



This issue:



Community Night **Wednesday February 25, 5:30pm**

Come deepen your connections and discover new faces at our February Community Night! This relaxed gathering is the perfect opportunity to share stories, laugh together, and grow our community spirit! Whether you're a long-standing member or new to the congregation, everyone is invited to join us for an evening fun, food and fellowship! We can't wait to see you there!

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FEBRUARY

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 Tuesdays - includes important information about the life of the church, and links for upcoming events
- Prayer Chain email updates

MN Annual Conference News

Stay up to date on news from the MN Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

www.minnesotaumc.org

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I would like to take this opportunity to offer a most heartfelt thank you for the gifts and cards that I have received within the last 2 months. Your thoughtfulness and generosity has meant the world to me. Thanks for your words of encouragement, your hugs of love, your gracious spirit, and many delicious homemade gifts. Thanks as well for the generous gift cards to various places with the Maple Grove community.

Thank you for your giving, gracious spirit... I count it a real joy and privilege to serve among you at Cross Winds Church.

With a sincere and grateful heart ~ Pastor Dianne

It certainly takes a village, both in raising children as well as supporting people undergoing surgery and recuperating in a hospital. I would like to thank all of the Cross Winds members that sent cards and food, and, more importantly, sent the many prayers during my heart bypass surgery. I truly felt all of the prayers, and those, combined with the prayer shawl that I wore all during the surgery and recovery, provided an incredible support during a period of much anxiety. I would like to say THANK YOU and look forward to continuing God's work and mission with our congregation. ~Tim Peschman



"The Gift Of Winter"



The cold has really descended on us in Minnesota. There is not much snow to speak of but the temperatures have conspired to remind us where we live and what we are made of. This morning as I walked out to roll the garbage can to the curb for its pickup later today, I had that feeling of my airways freezing that I have yet to experience this winter. I smiled as much as my frozen cheek muscles would allow. So, I suppose it is time to settle in and remember the gifts of cold, frosty winter life.

Yesterday morning in my home, I was offered just such a gift. While getting ready for a full day ahead, I opened the drapes in my bedroom and saw something that took my breath away. The window glass, itself a kind of victim of winter's harsh winds, was swathed in what at first glance looked like lace. It was so incredibly beautiful and intricate that I just stood there taking in this gift of winter. Its patterns seemed impossible. How could something so beautiful be created without intention?

Now there was a question to carry around for the day! I have no idea how ice crystals or patterns form. Whatever Science class I took back in the day that explained this probably went right over my head. I now regretted how my single-minded wishing to participate in something other than Science class left me unable to understand how the combination of water, condensation, cold air and sun could create such an amazing pattern, such a work of art.

You see, the pattern not only looked like lace but also like a tree. A tree in the forest of the Winter Queen. The patterns had formed as if painted on the glass with some unseen hand who knew just what we needed to wake us up on a frigid morning in the midst of all that is happening in the world. Just what we needed to send us out into the world with praise on our lips and awe in our hearts. Just what we needed to remind us that there is a creative Hand in the world that is not ours.

Later in the day I thought of all the other patterns in this wide and wonderful world that may seem to be without intention. The center of a tulip for instance as it breaks forth in fireworks or a newborn's feathery eyelashes. The way in which the sun can reflect off one of the cut glass ornaments I keep hanging on the sliding glass doors, creating tiny rainbows all over the walls just as the sun is setting each day. The rivulets of water that spin and then spiral over the rocks in a stream.

It is easy for me to get caught up in the things I can understand and make sense of in some ordered way. But every now and then it is good to have a wakeup call that reminds me of all the wonders I cannot, and will never be able to understand. That is where awe walks in to take up residence and I am once again reminded of being a tiny part of a Universe that continues to expand and amaze. In that instant I am reminded of my work here: To stay awake. To notice. To be amazed. To tell the story. To be filled with gratitude.

There are many experiences that can remind us of the treasures of winter. For those of you reading this who are also experiencing the rush of freezing temperatures, my hope and prayer is that you are offered a gift of winter this day. Keep your eyes and heart open for the lace that is being spun all around. If we have eyes to see.

*As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne*

Worship



February 1 - Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the United Methodist Church, communion is a means of grace and a holy mystery where Christ is spiritually present and the invitation is open to all.

February 8 - Love Boldly

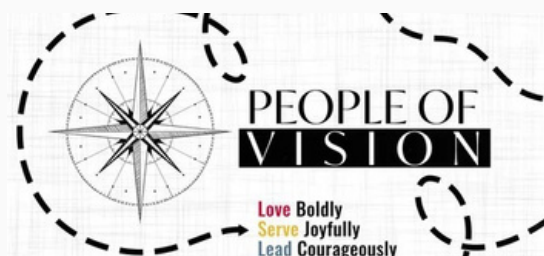
Matthew 22:34-39

We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life.

February 15 - Serve Joyfully & Lead Courageously

Psalms 100; Ephesians 6:10

With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy and lead courageously by following the example of Jesus.



February 18: Ash Wednesday - A Clean Heart

Psalms 51:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Though Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey, we must remember that all long journeys begin not with the first step or rolling down the road, but with preparation.



February 22 - Mercy on the Wilderness Road

Psalms 32; Matthew 4:1-11

Where is mercy in the wilderness? This is a driving question behind the first Sunday in Lent. Every year, we begin Lent by joining Jesus in the wilderness, witnessing the temptation, and examining what Jesus' temptation means for us. This year, we come to the wilderness afresh, ready to pay attention and encounter mercy at work in the midst of temptation, distress, and the help that comes along the way.

JOIN A TASK FORCE

The Time is NOW!

Help Cross Winds make decisions
for our future.

3 Short-Term Task Force Groups Being Formed

Purpose

Develop action plans to move our resources into ministry

Time Commitment/Action

- Initial 6-month commitment, beginning early February
- 1-2 meetings/month (virtual or in-person)
- Explore, identify resources/partners for assigned area and make recommendations to board/leadership and congregation

Task Force Groups

- **Budget: Mortgage/Assessment Workout Plan**
 - Board/Leadership: John Mbali and Alan Storry
 - Staff rep: David Hughes
 - 1-2 open seats
- **Building: Increasing Facility Utilization & Revenue**
 - Board/Leadership: Ali Lundin/Brianna Bruers
 - Staff reps: Michelle Schober/Amber Lahtinen
 - 1-2 open seats
- **Kitchen: Implement Ministries and Community Outreach**
 - Board/Leadership: Jeanine Ronning/John Mbali
 - Staff rep: Michelle Schober/Amber Lahtinen
 - 1-2 open seats:

Consider your personal call to serve on a task force group and call the office or reach out to Becky Real as soon as possible so the leaders can gather their groups
YOU are the church! God is calling us to amazing things! In the midst of a world that feels dark, may God's light shine through you!



CROSS WINDS

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

2025-2026



Mentor Series

Wednesdays this Winter: Jan 7- Feb 25, 2026

Mentors are an important part of a confirmand's journey. Our mission is to equip and inspire young people to devote themselves to lives of Christian discipleship. Please pray for our students and mentors.



Family Movie Night Friday February 13, 6:30pm

You're invited to our February Movie Night at church as we watch *A Dog's Purpose*! This heartwarming film explores love, loyalty, and the many ways our lives are shaped through relationships. As the story unfolds, it invites us to reflect on purpose, connection, and how even small acts of love can make a lasting difference.

Join us on Friday, February 13, at 6:30 pm for a cozy evening of fellowship, popcorn, and a movie that's sure to bring both smiles and a few tears. All are welcome- bring a friend and come enjoy the night together!



Blessed with the best!

Program leaders:
Cheryl & Jorie- Nursery
Shawn-Elementary Sundays
Megan- Elementary Wednesdays



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

2025-2026



Program leaders:
John and Cailin- 6th & 7th grade
Amber- 8th grade Confirmation
JoAn- 9th-12th grade

CW Mentorship Wednesdays Jan 7-Feb 25 @ 6:30pm

Mentors are an important part of a confirmands journey. Our mission is to equip and inspire young people to devote themselves to lives of Christian discipleship. Please pray for our students and mentors.




Valentine
 Care Packages for
 College Students

Help us send some love from Cross Winds to our college students. Pick a heart and return your gift by Sunday, February 1.

Valentine Care Packages February 4, 2026

Help us send some love to our young adults/college aged students. Pick a heart from the display outside Fellowship Hall and return the item (up to \$5) through Sunday February 1st. The kids and youth will be boxing up the care packages on Wednesday Feb 4.

CONFIRMATION

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT CROSS WINDS

FEB 4 - MISSION
 FEB 11 - LIVING A HOLY LIFE
 FEB 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
 FEB 25 - COMMUNITY NIGHT



CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY
MAY 24, 2026
 REHEARSAL ON WEDNESDAY MAY 20

Adult Opportunities



THE CHARACTER OF GOD

WEDNESDAYS: JANUARY 7- FEBRUARY 11
SUNDAYS: JANUARY 11- FEBRUARY 15

TAUGHT BY JAMIE BOETTCHER

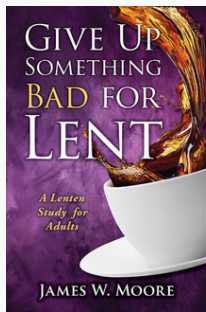
The Character of God Study

Wednesdays Jan 7 through Feb 11, 6:30pm

Sundays Jan 11 through Feb 15, 9:00am

Discover the core attributes of God as described in the book of Exodus. Our key verse is: "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." (Exodus 34:6). This verse invites us into a lifetime of pondering the depths and mysteries of the character of God. This six-week series is based on the "Character of God Word Study" from The Bible Project and features short videos to introduce each topic, followed by exploration of related scriptures.

Note: The same session held on Wednesday will be on the following Sunday.



Lenten Study with Pastor Lori

Sundays February 22-March 29

A companion book is available for \$12,
but is not necessary for the class.

Lenten Study

Sundays Feb 22-March 29, 9:00am

During Lent each year, many Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline, like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday we can once again enjoy what we have given up. This study, though, encourages us to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive: things like envy, self-pity, gossip or resentment. Join Pastor Lori on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. beginning on February 22 and running through March 29. A companion book is available at church for \$12, but not necessary for the class.

CARING MINISTRIES



Caring Ministries

The Cross Winds Caring Ministry would like to add to their current team. The Care Team aims to provide support, care and a sense of community to individuals. We will be focusing on four specific areas: Communion Ministry, Meal Ministry, Card Ministry and Visitation Ministry. If you would like to learn more or are interested in heading up any of these please fill out a connection card or contact the church office.

Small Groups Ministries



Prime Timers Brunch

Join us monthly for Prime Timers Brunch at Lynde's Restaurant in Osseo

First Tuesdays 11:30 AM

SIGN UP

Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, February 3, 11:30 am

A Prime Timers Brunch has been arranged for the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 am at Lynde's Restaurant in Osseo. Breakfast and Lunch menus will be available. Everyone invited! Sign up on the church website.

Prime Timers Event

Monday, February 9, 1:30pm

Plan to join the Prime Timers for their February event that will be a showing of the movie *The Long Walk Home* starring Whoopi Goldberg and Sissy Spacek. We will meet at church in one of the downstairs conference rooms. Bring your own beverage and if you would like, a snack to share. Popcorn will be provided.

"At a time in America when everyone did what was expected, they had the courage to do what was right."

PRIME TIMERS February Event

Monday, February 9, 1:30pm

Join us for the viewing of

The Long Walk Home.

Bring own beverage and if you like a snack to share. Popcorn is provided.

Hosted by Chuck and Joan Mann.

Meet downstairs in conference room A4.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

February 17, 11:30 am

Join us at Malone's in Maple Grove. Sign up on the website or contact the church office by February 15.

Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, February 17, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, February 17 at 11:30 am at Malone's in Maple Grove. Please sign up on the Cross Winds Ladies Who Lunch Events page or let the church office know so reservation can be confirmed with restaurant. All ladies are invited to join.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, February 23, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, February 23 at 1:30 pm at church. Bring your own beverage, current project, and any completed shawls. We invite you to join us if you knit or crochet or would like to learn. We meet monthly on the fourth Monday.



Game Night

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Games for all ages!



Game Night

Thursday, February 19, 6:30 pm

Join together with friends and have fun. It will be a game night for family and friends. Games for all ages will be there but feel free to bring your favorite game to teach others. This game group will meet in the evening of every third Thursday of the month. We will be playing a variety of games. Please spread the word and join us.



Faithful Freezers

Faithful Freezers is an opportunity to prep and cook meals for your freezer. We will also prep a few extra meals to help church friends with a meal during times of need. Sign up for the session on Saturday February 7 at 10 am. This session is being offered at ½ price from the Linda Dickey memorial fund. The cost is \$50 for 8 family size meals. Contact the church office to sign up.

Super Bowl Subs Fundraiser

January 18-February 4.

Superbowl Sunday is coming up on February 8 and no matter if you are team football or team commercials, we can all be team food for a good cause! This spectacular sandwich fundraiser sale features an array of mouthwatering subs. Every bite you take helps us reach our fundraising goal, directly benefiting our mission to the FMSC Mobile Pack in April! Don't miss out on this tasty opportunity to enjoy an incredible meal while making a meaningful impact in our world! Orders can be placed online Sunday Jan 18 through Wednesday Feb 4. Sandwiches will be available for pickup after worship on Sunday February 8.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday February 12, 9am-3pm

Cross Winds will be hosting a blood drive with the Red Cross on Thursday, February 12. Sign up to give the gift of life. Questions can be directed to Amber Lahtinen or contact the church office.

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

April 16-18, 2026

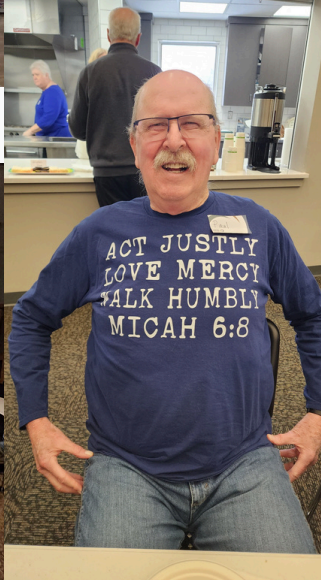
Every year millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and under-nutrition. Today, hunger still causes nearly half of deaths in children under 5 years old. This is heartbreaking. But you can make a difference!

Through a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ event at Cross Winds UMC on April 15-18th, 2026, our community is responding to the cries of those in need by producing over 100,000 nutritious meals for kids around the world. Learn more online about how you can help through volunteering, financial donations, and prayer at crosswindslife.org

Registration will open March 1st.



January Highlights



Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

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Maple Grove, MN 55311

The Compass

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www.crosswindslife.org

Phone: 763-494-9463

