



CROSS WINDS



JULY 2026

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Created to **Serve JOYFULLY**

Philippians 4

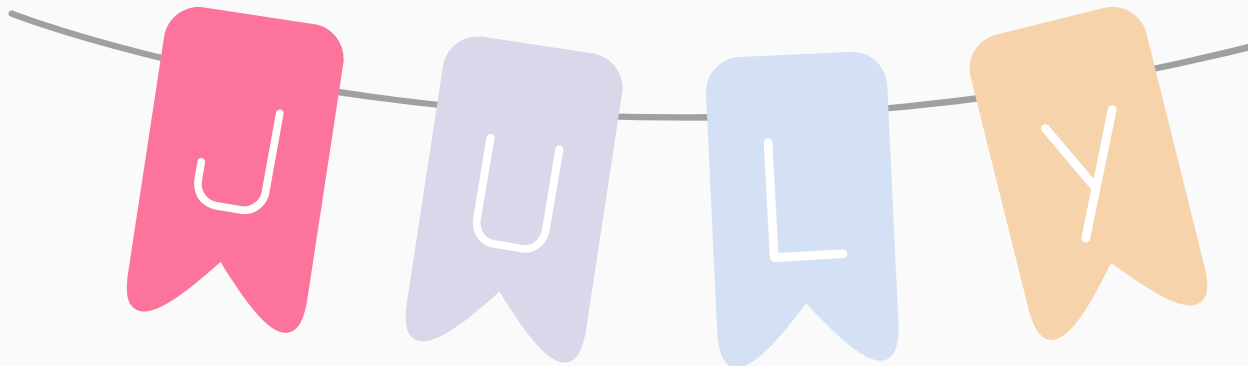
MN Annual Conference 2026

Pastor Dianne and Michelle Schober (lay delegate to the Annual Conference) attended the 2026 Minnesota Annual Conference in St. Cloud from June 16-18. The theme of this year's conference was "Created to Serve Joyfully", with the scripture focus being Philippians 4.

Pastor Dianne along with a few Cross Winds friends, attended the pre-conference Day of Justice on Monday. This was a time to learn and discuss how members of the Minnesota Annual Conference can stand together to lead courageously against authoritarianism in our society, as well as for justice and democracy. There were multiple sessions throughout the day

Check out the conference website for more details or to watch any of the worship services:
<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/resources>

Article continued inside on Page 10.



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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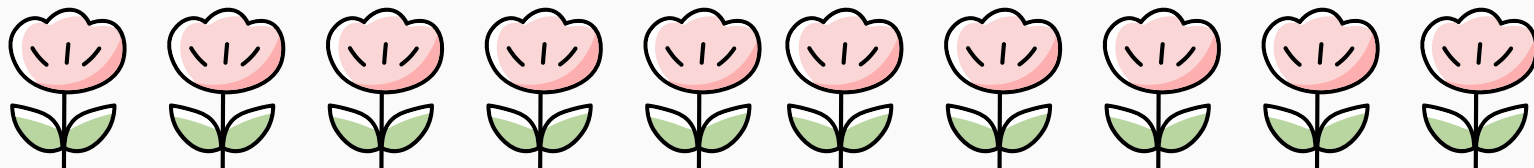
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"...Getting Wet"



"Most of what we do in our worldly life is geared toward our staying dry, looking good, not going under. But in baptism, in lakes and rain and tanks and fonts, you agree to do something that's a little sloppy because at the same time it's also holy, and absurd. It's about surrender, giving in to all those things we can't control; it's a willingness to let go of balance and decorum and get drenched." ~ Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*



I don't know about you, but much of who we have been in the last couple of weeks has seemed to be about staying dry in the midst of all the rain we have had lately (not all a bad thing). Even here at Annual Conference this last week, we have many moments of dodging drops of rain and hoping the sky doesn't open up and drench us. I have had this image emblazoned on my heart combined with the images of water from our recent Confirmation/Pentecost celebration. During that amazing service we celebrated 9 new members and talked about the way, life in the faith is like being constantly open to the waters of our Baptism. We shared about being open to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and how sometimes we jump in while not really knowing what it is all going to look like. I was reminded of these words from Anne Lamott's book because we as adults in the faith spend considerable time and energy trying to 'stay dry' while in reality what we need to be doing is GETTING WET!

Talking about Baptism and affirming the vows that we make as we become members of the church was the central movement of our worship together on Pentecost Sunday. We were gathered to celebrate the lives of young people who have grown physically and spiritually among us. As we gathered to lay hands on Patrick Bao, Imikan Basse, Makenzie Dayton, and Sierra Midgarden, we gathered to bless them with the Spirit which flows from God. We were engaged in something holy and perhaps absurd. After all, who can understand it really? And yet, as humans, we try to cobble together the words that tell each of them that we are here with them in this amazing journey. More importantly we all affirmed once again that we believe the Holy travels with us in our journey as well. Even when we do not know it or understand what it means. Even when we don't feel as if we are worthy, or together enough, or even much of a 'believer.' Even when we don't get it or understand what it all might mean. Even when our primary aim is to stay dry. I know that throughout my life I have certainly spent a considerable amount of time and energy trying to stay dry and look good. I have probably also spent even more effort trying not to go under, not to send myself spiraling into a hole I feared I'd never crawl out of. I've twisted myself into shapes and knots only a contortionist should be able to do in order to keep control. Any of this sound familiar to you?

And yet, as Anne Lamott reminds us, this life we have been given is really mostly about surrender. The more we surrender to the surprises and unknowns, the more we allow ourselves to free fall into the Mystery that holds us. It is the dress rehearsal for the ultimate surrender we each reach at life's end. A daily practice of surrender can bring more than any of us could ever imagine and promises to keep our daily walk spicy and even exciting.

Baptism and the affirmation of that baptism in Confirmation means many things to many people. But as I see it, this act we in the Christian household call a sacrament, is something visible to us of something that dwells within, whose ingredients are pure grace. Its action binds strangers and friends, guests and enemies, young and old, those who agree and those who argue, into a common, messy life together using that element of which we are all made and through which we are all sustained: water. Swimming through it all is the Creator whose image is imprinted on each of us.

On Pentecost as we greeted four young people, (and five adults) so new to this messy, wonderful world, we did so with water (helping them to remember the waters of their baptism) and hope and love. "Come on in! The water is fine!", we said.

And so it is. And so it is.

As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne

CORE FAITH

The eighth chapter of the letter to the Romans is one of the most loved chapters in the Bible. As the crux of this important epistle, this chapter provides insight into some of the core elements of our faith. How does the law function in our faith? What does it mean to set our mind on the Spirit? What is our relationship with all creation? How are we bound together with other disciples in suffering and joy? St. Paul sets out to answer these and many other questions as he weaves a poetic vision of what it means to be a follower of Jesus and a part of the body of Christ. We invite you and your congregation to explore “Core Faith” this summer.



DELIGHT IN THE LAW

July 5 - *Delight in the Law*

Romans 7:15-25a

At 250 years, we find ourselves celebrating our nation’s ideals while honestly confronting our failures, discovering - like Paul - that true hope comes not from self-reliance but from being rescued and transformed by Christ.

July 12 - *Set Your Mind*

Romans 8:1-11

Romans 8 invites us to wake up each day with our minds set on Christ, discovering life and peace not through self-centered striving but by letting the Spirit shape how we see, live, and love in the world.



SET YOUR MIND



WAIT WITH EAGER LONGING

July 19 - *Wait With Eager Longing*

Romans 8:12-25

Romans 8 calls us to see creation’s groaning as bound up with our own salvation, inviting us to exercise dominion not as exploitation but as Christ-shaped care for a world longing to be reborn in hope.



MORE THAN CONQUERORS

July 26 - *More than Conquerors*

Roams 8:26-39

For the Ninth Sunday of Pentecost, this reflection on Romans 8 invites the church to wrestle honestly with suffering, hope, and God’s grace. It reframes being “more than conquerors” not as power or triumph, but as redemption through Christ and deep belonging in community, where the Spirit intercedes, sustains, and draws us closer to God and one another.

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 to CWUMC. As we head into the month of July, we are blessed to have been able to maintain a small operating surplus and our expenses are slightly below budgeted levels. While our operating surplus is normal for this time of year, as we head into summer, we need your continued giving in support of the ministries at CWUMC. We appreciate all your support.

As was mentioned earlier and at our recent town hall meeting, we are addressing two financial challenges, our ongoing mortgage obligation and the road assessment with the city of Maple Grove. We are continuing to work towards options to address both. We have been blessed to receive donations towards paying the assessment and welcome any additional contributions to this fund.

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 this year, 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 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.

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





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!](#) Registration Deadline is July 6.



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.



Car Wash

Friday July 17, 2:00-6:00 pm

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.



Lock- In

Friday July 17, 8:00 pm - Saturday July 18, 8:00 am

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.

Join the fun with sunset worship, sunrise devotions, pizza, snacks, silent disco, flashlight hide and seek and so much more! Invite friends!
Cost for the event is \$40 per person.

Register by July 10! [Lock - In Registration](#)

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



Faith in Action: Micah 6:8 Social Justice Fair

Wednesday, September 9, 5:30 pm

Enjoy a free community meal, explore booths from local justice-focused organizations, and hear a guest speaker share nonpartisan information about election security in Minnesota.

All ages are welcome to come learn, connect, and take a next step toward justice in our neighborhood.

Questions? Email Erin at er.lorenz@gmail.com.



FAITH IN ACTION: MICAH 6:8

Seek justice · Love mercy · Walk humbly



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, July 7, 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 Brunch

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

SIGN UP

**First Tuesdays
11:30 AM**

LADIES WHO LUNCH

July 21, 11:30 am

Join us at Northern Taphouse in Maple Grove. Sign up on the website or contact the church office by July 19.

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, July 21, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, July 21 at 11:30 am at Northern Taphouse 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, July 16, 6:30 pm

Join together for game night with 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



Bed Races

Saturday, July 18, 4-7pm

Volunteers Needed on Saturday, July 18

Cross Winds is looking for volunteers to help "race beds" during the Annual Maple Grove Rotary Club's Bed Race supporting Peaceful Dreams for CROSS Kids. Volunteers must be 12 years and over. If you're interested in helping out, contact Amber Lahtinen.

Stitches of Love

The Stitches of Love group thanks everyone who helped with the assembly of kits for Days for Girls. They were able to assemble 163 kits. The kits will be sent to girls in Senegal and other locations in need



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, July 27, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, July 27 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.



Created to Serve JOYFULLY

Philippians 4

MN Annual Conference 2026

The main part of the conference kicked off Tuesday morning with worship and a message from Bishop Plambeck. She touched on the Greek word ek-kaleo, meaning called out, saying how we are all summoned by God into community, witness, and transformation. God summons us to do big things, and to serve those around us. Bishop Plambeck said that ek-kaleo calls us through the Great Commandment to love God and our neighbor as ourselves; the Great Commission tells us to make disciples, the Great Requirement tells us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, and the Great Proclamation reminds us to heal a broken world. She calls us “get in the way” of injustice and oppression.

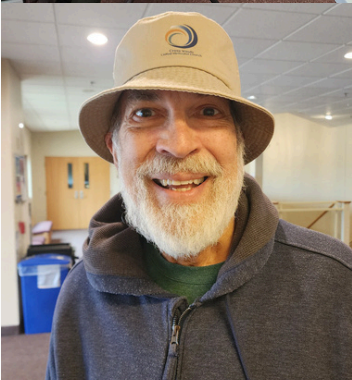
We were joined at Annual Conference by Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth the resident bishop of the Great Northwest Episcopal Area. He preached a meaningful sermon on Wednesday morning about how happiness comes from what is going on in our world, but joy comes only from Jesus. Bishop Bridgeforth also did a teaching session in which he talked about the “stuff of life” that weighs us down and how we need to lean into Jesus and his promises found in scripture to give us peace and rest. He said joy will call you deeper into the text than your despair.

Thursday morning we heard from conference preacher Rev. Genia Garrett. She gave a wonderful and passionate message on the power of being loved by God. Her four points in her message were to 1) Connect to God - that is where there is power; 2) Know yourself; 3) Guard your sacred space - space that defines who you are, don't allow those that can hurt you to be part of that space; 4) Know the difference between Rest & Pause - we need rest or we will run on empty. Refuel to revive so we can rejoice.

There were also 3 TED-style talks given by Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay, Rev. Chris Carr, and Rev. Dana Neuhauser. Macaulay talked about singing resistance and the power of song during the ICE activities in Minneapolis. Carr talked about how fear can steal away our joy and how we can use our fears in healthy ways to build safe communities by seeing and caring for all people. We can be the church God calls us to be. Neuhauser talked about the idea of “subversive joy”. She asked for people to be subversively joyful in pursuit of justice and joy for all of God's beloved.

There was not much in the way of legislation at this year's conference. An action item on Answering the call of Kairos Palestine II was adopted as well as passing the 2027 apportioned budget. The consent calendar and additional legislation on the conference, district and affiliated elected leadership also passed. Finally there were 2 churches approved for discontinuance.

June 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

