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While we are under construction with the new kitchen, we are witnessing God in the act of creating beauty through the building and people of Cross Winds. This is a season of renovation, restoration, and new beginnings. We may not know exactly where we're going or everything that is going to happen, but we know that God is leading and will do something beautiful with our efforts. If you're looking for a way to connect, serve, grow, or lead, we hope you'll join us in this creative process! Check out the articles inside and see where the Spirit leads you.

Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Road
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Phone: 763-494-9463

Website: 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. We will have our challenges as our CWUMC Congregation approves our 2023 budget. As we enter February 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. 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

Thank you again for your blessings and support for our ministries at CWUMC.

Ministry Staff

Christina Koppes
Lead Pastor

stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org

Michelle Schober

Director of Administration

michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org

Lori Lahtinen

Director of Worship & Music

lorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Amber Lahtinen

Director of Children's Ministry

amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Josh Greer

Director of Youth Ministry

josh.greer@crosswindsumc.org

Nancy Betterman
Accompanist

David Hughes
Treasurer

treasurer@crosswindsumc.org

Christy Sturlaugson
Pastoral Intern

Cheryl Purkat
Nursery Supervisor

Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



"Be careful that you don't practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven."

~ Matthew 6:1

The Christian season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22 this year). Lent is a time set aside to prepare for the celebration of Easter, which honors the resurrection of Christ into our world and our very lives. As a part of our preparation towards Easter, Lent is meant to be a time when we intentionally open ourselves to the work of God in our midst, recognizing there are pieces that need to be let go of and other things that must be restored in order to experience resurrection. Lent is not glamorous but it is renewing. Jesus reminds us that we don't take on practices in order to gain attention or fanfare. We do them because they make room for the kingdom of God to come on earth as it is in heaven.

During the Ash Wednesday liturgy, there is an invitation I extend as pastor, "To the observance of Lenten Discipline," which may be found in our United Methodist Book of Worship. Each year, I say these words:

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now make our confession before our Creator and Redeemer."

*- Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline
(United Methodist Book of Worship, Ash Wednesday Worship Service)*

Whether you attend Ash Wednesday worship in-person or online, I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you will observe a holy Lent in preparation for this worship service and your own Lenten journey. If this Christian season is new to you, I encourage you to attend Ash Wednesday worship to explore more about this sacred season and how God might be leading you to observe a Holy Lent. And if you're looking for a small group to encourage you, I invite you to read through our newsletter, which includes several new class and short term small group opportunities to support you.

SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

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

February Capital Campaign Update

We are excited to share that kitchen construction has begun. A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped this month - Mike Ronning, Dale Bossen, Dick Post, Kevin Dickey, Scott Nagel, Craig Machacek, Dick Post, Amber Lahtinen, Jeff Ducklow, Darrel Ibeling, David Hoden, and Paul Crosland.

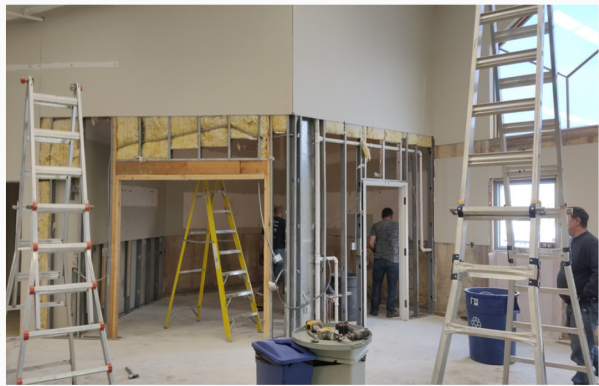
Thank you to Jeanine Ronning for helping to find new homes for the appliances and cabinets!

During construction, we want to share that there will be fellowship time occasionally downstairs, with snacks and water, but we will not have coffee during construction. In addition, we also ask that you do not use the fellowship hall during construction, as it is an active work site. Other rooms will be available for use and we encourage you to contact our Director of Administration, Michelle Schober, for room reservations.



SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

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





re•mark•able

(adjective)

worthy of notice or attention

February 5 - Entertaining Angels

Hebrews 13:1-2; Matthew 25:31-40

Pastor Stina

Sometimes being hospitable can feel like a social obligation filled with pressures that cause us to lose sleep at nights. Yet repeatedly, the Bible encourages us to be hospitable, for in doing so we find ways to welcome the very presence of God. Today we will challenge notions of hospitality and celebrate the ways that God calls us to be hospitable to one another as well as ourselves.

February 12 - No Strings Attached

Romans 12:1-12

Pastor Stina

Special Speaker: JoAn Baker (Can Do Canines)

Special Award Presentation - Faithful Servant Award

Today we celebrate the spiritual practice of service and the joy that comes in giving with no strings attached. JoAn Baker will share about her service with Can Do Canines. During worship, we will also recognize our 2023 recipients of the Faithful Servant Award and honor the work of our Scouts.

MIRACULOUS

February 19 - Which Is Easier?

Mark 2:1-12

Pastor Stina

Sometimes signs and wonders happen when we extend care. What does it mean to extend and receive care in a way that allows God to perform signs and wonders through us?

February 22 - Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 pm

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; Psalm 51:1-17

Student Skit - "Things of God: Signs"

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, which is a period of forty days set aside for spiritual renewal and preparation for Easter. Take time out of your week to pause, find refreshment, and start anew with God as we gather for worship on Ash Wednesday. This simple worship service will feature elements led by our youth and have music featured by the sanctuary choir.

February 26 - Stilling the Storm

Mark 4:35-41

Pastor Shirley Duncanson

After Jesus asks his disciple to take him to the other side of the lake, they anticipate a pleasant trip on the water. Instead, they find themselves in a deadly storm, terrified their boat will be swamped by raging waves. Meanwhile, Jesus sleeps, even as the boat twists in the storm and takes on water. They wonder if Jesus cares. When storms invade our lives, we may wonder if Jesus is asleep, or if not asleep, does he care?

CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



February Curriculum

The internet helps us learn how to do so many things! From new skate tricks and viral recipes to helpful hacks, there's a "how-to" for almost everything. But is there a tutorial video for how to follow God? This four-week series is kind of like that – thanks to some tutorials from Jesus! Each week, we'll focus on one of Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount as we learn "how to" make a difference, love our enemies, share with others, and pray.



Join the Team


Are you feeling called to serve in Children's Ministry? We are looking to add to our team in 2023! Come and be a blessing all while being blessed in the Kid Min program!

Cross Winds Bell Choir!

The Cross Winds Bell Choir will rehearse February 5 at 11am and will perform during the 10am worship service on February 12!



For God

so loved the world
that He gave His
only
begotten 
Son so
that whosoever
believes
in Him shall not
perish but have
eternal life.



John 3:16

CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



January was filled with fun!
We learned about God and His Son.
We had good times and hard, high and low.
And through it all, our faith did grow!

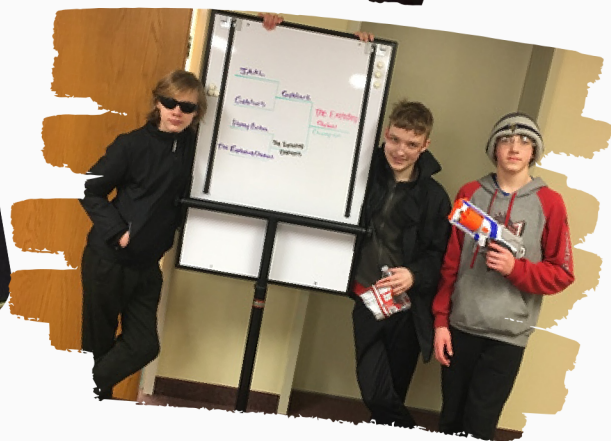




The Ultimate Nerf Battle

On January 21, our students had a blast (pun intended) playing Nerf battles into the night. We had a great turnout and a few first-time guests. Check out the photos to see the fun!

Thank you to everyone who donated cardboard and a huge thank you to Amber Lahtinen (Director of Children's Ministry) for helping paint and set up the Nerf course! We couldn't have done it without everyone's help.





Youth Shopping Trip

On January 11, our students went to Target for the annual youth shopping trip. Instead of purchasing toys this year, our students purchased winter gear and supplies for Simpson Housing Services. It was a joy to see our students picking out items for those who are experiencing homelessness while also learning the value of what many of us take for granted daily.

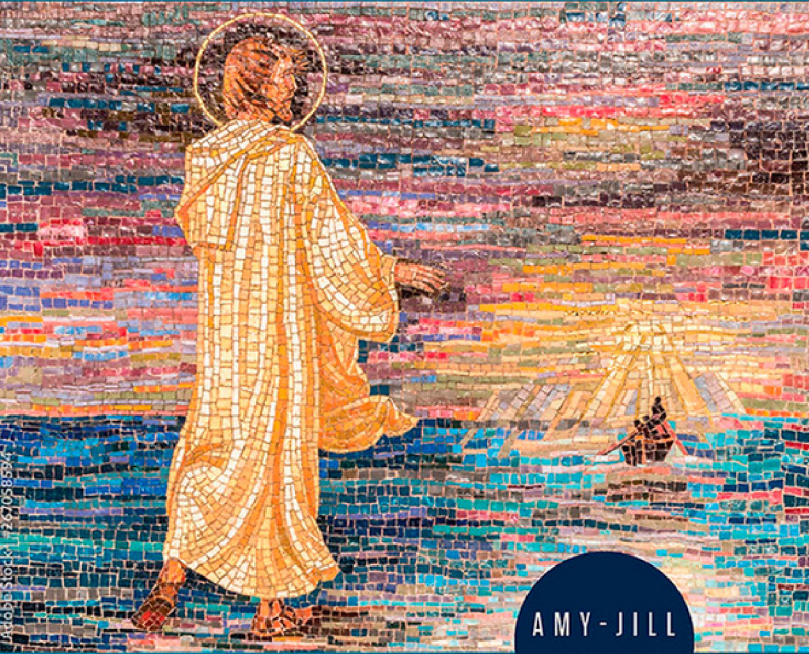
Thank you to everyone who helped transport our students to and from Target!



Simpson Housing Services - Thank You!

A big thank you for supporting the Christmas mission offering towards Simpson Housing Services through your donation of winter care items and financial donations. Your generosity raised over \$1800 in addition to collecting dozens of hats, many pairs of thermal underwear, and other shelter items. Thank you for being a blessing!

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE *to the* MIRACLES OF JESUS



AMY-JILL
LEVINE

SIGNS *and* WONDERS

Adult Study
6 week series
begins in February

Wednesdays at 1PM
or
Sundays at 9AM

sign up: online or through the church office

Signs and Wonders

Wednesdays, February 22-March 29, 1 pm

Sundays, February 26-April 2, 9 am

Spend six weeks growing in your faith with this new adult education opportunity. In *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context. For each miracle, she discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions.

- Wednesday class led by Pastor Shirley Duncanson & Pastor Lori Walber
- Sunday class led by Steve Weeks

Other Ways to Participate

- Purchase the book *Signs and Wonders* by Amy-Jill Levine (paperback/e-books available on Amazon, Cokesbury, etc.). Copies are available at the church for purchase as well.
- Watch the Amy-Jill Levine videos through Amplify Media. Register for a free personal user account under the Cross Winds subscription for Amplify Media. This online library of videos and spiritual studies (think of it as a "Methodist Netflix") includes the video series for this study and MUCH MORE! Watch one video per week and spend time journaling or praying in response to what you hear.

For more information about small groups, purchasing books, or Amplify media, contact Pastor Stina, stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org



SPRING GRIEF SHARE

Mondays - March 13-June 12

No class May 29

Register online - See event on the church
website

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.

This nondenominational program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was seen on the DVD. Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage as a slave to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future. Grief-related books/materials are made available for participants.

GriefShare will be held on Mondays (6:30-8pm) beginning March 13 in the adult education room of Cross Winds UMC. Register online - <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/163045> or contact Pastor Stina for more information. Suggested donation of \$20.

Adult Ministries and Small Groups

Find a way to connect with others
at Cross Winds!



Contemplative Group Gatherings

Centering Prayer
& Lectio Divina

Five
Wednesdays
in March
7-8pm

Contemplative Group Gatherings

Wednesdays, March 1-29, 7-8 pm

Are you looking for a way to turn towards God and learn how to listen to what God might be saying to you? Join us for a time of guided prayer and reflection through Centering Prayer and the steps of Lectio Divina. We will pray through the Scripture passage that will be used in worship the following Sunday. 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)

Knowing & Experiencing God in Community

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. Storytelling is an ancient art-form. A powerful one at that. Stories give us an opportunity to learn from another's experience, to learn and engage with ideas or situations we would not otherwise. This class will center our own faith stories as a means to build relationships and invite others into the Kingdom of God. We will meet the first four Wednesdays in the month of March, 7-8:30pm.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, February 27, 1:30pm

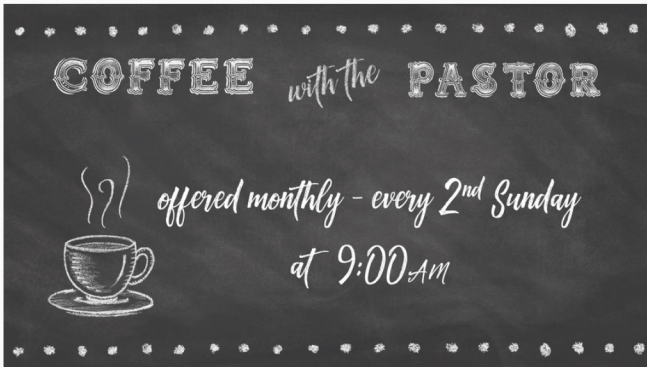
Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet in the Adult Studies Room. Bring your own beverage, completed shawls, and knit hats plus your current project to work on. Schools need hats if you want to continue to make them. Hope to see you there.

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.





Coffee with the Pastor

Sunday, February 12, 9:00-9:45 am

If you are newer to Cross Winds or interested in learning more about the church, stop by the Fellowship Hall for "Coffee with the Pastor" meeting every second Sunday of the month (9:00am-9:45am). No registration required. These informal visits are simply an opportunity to learn more about the church and get to know others.

Baptism Workshop

Sunday, February 19, 9:00-9:45 am

Open for all families considering baptism for their children. These classes are led by Pastor Stina to help families prepare for the sacrament of baptism. Workshops are offered every third Sunday of the month (9:00am-9:45am). Families do not need to pre-register to attend a workshop. However, if a family wants a child baptized, we ask that you attend a baptism workshop or schedule a meeting with the pastor. To learn more contact Pastor Stina (stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org).



New Member Sunday

Sunday, February 19

During worship on Sunday, February 19th we are excited to welcome new members to Cross Winds. If you are interested in becoming a member, stop by a "Coffee with the Pastor" event or contact Pastor Stina (stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org) to learn more about joining the church.



Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Rd
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Return Service Requested

The Compass

is the monthly newsletter of
Cross Winds United Methodist Church

www.crosswindslife.org

Phone: 763-494-4963

