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Coming Soon



Cross Winds new website will be launching Phase 1 later this month.

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## Cross Winds

### United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Phone: 763-494-9463

Website: [crosswindslife.org](http://crosswindslife.org)

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

## Sign Up To Stay Connected

Contact Michelle Schober to be added to the email distribution lists for

- "Cross Winds Life", distributed on Fridays - includes pastor's note, important information about the life of the church, and links for upcoming events
- Prayer Chain email updates

## Finance Update

Thank you for your pledge and giving for this new year. Our 2023 Budget was approved by the congregation. We will have our challenges in the months ahead as our budget indicates that we will be in a deficit for the year. As we enter March we need all your giving to support all of our CWUMC ministries.

If you have not pledged for this year it's not too late and no amount is too small.

I would also like to thank all of our volunteers this last year. Our counting team, Lorna Beukelman, Scott McHenry, Jim Rorvick, Sherri Sholund, and Bernt Smith. Big thanks for all the Sundays of counting and making yourselves available for counting. Thanks for our Finance Committee, Roy Testerman, Scott McHenry, Sherri Sholund (Audit Chair), Rick Wiethorn, Steve Weeks (CWUMC Financial Secretary), David Hughes (CWUMC Treasurer), and finally Pastor Stina. Many thanks for your work during the last year.

Thank you again for your blessings and support for our ministries at CWUMC. If you have questions about our 2023 Budget, pledging or questions related to our Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance please contact us at [finance@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:finance@crosswindsumc.org)

## Ministry Staff

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Christy Sturlaugson

Pastoral Intern

Cheryl Purkat

Nursery Supervisor



## Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



*"Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.*

~ John 12:23-26

The Christian season of Lent is not a hallmark movie kind of season. Lent is gritty and searing. It confronts us with our mortality, asking us to question our values, and calling us to make urgent decisions about what matters most. There are no cuddly critters or sweet manger scenes. Instead, Jesus turns our eyes towards the agony of a violent death and calls us to let go of anything that stands between us and God.

Lent also reminds us that we look death squarely in the eyes, because death is not the end. Evil does not last. Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

The season of Lent calls us to reflect on the mystery of our faith

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

We journey towards the cross, not to glamorize violence, but recognizing that God has overcome, God is overcoming, and God will overcome. We look at the cross and join with the Apostle Paul in shouting, *"Where O death is now thy sting?"* ~1 Corinthians 15:55.

The season of Lent is a time to encourage us to keep the faith, live with hope, and serve in love. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians,

*Thanks be to God, who gives us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! As a result of all this, my loved brothers and sisters, you must stand firm, unshakable, excelling in the work of the Lord as always, because you know that your labor isn't going to be for nothing in the Lord.* ~1 Corinthians 15:57-58

This year, I invite you to observe a holy Lent. In the midst of the grit, may God question your values and call you to make urgent decisions about what matters most. May God bless you with the strength to look deeply into the cross so that you may experience the power of resurrected life.

This Lent may you have the grace to know that you do not always know. Trust in God. Let go of what needs to be released. Be open to what is emerging.

As you follow in the footsteps of our Savior, I invite you to pray this prayer with me. It was originally written by Thomas Merton and is one that I pray often....

*O Lord God, I have no idea where I am going, I do not see the road ahead of me, I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself. And that fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire In all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire to please You. And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and you will never leave me to make my journey alone. Amen.*

~ Prayer of Thomas Merton

# SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

So welcome each other,  
in the same way that  
Christ also welcomed  
you, for God's glory  
Romans 15:7

## March Capital Campaign Update

We are excited to share these kitchen construction updates with you. Although the kitchen is not open to the public yet, significant progress has been made. Much of the construction work is well underway and the appliances have been ordered. We hope to have the appliances, cabinets, and countertops installed later this spring.

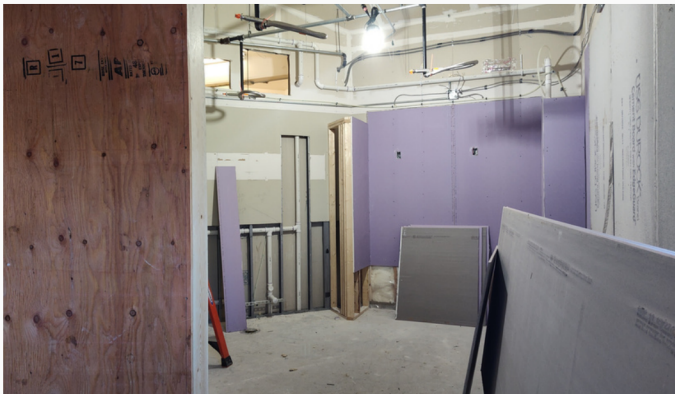
As we prepare to open the kitchen for use, we also are grateful for our newly formed Kitchen Management Team that has been assembled to provide recommendations for kitchen protocols, facilities rental costs, training procedures, and other management needs regarding the use of commercial grade kitchen equipment for ministry and community needs. This team also will provide recommendations to the CW Board for strategic use of the new kitchen, especially with respect to community partnerships and rental requests. This team, led by Jeanine Ronning (board member and hospitality tri-chair), will be meeting over the course of this year to help us get ready for great ministry. We are grateful for the service of this team, including team members - John Mbali, Faustina Otoo, Rev. Joyce Sluss, Allyson Tarnowski, Maureen Weithorn, Jeanine Ronning (facilitator), Stina Koppes (staff representative).





# SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

So welcome each other,  
in the same way that  
Christ also welcomed  
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Romans 15:7





# MIRACULOUS



## **March 5 - Great in the Small**

Luke 9:10-17

Pastor Stina

We are inclined to seek large, spectacular signs and wonders, but God has a way of revealing the Divine through small, seemingly insignificant things.

## **March 19 - A Second Touch**

Mark 8:22-26

Pastor Stina

Healing stories help us to understand Jesus as well as ourselves. Sometimes we see things after Jesus appears in our lives, but it often takes a second try before we see more clearly. In worship today, we also celebrate the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief as we take a special offering for UMCOR and bless the work of Stitches of Love.

## **Holy Week**

Holy Week is a sacred time for Christians to remember Jesus' final week as he journeyed to the cross. We invite you to set aside time for prayer and worship throughout the week, both in-person and online, as we reflect on the mystery of the cross and celebrate his triumphant resurrection.

## **March 12 - Restoration**

Matthew 9:18-26

Pastor Stina

Our physical needs matter to God. Often signs and wonders include God providing healing and restoration of our bodies. Today we reflect on the healing nature of Christ in our midst. After worship, there will be a special time for those wishing to receive healing prayer and anointing with Pastor Stina.

## **March 26- Resurrected Life**

John 11:32-44

Christy Sturlaugson

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is both famous and perplexing. Join us this Sunday as we revisit this story and revel in the power Jesus has to give life to us now, through his embodiment of God's life here on earth.

## **Holy Week Schedule**

Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 2 at 10am

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 6 at 1pm (in-person only)

Good Friday - Friday, April 7 at 7pm

Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 9 at 10am





## Meet Laura Cottington New Candidate for Ministry

It is with great excitement that I share with you my call to ministry as a licensed local pastor. Many of you have supported our family on our faith journey. For some of you, I may not have had the opportunity to meet yet. My husband Brent and our boys attended Cross Winds from 2007 until we felt called to plant a church in Saint Michael and moved there in 2017.

While my call to licensed ministry is recent, I have felt strongly called to ministry leadership since the mid 1990's when we lived in Iowa. Brent and I developed a youth ministry program

in our local church out of need, and were the first lay leaders invited to direct a high school church camp, one week each summer, for 16 years in central Iowa. Working with youth and leading christian education programs, fed my heart with passion for reaching those who had not been invited into a relationship with Christ. My career as an educator, school counselor and coordinator of an alternative middle school program in the metro area here in Minnesota, always found me reaching for those often unseen.

I believe God has been preparing me for this time and season. The desire and passion I feel about being called has never felt so strong as it does now. I believe God has been preparing me with incredible guidance and love through many churches along the way including Cross Winds, and teaching experiences, that God is calling me to lead and love and reach people for Christ, now, as a licensed local pastor.

We are almost seven years now into our work at Saint Michael Community Church and have come to a place where our community needs a shepherd and someone to be there for all of life's events. While I have been providing much of that support already, I have a passionate faith and sense that God has called me to serve at a pastoral level going forward. I have been poured into by so many churches along the way, and I can not be selfish and not share and equip others to pour out the same with Christ's love, and to keep our work and eyes on the Great Commission.

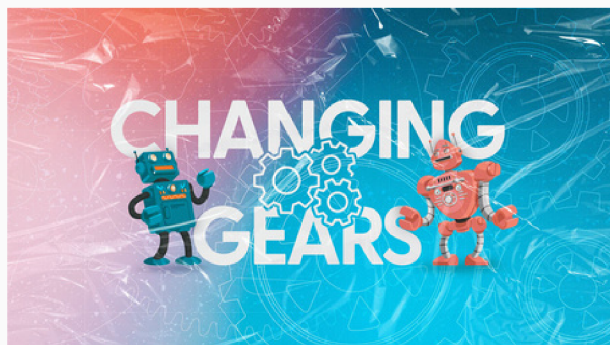
I am forever grateful for Cross Winds UMC and the opportunity that I had to grow my faith there. The support, encouragement, and friendships formed there are lifelong for me and our family, and we will continue to spread the love shared with us.

In February, Laura interviewed with our Staff Parish Relations Committee (Personnel Team) who affirmed her call to ministry and recommended her to appear before the church at a Church Conference to review whether the congregation would affirm that she is a suitable candidate for licensed or ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. The Church Conference on February 28 then voted unanimously to approve her candidacy process.



### March Curriculum

Clank! Beep! Clunk! Kids love robots, especially ones that can transform into something new or have really cool abilities. In this four-week series from Jesus' ministry on earth, you'll introduce kids to a different story each week that shows us how God's truths never change, but Jesus changes everything – including us! We'll see that we change when we know who God is, our past doesn't change God's love for us, and that Jesus changes how we see things because Jesus can change anything!



### Vacation Bible School

June 18-22, 6:30-8:00 pm

I can't tell you how many times a volunteer comes up to me and says that God was speaking to them through VBS. The messages and Bible lessons are directed to the kids, but I have seen firsthand how God uses those messages for the adult and teen volunteers, too. It's amazing to sit back and watch God work in the lives of our volunteers. God is so good! Everything that happens at VBS is all because of Him. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for VBS. An informational meeting will be held at church on Monday March 20 6:30-7:30pm to learn more about volunteer opportunities.





# CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



February learning had something for everyone!  
Bells, glitter, donuts and more! So much fun!





# Family Ministry



## Feed and Speed Weekend March 4 & 5

### Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children  
Sign Up



Meet at the Coon Rapids location to pack meals for children around the world. Our packing time is Saturday March 4 from 9:00-10:45am. Sign up deadline is Feb 28.



### Elm Creek Snow Tubing

All About Elm Creek Tubing



Meet at the Elm Creek Park reserve Chalet for snow tubing! Our reservation time is Sunday March 5 from 1:00-3:00pm. Cost is 8.50 per participant. A safety waiver must be completed before receiving your tubing pass. Sign up by contacting Amber. Sign up deadline is Feb 28.







### Feed My Starving Children

In August of 2022, our students helped pack meals at Feed My Starving Children. We packed 53 boxes which is a total of 26,712 meals. These meals will help feed 73 kids for a year. After a long process, the meals that we packed have arrived at their destination.

“The meals you packed at our Coon Rapids, MN location on August 9, 2022 arrived in Angola on December 10 to help kids fed by ForAfrika.

Precious children are eating a nourishing meal because of you. Thank you. You've made an incredible difference.”

-Feed My Starving Children



### Simpson Housing Services

In January, our students purchased winter items for the shelter at Simpson Housing Services. The items purchased by the youth and donated by Cross Winds UMC have been delivered and are already making a difference!

“Thank you so much for your donation of 3 large tubs full of newly purchased winter and urgent shelter items...Generous donations like yours are the reason we're able to support people experiencing and transitioning out of homelessness. Thank you for standing alongside us in our belief that every human being has a right to safe, affordable, accessible housing, and that by caring for our community, we all grow stronger. We could not do this work without you.”

-Simpson Housing Services





# Adult Ministries and Small Groups

Find a way to connect with others  
at Cross Winds!



## Grief Share - Spring Class

Mondays, March 13-June 12, 6:30-8:00 pm (no class May 29)

Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to register for the GriefShare program held at Cross Winds UMC.

Register online - <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/163045> or contact Pastor Stina for more information. Suggested donation of \$20.



## Contemplative Group Gatherings

Wednesdays, March 1-29, 7-8 pm

Join us for a time of guided prayer and reflection through Centering Prayer and the steps of Lectio Divina. Whether you are interested in developing these spiritual practices for the first time or breathing new life into your current practice, there is a place for you.

Facilitator: Kami Pohl (Certified Spiritual Director)



## Centering Our Stories

Wednesdays, March 1-22, 7-8:30 pm

Join Christy Sturlaugson for a 4-week class focusing on discipleship through knowing and experiencing God in Community. This class will center our own faith stories as a means to build relationships and invite others into the Kingdom of God.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, March 27, 1:30pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet in the Adult Education room. Linda Hoden is bringing treats and hosting. Bring your own beverage, completed shawls, and hats plus your current project to work on. If you knit or crochet or want to learn, you are invited to join us.

## Senior Facilities Team

Wednesday Mornings, 9:00-11:00 am

Gather for fellowship and service with other men on Wednesday mornings. This group meets weekly downstairs for coffee and connection. Then the group works away at various indoor and outdoor projects. Men are welcome to attend as their schedule permits. Group facilitator is Roger Roth.







## Faithful Servant Award 2023

The Care Team presented our second annual Faithful Servant Award in worship on February 12th. The purpose of these awards is to recognize volunteers who have given generously of their time and talents towards the ministry efforts of Cross Winds.

Cross Winds is blessed with many good and faithful servants who love God and love their church. We are grateful for the commitment of this church community.

This year we asked all of you to make nominations of those whose service you recognized. We want to thank all of you who made nominations. Selecting two people was not an easy task for us since all of the nominees are making significant contributions to our church and deserving of this recognition.

This year we are recognizing Marcia Colson and Paul Crosland with this award. Both of these individuals are using the gifts they have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. We thank you for the contributions you are making.

Marcia, you should have been awarded pens, cards and stamps! You have touched so many of our members' lives with your cards and beautiful words. Whether it was sympathy, get well soon, thinking of you, congratulations or a special occasion you have sent a card. You have been involved with the Prayer Shawl Team and made many. Your positive attitude and smile have welcomed all.

Paul, you have been recognized by so many people because of your valuable experience and generosity. You have given your time and talent to the 2022 Capital Campaign. You work with and lead the Trustees. You have shown great leadership and knowledge to oversee the kitchen project. You have been recognized for your style and "we can figure this out" manner that has served us well.

In Matthew 25:23 it states: "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness.'" Thank you Paul and Marcia for inspiring us!



## Cozy Caps and Mittens for Students

With fleece donated by Allyson Tarnowski and Linda Hoden plus patterns and expertise provided by Joan Mann and Linda Hoden, eight women gathered on January 18 with scissors, pins, markers and a few sewing machines and got to work making hats and mittens. Fleece and patterns were taken home to continue the project. Completed fleece hats, mittens, and headbands along with knit and crocheted hats and neck gators and a few purchased hats filled a basket by the Welcome Center. They were

blessed at the February 5 service. A total of thirty-three pairs of mittens, twenty-eight hats, four neck gators and five head bands have, or will be delivered to a number of Osseo elementary schools, Hobart Elementary School and Sullivan Elementary School in Minneapolis. Several hats and mittens were also donated to a family from Ukraine arriving in St. Paul. More hats and mittens continue to be made. Schools are most in need of mittens. If you would like some fleece and patterns to make more, contact Dianne Roth or Pastor Stina. If no longer needed for this winter, they will be stored for distribution next winter. This is one way that we can follow John Wesley's instructions to:

"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can, In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can, To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."

SPECIAL  
SUNDAY

UMCOR SUNDAY

“Surely goodness and mercy shall  
follow me all the days of my life.”

—PSALM 23:6, CEB



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

## United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Sunday March 19

On UMCOR Sunday, we partner with other United Methodist congregations in a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief, an organization that acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. When we give to specific Advance projects, 100% of our gifts are directed to the designated response. UMCOR can do this because the funds we receive today join with those of millions of other United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes. The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are in a time of transition. Together, God’s church is an ambassador for Christ, helping our neighbors navigate ongoing global trauma. Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to be part of extending healing and hope that can guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our gifts and support, we partner with God and God’s people to strengthen Christ’s loving presence in a hurting world. United Methodist Special Sunday celebrations invest in transforming communities, empowering leaders and building up ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step into a grace-filled new beginning with faithful determination. From Haiti to Afghanistan, Louisiana to Bosnia and Herzegovina, UMCOR works to meet people’s daily needs such as health care, food, hygiene and job security. UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities, to respond to those left most vulnerable during this challenging time.

And UMCOR doesn’t just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR cultivates relationships and helps communities rebuild, often for years after the disaster.

Help us strengthen the work of UMCOR by giving to the special UMCOR offering on Sunday, March 19. Checks may be written payable to Cross Winds (please include “UMCOR” in the memo line) or online donations at [www.crosswindslife.org/give](http://www.crosswindslife.org/give) (select “UMCOR” as the subfund).





## **UMCOR Response to Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria**

by Susan Clark

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey at 4:17 am on Monday, February 6, 2023, the most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. In the hours that followed, at least 78 aftershocks were reported, followed by a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude.

The earthquake and aftershocks also impacted northwest Syria, where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance. Syrian communities, many of them women and children, are simultaneously facing an ongoing cholera outbreak and extreme winter weather, including heavy rain and snow.

Thousands have been killed in both countries, and deaths continue to rise as rescue crews seek survivors in collapsed buildings. The humanitarian response is struggling to ramp up to meet the need among the devastation and winter weather.

UMCOR's longstanding humanitarian partner, International Blue Crescent (IBC), has multiple offices and project sites in Turkey. In IBC offices, people fill the halls as they seek shelter, warmth, and a hot meal. With the devastating damage to roads, transport and infrastructure, IBC has received hundreds of families in its Kilis Community Center for shelter, warm items, and hot meals since the first hours Monday morning. Kilis is serving as a major hub for coordination and relief efforts, including for cross-border response into Syria.

UMCOR has released initial solidarity grants to IBC and Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue (working in Syria) to help provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready to eat meals and first aid kits to those who have been displaced. UMCOR staff members are also in touch with other partners in the region. Additional updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Please join UMCOR in prayer for the many people affected by these devastating earthquakes, including the rescue crews seeking survivors and those caring for the injured and displaced.

Support relief and recovery efforts for this and other international disasters by donating to Advance # 982450 here.

*Susan Clark is the chief communications officer for Global Ministries and UMCOR.*

# Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

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Return Service Requested

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