



This issue:

Finance Update
PAGE 2

Pastor's Corner
PAGE 3

Worship
PAGE 4-5

Annual Giving Drive - Thanks
PAGE 6

So All Are Welcome - Update
PAGE 7

Adult Ministries
PAGE 8

Cross Winds Community
PAGE 9

Children's Ministries
PAGE 10-11

Youth Ministries
PAGE 12-13

Thankful Event Highlights
PAGE 14-15

2023 Endowment Gift
PAGE 16-17

Feed My Starving Children
PAGE 18

100,000 Prayer Challenge
PAGE 19



December at Cross Winds

There is so much to do at Cross Winds in the month of December! With meaningful worship, great studies, mission opportunities, cookies and lefse, there no shortage of ways to get involved, be blessed and be a blessing.

Find all the ways to get involved and get connected in the pages to follow.

As always if you have any questions, you can contact Michelle in the church office.

hello December

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 Thursdays - includes pastor's note, important information about the life of the church, and links for upcoming events
- Prayer Chain email updates

Finance Update

We have a deficit in our operating fund heading into December. This means our expenses for all of our ministries at CWUMC exceeds all of our giving. You can make a difference yet before the end of the year with your generous contributions. No amount is too small as this will help all of us get to the goal of minimizing our deficit in our operating fund. We welcome any support that you can provide, and thank you again for your blessings and giving for all of our ministries at CWUMC.

If you have questions about our Operating Fund, Your 2024 Pledge or questions related to our Capital Campaign Fund, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance please contact us at finance@crosswindsumc.org

Ministry Staff

Christina Koppes

Lead Pastor

stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org

Michelle Schober

Director of Administration

michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org

Lori Lahtinen

Director of Worship & Music

lorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Amber Lahtinen

Director of Children's Ministry

amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Joyce Sluss

Minister of Community

Engagement

joycesluss@crosswindsumc.org

Nancy Betterman

Accompanist

David Hughes

Treasurer

treasurer@crosswindsumc.org

Cheryl Purkat

Nursery Supervisor



Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



"Anyone who has extra clothes should share with the one who has none. And anyone who has extra food should do the same."

~ Luke 3:11

I have two coats. One is for winter. The other is for the rest of the year. Both are waterproof.

I made this decision years ago, after feeling convicted by the words of John the Baptist from Luke 3:11, urging us to give away whatever we could to those in need. Before the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John the Baptist prepared the way for his cousin, calling people to change their hearts and mind, making a way for the Messiah. In the Gospel according to Luke, John says, "Anyone who has extra clothes should share with the one who has none. And anyone who has extra food should do the same." (Luke 3:11)

At the time, I felt an urge to simplify, make room, and be generous. Giving away the coats was a simple act. I did not need more than two. If I did not live in Minnesota, I would be happy to give away my winter coat and live with just one!

Sharing what I had with others brought me joy.

It also brought a sense of relief. Now my decisions were simple. The coat selected was based on temperature alone.

The change also made room for others. There was space in my closet when guests arrived. There was space for my family and friends.

These words of John the Baptist have motivated me to make similar changes in my life over time. Each year, I pick something else to consider, intentionally giving away items to others. I will not tell you the comprehensive list, because Jesus also said, "When you give to needy people, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." (Matthew 6:3) However, I will tell you that this is an ongoing process in my life that has been rewarding.

This December, as we get ready for Christmas, may we remember these words of John the Baptist for he is a common Advent figure, shouting out for us to make a way – make room for Jesus. Sometimes this comes by changing our physical surroundings. Sometimes it comes by changing how we spend our time. Sometimes it happens by changing what we consume with our eyes and our ears, affecting our thoughts.

In whatever fashion it may be, this December, as you get for Christmas, I encourage you to listen to the wise words of John the Baptist. Let go, give away, make room for our Messiah. Trust that making the space, God will flood your life with the true gifts of Christmas – hope, peace, joy, and love.

MAKE Room

for the WONDERS of CHRISTMAS



Advent is a time for us to make room for Christmas. Join us this season to receive the wonder of God's love, peace, hope, and joy. Experience celebrations that will rekindle God's story in your heart and inspire you with the wonders Christmas has to offer.

December 3 - Make Room for Hope

Luke 1:5-18 - Pastor Chad Koppes

Advent is a time for us to make room for Christmas. Join us as we make room to receive the wonder of God's love, peace, hope, and joy we find in welcoming Jesus. This week we welcome Pastor Chad Koppes to the pulpit to share a word of hope!



December 10 - One Holy Night

Cross Winds Musical

Meet Stuart, the innkeeper in Bethlehem who is quite the storyteller. He reminisces about that crazy chaotic night in town during the census and the different travelers who came looking for a room for the night. Most were too busy to talk much, just stopping in for a quick inquiry, and one couple really had him mesmerized. But with all the hustle and bustle, Stuart really didn't have time to think, much less understand what was really happening...could he make room for everyone? Was the Messiah born in his barn? Experience this story of Stuart's realization unfolding with beautiful new music interwoven with some familiar carols presented by our drama team and choir.

December 17 - Make Room for Joy

Luke 1:26-37

At the first Christmas, angels proclaimed good news of great JOY for all people. Join us as we rediscover for ourselves the JOY that Christ's birth brings. We welcome Bells of the Lakes as special musicians.

December 31 - A Light that Shines in Every Darkness

John 1:1-5, 10-14 - Pastor Shirley Duncanson

God's answer to darkness is to send light. Christ came into our world to spread light, to be light and to give light for all who live in darkness. When our path is confused, the light of Christ illumines our way.

MAKE Room

for the WONDERS of CHRISTMAS



Christmas at Cross Winds

Christmas Eve Worship Services - *Make Room for the Wonders of Christmas*

10am, 4pm, 10pm

Celebrate Christmas with Cross Winds, both in-person and online. We have several worship styles and times to fit your needs.

10am Worship - This family friendly Christmas Eve service includes traditional hymns, youth drama, sermon, and candle lighting. Worship will be available in-person, livestream, and on-demand.

4pm Worship - Bring your kids to this high energy, celebratory worship service, where all children will have a chance to put on a Christmas costume and be a part of the fun. Be ready to smile from ear to ear and make some noise.

10pm Worship - Enjoy the peace of a traditional candlelight service, complete with many beloved Christmas traditions and sanctuary choir.

Children's Bell Choir

Rehearsals Wednesdays, Nov 29-Dec 13, 6:00 pm

Tech Rehearsal Thursday, Dec 21, 6:00 pm

The Children's Bell Choir directed by Miss Pam will be performing on Christmas Eve this year at the 4 pm Family service. All elementary school children are invited to participate. The kickoff is at the Advent Fest Event on November 29 at 6 pm with rehearsals continuing on Wednesday nights through December 13 at 6 pm. Tech rehearsal will be on Thursday December 21 from 6:00-6:30pm. Call time on December 24 at 3:15pm. All rehearsals are required. [Register your kids to play bells.](#)



CHRISTMAS EVE Prelude Performances



Christmas Eve Prelude Performances

December 24, 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Does your child play the piano or another instrument? All kids/youth who have been studying the piano/instrument for 2 years or more are invited to play a Christmas carol before the service at the 4pm Family Christmas Eve service. Kids will need to arrive at CW at 3:30pm on Sunday afternoon. [Register your kids to play](#) by December 17th and our director Lori Lahtinen will reach out to you with more details.

Annual Giving Drive

Thank you for your pledges!

crosswindslife.org



Annual Giving Drive Update - Every Good Gift

"Every good and perfect gift is from above." (James 1:17)

We are grateful for the many financial pledges we have received already towards the 2024 annual giving drive. Thank you for your generosity. This month, as we continue to receive pledges, the Finance Committee and Cross Winds Board members are working diligently to prepare a 2024 finalized budget for congregational review in January.

Our goal is to ensure that we are faithful financial stewards of the gifts you share with Cross Winds so that we may continue to do all the good we can. To learn more about the 2024 pledge drive results and official budget, we invite all to attend a **Cross Winds church conference meeting on Sunday, January 14th at 11am at Cross Winds UMC**. During the meeting, the board and finance team will also present the 2023 financial updates and answer questions about ministry priorities.

If you haven't pledged yet, there is still time to share your commitment. Pledge cards are available at the church welcome desk or [online](#).

THANK YOU!

Your giving
makes a
difference



**CHURCH
CONFERENCE**

Sunday, January 14
11:00 am

Learn about pledge drive results and
the 2024 budget.

So All Are Welcome in Our Facility

CROSS
WINDS



Congregational Update: So, All Are Welcome in Our Facilities

This fall the people of Cross Winds engaged in a series of intentional conversations about the use of our church facility so that all are welcome. With the help of Matt and Tim Anderson, Flourish Placemaking Collective, as our consultants, we prayerfully spent time talking among elected leadership, staff, and the congregation to discern the guiding values for sharing our space. We are grateful for all who participated in these conversations. As the church leaders continue to reflect on the learnings from the fall, we wanted to share a few updates with everyone.

First - After initial evaluation, Flourish Placemaking Collective shared that our church is **well positioned** in several ways:

- Well-positioned geographically (near a highly visible and accessible intersection)
- Well-positioned materially, with a well-kept building, brand new kitchen, and financial resources to care for the space
- Well-positioned philosophically, eager to adapt and embrace new opportunities
- Well-positioned spiritually, transformed by and committed to the radically inclusive love of God and possessing a desire to see all experience that love

Second - Based on our fall listening sessions, Flourish has provided us with **guiding values and missional priorities** to consider as we evaluate space utilization and missional priorities. The leadership has been presented with these guiding values, based on congregational input, and will be synthesizing the information this coming winter. Guiding values such as hospitality, inclusiveness, connection, adaptability, and action-oriented ranked high in the assessment.

Along with guiding values, the fall conversations revealed a high missional priority to consider the needs of children and youth along with meeting identified community needs. This too will require intentional evaluation and work by our elected leaders. Stay tuned for updates this spring.

As the leadership continues to integrate these learnings and provide direction for our facility utilization, we anticipate further congregational discussions about equitable community partnerships. We also will continue to work diligently on facility needs identified in our capital campaign, such as security updates in the spring of 2024.

Thank you to our entire congregation for your love of Cross Winds and the Maple Grove community. We are excited to see how God will lead us in the future and ask that you continue to pray for our church leaders as they prepare for the next steps.

Adult Ministries and Small Groups



Sunday Evening Advent Bible Study *It's a Wonderful Life*

Sunday Evenings November 12-December 17
6:30-8:00 pm

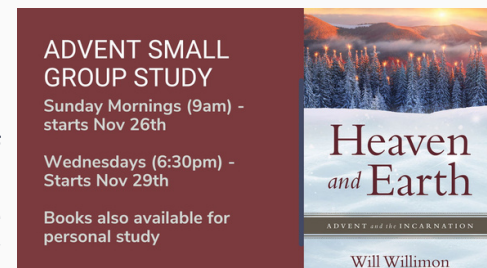
It's a Wonderful Life is one of the most popular and heart-warming films ever made. Its near universal appeal and association with Christmas has provided a rich story of redemption that has inspired generations for decades. Join us for an Advent study that examines this beloved holiday classic and reminds us how easily we can become distracted from what is truly meaningful in life. Books available for purchase at church or [online](#) for \$12. Facilitated by Dianne Roth and JoAn Baker.

Advent Study - Heaven and Earth

Sundays 9:00-9:45 am - Nov 26-Dec 17
Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm- Nov 29-Dec 13

God is on the way. It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.

In *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, Will Willimon introduces you to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way. Books available at church for purchase (\$15/book) [register online](#) for in person or pay at class time.



Wednesday Contemplative Group Gatherings

Begins January 3, 6:30-7:30 pm

Are you looking for a way to turn towards God and learn how to listen to what God might be saying to you? Join us for a time of guided prayer and reflection through Centering Prayer and the steps of Lectio Divina. We will pray through the Scripture passage that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Whether you are interested in developing these spiritual practices for the first time or breathing new life into your current practice, there is a place for you. Group facilitator: Kami Pohl (Certified Spiritual Director).



Stitches of Love

Thursday, December 7, 1:00 pm

The Stitches of Love sewing group meets Monday, December 7 at 1pm. New sewers welcome. Please bring completed cozies as they will be part of the upcoming bazaar. We will be discussing future projects and supplies. We will meet downstairs in the A5 Conference Room.





Faithful Servant Award 2024

Nominations Due December 17



Beginning in 2022, Cross Winds awarded its first annual Faithful Servant Award to congregation members to recognize volunteers who have given generously of their time and talents towards the efforts of Cross Winds. We are blessed with many people who give of themselves to this church in a variety of areas. The reasons include but are not limited to Building, Ministry, Education, Hospitality, Music, Sunday School, Worship leadership, Women's retreat, and Missions. Nominations are now open for the 2024 Faithful Servant Awards to be awarded later this winter. Please fill out a nomination form located on the [Cross Winds website](#) or paper copy on the welcome desk. Paper ballots can also be returned to the welcome desk. These should be returned by December 17.

Cookie Exchange - December 3, 2:00 pm

Gather together to exchange cookies and Christmas cheer. Bring 3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to exchange and go home with 2.5 dozen of assorted holiday treats. Enjoy fellowship while we sample some cookies and share some holiday teas. Hosted by Allyson Tarnowski and Dianne Roth. [Register online](#) for the event.



Lefse Making Party

Saturday, December 9, 1-3pm

Learn how to make Lefse, a Scandinavian culinary tradition, this Christmas season in the Cross Winds kitchen. Spaces available for 20 participants. Students (ages 12 and older) welcome if accompanied by an adult. Recommended \$5 per person. Hosted by Jeanine Ronning. [Register online](#) today.

Carols and Cookies

Wednesday, December 13, 2pm

Gather in the sanctuary to sing your favorite Christmas songs and enjoy a special Christmas communion and prayer. Afterwards we'll meet in the fellowship hall for cookies and cocoa. Contact Pastor Stina for more information.



CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



In November we studied Joshua, Rahab, Jericho and spies- We're thankful for God, Moses and all the other guys!





MERRY
MERRY
MERRY
Christmas

Christmas at Cross Winds is for everyone!

Whether you are in a skit, ringing a bell, wearing an animal in costume, playing an instrument or worshipping with your family- you are welcome here. We want you to feel safe, loved and confident in your performances so please speak up if you have any questions or concerns. Christmas Eve worship will be offered at 10am, 4pm and 10pm. The 4pm service is our high energy, kid participation service! Come a few minutes early to get into a costume and be part of the show!

Tis the season of holiday praise packs!

We will not be having Children's Worship on December 10 as we enjoy the adult musical together. We will not be having Sunday School or Children's Worship on December 24 or 31. We will not be having Wednesday dinners and programs on December 20 or 27. Be on the lookout for praise packs on the white cart by the welcome desk!





Youth Ministry Updates

November was a month filled with gratitude and blessings. As our students wrapped up their fall Wednesday series on the Bible, led worship through song and spoken word, and gathered to prepare for a summer mission trip, we are grateful for all that is happening through the commitment of our families. This coming month is filled with excitement. Check out the news about our winter mentor series and mission trip opportunities.



Winter Middle School Mentor Series begins December 6

Our Middle School students begin a winter mentor series on December 6th that explores the basics of a Christian life. Please pray for our students and the mentors who will be growing in their faith together!

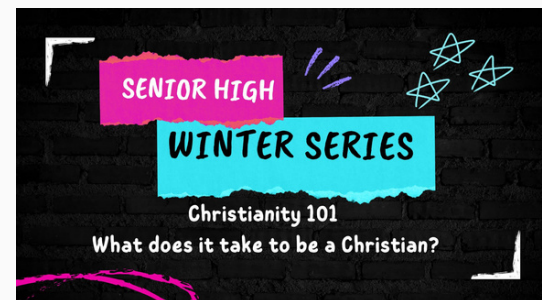
For our students and mentors, here is the December schedule.

- Wednesday, December 6th – arrive for dinner at 5:30pm! Orientation begins at 6pm.
- Wednesday, December 13th – Christmas party for mentors and students. (Dinner at 5:30pm. Party at 6:30-7:30pm)
- Christmas Break December 20th & 27th
- Classes resume January 3rd.

Wednesday Night High School Series begins December 6 Christianity 101

What does it take to be a Christian? Join us as we start a new series this winter. Come for one week or the entire series beginning December 6th.

Be sure to join us on December 13th for a Christmas party!





CROSS WINDS UMC SENIOR HIGH

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

JULY 6-12, 2024

STUDENTS IN GRADES 8-12



2024 Mission Team Registration Due by December 1

Students in grades 8-12 (during the 2023-2024 school year)

Spots are filling up fast for our 2024 Senior High Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, MI. Next month, we will announce the team roster, and the team will begin their prep work for the big trip. We ask all to be in prayer for this exciting mission opportunity, that our team may be blessed and be a blessing.

If you're still considering registration, but sure to fill out your forms today. If you've already joined the team, welcome aboard! Here are important upcoming dates for everyone to remember:

Upcoming Mission Team Events

- Wednesday, January 10th (6:30-7:30pm) - team meeting
- Sunday, February 4th (10am worship) - team blessing
- Wednesday, February 7th (5:30-7:30pm) - fundraiser event

For additional information about supporting the team, registration, or other needs, contact Pastor Stina. Consider supporting the team today – [Donation Form](#)





Thankful Event Highlights



Our first community night was filled with laughter and fun!

There were activities for everyone!

We shared a meal and our CROSS tower was tall!

What a special way to wrap up this fall!





Thankful Event Highlights





2023 Endowment Gift

Fellowship Hall Chairs

CROSS
WINDS



2023 Endowment Gift - Fellowship Hall Chairs

The Endowment Committee is pleased to present the 2023 endowment gift towards the purchase of new fellowship hall chairs which arrived just before Thanksgiving.

How does the Endowment Fund work?

The Endowment Ministry Fund provides a way for members and friends of Cross Winds to leave a legacy that will live on past their lifetimes. Through this Fund, the Church is able to carry on God's work, reaching beyond the limitations of the annual budget. The Endowment Ministry Fund is a permanently restricted, self-sustaining source of funding. Earnings are paid out annually according to the church's wishes. Donations such as cash, checks, or stock options and other types of gifts may be given. An endowment fund pools contributions from its donors and invests those contributions so that they will grow. The portfolio is managed professionally, and then a portion of the investment fund is withdrawn each year and used for purposes designated by the church. As such, donations made today are truly lasting gifts, which will continue to support our church for many years into the future.

Why Were Chairs Selected?

The fellowship hall chairs were selected as the 2023 gift recipient by the committee because it was recognized as a project that would benefit the greater community and continue our efforts towards welcoming all into our facility.

The chair selection process was overseen by the trustees and a task force group selected by the trustee committee. The Task Force members included Brenda Machacek (Trustee member), Jeanine Ronning (Board Member and Hospitality tri-chair), and Michelle Schober (Staff representative). This subcommittee reviewed several chairs, sought significant congregational input, and took many variables into account. The chair selected is a Bertolini Super Stacker chair. It was chosen because it is easy to move, easy to store, easy to clean, and reasonably priced.

We are grateful for the work of our endowment committee, trustees, chair task force, and entire congregation for their efforts.



2023 Endowment Gift

Fellowship Hall
Chairs



Previous Endowment Gift Recipients

2022 – Sanctuary Sound Board

In 2022 the first endowment gift was given towards a new sound board for the sanctuary, which provided necessary upgrades for our sound equipment in the sanctuary. Having a digital sound board has been well appreciated, not only for in-house sound management, but also for recording purposes as we live-stream weekly worship and special services.

Future Endowment Gifts

Beginning in the winter, the endowment committee, in consultation with the trustees and the board, will review potential projects for a 2024 endowment gift award. If you have questions about the process, be sure to speak with a committee member.

Endowment Committee Members

Jon McWilliams (Committee Chair), Jeff Drayton, Louise Fuller, Jeanne Carlberg, Becky Real (Board Chair), Don Bushen (Finance Chair), Paul Crosland (Trustees Chair), and Stina Koppes (Pastor).

To learn more about the endowment, speak with a committee member or visit the church website: <https://crosswindslife.org/give/endowment/>

GIVE HOPE

PACK 100,000 MEALS

APRIL 19-20TH, 2024

CROSS WINDS



United Methodist Church



2024 Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

Through a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ event at Cross Winds UMC on April 19-20th, 2024, our community is responding to the cries of those in need by producing over 100,000 nutritious meals for kids around the world. To provide these meals, we will need hundreds of volunteers to help pack the meals, gather 100,000 prayers, and raise \$30,000 to fully invest in feeding others.

Help us meet our \$30,000 fundraising goal this Christmas by donating to a special December offering for our FMSC Mobile Pack event. We also will have a Christmas Alternative Gift Fair open on Sunday, December 10th, providing an opportunity for people to purchase Christmas gifts for friends and family that will impact our mobile pack efforts to feed over 100,000 people!

At the Alternative Gift Fair on December 10th, token gifts will be out for “purchase,” as you make donations towards our FMSC mobile pack event. These gifts are meant to be symbols of your donation towards the mobile pack and a way for you to give a gift to a loved one. Sample gifts include ornaments, bowl cozies, scrubbies, small games, etc. Gifts may be purchased by cash, check, or online payments.

Learn more about the FMSC Mobile Pack at crosswindslife.org

December Offering
Give hope this Christmas

100,000 meal goal!

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

GIVE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS
Alternative Gift Fair
December 10th

Supports

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church



100,000 Prayers Challenge

One minute per meal

January 10th–April 20th



100,000 Prayers Challenge - January 10th-April 20th

Supporting 2024 Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event

One Minute Per Meal - "For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37

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 19-20th, 2024**, our community is responding to the cries of those in need by producing over 100,000 nutritious meals for kids around the world.

Join Our Prayer Challenge!

Our goal is to pray one minute for EVERY meal that we will be packing. That means we need 100,000 minutes for 100,000 meals. Consider praying for one meal or many as we reach our goal. We'll have sample prayers, Bible verses, and words of encouragement to cheer you on in prayer. Starting in January, we'll have resources ready for you to sign up and join the team. Until then, save the date for these upcoming events. For additional questions, contact Amber Lahtinen (Director of Children's Ministries) or Pastor Stina Koppes.

Kick Off Event – Wednesday, January 10th

Community Dinner (5:30pm) in the fellowship hall

Prayer Kick-Off (6pm-6:30pm) in the sanctuary

Join us for a community meal in the fellowship hall at 5:30pm followed by a brief gathering in the sanctuary (6pm-6:30pm). We'll take time to pray together as we begin our prayer challenge, provide resources for your own prayers, and give thanks for the ways God will bless these meals.

Prayer-A-Thon – Wednesday, March 20th

Community Dinner (5:30-6:30pm)

Prayer-a-thon gathering (6:30-7:30pm)

As we keep collecting those prayers, join us for a midway community event to pray, pray, pray for those 100,000 meals. We'll have a simple community dinner (5:30-6:30pm) and then various prayer stations and activities for you to help reach our goal of one minute per meal! Friends welcomed and encouraged to join us.

Closing Celebration – Wednesday, April 24th

Community Dinner (5:30-6:30pm) & Celebration (6:30-7:30pm)

Join us for our closing night to celebrate a job well done. We'll have dinner, special entertainment, and surprises to warm your heart and bring you joy.

Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Rd
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Return Service Requested

The Compass

is the monthly newsletter of
Cross Winds United Methodist Church

www.crosswindslife.org

Phone: 763-494-9463

