



CROSS WINDS



JUNE 2026

This issue:

Connection Points and Staff
PAGE 2

From the Pastor's Pen
PAGE 3

Worship
PAGES 4

Finance
PAGE 5

Children's Ministries
PAGE 6

Youth Ministry
PAGE 7

Adult Education
PAGE 8

Small Group Ministries
PAGE 9

Mission Ministries
PAGE 10

May Highlights
PAGE 11



TOWNHALL MEETING

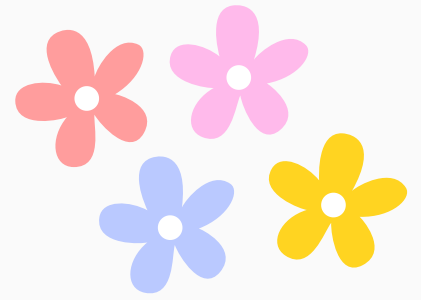
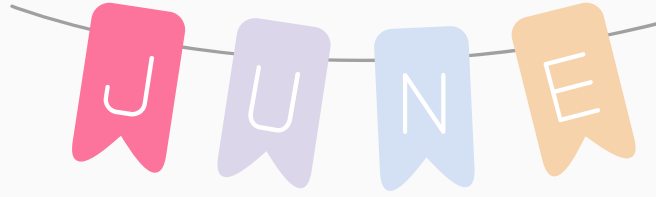
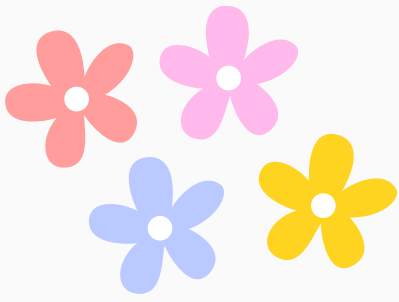
Sunday, June 7, 11:15 am

Hear updates from the Board and Taskforce work



Church Townhall Meeting Sunday, June 7, 11:15 am

All are welcome to attend an upcoming Church meeting to hear updates from the Board as well as the three taskforce groups- Mortgage, Kitchen and Facility Use.



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

Ministry Staff

Dianne Ciesluk

Lead Pastor

dianneciesluk@crosswindsumc.org

Michelle Schober

Director of Administration

michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org

Amber Lahtinen

Director of Ministry

amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Lisa Baker

Director of Music

lisabaker@crosswindsumc.org

Nancy Betterman

Accompanist

David Hughes

Treasurer

treasurer@crosswindsumc.org

Cheryl Purkat, Jorie Emerson

Nursery Staff





“...How God Works”



Quite some time ago, I read an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press that caught my eye and left me thinking. It was a story of a man who was cleaning out a cookie jar in which he had always stashed his lottery tickets. His wife was obviously in a spring cleaning mode and told him to throw them away if they weren't worth anything. Not ready to part with them yet (sound familiar?) he took them to the local 7-Eleven to make sure none were winners. He found that most were not, one reaped the grand total of \$3.00 and the other gave him..... \$4.85 million dollars.

To this all I can say is “Wow!” The story went on to tell that just a few months before he had appeared in court because his house was to be foreclosed. The judge had given him three more months to find a place to move and then the bank would take the house. Now he found himself not only able to keep his house but a millionaire. As the man told the story he said these words: “This is how God works.”

This is how God works. Here we have one of the central complexities of what it means to be a human and particularly a human who claims a faith life, a belief in a Higher Power with whom we are in some kind of relationship. For this man, the set of circumstances that unfolded in his life was an affirmation of the presence and action of the Holy in his life.

Frankly, I am not so sure of God's movement in the lottery or football or any other game of chance. I do have an understanding of the breathing presence of Spirit in the gifts of those who use mind and body who participate in a sport, an artistic endeavor and the mundane and heroic tasks of any day. Whether or not the use of these gifts results in a win is another thing for me. The idea of God's intervention in the winning of such a sum of money does not fit my own personal theology. My sense is this man and his family may have a deeper chance of understanding 'how God works' now that they are millionaires. But this is simply my lens and not everyone's and does not speak to the lens of the Sacred.

We recently celebrated Pentecost, the time when the followers of Jesus had an extreme visitation of the Spirit, and went on to become the church. That is a simple definition of this day we call the birthday of the church. For these ancients, God 'worked' by filling them with an unquenchable fire for following in the Way of their friend who threw around the gifts of presence, compassion, justice, and humility like it was confetti at a New Year's celebration. One of the winnings of the day was that they were said to have been able to understand one another though they were speaking in different languages. And couldn't we use more of that? We barely understand one another when we are speaking the same language!

Over time we have come to struggle and triumph as people who try to figure out how God works. We have called this place of challenge and healing, the church. Gathering together we bring stories of how we have seen God working in our own lives, in our communities, in the world. Mostly they are stories of ordinary people doing very ordinary things. Washing feet. Feeding those who are hungry. Standing up for those whose homes are the margins. Visiting prisons. Singing. Praying. Laughing. Crying. Offering whatever gifts we have for some greater good we often don't have words for and can't completely imagine.

Nearly every day we dig into a cookie jar that does not hold a winning ticket. Out of it though, we pull the best we have to offer.....ourselves. We ask God to work in us in whatever ways are possible. As tickets, I believe, we are PRICELESS; to the world and to God.

As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne

Forming a Family, *Preparing a People*



The story of Abraham and Sarah is complex, full of twists and turns, great faith, and crippling fear. Through it all, it is a story about a family that struggles and learns to love in ways that could be an invitation to the whole world. It is a story about the people of God who want to follow, even when their wisdom falls short. It is a story about blessing, about receiving a blessing, and then being a blessing. We begin this season after Pentecost by thinking about the church and about these examples of faith as we consider forming a family and preparing a people.



June 7 - *To Be a Blessing of Faith*

Genesis 12:1-9

We journey with Abram/Abraham and Sarai/Sarah in all their earnest, imperfect, and all-too-human attempts to believe God's promises and live accordingly.



June 14 - *A Miracle Called Laughter*

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Abraham, Sarah, and a few holy detours teach us about laughter, attention, and God's surprising grace.



June 21 - *Hearing the Voice*

Genesis 21:8-21

Listening for God amid a painful, confusing story—and learning how God meets the cast-out and suffering.



June 28 - *God Will Provide*

Genesis 22:1-14

When Scripture makes us want to flee, God yearns for us to learn to stay, pray, sing, and tell the story faithfully.

abundance humanity UNCONDITIONAL
FRIENDSHIP offer make a difference
gratitude kindness UNITE gift
altruism support INSPIRE LOVE thank you
volunteer give back charity
compassion service SHARE community
get involved NOW TIME generosity



Finance Update

Thank you for your giving for CWUMC. As we head into the month of June, we are blessed to have a small operating surplus and our expenses have stayed at budgeted levels. Our operating surplus is normal for this time of year as we head closer to the summer months. We appreciate all your support.

As always, we welcome any support that you can provide no matter what time of the year. No amount is too small. If you haven't pledged yet for 2026, it's also not too late. Don't forget that you can also give online. A simplified giving form has been set up that goes directly into the operating budget. You can still use the giving form on the website to give to other funds besides the operating budget.

Again, 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, Property Assessment or Mortgage Balance, please contact finance@crosswindsumc.org.

Property Assessment

Minnesota's construction season has arrived! This year, it has settled on our own very busy Weaver Lake Road and is "visiting" Cross Winds while the city conducts much-needed repairs and upgrades. While construction season isn't exactly welcome when it lands at our doors, we also know the goal is ultimately to offer safer and improved access to our property.

We have now been officially notified that the amount of the assessment is \$56,977.90.

Below is an outline of our obligation and several potential responses:

- Pay off the full amount by November 30, 2026.
- Pay a portion of the amount by this date and have the remaining balance amortized using city-arranged financing over 15 years at 5% interest.
- Have the full amount amortized over 15 years.
- Pay a portion before the November date and pay the balance later using a different financing source.

Your leadership is working diligently as we consider the best options available and how to meet this unexpected obligation in the midst of our already complex finances. First and foremost, we are holding to our call to be the hands and feet of Jesus in ministry while remaining fiscally responsible stewards. We know and believe that we serve a God who not only calls us to ministry, but empowers us and prepares the way ahead. Our accounting system now has an option for those who wish to offer "above and beyond" gifts toward this unexpected cost. Any amount given toward this expense will make a difference.

We will keep you informed as things continue to unfold. In the meantime, we invite your prayers, your presence, and your service as we follow God's call to action and share His love. The time is now... and the impact is for those who are yet to come.

REGULAR
GIVING FORM





Children's Time Summer Sundays

Every Sunday children are encouraged to come forward for a special message during Children's Time. Praise Packs will be distributed after the message for kids to work on during the rest of the service. The activities included change each week in correspondance to the scripture reading and message. There will not be a gathering for Children's Church downstairs. Extra praise packs will be on a cart at the back of the sanctuary that children can pick up after Children's Time.



Vacation Bible School August 10-13

VBS is coming back to Cross Winds. We hope you will plan to join us! We are looking for high school and adult volunteers so if you are ready to say "YES to VBS" contact Amber.

Register [Here](#)

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





Confirmation Class of 2026

Congratulations to our newest members of Cross Winds! These four students completed the coursework, reaffirmed the vows of their baptisms, and are eager to serve in their church and communities.



Lock-In

Friday July 17- Saturday July 18

Save the Date! In place of Summer Festival Camp, our youth are invited to an overnight lock-in at the church. This event is for students who have completed 5th grade through 12th grade. More information and registration will be available in early June.

Car Wash

Friday July 17

Road construction= dirty cars. Let's bring some joy to our neighbors while raising funds for our road assessment. All families are welcome to help with this fundraiser. All children must have an adult present. Contact Amber to sign up.



Congratulations Graduates

May you feel God's love and presence as you celebrate and embark on this new chapter of your lives.

Adult Education



Short Book Summer on the deck

Wednesdays June 3 - August 12 (no class July 1) 6:30PM
Facilitated by Jamie Boettcher



It's not the length of the book that matters most—it's the heart of the reader.

Short Book Summer

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, June 3-August 12

Join us on the deck on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for Short Book Summer, a relaxed and engaging journey through some of the shortest books of the Bible—from Obadiah to Jude, and many in between. What wisdom and insight can be discovered in just three pages or less? By exploring one book each week, you'll finish the summer able to say, "I read ten books this summer!"

Bring your own Bible and a nonalcoholic beverage. Sessions begin on June 3 and end on August 12. No session on July 1. Open to ages 14 and up.

Summer Social Justice Study

Looking for a meaningful way to connect faith with community this summer? Join us for our summer study, a 6-week journey toward justice, compassion, and community. With parallel tracks for adults, teens, and kids, it offers a flexible, accessible way for all generations to explore what it means to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Check the weekly email for a link to the study or pick up a copy in the narthex today!

Summer Social Justice Self-Guided Study



FAITH IN ACTION: MICAH 6:8
Seek justice · Love mercy · Walk humbly

Information found on the welcome desk or the church website

6-Week Journey Toward Justice, Compassion & Community

Because summer schedules can get incredibly busy, we wanted to offer a study that molds entirely to your life. This 6-week journey is designed for you to do completely on your own, with a group of friends, or with your family at your own pace. You can take it week-by-week, dive into it on a rainy afternoon, or gather a small circle on a backyard patio to talk through the materials whenever it works for you.

God's vision of shalom and our role in building a better world. There are no mandatory meetings- this study is built for you to do completely on your own, with friends, or as a family at your own pace.

Adults: Engaging with transformative works like *The Very Good Gospel*, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, and *Evicted*.

Teens: Exploring equity, identity, and community care with resources from *The Marshall Project* and the ARC model.

Kids (Ages 8-12): Discovering kindness and fairness through interactive activities like a "Goodness Hunt" and literal bridge building.

Pick up a study guide in the lobby or find the digital download link in this week's church email to begin your summer journey.

Small Groups Ministries



Women's Retreat 2026

Friday October 23 - Sunday October 25

Save the date! All women invited! The fall Women's Retreat will be held at Koronis Ministries on Friday evening, October 23 - Sunday morning, October 25. Watch for more information this summer.

Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, June 2, 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.



LADIES WHO LUNCH

May 19, 11:30 am

Join us at Granite City in Maple Grove. Sign up on the website or contact the church office by May 17.

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church



Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, June 16, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, June 16 at 11:30 am at Pittsburgh Blue 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.

Game Night

Thursday, June 18, 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!



Mission Ministries



Red Cross Blood Drive Friday June 19, 9am-3pm

Our April drive was our biggest yet and spots are already filling up for Friday June 19. 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.

Stitches of Love

Thursday, June 4, 1:00 pm

Stitches of Love will have its next meeting on Thursday, June 4 at 1pm in the lower level. We welcome any members interested in helping with our mission related sewing projects. We meet every two months except for the summer. We focus on sewing book bags and quilts that go to Midwest Mission. We also sew feminine hygiene kits that are sent to third world countries where feminine hygiene products are not available for young girls trying to go to school. Sewing is done in your own home. We provide the patterns and have funds for material used. Come join us!



Prayer Shawl Ministry Monday, June 22, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, June 22 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.

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.



May 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

