MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



CROSS WINDS

NOVEMBER 2026

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Bring your family and friends for a Thanksgiving dinner at Cross Winds! Our hospitality team will be providing a delicious meal as we celebrate all we have to be thankful for this holiday season. Recommended donation of $5/person.

Once our tummies are full, we will gather with the worship team to make Chrismons for our sanctuary trees. On Monday, November 23 all are invited for a light soup supper and to hang the greens together,

These are great opportunities to help fill the donation bin with a new toy or non-perishable food items for Cross Services.



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

Ministry Staff

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Nursery Staff

From the Pastor's Pen
by Dianne Ciesluk



"…Changing the Course"

""The long and winding road That leads to your door Will never disappear I've seen that road before It always leads me here Leads me to your door." ~Lennon-McCartney



For the last several months, people throughout the state have been seeing orange. It seems nearly every stretch of road has some form of construction happening. As you know we have seen our fair share of cones, closures and construction on Weaver Lake Road. We have endured delays, detours and dips in the road. Orange cones are arranged in straight lines along lanes or, even worse, seem to form some kind of snake-like effect that tests your eyesight and anxiety level. Even following the posted speed limits in these construction zones, I still have worries for the brilliant yellow and orange clad workers. The whole situation seems fraught with danger. Of course, I am thankful that things are being updated and repaired before the snow flies. Goodness knows that once the pavement begins to freeze and thaw there will be plenty of potholes to contend with… You know that we have only two seasons in Minnesota; winter and construction!

Over the summer, as my frustration grew, I decided to change the course I used to get to places fraught with construction. While driving one morning on what I would consider the back roads, I realized that there was virtually no orange visible except the beautiful leaves that still clung to the trees or had fallen to create a ground blanket for the cold winter months. Though it seems to be out of my way, I have taken to the more winding and scenic road rather than to the commute which seemed to creep along inch by inch in the midst of the construction.

One would assume that this change of course would mean leaving earlier, that it would take more time to reach my destination. Not true. Though I am perhaps not taking the shortest distance between two points, the drive takes almost exactly the same amount of time. Void of orange cones and reflective outerwear, this drive twists and jogs but I continue to keep moving, at a slower pace, but still going forward. Plus I arrive in a much calmer and happier mood.

The whole summer driving experience caused me to think of the many times I have continued to push ahead on the same, slogging path, stopping and starting creating only frustration about my hoped for destination. Or the times when the only view open to me was the sight of cold, hard surfaces, like bumpers, obstructing whatever lay ahead. How many of those times I have continued on, over and over and over again, never taking the opportunity to change my course! I have done this individually and in many of the circles in which I travel. Has this ever been your experience?

Changing my course these last few months has reminded me of the importance of changing our course if we expect different results. A definition of insanity that resounds with me is this: "doing the same thing over and over, expecting to get different results." In order to see different results, we need to try new things every once in awhile. Sometimes it means going by way of a different road, or choosing to veer from the accustomed paths. It is important in almost everything we do, including the church.

If there are too many orange zones in your life these days, I invite you to make a left or right at the next turn. Try a different way to work or home. Try a new path to the same old problem, the continually nagging question. Who knows what might happen? If
nothing else, for a few days you will be able to enjoy the new scenery. And that could make all the difference.

As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne

Worship



November 1 - *From Every Tribe*

Revelation 7:9-17; Matthew 5:1-12

All Saints Sunday can be a glorious celebration of the body of Christ in our local congregation. There is no church like ours, no collection of gifts and graces, no accumulation of wisdom and experience, no place of joy and sorrow exactly like our congregation. On November 1st, we celebrate the church - the church that was, the church that is, and the church that will be.

November 8 - *Enter the Gates*

Psalm 100

Three weeks before the end of the liturgical year, and we turn to gratitude as the guiding theme for worship. What does a life of gratitude look like? Or perhaps more importantly, what does it feel like?





November 15 - *In Everything*

Philippians 4:1-13

In our passage from Philippians 4, gratitude and joy are woven together and it is sometimes hard to tell one from the other. But it does reveal that our consideration of a life of gratitude should be exuberant, marked by the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

November 22 - *After Giving Thanks*

John 6:5-23

This Sunday encourages us to look up to the Christ as we give thanks for the kingdom he asks us to see and to lean into.





November 29 - *Restore Us, O God*

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Methodists are a singing people. The hymns of Charles Wesley did as much or more to teach and edify the early Methodists as John's sermons and treatises.



Finance Update

Thank you for your giving to CWUMC. As we head into the month of November, our operating deficit has grown, as was expected. Our expenses are continuing to be slightly below budget levels. We are nearing the end of 2026, and 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 very important.No amount is too small.

Pledge cards for 2027 have gone out so please send these in as soon as you can. Also, don't forget that you can also enter your pledge online. We appreciate your continued giving in support of the ministries at CWUMC.

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 extremely blessed to receive enough donations that we are now able to pay off the entire assessment obligation. Thank you to all who contributed!

We are happy to report that we have been approved for a lower interest Builders Loan from the Minnesota / Dakota Methodist Foundation. As mentioned in the past, this loan will help us with the consulting costs for Horizons Stewardship, who have begun the process of a Capital Campaign for the mortgage reduction. These funds will also be used to decrease the mortgage balance at a rate lower than what traditional banks offer.

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

CROSS WINDS CHILDREN

CROSS WINDS YOUTH





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.





CHRISTMAS EVE 4PM

Let's celebrate Christmas together!

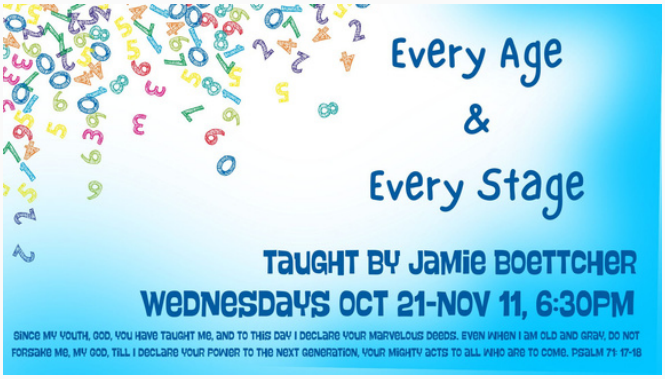
SCAN ME

We need your input!



Adult Education





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

Jesus in the Old Testament

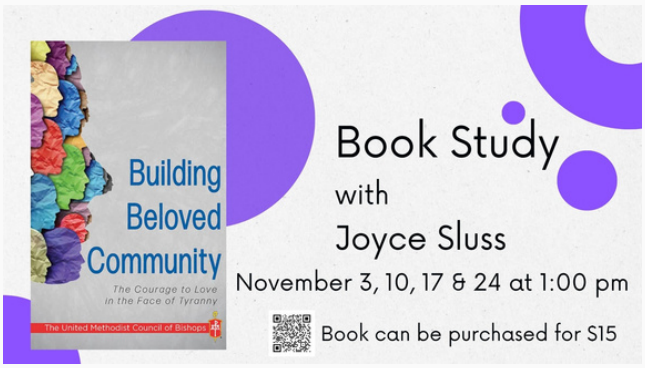
Sundays at 9:00am, November 1-22

The story of Jesus doesn't start in the New Testament. He is woven into every single page of the Old Testament—hidden in ancient prophecies, shadowed in temple rituals, and present in dramatic, unexpected encounters long before His birth in Bethlehem.

Join us for our upcoming class, Jesus in the Old Testament, where we will unpack the grand narrative of Scripture and see how the entire Bible points to one Person.

Join Jeff Carter on Sundays in November (1, 8, 15 and 22) at 9am.





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





Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, November 3, 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.

Poinsettia Orders Due

Monday, November 9

Order poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Pick up and order form in the back of the sanctuary and pay by check or order and pay online. Plants will be supplied through Lynde Greenhouse. Any questions, ask Michelle Schober.





Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, November 17, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, November 17 at 11:30 am at PF Changs in Maple Grove. Please sign up on the Cross Winds Ladies Who Lunch Events page or let the church office know by November 15 so reservation can be confirmed with restaurant. All ladies are invited to join.

Game Night

Thursday, November 19, 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.





Advent Acts of Kindness

Wednesdays, Dec 2, 9 & 16, 6:30 pm

This December, adult education is stepping outside our walls to become the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Join us for a special three-night Advent series dedicated entirely to intentional acts of kindness, preparation, and connection. Space is limited for December 16. Sign up with Amber.

Mission Ministries





CROSS Services Toy & Food Drive

Ends Wednesday December 2

Please join us in donating Toys, Gift Cards and Food to local individuals and families in need!
We're collecting NEW, UNWRAPPED toys for children 0-10 years old, gift cards for children 11-18 years and Non-perishable food items.

2026 Women's Retreat

What a blessing to see women of different ages, backgrounds, and walks of life come together to grow in faith and community!
"For we are God's masterpiece." — Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)
Hear more about their retreat in person and in the December newsletter.





Solerna Winds Concert

Sunday, November 15, 2:00 pm

Please join the Solerna Winds for an afternoon of brilliant color and sweeping romanticism as they take a journey through the heart of the wind repertoire.
The program opens with two masters of British melody. Experience Gustav Holst's early Wind Quintet in A-flat major, paired alongside beloved selections from Percy Grainger's masterful Lincolnshire Posy. Solerna is joined on the second half of the program by a guest pianist to deliver Ludwig Thuille's magnificent, lushly romantic Sextet in B-flat major. It is a performance pairing technical brilliance with soulful artistry—the perfect way to spend a musical afternoon.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, November 23, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, November 23 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.





Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday December 7, 1:00-7:00pm

Sign up to give the gift of life. Can't donate but want to help? Contact Amber Lahtinen or contact the church office to volunteer in other ways.

Lifting Every Voice
Music and Worship Ministry

Music Notes

The Chrismon Tree: A New Advent Tradition!

It may seem a little early to be talking about Christmas (as I write this before Halloween), but at church, we need to plan ahead! This Advent, Cross Winds will be starting a new tradition by adding Chrismons to our Christmas decorations.

Chrismons are ornaments that symbolize something about the life and nature of Jesus Christ. The word Chrismon was coined in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer of Danville, Virginia. She and the women of Ascension Lutheran Church wanted a Christmas tree that focused on Christ rather than the more familiar ornaments found in stores.

Many Chrismons are based on symbols used by early Christians. The fish represents "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior"; the Alpha and Omega remind us that Jesus is the beginning and the end; and the anchor symbolizes hope and stability, as described in Hebrews 6:19–20. Other ornaments use Greek letters to represent the names of Jesus and Christ. These symbols connect us with the early Christians, who sometimes used them to express their faith during times of persecution.

Even the tree and its colors have meaning! The evergreen tree represents the eternal life we have in Jesus, while the traditional Chrismon colors of white and gold symbolize His purity, majesty, and glory.

During Advent, our Sunday children's messages will explore some of these symbols and help us learn more about the story of Jesus. What a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for Christmas!

Join Us as We Begin This New Tradition!
We have two wonderful opportunities for everyone to participate:

🎄 Chrismon-Making Party — Wednesday, November 18
Join us after our church Thanksgiving meal to decorate Chrismon ornaments. All the supplies will be ready and waiting! No special skills are needed—just bring your creativity and willing spirit!

🌟 Hanging of the Greens — Monday, November 23, at 5:30 p.m.
We'll gather for a simple soup supper and then decorate the Chrismon tree and sanctuary for Advent. It's a wonderful opportunity to work together, share fellowship, and make our church beautiful for the coming celebration of Christ's birth.

Both activities are open to all ages! Whether you enjoy crafting, decorating, or simply spending time with your church family, we hope you'll join us. Come help us prepare our church and our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth as we begin this new Cross Winds tradition!

October Highlights



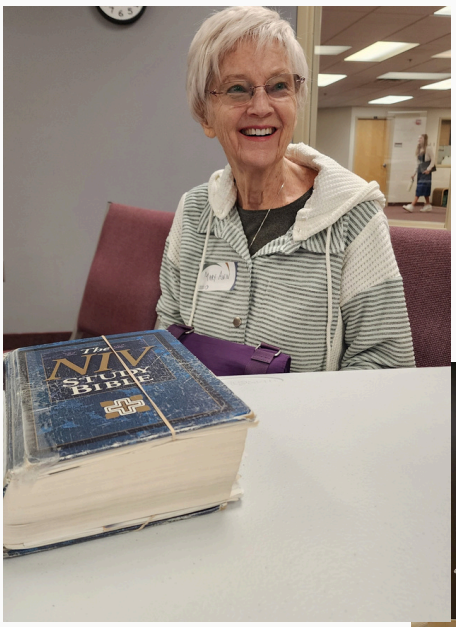


















Cross Winds

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

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