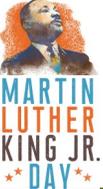
\*\* Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

\*\*\* Includes Special Sundays

\*\*\*\* 2019 Assessment is 37,236

Net cash deficiency (income minus expenditures) for 11 months is 21,665 which is 4,990 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, offset by a higher investment return of 11,327 in the Morgan Stanley Reserve Fund.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office closed 	2	3	4
5 10:00a Worship/ Communion/ Children's Church 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:00a Take down decorations	6 8:30 Leadership Committee 10:00a Lay Leader Meeting 6p Trustees	7	8 9:30a Dawn Circle 1:00p Ruth Circle 3:50-6:15p LOGOS	9 9:30a Lydia Circle 1:00p Martha Circle 6:00p Leadership Orientation/ Potluck	10	11
12 10:00a Sunday Worship/ Children's Church 11:00a Coffee Fellowship	13 10:00a UMW Executive Board 1:00p Prayer Shawl	14 10:00a Worship at Milestone 6:00p Leader- ship Orientation (snow date) 6:00p Deborah Circle	15 12:00p Keenagers 3:50-6:15p LOGOS	16 5:30p Turn the Page Book Club	17 5:00p Odd Cou- ples	18
19 Human Relations Day Offering 10:00a Sunday Worship/ Children's Church 11:00a Coffee Fellowship	20 7:00p SPRC 	21 5:00p Communi- ty Table 7:00p Ministry Council	22 12:00p UMW General Meeting 3:50-6:15p LOGOS	23	24	25
26 10:00a Sunday Worship/ Children's Church 11:00a Coffee Fellowship	27	28 10:00a Between Friends	29 3:50-6:15p LOGOS	30	31	

*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 January 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](https://facebook.com/churchofthepines)



## Contact Us

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Minocqua, WI 54548

Office Phone: 715-356-3041

Visit us on the web at  
[www.umchurchofthepines.org](http://www.umchurchofthepines.org)

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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