



CROSS WINDS OCTOBER 2026



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Nothing Gold Can Stay
Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest fute to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.
~ Robert Frost



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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Nursery Staff



"...Hands"

"Hands, God -
Your gift to us.
We stretch them up to You.
Always You hold them.

Your hands, scarred,
became a sign
of your love
no time can erase.

Your hands,
which have us
inscribed on their palms,
pour down blessing
on the details of our days."

~Laurel Bridges



Hands. Have you ever noticed how so many of the important things we do in life depends on our hands? We shake another's hand as a sign of welcome, of introduction, of promise, of assent. "Let's shake on it." We say when an agreement is meant to be a commitment one to the other. We clap our hands to say we enjoyed something, to affirm the words or performance on another. We wave our hands in the air to greet one another or signal our own presence in a crowd. We use our hands in fists of affirmation, anger or rage.

Over the years I have been aware of people's hands as they come to receive the sacrament of communion. I have often wished I could have photos of the many shapes and sizes of the hands that reach, cupped, to receive the bread, that lift that same bread and dip it into the offered cup. Some hands are rough and calloused from hard work, sun spotted from days spent outside. Some are well manicured with colorful nails, soft and well moisturized. There are hands that look as though they would fit perfectly on the keys of a piano or the neck of a violin. There are tiny hands and enormous hands, gnarled hands and sleek hands. All held out for this meal that has held together the Christian household for centuries.

I remember the feel of my children's hands in mine. From the first time their tiny, infant hands gripped around my finger, they had my heart in their hand. As they learned to walk, holding onto my hand for support and confidence, they began that slow movement away that every parent hopes for and dreads all at the same time. It has always been so.

The scriptures tell us that we are inscribed on the palms of the hand of God. It is a lovely image, isn't it? In worship we often sing a Celtic blessing asking that we 'be held in the hollow of God's hands.' As we sing these words, we cup our hands as an image of how we are held. There is comfort in those words, in this gesture. Surely there is also in those words, this action, a blessing of God and of self that could pour down on all the details of all our days.

Be gentle with your hands this day. Care for them. Treat them with love. Use them in kindness and welcome. For someone, they may be the only hand of God another knows. It is an awesome responsibility. It is a powerful gift.

As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne



TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to announce the launch of our new worship series and stewardship campaign, "Transformed by Grace." This four-week series draws inspiration from John Wesley's understanding of grace and generosity, particularly his impactful sermon, "The Use of Money." Through this series, we invite you to explore the transformative power of God's grace in our lives and communities.

Grace: An Invitation to Transformation

Grace is not merely a gift but God's invitation to a relationship that can change our lives and transform the world. In this series, we will delve into stories of transformation, connecting them to our everyday experiences. You'll be encouraged to see God's presence in unexpected places and recognize the surprising ways God shows up in our lives.

Week 1: Called by Love

Our journey begins on October 4th with the story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector whose encounter with Jesus transformed him from an agent of the state to an agent of grace. We'll reflect on how Jesus calls us by name, inviting us into a life-changing relationship. Like Zacchaeus, we are called out of our comfort zones, seen and valued by God, and invited to respond with generosity and love.

Week 2: God Trusted Me With It!

Drawing from the Parable of the Talents on October 11th, we will explore the concept of earning all we can while maintaining an abundant mindset. Fear often leads us to waste our God-given gifts, but through trust in God's grace, we can use our talents to their fullest potential. We'll discuss practical ways to move from a scarcity mindset to one of abundance, investing our resources for God's kingdom.



TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

Week 3: The Secret of Contentment

Based on Philippians 4, October 18th focuses on learning to be content with what we have. Paul teaches us that true contentment comes from trusting in God's provision, regardless of our circumstances. We will reflect on how embracing an attitude of gratitude and simplicity allows us to live generously and freely. Through personal stories and practical steps, we'll discover the joy of contentment.

Week 4: A Disciple's Lifestyle

In our final week, October 25th, we'll look at Luke 16 and the story of the clever manager, encouraging us to be creative and wise stewards of God's resources. As disciples, we are called to use our creativity and care for all that God provides, prioritizing relationships and the growth of God's kingdom. We'll challenge ourselves to think beyond self-preservation and invest in our community with a spirit of generosity.

Stewardship Campaign: Transforming Our Community

Our stewardship campaign runs alongside this worship series, inviting you to consider how your financial gifts, time, and talents can support the church's mission. Inspired by Wesley's teachings, we will focus on earning, saving, and giving in ways that reflect our commitment to God and our community. Through this campaign, we aim to transform our church into a beacon of grace and generosity, impacting lives both within and beyond our walls.

How You Can Participate:

1. **Join Us for Worship:** Attend each week to fully engage with the series and be inspired by the stories of transformation.
2. **Reflect and Act:** Take time to reflect on how God is calling you to respond in your personal life. Consider how you can use your resources for God's purposes.
3. **Support the Campaign:** Prayerfully consider your financial contributions and volunteer your time to support the church's ministries and outreach efforts.

Together, let us embrace God's grace and allow it to transform us, our church, and our community. We look forward to this journey with you and are excited to see how God will work through each of us.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Dianne Ciesluk

CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



SUNDAY MORNINGS

Year-round, Sundays during 10am worship - Open to children in preschool through 5th grade. We encourage children to begin worship in the main sanctuary for part of worship. Then at the Children's Greeting, students are dismissed for their own time of worship to keep singing, dancing, praying, and experiencing the love of God.

Our nursery is staffed on Sunday mornings from 9:45-11am during Worship.

From infancy to preschool, we provide a God-centered space filled with love, laughter and learning. Our trained nursery staff and volunteers care for children age 3 and younger. We consider our nursery ministry to be the beginning of your children's spiritual journey and we take great joy in being part of that.



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Some of the smallest creatures in the world can do some pretty amazing things. Ants can carry loads way bigger than themselves, bees help plants grow everywhere, and crickets can be heard from far away even though they're tiny. In this series, we'll discover that God works the same way through people. Even when we feel too small, scared, weak, or overlooked, God's power can do mighty things through us. With God, being small isn't a problem. It's often where big things begin. In this four week series from the Old Testament, kids will discover that when I feel like I can't, God can, when I feel scared, God makes me brave, when I feel weak, God makes me strong, and when I feel small, God is big.



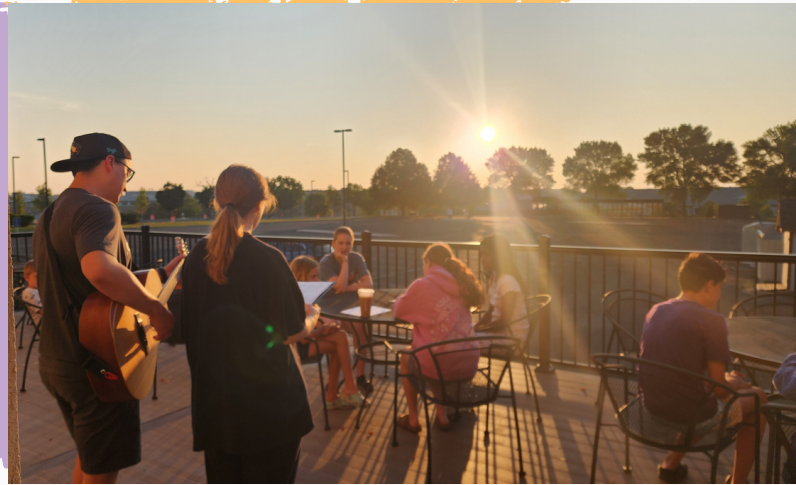


6TH & 7TH GRADE

GROW CURRICULUM
WITH MR JOHN.

8TH GRADE

CREDO CONFIRMATION
WITH MS AMBER.



HIGH SCHOOL

SERMON SERIES
DISCUSSION
WITH MS JOAN.

Adult Education



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.



Every Age and Every Stage

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, October 21- November 11

From young Samuel hearing God's call in the night to elderly Anna worshipping faithfully in the temple, Scripture is filled with people God used at every stage of life. The Holy Spirit, often called the Comforter, works across every generation — meeting the young with purpose, the middle-aged with strength, and the elderly with wisdom and grace. Come to this four-week study of biblical people who demonstrate this truth: Regardless of your age or stage, God has a plan for your life.



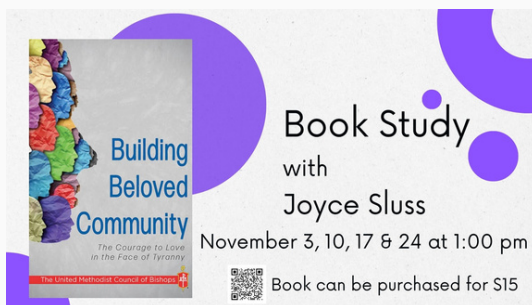
Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come. Psalm 71: 17-18

Building Beloved Community

Tuesdays at 1:00pm, November 3 -24

A new statement from the Council of Bishops has come out: Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny. This book is considered the opinion of the leaders of our denomination. This is not church rule or church law. It is their unified opinion, but as such, it seems worthy of our serious consideration. Let's read it and talk about it together. Let's see if it makes sense to us. Let's see if we think it fits with our faith and sense of community.

All are welcome to a discussion group on Tuesday afternoons in November at 1:00 PM. Please purchase the book and read the introduction and all of part 1 before our first discussion. We plan to cover a part each week. Our discussions could be rich, and a diversity of opinions will be welcomed. Please join us. The Council of Bishops don't speak in unison very often.



Small Groups Ministries



CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church
Faith in Action: Micah 6:8 presents:

Understanding and Responding to Christian Nationalism

SUNDAY
October 4, 2026 **11:15 AM**

CROSS WINDS UMC
15091 Weaver Lake Road • Maple Grove

CHRISTIANS AGAINST CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Understanding and Responding to Christian Nationalism

Sunday, October 4, 11:30 am

Jerry Gale, a member of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, will speak on "Understanding and Responding to Christian Nationalism." Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, damaging both the Christian faith and America's democracy. It implies that to be a good American, one must be a Christian. This workshop provides information about Christian nationalism and ways for Christians, people of other faiths, and secular individuals to respond to Christian nationalism.

You can learn more about Christians Against Christian Nationalism Minnesota at their [website](#).

Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, October 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](#).

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

Prime Timers Brunch

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

SIGN UP

First Tuesdays
11:30 AM

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 1:30 PM

CINEMA ORDINARY ANGELS

AFTERNOON

BRING A SNACK!

Cinema Afternoon

Tuesday, October 6, 1:30 pm

Join us for "Ordinary Angels". Inspired by the incredible true story of a hairdresser who single-handedly rallies an entire community to help a widowed father save the life of his critically ill young daughter.

Bring your own beverage and a snack to share if so desired.

Game Night

Thursday, October 15, 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!

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us for a monthly gathering at a variety of local restaurants.

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

Ladies Who Lunch

Ladies Who Lunch will not meet in October. Plan to join us for next outing in November.

Mission Ministries



Stitches of Love

Thursday, October 1, 1:00 pm

Stitches of Love is ready to begin the 2026/27 sewing season. We will meet Thursday, Oct 1, at 1pm in the lower level. Any sewers interested in mission work are welcome to join us. We accept fabric donations that we can use to make quilts, book bags and feminine hygiene kits. The completed quilts and book bags will be brought to Midwest Mission by Crosswinds team traveling to Illinois in November. Thank you for your support!

Midwest Mission School Supply Drive

Ends Sunday October 25

As students prepare to go back to school, may we prepare our hearts to support those in need. Cross Winds will be collecting school supplies requested by Midwest Mission. Supplies will be boxed up on Wednesday October 28 and sent with our mission team. For the list of items needed visit, www.midwestmission.org/kits Contact Amber with any questions.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, October 26, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, September 28 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.

Midwest Mission Trip

November 9-13

Pray for those headed to serve in Illinois. Midwest Mission serves as a distribution center for relief supplies in the US and internationally. Founded by the United Methodist Church (UMC), they work to show God's love in a practical way to those in need in their time of crisis.



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 community
get involved NOW TIME generosity



Finance Update

Thank you for your giving to CWUMC. As we head into the month of October, we now have a small operating deficit. This was expected but we hope to keep this at a minimum. Our expenses are continuing to be slightly below budget levels. You can make a tremendous difference with any additional giving. This will help to support our necessary expenses for the rest of the year and provide support to the mission and outreach work that are so important. 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.

We are also beginning to work on the budget for 2027.

As has been mentioned, we are addressing two financial challenges, our ongoing mortgage obligation and the road assessment with the city of Maple Grove. We have been blessed to receive donations towards paying the assessment and welcome any additional contributions to this fund.

As was presented and approved at the church conference on September 13th, we are going forward with Horizons Stewardship to begin the process of a Capital Campaign for the congregation. We are also going forward with pursuing a Builders Loan from the Minnesota/Dakota Methodist Foundation. This will help with the cost of hiring Horizons.

Again, thank you for 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, Horizons Stewardship, Builders Loan or Mortgage Balance, please contact finance@crosswindsumc.org.

REGULAR
GIVING FORM





O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Have you ever wondered why O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing is the first hymn in our United Methodist hymnal?

There is something especially meaningful about beginning our hymnal with a song of such joyful praise. Charles Wesley wrote more than 6,000 hymns during his lifetime, but this one was deeply personal. He wrote it to celebrate the one-year anniversary of his conversion—a year filled with a renewed understanding of God’s grace and the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Lifting Every Voice

Music and Worship Ministry

The year 1738 was a significant one for both Charles and his brother, John Wesley. Both were wrestling with their faith and seeking to understand the call God had placed on their lives.

Most of us are familiar with John Wesley’s story. While attending a meeting of a religious society, John listened as someone read Martin Luther’s preface to the Book of Romans. As he heard about the change that takes place in the heart through faith in Christ, John experienced what he later described as his heart being “strangely warmed.” In that moment, he felt a deep assurance that Christ had died for his salvation.

Just days before John’s experience, Charles had undergone his own profound spiritual awakening.

One year later, Charles wrote 18 verses of praise and thanksgiving to celebrate what God had done in his life. The hymn was originally titled For the Anniversary Day of One’s Conversion. Interestingly, the verse we know today as the opening verse was originally verse 7. As John and Charles edited the hymn for congregational singing, they moved it to the beginning.

And what a beginning it is! “O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemers praise!”

That opening line was inspired by Charles’ Moravian mentor, Peter Böhler, who once said, “Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Christ Jesus with all of them.” I love that image. One tongue doesn’t seem like enough to express the joy of knowing Christ.

John Wesley placed this hymn first in his 1780 collection A Collection of Hymns for the People Called Methodists, and it has remained first in Methodist hymnals for more than two centuries.

This November, our choir will sing an exciting arrangement of this familiar hymn, and you will have the opportunity to join us as a congregation in singing several of the lesser-known verses. I hope you will listen to these words with fresh ears. They are not simply words written nearly 300 years ago; they are a testimony of someone who experienced God’s grace and could not keep silent about it.

You’ll find O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing as #57 in our hymnal, with the additional verses as #58.

As we sing, I invite you to think about your own story of God’s grace. What would you sing if you had a thousand tongues? What words would you use to tell the story of what Christ has done in your life? Perhaps Charles Wesley was onto something.

I imagine heaven sounds like thousands upon thousands upon thousands of tongues—every voice lifted together in praise of the Living Christ.



PAINTED *by Grace*

2026 Women's Retreat

October 23-25 - Second night is optional

Gather with other women from Cross Winds and Saint Michael Community Church for a time of fellowship, study, and renewal. Facilitated by Pastor Laura Cottington, "Painted by Grace" retreat invites women to experience God's creative work in their lives through art, reflection, and worship, emphasizing that each season—joyful or difficult—is a purposeful brushstroke in God's masterpiece. Through interactive sessions, creative activities, and spiritual reflection, participants are encouraged to embrace their unique journeys, release burdens, and celebrate the beauty God is continually painting in them.

There will be free time to enjoy the lake, trails, crafts, games, optional activities, visit or have some quiet time to read your Bible, journal, or take a nap. Costs vary from \$155-\$245 depending on the length of your stay and room choice. Some scholarship assistance is available upon request. The registration deadline is Monday, October 5.

Stop by the information desk on September 13 and September 27 if you have questions or to complete a paper registration and payment. Contact Dianne Roth, Jamie Boettcher or the church office for additional information.

The Retreat will be held at Koronis Ministries. It offers a beautiful lakeside setting for a retreat with the full amenities of hotel-style rooms. The rural setting feels a world away from the daily grind, but is conveniently located just 80 miles from the Twin Cities.

The retreat begins at 6:00pm Friday, October 23. Feel free to come early and enjoy some free time. The facility is available for our use at 3pm. Dinner will be served at 6pm and the opening gathering begins at 7pm. The retreat concludes at 8:30pm, Saturday October 24. There is an option available to stay a 2nd night with check-out at 11am Sunday.

Costs include lodging, bedding, towels, meals, and program supplies.

- Double/Triple Room – One night, 4 meals = \$155
- Double/Triple Room – Two nights, 5 meals = \$205
- Single Room (limited availability) – One night, 4 meals = \$175
- Single Room (limited availability) – Two nights, 5 meals = \$245

* Retreat participants are encouraged to bring a snack to share for break times and evening.



Thank You from CROSS Services

Dear Cross Winds,

Thank you for your incredible support of CROSS Services throughout the past year through your financial gifts, in-kind donations, and dedicated volunteers.

Because of caring partners like you, CROSS Services provided 22,537 food shelf visits and distributed more than 2 million pounds of food to families in our community.

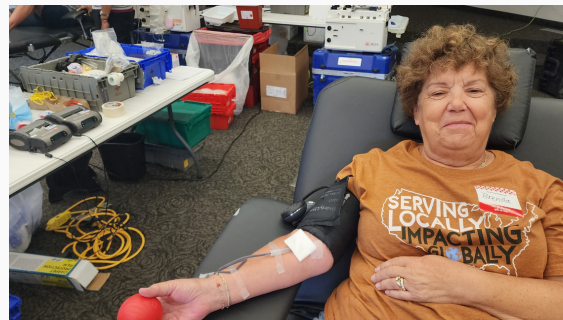
Thank you for the tremendous impact you make in helping us fulfill our mission supporting families!

With heartfelt gratitude,

CROSS Services

Camila, Tracey, Brian, Karen, Chad, Michelle, Pat, Linda

September 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

