



This issue:

Sign up now to volunteer!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILEPACK™ EVENT

April 19-20th
Pack 100,000 Meals

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

The Mobile Pack is almost here! We have raised the funds and now it is time to pack the meals.

Help pack 100,000 meals with Feed My Starving Children at Cross Winds United Methodist Church (April 19-20th). There are still volunteer spots open at all the packing shifts. Volunteers ages 5+ are welcome to volunteer with meal packing. We have reserved spots for at all shifts, so contact the church office if you are unable to reserve a spot for a shift. Additionally, there are host site hospitality opportunities that you can sign up for.

Childcare is available for all Saturday packing shifts. Advanced registration required.

Continue to pray for the meals we will pack in our 100,000 Prayers Challenge. Log your prayer minutes.

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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

CWUMC has completed replacing our Church Fund Accounting computer application. The new system will be able to integrate the finance aspects of the many Missions we would like to explore in the future. As part of that planning for the future we will examine existing finance policies and processes. We will begin this review process in April. The goal is to provide new updated Finance Policies that will feature streamlined processes while providing better financial transparency to the congregation.

Our Church Finance condition moving into April is stable as Giving and Expenses are maintaining budgeted levels for the first three months. If you have not pledged yet, you can make a difference with additional Giving or Pledges that you can contribute. No amount is too small. We welcome any support that you can provide. 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 2024 Budget, Capital Campaign Fund, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance please contact us at finance@crosswindsumc.org.

Ministry Staff

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Cheryl Purkat

Nursery Supervisor



Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



“The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.”

~ Acts 2:42-47

This year we have been renewed by the ministry of shared meals thanks to our new kitchen. We have seen a revitalized spirit permeate Sunday morning coffee time, a new joy for our Wednesday evening meal program emerging, and palpable excitement for special events that feature what our new kitchen can do such as our April Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack (packing over 100,000 meals in 2 days).

There is power in shared meals.

You believed in it. You supported it.

Together we are witnessing the ripple effects as God works through things.

For those of you who like stats and reflecting on ministry impact, here are some estimated numbers from our Wednesday meal program (September through April)

- 28 Wednesday Dinner Events Hosted
- Average number of meals served at an event – 80
- Average number of weekly volunteers – 5
- Number of lead cooks involved (responsible for running the kitchen for the event) - 12
- Number of different volunteers trained - Over 60
- Number of volunteer shifts - Over 150
- Number of meals served - Over 2,240

I want to thank everyone who has given generously of their time and talent to make this new ministry initiative possible. I’d especially like to thank

- Kitchen Task Force – Jeanine Ronning, Maureen Wiethorn, Allyson Tarnowski, John Mbali, Faustina Otoo, Rev. Joyce Sluss,
- Wednesday Meal Coordinating Team – Sue Bosworth and Heidi Crosland
- Lead Cook Volunteers – Maureen Wiethorn, Dianne Robinson, Jim Walber, Heidi Crosland, Barb Parr, Jeanine Ronning, Liz and Jeremy Lehrkamp, Darrel Ibeling, Mark Biederman, Pam Storry

Thank you for sharing these meals with gladness and simplicity. It is a joy to see how God is adding people daily to our meal community.



Spring Worship Series

April 7-May 26

The Easter season, which lasts for 50 days, is a time to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and recognize that we are invited to follow him. Join us as we reflect on what it means to get ready to launch as a Christ follower for the seasons ahead of us.

April 7 - Behind Closed Doors

John 20:19-31

Big life changes can be disorienting. When the path ahead looks dangerous, we often want to hide. What happens when God meet us behind closed doors? Join us as we begin our spring series, "Ready to Launch," which explores what it takes to boldly leap out into the world.

April 21 - Calling Mission Control

John 10:11-18

Launching into the world includes meeting a fair share of danger. How do we launch into the great unknown with confidence, recognizing the challenges before us? It's important to listen to the right voices for guidance. Join us as we consider who's in our mission control team as we get ready for phase three of "ready to launch."

April 14 - Opening Our Minds

Luke 24:36-49

Once we start something new, it's common to have a lot of questions. How can we look to God for insight and power? Join us as we enter phase two of "Ready to Launch," moving beyond disorientation towards discovering what is needed to ignite the passions required to fuel the mission.

April 28 - They Will Know We Are Christians By Our ____?

1 John 4:18-21 - Pastor Shirley Duncanson

We Christians fall into camps, claiming our truth as the only truth. There is a tendency to look down on those who do not share our particular understanding of faith, be it progressive, conservative or somewhere in-between. The writer of 1st John tells us that perfect love casts out all fear, but what does perfect fear do to love?

Adult Ministries and Small Groups



April Wednesday Night Study - Scripture in Song

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, and 17, 6:30-7:30 pm

Music has the power to stir our souls in powerful ways. When lyrics are scripturally based, the Spirit sings truths directly into our hearts. In each of the three weeks of this series, we will listen for messages from God through song and scripture.

No materials or sign up needed. All are welcome to join any or all of the three weeks. Classes will be held on Wednesdays (6:30-7:30pm) on April 3, 10, and 17th. Facilitated by Jamie Boettcher.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, April 22, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, April 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.



Stitches of Love

Thursday, April 4, 1:00 pm

The next meeting of Stitches of Love is Thursday, April 4 at 1pm. Please bring your completed items. Any new sewers are welcome to join.

April Game Night Cancelled

Due to setup for the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack, Game Night for April has been cancelled. Join us again on May 16 for the next scheduled Game Night.

Game Night

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

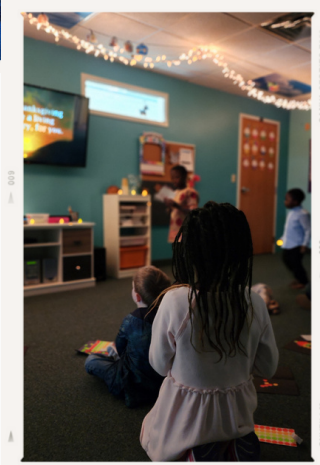
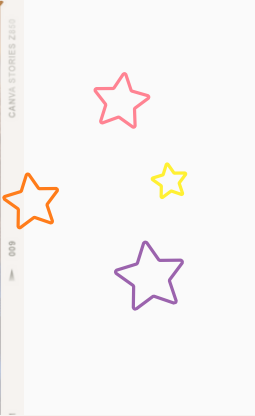
Games for all ages!



CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



The Last Supper, communion and Zacchaeus in a tree; No need for leprechauns- Jesus says, "Hope is found in me!"





April Theme - Throw Back

From retro toys to fashion trends, we all love a good throwback. (Especially for grown-ups because it reminds us of being young again.) There are things that remind us of a moment in time, but other things feel timeless and like they're always in style. In this four-week series, kids will travel through the decades and see that the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels are always trending. As we hear from Jesus, we'll see it's always good to be humble, we can always forgive, Jesus is always fair, and love always needs action.

Very Blessed Summer

This summer we are going on an adventure with God! Through some special Bible stories, we will learn about people in the Bible who experienced the gift of a trusting relationship with God. In addition, we will learn to trust that God will go with us, lead the way, share wisdom, give us peace, and spark joy as we celebrate the good news of Jesus in our own lives and in the lives of others. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.



100,000 Prayer Challenge in Children's Ministry

The Cross Winds kids have been praying for the meals being backed for God's children all around the world. They may be small but their prayers are mighty! We can't wait to pack meals together on April 19 & 20!

Log your prayer minutes!



Youth Ministry

It's been a great year to grow in faith and friendships at Cross Winds. Thank you, families, for your commitment to Wednesday night faith formation, music groups, and summer activities. Thank you volunteers and mentors for being a part of the ministry team! As we get ready for the spring and summer months, here are a few highlights of key events.



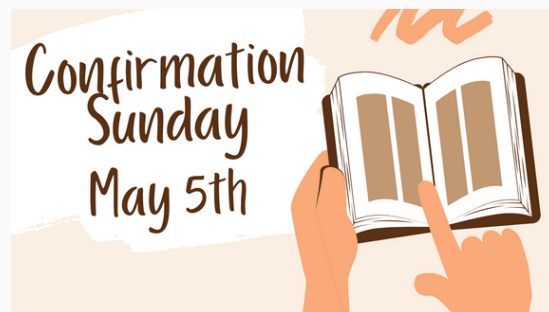
Wednesday Night - School Year End Party

Wednesday, April 24, 5:30 pm

Join us for an end-of-the year party on Wednesday, April 24th (5:30-7:30pm) as we celebrate our first year of Wednesday night dinners and programming for all ages. Dinner will be served from 5:30pm-6:30pm. We are excited to welcome the Surf Cats, a classic rock and roll band featuring our own CW friend, Ron Johnson! It's going to be a high energy, fun-filled night. See you there.

Confirmation Sunday - May 5

Join us on Sunday, May 5th, as we celebrate our 8th graders who are seeking confirmation. Worship will include a special time of blessing for each student as they say yes to their faith and to supporting the life of Cross Winds. We are proud of our Confirmation students and eager to celebrate with them.



Note: for 8th grade students preparing for confirmation, there will be a rehearsal and dinner (including family and mentors) on Wednesday, May 1st (5:30-7:30pm).



Honoring 2024 Graduates Sunday, May 12

Calling All Graduates! Cross Winds UMC Graduation Sunday is May 12th. If you or someone you know is graduating (high school or college) this year and would like to have their accomplishment celebrated, please fill out the Grad Sunday form online or contact Pastor Stina by May 5th. Please include a recent photo/school/degree/future plans.

<https://crosswindslife.org/resources/news-updates/graduate-recognition-sunday/>



Registration Open for Summer Festival Camp July 14-17

Open to students finishing 6th-9th grade in the 2023-2024 school year.

Cost \$250.

Location - Gustavus Adolphus College

For a week during the summer, teens have the chance to get away from real life, hang out with people from across the Midwest, deepen friendships, and talk about God. To learn more about SFC visit: <https://summerfestivalcamp.com/> If your students are interested in attending SFC with Cross Winds Youth or you are interested in serving as an adult leader, please contact Pastor Stina (stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org). Space is limited. CW Registration for all campers will be due by June 1st. Scholarships available upon request.

<https://crosswindslife.org/resources/news-updates/2024-summer-festival-camp-middle-school/>

Senior High Summer Mission Trip - Spring Plant Sale

Support the 2024 Senior High Mission Team as they prepare for their trip to Benton Harbor, MI from July 6th through July 12th. Team members have partnered with Lynde's for this year's spring plant sale in support of the summer mission trip. Orders due April 10th. Learn more online: <https://crosswindslife.org/resources/news-updates/2024-plant-sale/>



If you would prefer to donate money to a team member, consider leaving an online sponsor donation today: <https://crosswindslife.org/engage/youth/>




Community Night
 April 24
 5:30-7:30 pm
 End of Year Party!
 Fun for all ages!

April Community Night - Year End Party

April 24, 5:30 pm

Join us for an end-of-the year party on Wednesday, April 24th (5:30-7:30pm) as we celebrate our first year of Wednesday night dinners and programming for all ages. Dinner will be served from 5:30pm-6:30pm. We are excited to welcome the Surf Cats, a classic rock and roll band featuring our own CW friend, Ron Johnson! It's going to be a high energy, fun-filled night. See you there.

Spring Tea - What a Colorful World

Saturday, May 11, 2:00-4:00 pm

Join us for a spring tea in the fellowship hall, including your favorite tea & sandwich items, prepared by Allyson Tarnowski, and featuring our guest musical group, Flute Cocktail. A flute choir with pizzazz, Flute Cocktail presents "What A Colorful World": a variety of music styles with a color theme played by 4 types of flutes. Flute Cocktail has been entertaining audiences since 2004 & is comprised of musicians from all over the Twin Cities metro area. Cost is \$15 per ticket.

Reserve your seats online.



Spring Tea
 Saturday, May 11
 2:00-4:00 pm

Join us for an afternoon of treats, tea, and musical entertainment by Flute Cocktail.
 Tickets \$15
 Register by May 1.



New Member Sunday
April 14

Contact Pastor Stina or attend a "Coffee With the Pastor" to learn more about joining the church.

New Member Sunday - April 14

During worship on Sunday, April 14th, we are excited to welcome new members to Cross Winds. If you are interested in becoming a member, stop by a "Coffee with the Pastor" event (Sunday April 14 at 9am) or contact Pastor Stina to learn more about joining the church.

Church Conference - Elected Leadership & Membership

May 28, 6:00 pm

Cross Winds UMC will have a church conference meeting on Tuesday, May 28th at 6pm for the purpose of electing leadership and reviewing membership reports. For more information, contact Pastor Stina, Mary Muellenberg (nominations chair), or Becky Real (board chair).



CHURCH CONFERENCE

Tuesday, May 28
 6:00 pm

For the purpose of electing leadership and reviewing membership reports.

WHAT'S UP?



What's Up at CROSS Services

CROSS Services provides food, housing assistance, workforce development, and programs for kids to local families experiencing financial crisis or with low incomes. They serve more than 14,000 people annually in Rogers, Maple Grove, Osseo, Corcoran, Dayton, and Champlin (West of 169) communities. Check out these fun April events to help support the mission of CROSS Services.

Empty Bowls: Indulge your senses in an evening filled with generosity, talented local artisans, and delectable local fare. 4-7pm on April 4 at The Church of the Open Door. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

Pickle With Purpose: Grab your paddle and join CROSS Services for Pickle with Purpose, a Pickleball Doubles Tournament benefitting CROSS Services and your community. April 27 -28 at Pints & Paddle. Register online today!

Visit <https://crossservices.org/events/> for more information.



What to know about General Conference plans

By: Heather Hahn, UM News

Hundreds of United Methodists around the globe are preparing to spend two weeks away from home, work and family to serve as delegates at General Conference.

“I know it is a sacrifice and an effort, which only God can bless,” said Kim Simpson, the chair of the commission that plans the denomination’s top policymaking assembly. She was speaking at the opening of the Feb. 29-March 1 livestreamed General Conference orientation, co-hosted by United Methodist Communications and the Rev. Gary Graves, General Conference secretary.

The two-day session offered a preview of what to expect at General Conference, both in terms of its logistics and proposed legislation. After three postponements caused by the pandemic, the international gathering is now slated for April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The theme for the gathering will be “...and know that I am God” from Psalm 46.

General Conference is always a major undertaking with delegates and other church leaders coming from four continents. But planning for the big meeting has been made more complicated by not only COVID’s disruptions but also the exit of about a quarter of U.S. churches under a General Conference-approved provision that expired at the end of last year.

It will be up to the delegates to prayerfully make the decisions that will chart where the denomination goes from here.

“Undoubtedly, The United Methodist Church faces significant challenges,” said Simpson, who is also a delegate herself from the Central Texas Conference. “But I firmly believe that God can bring forth blessings, even from the most trying circumstances.”

This first of two stories looks at plans for ensuring General Conference delegates have what they need to attend the gathering and what order of business they can expect during their time there.

To read the full article learn more at: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/what-to-know-about-general-conference-plans-18295137>

May 19

UMCOR SUNDAY

Support sustainable
recovery and relief

A special offering will
be taken to support
the work of UMCOR



UMCOR Sunday - May 19

What is UMCOR?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), provides hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by war, storms or other crises. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. Last year, your generosity delivered \$1.7 million towards these ministries:

- International Disaster Response efforts aid following natural or human-caused disasters outside of the United States. Typical emergency response efforts include the distribution of food, hygiene supplies and facilities, nonfood items, psychosocial support and shelter. Learn more [here](#).
- U.S. Disaster Response works with annual conferences in the United States to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories. In partnership with conference level disaster response coordinators, UMCOR journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster's cycle. Learn more [here](#).
- Global Migration provides relief and recovery in the form of food aid, necessities, and legal and transportation services for vulnerable migrants and refugees. Learn more [here](#).
- Relief Supplies UMCOR Sager Brown Depot and affiliate warehouses within the UM Relief Supply Network collect relief supplies that are assembled by United Methodist volunteers for distribution in the United States and its territories in response to disasters. Learn more [here](#).

UMCOR's goal is to assist vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their nationality, race, religion or status. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity. One of the wonderful aspects of the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. Because of you – UMCOR and its partners serve as witnesses to God's love for all.

What is UMCOR Sunday?

On UMCOR Sunday, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), an organization that acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. The funds UMCOR receives on this special Sunday are offered by millions of United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes. Thanks to UMCOR's informed and reliable infrastructure, expert leadership and experienced volunteers, every dollar received is leveraged to work as hard as possible. At a time when it may feel like we have lost so much, embracing God's love for us can shift our perspective to recognize and share abundant grace. United Methodist special Sunday offerings celebrate vibrant ministries while investing in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support these important ministries equips us to work together, empowered by God's love. When you give generously to support UMCOR Sunday, you embody compassion and you shine God's light into the shadows as a beacon of hope.

How to Give

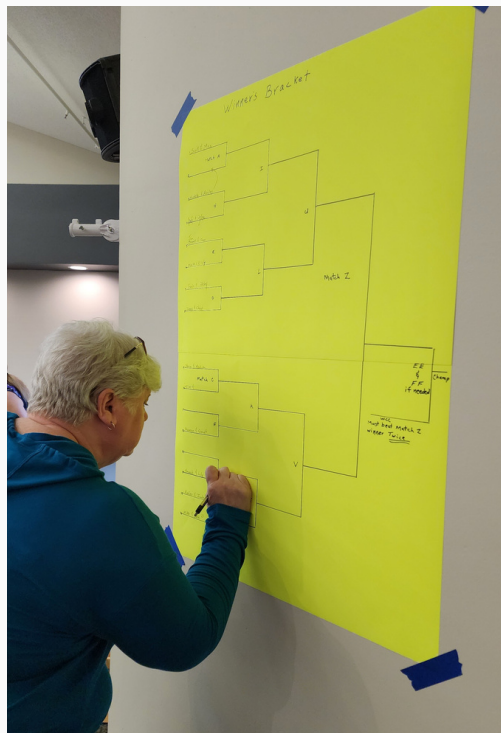
Write a check to Cross Winds UMC and write, "UMCOR Sunday offering" in the memo line. To give online go to: <https://crosswindslife.org/give/> (choose subfund – UMCOR)

Reference - Video links - https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving/special-sundays/umcor-sunday-pastor-and-leader-kit/_Local/umcor-sunday-more-videos

March Highlights

Cornhole Tournament

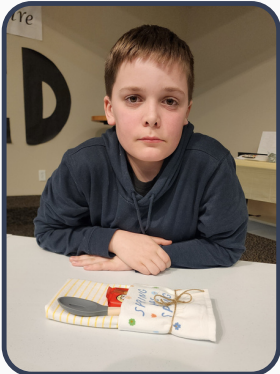
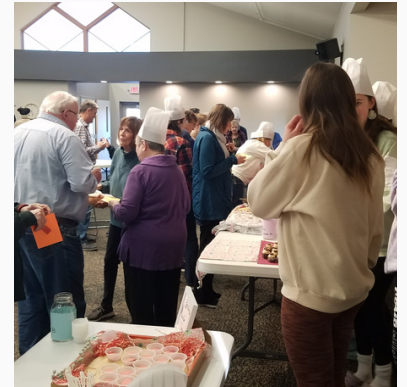
And the winners from Cross Winds' first annual Cornhole tournament were... Scott and Max! Congrats on your win and congrats to all who played. What a fun night.



March Highlights

March Community Night

Thanks to all who took part in our March Community Night in support of Feed My Starving Children. Thank you for your prayers for our 100,000 Prayer Challenge. Keep praying! Thank you to all the bakers!



Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

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Maple Grove, MN 55311

Return Service Requested

The Compass

is the monthly newsletter of
Cross Winds United Methodist Church

www.crosswindslife.org

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