



## **This issue:**

**Finance Update**  
PAGE 2

**Pastor's Corner**  
PAGE 3

**Capital Campaign Update**  
PAGE 4-5

**Kitchen Task Force**  
PAGE 6

**Worship**  
PAGE 7

**Meet Rev. Joyce Sluss**  
PAGE 8

**Adult Ministries**  
PAGE 9

**Children's Ministries**  
PAGE 10-11

**VBS Highlights**  
PAGE 12-13

**Youth Ministries**  
PAGE 14-15

**Connections Team**  
PAGE 16

**MN Annual Conference Report**  
PAGE 17

**Worship Highlights**  
PAGE 18-19

# Cross Winds UNPLUGGED

JULY 2023



For the month of July we will not be filming worship while we do some updates on our sound booth. For those worshipping online, we encourage you to check out previous worship experiences you have missed!

Join us in-person for a month of traditional worship services. We will actually sing from the hymnal!



## 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 Thursdays - 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 2023.

### Operating Fund

We will have our challenges in the summer months ahead as our historical giving indicates that giving will be less than the monthly expenses, thus resulting in a deficit. During this summer 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.

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 Capital Campaign Fund, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance please contact us at [finance@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:finance@crosswindsumc.org)

## Ministry Staff

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Cheryl Purkat

Nursery Supervisor



## Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



*“Everything is permitted, but everything isn’t beneficial. Everything is permitted, but everything doesn’t build others up. No one should look out for their own advantage, but they should look out for each other. Eat everything that is sold in the marketplace, without asking questions about it because of your conscience. The earth and all that is in it belong to the Lord.”*

~ 1 Corinthians 10:23-26

This spring I became a Certified Food Safety Manager in order to help Cross Winds navigate the licensing process of opening a commercial kitchen. I must confess to you that this ranks up in my “wouldn’t have guessed that” list of job experiences, but then again so did weekly televangelist. Going through the training and credentialing process with the MN Department of Health and our County Health Inspectors has opened a space for me to reflect on our shared responsibilities towards the common good especially as it extends to our larger community beyond our church family.

In the Bible, the Apostle Paul also dealt with food safety rules, albeit a slightly different context. In his first letter to the Corinthians (chapter 10), he speaks in some detail towards the early church’s relationship between food purity laws and social hospitality. There were a lot of details to work out as to how a church would gather for their own church family gatherings as well as what would happen when church members would extend hospitality towards others or attend other public gatherings. There were so many dietary rules! Plus, at that time, animals were sacrificed to various gods, so eating certain things mustered up a conversation about idol worship and other concerns.

Nowadays we may not have the same concern about animal sacrifice, but we definitely still have lots of questions about food purity, safety, and the economic implications of our hospitality choices. As a church, we’re going to be figuring these things out together as our kitchen opens. I anticipate it will take us time to get our footing. In the discernment, I encourage us to remember the framework the Apostle Paul used with that early church in Corinth. As we make our decisions, let us focus on the things that help to build up. After all, everything may be beneficial, but not everything will build up. We must not look out to our own advantage but stay focused on looking out for one another. When we do so, we will welcome Christ in our midst and God will be glorified.

# SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

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

## Capital Campaign Update - The Kitchen

We are excited to share that kitchen construction is ending and we are moving in. Thanks to your generous support of the Capital Campaign and our Spring Kitchen Shower, we have been able to build the kitchen sooner than expected AND furnish it with essential items.

We are excited to share that we have completed our inspections and are now able to serve as a fully licensed commercial kitchen. Although it will still take us a few months to get accustomed to the new space and systems, we are delighted to explore with you the new possibilities for ministry and community partnerships that are possible because of this amazing new resource.

An extra word of thanks to everyone who has given generously of their time and talents towards this project. We are truly blessed by the amazing generosity of time, talent, and treasures shared among so many people! For June, we especially want to say a word of thanks to Mike and Jeanine Ronning, Craig Machacek, Michelle Schober, and Paul Crosland who have all been working tirelessly behind the scenes to get this project successfully to the finish line.

Future Capital Campaign Projects – There are more projects coming in 2024. Next projects will focus on building security and the front door access upgrades.



# SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

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

## We've Come So Far!



# KITCHEN Taskforce

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

## Kitchen Task Force Team Update

As construction draws to a close, the Kitchen Task Force Team has been working hard to ensure the new kitchen is operational and hospitable. Through the generous efforts of your donations towards the kitchen shower, we continue to purchase supplies to outfit the kitchen. We are also working on basic operations management for storage, workflow, and volunteer readiness.

As we learn how to use a commercial grade kitchen, we are working on developing all of the standardized procedures and expectations for taking good care of the place. We appreciate your patience in getting this assembled and will be ready to open our doors to the public in the coming year.

We also look forward to starting new ministry initiatives soon as we get all the supplies and procedures ready. Keep your eyes open for exciting new kitchen ministry volunteer opportunities coming this fall and beyond.

A big thanks to all our Kitchen Task Force Members – Jeanine Ronning (chair), John Mbali, Rev. Joyce Sluss, Allyson Tarnowski, Maureen Wiethorn, and Pastor Stina.



# MESSAGES FROM THE WILDERNESS



***Throughout the Bible there are stories of people who faced adversity in the wilderness. Each of us has seasons in our own lives when we walk through the wilderness - facing anxieties, fears, and loss. In this series, we will study the lives of five biblical characters who found themselves in the wilderness and reflect on their experiences provide wisdom for us to survive our own wilderness experiences.***

## **July 2 - Big Dreams**

Genesis 37:1-11

Making sense of our dreams can be disorienting, threatening, and disruptive especially in a family system rife with jealousy and favoritism. What does it take to have the wisdom to discern what dreams are from God and which ones are simply of our own devices? Will any dream really do?

## **July 16 - Under a Palm Tree**

Judges 4:1-7

Usually when we imagine sitting under a palm tree, we picture sandy beaches and tropical drinks. In the book of Judges, Deborah sat under a palm tree to judge disputes during a period of Israel's history that was tumultuous and violent. How do we find words of wisdom and instruction from these ancient histories?

## **July 30 - At the Cave's Entrance**

1 Kings 19 excerpts

In the midst of terror and confusion, the prophet Elijah was ready to give up on the world and himself. Feeling alone and attacked, after Elijah flees for his life, we learn that God shows a way through even the most chaotic moments of despair. The worst thing is never the last thing with God. In the midst of the wilderness, God speaks through silence with a word of hope to Elijah and to us all.

## **July 9 - I'm Coming Too**

Ruth 1:1-5

The book of Ruth tells a story of faithful love, mercy, and redemption. What does it take to let love guide us even in the midst of incredible heartbreak and uncertainty? Join us as we study the book of Ruth and how often "happily ever after" takes a few twists and turns.

## **July 23 - Patience? What's That and Why?**

Rev. Joyce Sluss

Genesis 16:1-6

God made a covenant with Abram that included a multitude of descendants. Yet Abram was still childless at age 80. Who is crazy here? Against all odds can you still rely upon God?



**Meet Rev. Joyce Sluss  
Minister of Community Engagement**

I am very excited to become a member of the staff at Crosswinds UMC.

My husband Mike and I moved to the area last September, and finding a church home was a top priority for us. We were looking for a strong United Methodist connection, an open and welcoming congregation with a good mix of people, and a lively choir. Bingo! Cross Winds filled the bill perfectly. You have helped to make our transition back to Minnesota (after 42 years away) very successful. Thank you.

I have a Masters Degree in Social Work and a Masters Degree in Christian Education. I have been working in various U.M. congregations in Wisconsin and Oregon since 1988. I was ordained a Deacon in the United Methodist Church in 2001. I feel that I am called into ministry to help people of all ages build a closer relationship with God. I feel that can happen in a myriad of ways: missions, outreach, and fellowship-- just to name a few.

Right away I could sense that Cross Winds is a generous congregation with your time, talents, and gifts. I noticed you pitched in to help other congregations be successful in their varied mission endeavors. My goal is to help this congregation become even more engaged in the community, both near and farther away. Your new commercial kitchen will be a great tool in that endeavor. There are many other possibilities. But being new, I will need your help getting to know the neighbors we have and finding new opportunities to engage with them. I would love to hear your thoughts on this. Please reach out to me and introduce yourself.

*Rev. Joyce Sluss*



# Adult Ministries and Small Groups

Find a way to connect with others  
at Cross Winds!



## THIRSTY August Worship Series

Wednesday Social Gatherings  
August 9-30, 6:30-7:30 pm

Gather with Pastor Stina on the new church deck for mid-week gatherings that connect with our August worship series, "Thirsty." Each week will include beverages and snacks that accompany the theme for the week.



## August Thirsty Worship Series - Wednesday Social Gatherings

August 9-30, 6:30-7:30 pm

Gather with Pastor Stina on the new church deck for mid-week gatherings that connect with our August worship series, "Thirsty." Each week will include beverages and snacks that accompany the theme for the week. No prep work is required and conversations will be casual as we enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshment. For people interested in deeper personal study, we have copies of Rev. Rhoda Preston's book, "Thirsty" at the church to enrich your time of personal devotion. In case of inclement weather, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall.

## Game Group

3rd Thursday of the Month - 1:30 pm  
Bring a board game and your own beverage



## Game Group

Thursday, July 20, 1:30 pm

Do you like to play board games or enjoy fellowship with church friends? You are invited to bring your favorite board game to Fellowship Hall for fun and fellowship. Please bring your own beverage of choice. No need to sign up. Just show up! Contact Marlan Tevis for more information or for questions.

## 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.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, July 24, 1:30pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, July 24 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Cheryl Grenz is hosting. Bring your own beverage and project that you are working on. New members welcome.

# CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



## The BIG Event

Thank you to everyone that attended the BIG Event on June 3!



# CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



We kicked off the summer right-learning, loving and being a light!



## Feeling called to serve?

Are you feeling called to serve in Children's Ministry? We are looking to add to our team for the 2023-2024 school year! Come and be a blessing all while being blessed in the Kid Min program!



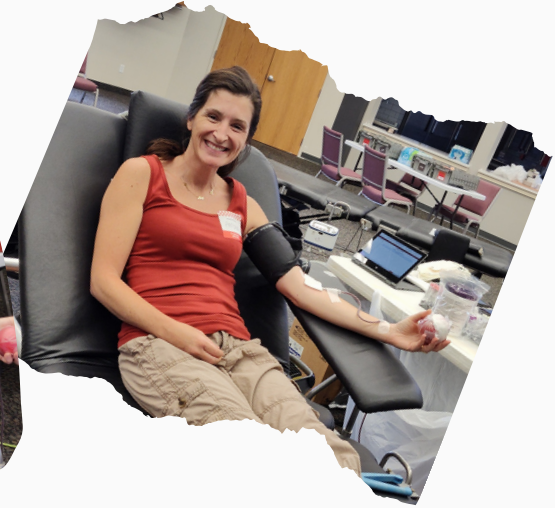
## Nursery - July 2

There will be no staff present in the nursery on July 2. If you need to use the nursery during the service, you are welcome to do so, you will just need to stay with your child.



## Margaret Marsh Memorial Blood Drive

Thank you to all who gave blood and helped make this event a success! 25 total units were collected and 33% of donations were from first-time givers. Margaret would have been proud!





## Vacation Bible School

What a week! You are all heroes! VBS will always hold a special place in my heart. Having the opportunity to bring together all ages in worship is an honor. Keep answering God's calls, my friends!







### Youth Ministry Updates

“Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don’t let anyone put you down because you’re young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed –keep that dusted off and in use.” - 1 Timothy 4:11-14

As we enjoy a summer break from the school year routines, we all have an opportunity to get out into the world. This change of pace gives us an opportunity to test out new parts of ourselves, exploring what is growing and changing. This summer, I pray for all our students and families that as you take your own summer adventures, you have a chance to “teach...with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity.” Test out the things you are learning. Integrate the virtues God is cultivating in your heart. Do not let anyone put you down because you’re young, but rather claim the gifts God has given you and put them to good use.

### Youth Ministry Staffing Update

As we prepare for fall programming, Pastor Stina will continue to serve as the primary staff coordinator of youth ministries. We are realigning her work so that she will be able to provide more time specifically devoted to youth ministry leadership and teaching. This fall, Pastor Stina will serve as the primary Confirmation class teacher and be responsible for coordinating all volunteers working with our students in middle school and high school. We hope to have a parent meeting this summer to discuss the next steps of youth ministry soon. Stay tuned for invitations to parent meetings, youth ministry leadership team opportunities, and more information about the school year program. For additional information, please contact Pastor Stina ([stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org))

### Coming Soon

#### Registration for Fall Programming

Pastor Stina is diligently working on preparing a great fall lineup for your students. Information about fall classes and youth groups will be available in a few weeks.

#### Relaunch of Youth Ministry Team

We are in the process of relaunching our Youth Ministry Leadership Team. Be on the lookout for a summer meeting happening soon. If you are interested in serving on the Youth Ministry Leadership Team or have a nomination to share, please contact Pastor Stina.



### Blessing to our July Summer Festival Campers

Please pray for our students and adults who will be attending Summer Festival Camp at Gustavus Adolphus College later this month. Chaperones include Alyssa Honmyhr and Cheryl Purkat. May our students experience the joy that comes from knowing Jesus!



## Twin Cities River Rats Show

### Cross Winds Youth Road Trip on July 26, 5pm-9pm

All CW students (grades 6-12) and family members are invited to cheer Audrey and Hannah at the River Rats Waterski Show on Wednesday, July 26. We will meet at church at 5pm. All participants should bring blankets or chairs, bottled water, snacks or money for concessions. We will return to Cross Winds by 9pm. Contact Pastor Stina to reserve your spot in the carpool by Sunday July 23. Learn more about the Twin Cities River Rats at <http://tcriverrats.com/> or watch <https://vimeo.com/191858186>



## Deliver Hope – Second Harvest Trip & Social Time August 2, 11am-5pm

Deliver hope where it's needed most by volunteering at Second Harvest with youth from Cross Winds AND White Bear Lake UMC. We will meet at church for lunch and ice breakers, then carpool to Second Harvest in Brooklyn Park to assist with sorting and packing food. Afterwards, the groups will meet up for a fun afternoon activity to celebrate. Learn more about [Second Harvest](#). [Online registration](#) is due by July 30. Group limited to 12 (grades 6-12). Cost \$10. Scholarships available upon request. Contact Pastor Stina for more information.

## Information about Second Harvest Service Project

Volunteers assist with sorting, labeling, weighing and packing various food items to meet immediate needs and help feed our hungry neighbors. The projects vary from day to day and volunteer positions require volunteers to be able to twist and bend down, stand for the duration of their shift, and lift up to 5 pounds.

Dress Code: Shirts must cover the shoulders, armpits, and bellies (no tank tops or crop tops) for food safety purposes. Shorts are okay to wear. Closed-toe shoes are required. If you forget we will ask you to wear a set of disposable socks and slip-on clogs. Wear comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. No jewelry. You will be asked to remove all watches, fit bits, earrings, rings, bracelets, necklaces and other jewelry items. It is almost impossible to get back a jewelry item that is lost in the repack process.

## Youth Night at Fish Lake - August 22, 5-8pm

Calling all middle school and high school youth. Join us for an end-of-summer youth gathering at Fish Lake. We will meet at church at 5 pm and carpool to Fish Lake Park for swimming, BBQ dinner, and a team corn hole tournament.

Plan to wear your swimsuit and bring your appetite and an outdoor chair. We will return to church at 8 pm for parent pickup. Rising 6th graders are encouraged to attend! [Register online](#) by Friday, August 18. This is a FREE Event.

In case of rain, we will have a rain date held for Thursday, August 24. For more information, contact Pastor Stina ([stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org)) or Lori Lahtinen ([Iorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:Iorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org)).

**End of Summer Youth Gathering**  
Fish Lake Park  
Tuesday, August 22, 5-8 pm

FREE EVENT

Join for a great time of swimming, BBQ, and a team corn hole tournament

**Register online**





# Connections

## Connections Team Update

This fall, Cross Winds launched a one-year pilot program leadership team called the Connections Team. The team consisted of program staff and lay volunteers partnering together to discern and prioritize ministry activities that align with the values of Cross Winds. The aim was to be a hub for ministry programming; aware of activities across the church but not responsible for execution of all programs. The Connections Team took on the work previously cared for by the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) and assorted program ministry teams such as mission team, adult education team, etc.

We are grateful for the following leaders who committed to this pilot program work: Jamie Boettcher (Chair), Kris Kosloski (hospitality representative), John Mbali, Cindy Hall, Kathryn Wahl, Pastor Stina, Lori Lahtinen (Director of Worship), Amber Lahtinen (Director of Children's Ministry), Josh Greer (Director of Youth Ministries), and Christy Sturlaugson, our Pastoral Intern.

After reflection and discovery of this initial team, it has been recommended to the Cross Winds Board that a new elected leadership team be formed, known as the Connections Committee, bringing it into the folds of other elected-leader committees (such as Trustees, SPRC, Nominations, etc.). This would also entail formalizing the member structure into three-year terms ("classes") and the fulfillment into the work of the Nominations committee. The attributes identified at the start of the pilot year still hold true: This team needs passionate, curious, engaged people who are committed to partnering with staff for brainstorming, planning, discerning, commissioning, and collaborating on Cross Winds programs. One of the lay members on the Connections committee should have a strong connection to the hospitality team.

Upon review of this recommendation, the Board approved the formation of the Connections Committee. This summer, work will begin on forming this new elected leadership committee. We ask you to pray for the work of all of our elected church leaders, but especially for the development of this new committee.

For more information about the Connections Committee or to share a nomination, please contact Pastor Stina ([stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org)), Jamie Boettcher, or Rev. Joyce Sluss.





## MN Annual Conference Meeting Report

On May 31 and June 1, delegates from across MN gathered for the 169th session of the Annual Conference meeting of MN United Methodist congregations. Cross Winds delegates included Stina Koppes (Clergy), Michelle Schober (lay delegate), Shirley Duncanson (retired clergy), and Paul Baker (retired clergy).

**Theme:** Drawing on Luke 24:13-35, the theme of this year's gathering was "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience." This post-resurrection story where everything has changed, and the implications still seem a bit cloudy mirror the time and space we are living in as a church. We, like the two disciples, are on the road, asking deep questions, and trying to make sense of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. And we, too, are finding that we encounter Christ in transforming ways when we do.

**Bishop's Episcopal Address:** In the Emmaus Road story, the impossible becomes possible as the world is made right again through encounters with the resurrected Christ who brings healing, reconciliation, and hope. Bishop Lanette Plambeck, in her inaugural Episcopal Address, reminds us that this story for the two disciples on the road is our story too. During this challenging time in The United Methodist Church, she invited those of us in the Minnesota Conference to lean into one another and declare that there is enough love for all of us, and she reminded each person: You are loved. You are a child of God and a person of worth. There are no exceptions. ([Watch or download Episcopal Address.](#))

**Milestones in ministry:** Those gathered honored and thanked 14 clergy entering retirement, and they celebrated four pastors ordained as elders, two commissioned as provisional members, three local licensed pastors who completed their five-year course of study, and 13 people authorized to serve as local pastors in the congregations and ministry areas in which they are appointed. Familiar to Cross Winds included Rev. Dan Johnson (retiring), Laura Cottington (Licensed Local Pastor) and Christy Sturlaugson (Licensed Local Pastor).

**Love Offering:** Conference members, on behalf of their churches gave just over \$40,000 to the 2023 Love Offering. Sixty percent of it will fund a new grant to support churches that have partnerships with mental health services offered in local schools or communities, 30 percent will go to three Minnesota nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy, and 10 percent of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

**Legislation:** Hundreds of voting members in attendance at Annual Conference approved all pieces of legislation before them, including resolutions opposing assault-style weapons, addressing the Israeli detention of children, and supporting both a U.S. Regional Conference and the removal of all discriminatory policies and harmful language related to sexual orientation from the Book of Discipline.

To learn more about the work of the Annual Conference, read the [2023 Missional Report](#).

# WORSHIP

## Highlights



# WORSHIP

## Highlights



# 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](http://www.crosswindslife.org)

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