



CROSS WINDS



AUGUST 2026

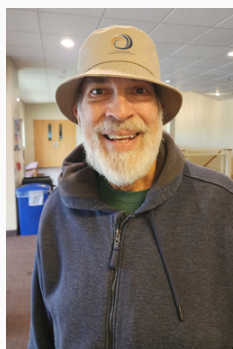
This issue:



Cross Winds Merch Store

There is still time order your Cross Winds merch. You too can look as good as those pictured below. Get a sweatshirt for fall and winter or a new tumbler for your Sunday morning coffee.

You can order on the [Cross Winds website](#). If you need assistance, please contact Michelle in the office or touch base on a Sunday morning.



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

July Highlights
PAGE 11

August

Cross Winds United Methodist Church

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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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Nursery Staff



"...signposts"

" With rock piles and
signposts, mark the way
home, my dear people.
It is the same road by
which you left."
~Jeremiah 31:21



Summer is the time of travel. Even if folks aren't going on vacation or literally traveling, the rhythm of days is often varied enough that it feels like a different path. Perhaps it is that 'school year' mentality that is planted in us at an early age that causes summer to become the season of freedom, of blessing, of out-of-the-ordinary. We allow even the most regular of activities to become a little lax, slowing down, playing more than we normally allow. Summer becomes a kind of excursion all its own. It is good, very, very good.

At different points of the last few months, the words of the prophet Jeremiah have been showing up all over the place for me. I see them in social media posts and have stumbled over them in other summer reading. Frankly, I've always loved this book of scripture so I am always excited when these challenging and poetic words fly across my radar screen. And these short but powerful phrases above, from the end of this ancient text, capture my imagination.

First of all, they remind me of the towers of stones I have witnessed on travels to England, Wales and Ireland. These piles of stones called cairns can be seen dotting roads and paths and can be glimpsed on the ledges and tops of hills and mountains. Their presence is meant to mark experiences that people had along the way. They are ways of pointing out to others that something important has happened in just that spot. These building block statues both mark the place and point the way. They can become a language for telling others that the travelers that preceded them had indeed been there and were now, perhaps, on their way home.

The other part of this scripture that draws me in is the statement: "It is the same road by which you left." I think of how often we believe we need to leave home, leave ourselves, or our families, to find that vista that is just beyond our view. There is something about being human that gives us the wanderlust to always believe whatever it is we seek is out 'there' someplace. Why is this? Most of the stories that shaped us, those myths of the hero or heroine's journey prove that this urge to set out for a land of promise in which we will be transformed is not far from the surface in any of us.

Myth aside, I remember when my first child was born. I remember thinking as I held them and looked into their beautiful, perfect face, that they came into the world with all they needed to become their true self already planted within them. It would be my privilege as a parent to watch them blossom and come to know the gifts that were already stitched into their cells, their personal DNA. I could help create a map and offer tips for the journey but they had their own compass, one that they have always known and return to in order to find their center. It has been a privilege to journey with them and see them develop, grow and thrive.

Each of us, blessed in our own uniqueness, are always winding our way toward that place we call home. Sometimes this is a literal place and other times it is toward some peace we long for within, some place where we can softly settle in and not struggle so. I imagine the people Jeremiah was writing to had similar experiences, similar longings. All of us, in this human body having a spiritual experience need those rock piles and signposts to mark our way. With each step we remember that the way home is often the same path we left. In that realization we find the way and call it holy.

As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne



In this worship series, we engage in a Gospel/Epistle dance as we move between some of the more startling stories of Jesus and his earthly ministry and Paul's attempt to put a frame of possibility and understanding around the story of Jesus. Sometimes guided by Matthew's storytelling, other times led by the beautifully weighty prose of the Epistle to the Romans, we dig down into core of our lived-out faith.

How do we live into these miraculous moments in Jesus' life in our world today? Are we called to be miracle workers too? Or is there something else going on here? What if we're asking the wrong question about the statements and actions of Jesus? What if it isn't supposed to be a "how," but a "why?" What if it's not a behavior to emulate, but a motivation to live as followers of Jesus? That is why the longer title for our series is "God's How Is Our Why." But perhaps you can grab hold of a simpler one: "Because God!"



August 2 - *You Give Them Something*

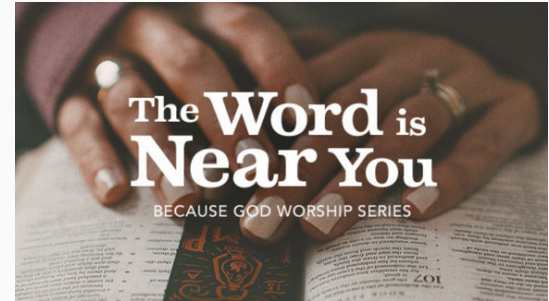
Romans 9:1-15, Matthew 14:13-21

Our focus is Jesus. Always, yes of course, but particularly in this series we are looking at Jesus and then looking at us. Not so much so we can emulate Jesus, but so that we can find motivation for what it is that we do. God's how is our why, remember?

August 9 - *The Word is Near You*

Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

The Word is near you? How do we celebrate that this week? How do we claim the gift we've already been given? Perhaps that's the key—what we've already been given. This is a time for celebrating who we are as the people of God. Instead of prayers asking for what we don't have, maybe we can claim with joy what we already have.



August 16 - *To the Lost Sheep*

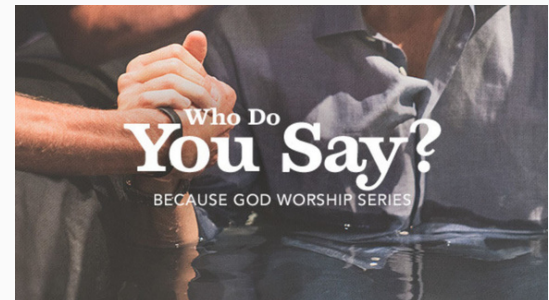
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

This week's topic is difficult. It is so difficult that we might just want to choose a different text. Both Paul's letter to the Romans and Matthew's Gospel present to us complicated texts that will be hard to wrestle into an easily digestible form for a comfortable Sunday morning. Yet, this is precisely why it is worth the struggle.

August 23 - *Who Do You Say?*

Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16: 13-20

This weeks texts leap into our heads and hearts and call from us shouts of joy and thanking.



August 30 - *Holding Fast*

Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

Let us celebrate the working of love in the midst of the people of God. Find stories to tell, pictures that reveal, people who have experienced genuine love, who have never lagged in zeal, who have contributed to the needs of the saints.

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



Finance Update

Thank you for your giving to CWUMC. As we head into the month of August, we continue to maintain a small operating surplus and our expenses are slightly below budgeted levels. Our June surplus did decrease as compared to May which is normal for the summer months. Our goal is to continue to maintain this surplus through the balance of the summer and into the fall. You can make a significant difference with any additional giving. 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. We appreciate your continued giving in support of the ministries at CWUMC. As was mentioned earlier, 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.

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





REGISTER [HERE!](#)

Vacation Bible School August 10-13

What makes you wonder? What sparks your curiosity? What makes you want to explore, discover, and experiment? Wonder and curiosity draw us in and make us want to learn more! That's why, in I Wonder..., we're going to engage kids' imaginations! Kids will not only wonder about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—they'll get curious about the God who created it all! They'll hear from Early Church leaders like Paul, Peter, John, and Timothy, who helped the first Jesus-followers wonder what made their stories unique, what gifts God gave them, what they could learn from others, and how they could spend time with God.

Children's Time Summer Sundays

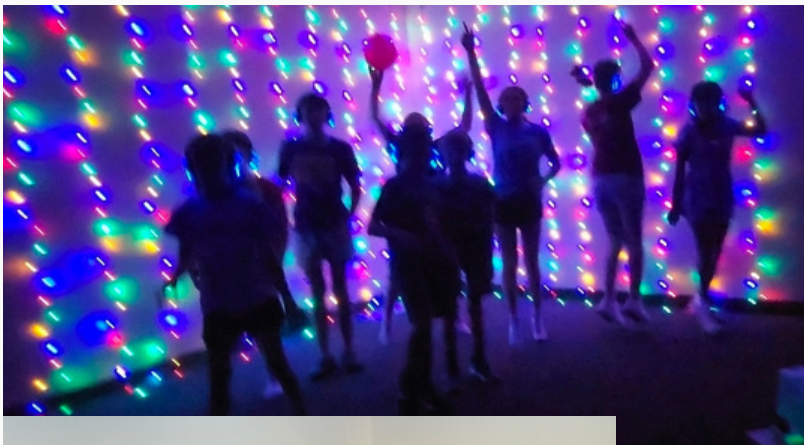
Every Sunday children are encouraged to come forward for a special message during Children's Time. Praise Packs will be distributed after the message for kids to work on during the rest of the service. The activities included change each week in correspondance to the scripture reading and message. There 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.





Youth Lock-In

The Cross Winds Youth and adult leaders had a great time at our lock-in on July 17. We enjoyed Bible study, games, food, silent disco, sunrise worship, and more.



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.

Fall Preview

Bad Boys of the Bible

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, September 16-October 7

What do Bannah & Recab, Haman, Korah-Dathan-Abiram, Abimelech and Ananias have in common? They're all considered "Bad Boys of the Bible". These men are infamous for their character flaws. Unfortunately, they are flaws we still have. We'll look at these men's lives, their context, and how we can learn from them. Join Pastor Lori on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm September 16-October 7.



The Gospel of John

Sundays at 9:00 am, September 20-October 25

The Gospel of John provides us with a profound portrait of Jesus! While the other Gospels focus heavily on Jesus's actions and teachings, John dives deep into the identity and mission of Jesus. Written to spark or grow our faith, John wants us to better understand Jesus as divine, truth, love and life. Led by Steve Weeks, our six-week study begins on Sunday, September 20, at 9:00, downstairs in the Adult Ed room. We hope you will join our exploration of this incredible Gospel! Prior to our first class, please read John 1:1-18.



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

"For we are God's masterpiece..." – Ephesians 2:10

Just as an artist layers color, texture, and light onto a canvas, God uses every season—joy, grief, waiting, growth, and surrender—to create something beautiful in us.

Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, August 4, 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

Ladies Who Lunch will not be gathering in August. Stay tuned for the next lunch date this fall.

Game Night

Thursday, August 20, 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



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!

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.

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

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, August 24 12:00 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Monday, August 24 at 12 noon at Pittsburgh Blue in Maple Grove for lunch on the patio. If weather is bad, we will move indoors to enjoy our annual lunch out. If you are planning to attend, please sign up on the [church website](#) so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect in the group. You are invited to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry if you knit or crochet. Hope to see you there.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Annual Lunch

Monday, August 24, 12:00pm
Pittsburgh Blue, Maple Grove



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.



July 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

