



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

441 Pine Street, Williamsport PA 17701

(570) 323-4604

Pastor James B. Wooster, Jr.

www.pinestreetumc.org

office@pinestreetumc.org

THE PINE NEEDLE – APRIL 2022

A Note from the Pastor

After a dismal winter, we long for the hope of spring. In popular imagination, winter is a season of death. Spring is a season of new life. We're ready to put away the drab grays of winter and replace them with the bright hues of spring flowers. We're ready to exchange heavy coats for light spring jackets. We dream of warmer temperatures and, blue skies, and increasing daylight. And yet, as I sit down to type this, the sky is gray. The weather is cold. I can even see snowflakes falling outside my window!

I find it to be a good reminder that our hope for new life as Christians is found, not in the changing of seasons, but in the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I invite you to step into that story with me!

At Pine Street, we'll be telling our story of new life in Christ in several ways this year.

It begins on Palm Sunday, April 10th. We'll gather at 10:00 am in our sanctuary. We'll hear about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We'll join with the crowds as we sing Hosanna and wave our palm branches. But we'll also be reminded that the crowds are as fickle as our springtime weather. (I mean 70 degrees a few weeks ago and now this!)

On Maundy Thursday, we'll experience the story of Jesus' last evening with his disciples. You'll experience that evening through sight, sound, and even taste as you walk through several prayer stations placing you into the story. Our Maundy Thursday experience will be held on Thursday April 14 from 6:00-8:00 in the gym. You are invited to come and go as you wish that night. One of the stations does include an offering. The stations are all appropriate for all ages. Come with your family or bring some friends and experience Maundy Thursday.

Good Friday, April 15th, brings a quiet reflective service. We'll gather in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. and hear the final hours of Jesus's life from the Gospel of John. The service will end with us sitting in darkness contemplating the meaning of Jesus' death.

And then at last Sunday April 17th, Easter morning, dawns with the triumphant proclamation that Christ has risen from the dead. Just as the women in the Easter Story gathered in the early morning "while it was still dark," some of us will gather at 6:15 a.m. in the pavilions at Short Park and we'll greet not only the rising sun, but the Risen Son! And then at 10:00 a.m., the whole church will gather. We'll pull out all the stops (flowers, beloved songs, special music, communion) and together we'll declare "Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

With their spring flowers, chicks, bunnies, and bright pastels Walmart, Target, and Hobby Lobby will try to sell you the hope the winter is over and that spring is on the way. But church this is our time, to remind the world that hope isn't found in the arrival of spring, but in Christ!

~ Pastor James

The Pastor's Bookshelf

Have you ever wondered what the Pastor has been reading lately? What books are influencing his thought process? Here's a few books Pastor James has read recently:

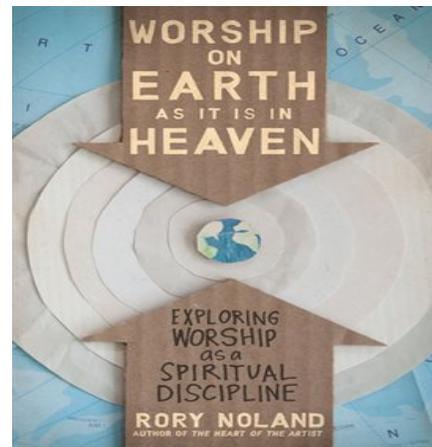
- *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services* by Constance M. Cherry.
- *The Flourishing Pastor: Reclaiming the Lost Art of Shepherd Leadership* by Tom Nelson
- *The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction* by Adam S. McHugh

Church Wide Reads

We are currently reading *Worship on Earth as it is Heaven* by Rory Noland. *Worship on Earth as It Is in Heaven* is a book that speaks to us as we re-learn what it means for us to worship together. In it, Rory Noland helps us think beyond our preferred styles of worship as individuals and helps us focus instead on the God we worship. Noland's book helps us grow both as individuals and as corporate worshippers. It contains practical suggestions for incorporating worship into our personal lives, as well as tips for how to worship more fully as part of the congregation.

We will be adding some additional book chats. So stay tuned for more information.

The book can be purchased from Amazon or Christian Book. A digital version can be obtained through the Hoopla app available through the JVB library. Several copies are available in the Lobby for the church to share. Simply sign one out when they are available and return it when finished.



Sunday Morning Refreshments

Like to bake? Or good at shopping for baked goods? The Sunday Morning Hospitality team needs you! We are looking for help in providing refreshments for Sunday mornings. We can also use donations to purchase these items. Just mark "refreshment fund" on your donation and place in the offering box in the lobby. If interested, please contact Gail Maurer at 570-419-4781.

We look forward to our time of fellowship before and after the service.

OFFICE HOURS –

Monday - Friday – 8 AM – 2PM

See us on the web and on Facebook <http://www.pinestreetumc.org>

Worship Schedule **9AM Adult & Youth Sunday School** **10AM Worship** **10Am Children's Program**

STAYING CONNECTED

RADIO SERVICE You can tune in at **9AM** on WWPA 1340AM and 101.7 FM

Not able to make it to in-house worship? You will now be able to join us by "**Live Stream.**" The links will be found each week on our Facebook page or go to www.pinestreetumc.org

April Worship Calendar

April 3 - Communion Sunday

April 10 – Palm Sunday

April 17 – Easter

April 24

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 10th 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Service

April 14th 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Maundy Thursday Experience

April 15th 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Service

April 17th 6:15 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service @ Short Park

April 17th 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service

Adult Sunday School Class

Quint & Tricia Bower are leading an Adult Sunday School class on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. The class uses the Serendipity Bible for Groups and is located in the meeting room. Modern day topics are chosen along with readings from the Bible. Then the readings are followed by thought provoking questions that are discussed by the group. No prior knowledge or weekly readings are needed. All adults are invited to attend.

NEW EMAIL: The Office has a new email: office@pinestreetumc.org. Please make any necessary changes and begin using this email now.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

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## 200 BY 200 UPDATE

**VISION:** “Seventy-five (75%) of our congregation will be engaged in small groups and/or serving in front-line ministries”. This single sentence from our vision statement addresses 2 of the 3 actions our team, along with our consultant, Mark Meyer, identified for this year.

**SMALL GROUPS:** Please prayerfully consider beginning or becoming a part of a small group. A small group can have any number of different interests: a typical Bible study, a Sunday School class, an exercise or walking group, any type of craft or handiwork, going out to eat, or to the movies, a book club...you get the idea. Every small group should include a devotion and a time of prayer. If you are willing to begin a small group, please let the office know the details. The office can provide you with a devotional or prayer materials, if needed. Your group can include a mix of church members, friends, neighbors or coworkers. It is a great way to introduce people to Pine Street Church.

**FRONT-LINE MINISTRIES:** Many opportunities currently exist for you to serve: Hospitality Team, Family Promise, Food Bank, Bloodmobile, Children’s Sunday School, Special Meals Ministry, Transportation, social Services and involvement in downtown community activities such as Frist Friday. If interested, contact the church office @ (570) 323-4604 or by email at office@pinestreetumc.org.

### **Pine Street Church Foundation grants for 2021**

Our Foundation Fund was established in 1981 for the purpose of encouraging emerging ministries and special projects within the church and community. After building our present building after the fire of 1977 and the purchase of a parsonage, nearly \$500,000 was left over from insurance funds plus interest. This money was used to set up the Foundation Fund. In 1991 most of this fund was used to construct a 12,000 square foot addition to the building (our Sunday School and Fellowship Hall wing). The remainder of the fund is the principal now invested to make our Foundation grants. Each year the Foundation Committee receives requests for funds and decides to whom and how much the Fund will grant with the approval of Church Council (now Leadership Board). The 2021 grants were \$3,000 toward a new roof for Saving Grace costing \$115,000, \$5,000 for installation of a furnace at Sojourner Truth, and \$3,000 to support West End Christian Community Center Feeding Our Children backpack program which provides 1100 backpacks of food weekly for all the Williamsport schools. We can be justifiably proud of our mission and ministry support.

### **APRIL HAPPENINGS @ PINE STREET**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> – Family Promise. Prepare an evening meal. Contact Kathryn Penfield.**

**April 11<sup>th</sup> – Food Bank 1p.m.-3p.m. Contact Karen Cook**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> - Easter Egg-stravaganza! 12p.m.-2p.m. ALL CHILDREN WELCOME. Ice cream Seder, games, crafts & egg hunt. An EGG-cellent way to spend your day!**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> – Bloodmobile 1p.m.-6p.m. Volunteer, contact Karen Cook. Donate, contact the Red Cross 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> – UMW Brunch, 9:30 a.m. Wesley Hall. Contact Pat Wittig**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> – LAPS Yard Sale 8a.m.-2p.m. Fellowship Hall**

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

**Opportunity blooms!** April 24 is available for anyone wanting to place flowers in honor or memory of someone. Cost for flowers is \$25 and you may take them at the end of the service. If so, please contact Barb Flock at (570) 326-6970.

**Easter Flowers:** We will be displaying Easter flowers on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Plants include potted hyacinths, tulips, mini daffodils and small dishes of pansies. The cost is \$10.00. Place order in the offering box or drop off in the office along with cash or check made out to “Pine Street UMC” (Memo: Easter Flowers). Payment MUST accompany order. **Order deadline is Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

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### **EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM**

\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth 6 ½ “ pot (3 bulbs)

\_\_\_\_ Mini Daffadils 6 ½ “ pot

\_\_\_\_ Pansies 8” pan

\_\_\_\_ Tulips 6 ½ “ pot (6 bulbs)

Total Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact # \_\_\_\_\_



# **THE PINE STREET CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP**

This Scholarship was established in 2021 to be funded by the Sterrett Education Fund upon recommendation of the Pine Street UMC Education Committee. The Leadership Board shall authorize a scholarship of up to \$1,000.00 per year from the Sterrett Education fund for any church member or immediate family member's tuition or other expenses in pursuit of education/training for full-time Christian ministry. The recipient of the scholarship shall meet the same requirements that are required for our other scholarships.

The awarding of the scholarship shall be decided by the Scholarship Committee: Chair, Pastor, Chair of Education Committee, Coordinator of Christian Education Ministries (or successor staff position).

## **GUIDELINES**

Guidelines for awarding of this scholarship:

1. Award is for one year at a time and may be renewed each year by reapplication.
2. Recipient will receive one-half of the grant for the fall term and the second half upon receipt of a grade report indication a C+ or better average. Succeeding grants will be considered upon receipt of the grade report for the previous year.
3. The applicant will certify that he/she does not use tobacco or illegal substances of any kind.
4. Attention will be given to the applicant's past and present church activities which will be stated on the application.
5. Two letters of recommendation are required for the initial application.

Failure of the applicant to supply all the requested information including a grade report of the previous semester may prevent further consideration.

## **COLLEGE CONNECTION**

Do you have a current Pine Street UMC college student or one heading to college in the fall? Please share their information with us (name and college address)! We would like to include them in our program. College Connection is a ministry where PSUMC provides gift cards for snacks and encouragement to help college students through exam weeks and throughout their school year.

Want to participate with College Connection? We can always use gift cards, Burger King, McDonalds, Sheetz, Dunkin Donuts, etc. You can drop them off at the church office during regular business hours or put them in the offering box on Sundays (located in the Lobby). Label them "College Connection". Maybe you'd like to send a note of encouragement, a prayer or your favorite Bible verse. Please contact Cindie Snyder at 570-323-5089.

Thank you for your interest and investment in our young people.

**Prayer Chain:** Prayer Warriors are those who intercede on another's behalf at the feet of Jesus. We try to pray for all requests at least once and more whenever possible. Those for whom you pray, are appreciative of your efforts on their behalf. If you or someone you know are interested in joining our prayer circle, please contact Carole Fulmer or Marilyn Kern. Prayer requests may be submitted directly to these ladies, the church office ([office@pinestreetumc.org](mailto:office@pinestreetumc.org)) or in the offering box on Sunday.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** @ 9:30 a.m. Brunch in Wesley Hall. All women of the church are invited.



So kind...Barb Flock delivered a plant & card for Valentine's day. We are excited to plant it in the garden when the weather gets nice.~ Margaret & Judy Schell

Thank you, Larry Fryda, for taking me to & from Geisinger ~ Carol Shultz

## **WAYS TO SUPPORT PSUMC FINANCIALLY**

### **Updates from Gail Maurer, Financial Secretary:**

For those who requested information to start **e-giving**, go to [WWW.pinestreetumc.org](http://WWW.pinestreetumc.org) (our website) and click the GIVE button near the top.

Here on our website you can setup a one-time gift or a recurring gift using your bank account or by debit card.

The first time you go to our online giving page, you need to create **Your Online Profile**. This only needs to be done once. During this process, you will enter your email address and create a unique password. Record your password in a secure place for your records. You will also enter your bank information including the type of account, your routing number and account number. If you create a recurring donation, you won't need to log in unless you desire to change the amount or schedule of your donation. You may then use the password you created to log in to your account.

You will have the option of giving to the General Fund (which is Current Ministries), the Capital Campaign Legacy Fund, Memorial Gifts or Special Gifts. This is a secure site where you control everything, but if you have any questions, please call me at (570) 419-4781.

Also, green offering envelopes are available for those who wish to use them. And as always, cash or checks may be given. We have a locked box in the Lobby for you to drop in your offering as you enter or leave. Some also wish to mail in their offering to the church office.



## **LENTEN/EASTER OFFERING**

Through the years, Christians have set aside Lent as a period of sacrificial giving. They then present their gifts to the church as part of the Easter morning service. I invite you to consider doing just that as we draw closer to Easter. Once again Pine Street will be collecting a Lenten/Easter Offering.

This year half of our Easter offering will go towards Shepherd of the Streets. Shepherd of the Streets has been serving the Williamsport community since 1988. They exist to provide spiritual and material help to those on the streets, confronting fear, hunger, homelessness, unemployability, or other difficulties. Shepherd of the Streets provides financial assistance for prescriptions, helps with transportation to medical appointments, provides basic hygiene items, and has recently begun helping out with emergency dental needs.

The other half will go to the outreach ministries of Pine Street. In 2021, we were able to provide a children's craft during First Saturdays, offer the community free hot dogs at the downtown Halloween event, and shared hot cocoa, cookies, and a warm fire with our neighbors during Williamsport's Feel the Magic at Christmas. We were able to invite our friends and neighbors to join us at a Crosscutters' game. And we joined with 76 others to celebrate Christmas among the lights in Short Park on Christmas Eve. We want to continue reaching out and connecting with our neighbors in 2022. Your generosity makes that possible.

You can give in several ways. You can give through the regular offering simply make sure to designate your giving for the Lenten or Easter Offering. You can give using either the envelope you received in the mail or using envelopes in your envelope box. You can give online using our giving page. Please be sure that your offering is designated either Lenten or Easter offering.



# Family Promise

## of Lycoming County

Dear Fellow Pine Streeters!

I'm pleased to announce the following weeks our congregation is scheduled to support Family Promise with meals and overnight accommodations throughout 2022:

April 10 - 16

June 12 - 18

August 21 - 27

December 18 - 24

Please search your calendars and your hearts for how you may begin or renew your participation with this wonderful community asset. Given the many changes caused by Covid, I'll have greater details to share closer to each of these weeks.

In the meantime, Executive Director Jenny Hull, shares (below) a link for a 30-minute Family Promise online training for new or re-newing volunteers.

Thanks, in advance, for your support of Family Promise.

Kathryn Penfield



**I am so excited about the release of Family Promise National's new Virtual Volunteer training! This new training gives volunteers an opportunity to learn best practices when working with our families all from the comfort of their own home or in a church group setting. You can find the link here:**

**<https://familypromise.org/volunteer-training-videos/>**

So who should participate in virtual training?

- **New volunteers:**
  - Are you interested in volunteering, but don't know if you are ready to commit?
  - Do you just want to learn how Family Promise works? Maybe you have seen or heard about it at your church but you didn't really know what it is all about.
  - Maybe you just didn't have time to sign up for training, or missed the training at your church?
- Are you a volunteer already,
  - but are interested in hearing about volunteering from the perspective of Graduate Guests of the program?
  - it's been a long time since you have been to training?
- 

It takes less than 30 minutes to complete, and like many things happening in the world right now you can attend in your pajamas!

We will be notified when you complete the assessment questions (and you learn right away if you are right!) Then we can update our database that you are trained (or had updated training) in 2020!

Our team has been spending a lot of time working on the database while we are social distancing. It helps us to have accurate records, so we can better communicate with our Family Promise family of volunteers, coordinators, and churches.

Some of our volunteers have been with our program since the beginning, some have joined in the last year. Do you have a story, a memory, will you share with us what do you love best about serving? Drop an email to Jenny - [Jenny@familypromiselycoming.org](mailto:Jenny@familypromiselycoming.org) . We really want to add more of our history to our website, and to our scrapbook.

We appreciate each and every one of you! It takes an army of volunteers to provide care for those who need it the most... and when we no longer need to social distance we will be so happy to see you all again loving on our guest families!

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## **MAY PINE NEEDLE**

Please have any material for the **MAY Pine Needle** in the church office no later than Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. **If possible, please send all articles to the church via email or provide a typed copy.**

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends on the recent passing of:

Ruth Hall Engle

Frances Herz

# Pine Street UMC

## April 2022

| Sunday                                                                                                    | Monday                                                                                                 | Tuesday                                                           | Wednesday                                                                                                               | Thursday                                                                                                                                 | Friday                                           | Saturday                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                           |                                                                                                        |                                                                   |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                          | 1<br>BLaST                                       | 2<br>6:00 pm Beef and Boogie                     |
| 3<br>9:00 am Adult & Youth Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship<br>1:00 pm Music Club Auditions              | 4<br>5:00 pm BSF<br>6:00 pm AA Meeting WH                                                              | 5<br>8:30 am Social Service<br>Qtrly Meet                         | 6<br>10:30 am Weight Watchers<br>6:00 pm Weight Watchers                                                                | 7<br>9:30 am Commission on Archives and History<br>10:30 am Praise Team<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir                                       | 8<br>BLaST<br>Easter Flower Order Dealine        | 9<br>10:00 am Dist. 48 AA Workshop               |
| 10<br>9:00 am Family Promise Palm Sunday<br>10:00 am Adult & Youth Sunday School<br>Worship               | 11<br>1:00 pm Family Promise Food Bank (Volunteer Opportunity)<br>5:00 pm BSF<br>6:00 pm AA Meeting WH | 12<br>BLaST - if needed snow day<br>Family Promise                | 13<br>BLaST - if needed snow day<br>Family Promise<br>10:30 am Weight Watchers<br>6:00 pm Weight Watchers               | 14<br>BLaST - if needed snow day<br>Family Promise<br>10:30 am Praise Team<br>6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir | 15<br>6:30 pm Family Promise Good Friday Service | 16<br>12:00 pm Family Promise PS Egg-stravaganza |
| 17<br>6:15 am Easter<br>Easter Sunrise Service<br>9:00 am Adult & Youth Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship | 18<br>4:15 pm BSF<br>6:00 pm AA Meeting WH                                                             | 19<br>1:00 pm Bloodmobile                                         | 20<br>9:30 am UMW Meeting (Brunch)<br>10:30 am Weight Watchers<br>6:00 pm Weight Watchers<br>6:30 pm Leadership Meeting | 21<br>10:30 am Praise Team<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir                                                                                    | 22<br>LAPS set-up                                | 23<br>8:00 am LAPS yard sale                     |
| 24<br>9:00 am Adult & Youth Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship                                             | 25<br>8:00 am PA Virtual Charter School<br>5:00 pm BSF<br>6:00 pm AA Meeting WH                        | 26<br>8:00 am PA Virtual Charter School<br>10:00 am Preachers Aid | 27<br>8:00 am PA Virtual Charter School<br>10:30 am Weight Watchers<br>6:00 pm Weight Watchers                          | 28<br>8:00 am PA Virtual Charter School<br>10:30 am Praise Team<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir                                               | 29<br>8:00 am PA Virtual Charter School          | 30<br>7:00 pm Music Club Event<br>Open Dance     |

**Pine Street United Methodist Church  
441 Pine Street  
Williamsport PA 17701**



**April 2022**



## Pine Street United Methodist Church

### **Our Vision**

Show Christ's Love

Teach God's Truth

Share the Gospel

How is God calling you to fulfill our vision?

Have you checked out the website for Pine Street? [www.pinestreetumc.org](http://www.pinestreetumc.org)

Check out Pine Street UMC Facebook page

**Witnessing to our faith and serving Christ in our Community**