



CROSS WINDS



MARCH 2026

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Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

April 15-18, 2026
Registration opens Sunday March 1!



*The time is now
Let us pray
Let us pack
Let us praise*

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

April 15-18, 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 147,000 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.



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

Finance Update

We want to thank you for your giving for CWUMC. As we head into March we have a small surplus, which is to be expected at this time of the year as some of our congregation have provided their annual 2026 giving at the beginning of the year. We appreciate that.

As always, we welcome any support that you can provide no matter what time of the year. No amount is too small.

Again, we sincerely thank you for your giving in 2026 to all of our ministries at CWUMC. If you have questions about our Operating Fund, or questions related to our 2026 Budget, other Reserve Funds, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance, please contact finance@crosswindsumc.org.

Ministry Staff

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Cheryl Purkat, Jorie Emerson
Nursery Staff



"Letting Go"

God does not ask anything else of you except that you let yourself go and let God be God in you." - Meister Eckhart

There is a popular phrase: "Let Go and Let God." I think when most people make this statement it really means that God is in charge and we just have to stop whatever we are doing to be in control of our life's circumstances. I don't doubt that it is a helpful affirmation to many people and I am happy that it brings them a certain peace.

It has never been that helpful to me because it assumes just passivity on my part. Generally, I have never believed that God's movement in my life invites me to be passive. In fact, it has been my experience that the presence of the Spirit usually is urging me toward more action than anything else. I am not talking about a flurry of activity movement, mind you, but an inner nudge to be so totally engaged in living that I come to know God more fully, be involved in living with my whole being. Of course, this can be done without much activity at all through prayer, contemplation, meditation, and observation. But the Spirit's movement can also cause us to speak out in dangerous ways, to put our life on the line, to walk the path of protest and resistance, to demand justice where injustice reigns.

These words of Meister Eckhart strike me as a perfect mantra for the first days of Lent. As we are marked by the ashes of last year's palms, we are invited once again to look deep within for the ways in which we have failed to be open to the presence of God not only in the little things of our daily living but in the ways in which we have failed to let God be God in us. This is not a passive surrender but an intense commitment to keep our eyes and hearts open to the presence of God in our work, our homes, our relationships, and most of all, our very being.

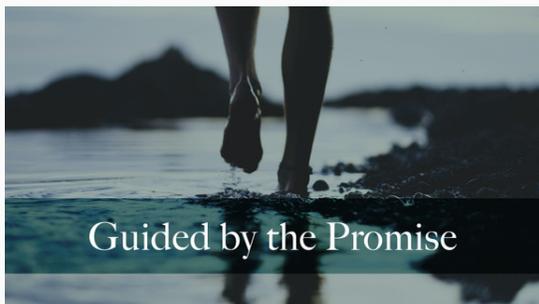
Isn't this what the story of Lent is really about? Jesus walked the journey of his life so open to God's presence that he chose to go down dangerous roads confronting difficult people, speaking his truth, putting his life on the line. He went about his daily work healing, bringing hope, witnessing to the Sacred in all of Creation. In every encounter he chose to let God be God in him.

The ashes we share on Ash Wednesday remind us that we are made of the stuff of the earth. They also remind us that we are on this amazing planet for a short time. Our real work is to be about the business of letting God be God in us.

And so Lent begins...

As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne

Worship



March 1 - *Guided by the Promise*

John 3:1-17; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

This Sunday, the gospel reading from John 3 is one that many people know by heart. Its familiarity is a comfort, yet we must not let comfort become complacency.



March 8 - *Companion for the Journey*

Romans 5:1-11; Psalm 95

In a world where we struggle to acknowledge our emotions as individuals, much less as a community, the psalms are master classes in how to faithfully express our emotions and experiences to God as a gathered body.



March 15 - *Journeying in Grace*

Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14

This year, the lectionary once again gives us a very familiar text. Whether read at a baptism, wedding, or funeral, Psalm 23 has accompanied many of us through important moments in our lives.



March 22 - *Redemption Road*

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130

On this last Sunday before Holy Week, we encounter a constellation of texts that, when put together, offer a description of the road we travel—the redemption road.

H W O E L Y W E E K

MARCHING ORDERS



Palm Sunday March 29 - *Marching Orders*

Matthew 21:1-11

Holy Week begins with a journey—or rather, picks up in the middle of a journey to Jerusalem. Palm/Passion Sunday is a day for joy, but not joy in the resurrection. That’s next week. Today is a day for joy in the promise of salvation. As we journey with Jesus to the cross—the journey then and the journey now—we find our joy in the promise of salvation, a promise that will not fail.

EAT AND RUN

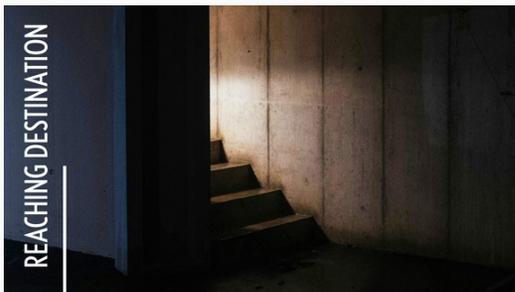


Maundy Thursday April 2 - *Eat and Run*

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

We may linger at the table for a few moments this evening. But we gather, already prepared to eat and run because the world needs us to be at work for the kin-dom.

REACHING DESTINATION



Good Friday April 3 - *Reaching Destination*

Readings from James H. Charlesworth

Many of the events surrounding the last days of Christ are shrouded in darkness. In the fourth century, a solemn observance of the Lord’s Supper, known as “Tenebrae” was celebrated. This service involved the extinguishing of candles as a reminder of the darkness that covered the earth after the passion and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The word “Tenebrae” means darkness.

A NEW START



Easter Sunday April 5 - *A New Start*

Matthew 28:1-10

Easter is a new start for all of us who journey together in grace as the Body of Christ, for it is the good news that binds us together and empowers us to continue on the path set before us.



Spring Series - Prayer

Wednesdays this Spring: March 4- May 6

We have a responsibility to be pray-ers: people who pray silently and aloud, alone and with others, and with our very lives. Jesus' disciples said to Him, "Teach us how to pray." So prayer must be something that we can learn to do or learn to do better. This spring we will study a variety of prayer forms to encourage holy habits of prayer and meditation.



Family Movie Night

Friday March 13, 6:30pm

You're invited to join us for Cross Winds Movie Night on Friday, March 13 at 6:30 PM! We'll be watching *Inside Out 2*, a fun and thoughtful movie that explores big feelings, growing up, and what it means to be yourself.

Dinner will be provided, so bring your appetite, your family, and a friend or two. This is a relaxed, all-ages evening designed for connection, laughter, and time together as a community. We hope you'll join us!

Volunteer Needs

Preparing for Fall 2026

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to support the ministries of our church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Our programs are only possible with Jesus and YOU! Would you prayerfully consider how you'd like to get involved in the ministries at Cross Winds? Contact Amber with questions, suggestions and commitments!



Blessed with the best!

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





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

Spring Series - Prayer

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High School Opportunities

Summer 2026

The Family Ministry Team is in the early stages of planning Vacation Bible School. If you are interested in being a leader for this event, please let Amber or Cailin know.

Summer Festival Camp

Summer 2026

Save the Date! More information will be coming soon.

SUMMER FESTIVAL camp

HIGH SCHOOL WEEK:
JULY 12-15, 2026

MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEK:
JULY 19-22, 2026

CONFIRMATION

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT CROSS WINDS

MAR 4 - RENOUNCE, REJECT, REPENT

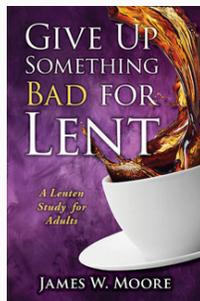
MAR 11 - ACCEPT

MAR 18 - CONFESS

MAR 25 - I BELIEVE (THE CREEDS)

CONFIRMATION
 SUNDAY
 MAY 24, 2026
 REHEARSAL ON WEDNESDAY MAY 20

Adult Opportunities



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 through March 29, 9:00am

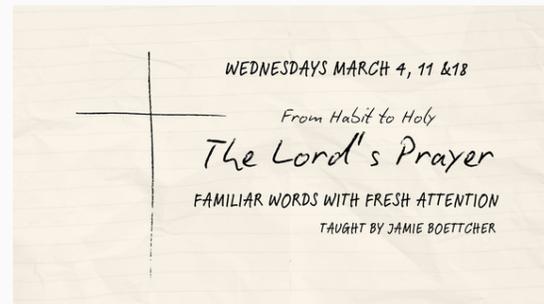
During Lent each year, many Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline, like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday we can once again enjoy what we have given up. This study, though, encourages us to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude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

From Habit to Holy - The Lord's Prayer

Wednesdays March 4-18, 6:30 pm

From Habit to Holy- The Lord's Prayer in Lent

Lent invites us to slow down, strip away excess, and return to what matters most. During this three-week Lenten study, we'll rediscover the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) as a living, formative prayer. Together, we'll explore how these words shape us both personally and as a faith community, helping us to move from habit to holy as we journey through Lent. All are welcome, no prior preparation or materials needed. Join Jamie Boettcher at 6:30pm on Wednesdays March 4-18.



Social Justice

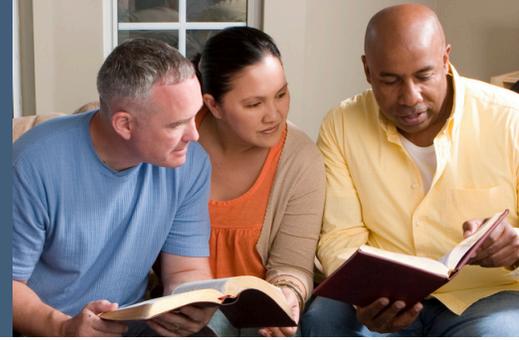
As a church representing Jesus Christ, we are called to help those in need. Collection bins are near the front entrance waiting for your donations of non-perishable food or basic household supplies. Items will be delivered weekly to several food banks in our area to distribute to families in need. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Make checks out to Cross Winds UMC and mark them for "Food Shelf Donation". Help us to be the Church of Christ in our place and in our time. Right now Jesus needs us to act for Him and with Him.

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



CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

Prime Timers Brunch

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

SIGN UP

**First Tuesdays
11:30 AM**

Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, March 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, March 9, 1:30pm

Prime Timers Cinema Day features "The Hundred-Foot Journey". This remarkable film offers a bit of spice between two competitive chefs: a French chef proprietress and an aspiring culinary Indian immigrant. The two restaurants are 100 feet across from each other. The award winning actress Helen Mirren is brilliant as the competitive French chef.

Join us at 1:30 on Monday, March 9. You are invited to bring a snack to share.

"Life's greatest journey begins with the first step."

PRIME TIMERS March Event

Monday, March 9, 1:30pm

The Hundred-Foot Journey
Bring own beverage and if you like a snack to share.

Meet downstairs in conference room A4.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

March 17, 11:30 am

Join us at Sunshine Factory in Plymouth. Sign up on the website or contact the church office by March 15.

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, March 17, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, March 17 at 11:30 am at Sunshine Factory in Plymouth. 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.

Game Night

Thursday, March 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.

Game Night

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Games for all ages!



Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday April 10, 11am-5pm

Our February drive was our biggest yet and spots are already filling up for Friday April 10. Sign up to give the gift of life. Can't donate but want to help? Contact Amber Lahtinen or contact the church office to volunteer in other ways.

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. The next gathering will be in April; watch for more details coming soon. For more information about this ministry, contact the church office.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, March 23, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, March 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.

Stitches of Love

Thursday, April 2, 1:00 pm

The Stitches of Love sewing group invites members of the congregation to assist in assembling the 125 feminine hygiene kits we have been diligently sewing throughout this year. Many hands make light work. No sewing skills are required to participate. Stitches of Love meets on Thursday, April 2 at 1PM in the lower level. Check the screen for our assigned room. We also thank this congregation for the generous contributions to this mission.



February Highlights



Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Rd
Maple Grove, MN 55311

The Compass

is the monthly newsletter of
Cross Winds United Methodist Church

www.crosswindslife.org

Phone: 763-494-9463

