



## This issue:

**Connection Points and Staff**  
PAGE 2

**From the Pastor's Pen**  
PAGE 3

**Worship**  
PAGE 4

**Finance Update**  
PAGE 5

**Cross Winds Delivers Hope**  
PAGE 6-7

**Children's Ministries**  
PAGE 8

**Youth Ministry**  
PAGE 9

**Adult Opportunities**  
PAGE 10

**Small Group Ministries**  
PAGE 11

**Cross Winds Community**  
PAGE 12

**December Highlights**  
PAGE 13-14



## Cross Winds Choir Retreat

**Saturday, January 10**  
**9am-4pm**

*All are welcome!*



## Choir Retreat - Saturday, January 10 9am-4pm

Have you ever thought about joining the choir or wondered what it's all about? We invite you to be part of our first annual choir retreat on Saturday, January 10, right here at the church.

The day will include time for fellowship, worship, and music-making as we work through our winter and spring repertoire and enjoy a sneak peek of our Easter Cantata. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience choir life, whether you're a longtime singer or simply curious about joining.

If you'd prefer to participate only in the Easter Cantata, you're welcome to join us from 2:00–4:00 p.m. that afternoon.

Please feel free to email Lisa with any questions. All are welcome—we hope to see you there!

# JANUARY

## Cross Winds United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Phone: 763-494-9463

Website: [crosswindslife.org](http://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](http://www.minnesotaumc.org)

## Ministry Staff

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Cheryl Purkat, Jorie Emerson  
Nursery Staff



## "...Imagine"

*When God restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed."*

*~ Psalm 126*



Awhile back, I had a truly freaky experience. I was running errands for some church related items. I stopped off at local Book Store to check out some things I had seen online that might help spruce up the Christmas decorations around my home. According to the online descriptions they also happened to be on sale. So, ever the frugal shopper (not!), I stopped in to see these items firsthand.

After a successful purchase, I stopped by a local coffee shop for a late afternoon cup of chai tea before heading back home. I took my tea and a section of the newspaper someone had abandoned, found a nice, quiet table surrounded by the oxygen and humidity producing plants in this lovely cafe, and settled in. I was reading a letter to the editor, entitled 'Imagine.'

The writer was honoring John Lennon whose death was remembered on December 8th. Using some of the inspiring and challenging lyrics of his music, she was urging parents to pay careful attention to the ways in which we parent because, indeed, we have the power to change the world.

That's when it happened. On the subtle Musak playing just below a conscious level, I heard not, the 100th playing of 'Feliz Navidad' or even the 1000th hearing of 'I'll be Home for Christmas'. No, playing ever so gently was the sweet, sensual voice of John Lennon singing.....'Imagine'.

I looked around. Was this some kind of joke? What were the odds of reading about the song and then hearing it randomly being played in these airwaves so saturated with constant Christmas music? I sat very still and listened to the words I know so well. "You may say I'm a dreamer. But I'm not the only one. Someday you'll join us and the world will live as one."

This song has always held such hope for me. All Lennon sings about seems so simple yet so elusive. As I sat there still dumbfounded by the synchronicity of this, I thought of our church's theme during these past Advent Days; "Sanctuary: Room for All." I imagined that as we are all people on a journey we begin to imagine, to dream, what possibilities lie before us when we make room for all. And then I thought of the words from Psalm 126 which speaks of those who journey and dream. I thought about how often I pay lip service to the power and gift of dreaming. But do I really practice it? Do I really allow myself to be lifted above the cynicism that is rampant in our culture and, like Lennon, be a dreamer? Do you? And why not?

Perhaps my spirit, like so many, has been deflated by unrealized dreams. Or perhaps it often seems so much more expedient to make a list of the jobs that need to be done, be about doing them, and checking them off my list, chalking it all up as success. Isn't this what we are rewarded for doing? Is anybody really rewarded for dreaming any more?

I thought of what I once dreamed of doing, of being. A figure skater. An actress. A peacemaker. A missionary. A teacher. A doctor. Someone who rallied people for 'saving the world'. A pastor. So many dreams.

Of course, I have dreamed of many things that have come to fruition. Being a mother. Being a pastor. Making music often with people I love. Traveling to places that inspire me. Being given the privilege of walking the spiritual journey with so many.

Dreaming is, I believe, what makes the world go round and moves us to Make Room for All. It is what helps us imagine what we can be and what might be. It is what helps us paint a picture of what God hopes for us and then encourages us to walk into it. It is what allows us to envision a better world, a safer world, a more peaceful world. A place where 'the world will live as one.'

Somehow, I also believe that is what this season of Advent and Christmas is all about. Dreaming of the promise of a tiny child to transform the world. Dreaming of parents who nurture and guide.

Dreaming of the inherent value of each human being. Dreaming of the invisible lines of connection that bind us all together. Dreaming of the hope of healing the world.

Imagine. Just imagine, and then take those dreams into the New Year as we journey forth as God's people.

As one on the journey with you,  
Pastor Dianne





## Rediscovering our United Methodist

# Roots

### **January 4 - *Baptism***

Mark 1:4-12

Baptism is God's cleansing of our original sin, initiation into Christ's Holy Church, incorporation into the body of Christ, and empowerment by the Holy Spirit for a lifelong process of discipleship in community.

### **January 11 - *Grace***

Ephesians 2:4-10

Grace is a gift from God given freely to all people, and because of this gift we are saved. This grace is the spark that makes the Methodist fire burn, the starting point and an essential root of our theology.

### **January 18 - *Personal & Social Holiness: Missional Connection***

Micah 6:6-8

John Wesley, said "There is no holiness but social holiness." Salvation and a full life in Christ are seen in personal and social holiness. This holiness calls us to a missional connection with our communities and the world.

### **January 25 - *Holy Conferencing***

Colossians 3:12-17

In the United Methodist Church, holy conferencing focuses on the ability of laity and clergy to come together and discuss and discern difficult topics guided by the Holy Spirit, which can be a witness to the world. The local church can also engage in holy conferencing through its ministry and decision-making.

### **February 1 - *Communion***

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the United Methodist Church, communion is a means of grace and a holy mystery where Christ is spiritually present and the invitation is open to all.



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



## Finance Update

We are near the completion of the budget for 2026. Details will be provided at the Church Conference on Sunday January 18th for the congregation to approve. As we wrap up 2025, please know that you can still make a difference with your continued support and your pledge for 2026. We appreciate and welcome any contribution. And a sincere thank you for your giving in 2025 and your pledge for 2026.

Although we will end 2025 with a deficit in our operating fund, your giving helped improve our final results, and that deficit amount will be less than what was budgeted. We thank you for your dedication to Cross Winds mission. If you have any questions regarding the 2026 budget, stewardship drive, endowment fund or mortgage balance, please contact us at [finance@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:finance@crosswindsumc.org).

### CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, January 18  
11:15 am

Learn about pledge drive results and  
the 2026 budget.



### Church Conference

Sunday, January 18, 11:15 am

All are welcome to attend an upcoming Church meeting to discuss the financial information of the church. During this meeting, 2025 finances will be reported, and the final Annual Giving Drive results and 2026 budget will be presented for discussion. Please plan to attend this important church meeting.

SIMPLIFIED  
GIVING FORM





## Cross Winds Delivers Hope to Local Families

On the morning of December 13th, Cross Winds proudly continued its 24-year tradition of partnering with the Maple Grove Firefighters and the Lions Club for the annual Holiday Food Baskets project. This incredible 45-year community tradition brought together over 125 volunteers to assemble the baskets and area churches including Cross Winds to deliver food to 156 local families.

This year, our Cross Winds community delivered over \$5,300 worth of groceries to 22 families, providing each with four boxes of food for the holiday season. The need continues to grow in our area, and the generosity of our members makes a tangible impact.

One of our recipients sent a thank you note that said,

*"I really can't thank you all enough. As you well know, we see a lot of the worst in this world it can be challenging to remember how much God there is. While it's hard for me to not to say there are so many who need it more, it is equally hard to admit this was needed. Thank you!!"*

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who made this year a success:

- Holiday Basket Coordinators: A special thanks to Tim Peschman and Mark Biederman for their effort in organizing delivery locations and recruiting volunteers.
- Delivery Volunteers: We are deeply grateful to our community who gave their time to deliver baskets: Dale Bossen, Gary & Mary Muellenberg, Mark Biederman, Paul & Debbie Baker, Jon McWilliams, Rick & Maureen Wiethorn, Alan Storry, Roger & Lynn Fellows, Craig & Brenda Machacek, Scott Nagel, Scott Parr, Owen & Andrew Kosloski, Tom Peterson, Ryan & Max Bruers, and Tim & Jodi Peschman.
- We also recognize Ron Johnson, who coordinated delivering additional baskets in support of Firefighters for Healing and has been a key part of this project for over 25 years.

This wonderful partnership is a testament to what we can accomplish together. Thank you to everyone who participated





**Volunteers Assembled 156 Baskets**



**One basket worth \$230  
of groceries**



**Alan Sorry and Tom  
Peterson picking up their  
baskets for delivery**



**Firefighter volunteers  
loading Alan's truck**





CROSS WINDS

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

2025-2026



### The ABCs of Christmas

Thank you to all who made this possible!

### Mentor Series

**Wednesdays this Winter: Jan 7- Feb 25, 2026**

Mentors are an important part of a confirmand's journey. Our mission is to equip and inspire young people to devote themselves to lives of Christian discipleship. Please pray for our students and mentors.



### Family Movie Night Friday January 16, 6:30pm

Join us for Movie Night as we gather to watch *Remember the Titans*! This inspiring true story explores teamwork, courage, reconciliation, and what it looks like to choose unity and respect in the face of division. It's a great opportunity for all ages to enjoy a meaningful film together and reflect on how faith calls us to build community rooted in love and understanding. Grab a fav snack if you want, bring a friend, and come enjoy a cozy night of fellowship and film. We hope to see you there!



### Blessed with the best!

**Program leaders:**  
**Cheryl & Jorie- Nursery**  
**Shawn-Elementary Sundays**  
**Megan- Elementary Wednesdays**





## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

2025-2026



**Program leaders:**  
**John and Cailin- 6th & 7th grade**  
**Amber- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation**  
**JoAn- 9th-12<sup>th</sup> grade**

## CW Mentorship

Wednesdays Jan 7-Feb 25 @ 6:30pm

Mentors are an important part of a confirmand's journey. Our mission is to equip and inspire young people to devote themselves to lives of Christian discipleship. Please pray for our students and mentors.



## Immanuel God with us.

Jesus is Immanuel. He is not a partial revelation of God with us; Jesus is God with us in all His fullness. Our Immanuel will be with us forever.

# CONFIRMATION

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT CROSS WINDS

DEC 10 - WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP  
 JAN 7 - WAY OF SALVATION  
 JAN 14 - WESLEYAN QUADRILATERAL  
 JAN 21 - WORSHIP  
 JAN 28 - SACRAMENTS  
 FEB 4 - LIVING A HOLY LIFE



CONFIRMATION  
 SUNDAY  
 MAY 24, 2026

REHEARSAL ON WEDNESDAY MAY 20

# Adult Opportunities



## THE CHARACTER OF GOD

WEDNESDAYS: JANUARY 7- FEBRUARY 11  
SUNDAYS: JANUARY 11- FEBRUARY 15

TAUGHT BY JAMIE BOETTCHER

### The Character of God Study

Wednesdays Jan 7 through Feb 11, 6:30pm  
Sundays Jan 11 through Feb 15, 9:00am

Discover the core attributes of God as described in the book of Exodus. Our key verse is: "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." (Exodus 34:6). This verse invites us into a lifetime of pondering the depths and mysteries of the character of God. This six-week series is based on the "Character of God Word Study" from The Bible Project and features short videos to introduce each topic, followed by exploration of related scriptures.

Note: The same session held on Wednesday will be on the following Sunday.

## Lefse Making

Saturday, January 24, 9:00-11:30am

Learn how to make Lefse, a Scandinavian culinary tradition. Spaces available for 12 participants. Students (ages 12 and older) welcome if accompanied by an adult. Recommended \$10 per person. Hosted by Jeanine Ronning. Register online today; deadline for registration is January 18.



### Lefse Making

Saturday, January 24  
9-11:30 am

Registration Required  
Cost \$10  
Sign up online or  
contact the church office



# Small Groups Ministries



**Prime Timers Brunch**

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

**First Tuesdays 11:30 AM**

**SIGN UP**

## Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, January 6, 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

Tuesday, January 20, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, January 20 at 11:30 am at Biaggi's 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.

**LADIES WHO LUNCH**

January 20, 11:30 am

Join us at Biaggi's in Maple Grove. Sign up on the website or contact the church office by January 18.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, January 26, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, January 26 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.

## Game Night

Thursday, January 15, 6:30 pm

Join together with friends and have fun. It will be a game night for family and friends. Games for all ages will be there but feel free to bring your favorite game to teach others. This game group will meet in the evening of every third Thursday of the month. We will be playing a variety of games. Please spread the word and join us.

**Game Night**

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Games for all ages!



## Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

April 16-18, 2026

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 16-18th, 2026, our community is responding to the cries of those in need by producing over 100,000 nutritious meals for kids around the world. Learn more online about how you can help through volunteering, financial donations, and prayer at [crosswindslife.org](http://crosswindslife.org)

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday February 12, 9am-3pm

Cross Winds will be hosting a blood drive with the Red Cross on Thursday, February 12. Sign up to give the gift of life. Questions can be directed to Amber Lahtinen or contact the church office.



## Food and Monetary Donations

The Spirit of God is among us as we endeavor to work to help our neighbors in need. Cross Winds is sponsoring a food drive and we are asking everyone to help in as many ways as you can. We will gather and disperse food and monetary donations to area food pantries. For the month of November, CROSS services has a matching donation program in place.

## Faithful Freezers

Faithful Freezers is an opportunity to prep and cook meals for your freezer. We will also prep a few extra meals to help church friends with a meal during times of need. Sign up for the session on Saturday February 7 at 10 am. This session is being offered at ½ price from the Linda Dickey memorial fund. The cost is \$50 for 8 family size meals. Contact the church office to sign up.



## 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.



# December Highlights





# December Highlights







# Happy New Year

## 2026

*Blessings*  
From your  
Cross Winds Staff



# 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](http://www.crosswindslife.org)

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