



*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

441 Pine Street, Williamsport PA 17701

(570) 323-4604

Pastor James B. Wooster, Jr.

[www.pinestreetumc.org](http://www.pinestreetumc.org)

[office@pinestreetumc.org](mailto:office@pinestreetumc.org)

## **THE PINE NEEDLE – December 2022**

### **A Note from the Pastor**

Christmas is just around the corner. And there's plenty to do: lights to hang, cookies to bake, presents to buy and wrap, community events and church services to attend. So rather than a long drawn out newsletter article, I simply want to invite you to do two things this Christmas season.

1) Invite someone to attend church with you. It doesn't matter whether it's our music Sunday, our Christmas in the Park, Lessons and Carols, or just some Sunday.

Christmas is the perfect time to invite someone to church. Even if it's not a part of their celebration, most people are aware of the religious background of the holiday. Christmas is also a time of year when people are already doing things they don't normally do. Research shows that even if people aren't planning on attending church over the holidays, they will if someone invites them.

2) Take some time to reflect and pray. The lights, cookies and presents are all nice. But if Christmas comes and goes without impacting your spiritual life, you've missed the point. Included with this newsletter, you'll find two devotionals written by our own Chris Kindon that will help you do just that.

May you and yours have a blessed Christmas,

*Pastor James*



### **Continual Christmas**

**Matthew 1:23-- "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel—which means, "God with us."**

God is ever-present in our lives as the **Holy Spirit**, the "Jiminy Cricket" of our minds, our conscience, so we are guided in His path, the way of truth and light. He nudges us toward the right choices, toward doing good even if surrounded by temptations and difficulties, sorrows and sins. He is our strength as well as our Redeemer in times of wilting and weakness. He gives us courage against corruption.

God, the **Father**, the great I AM, the creator, the judge, is omnipotent as evidenced by the wild beauty of life, the grandeur of Nature, the strength of winds and waters, the explosions of stars in our universe, the sheer magnitude of his power. Not only should we worship him, but we must bow down to his majesty and obey him. As King of Kings, he is our master, our Lord. Do the Bible and history teach us nothing? We should tremor with fear at what he has the power to give and what he can take away, always hoping and praying for the best. “Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.” (Lord’s prayer)

And then along comes **Jesus**. Mankind wasn’t listening to God, the Old Testament Father. Nor was the nudging of the Holy Spirit enough to change the direction of most lives. We needed Jesus to be a paragon of man, evidence that we had the willpower to recognize and act on our inherent godliness. We needed a savior, and the Father agreed. He gave us a baby in a manger highlighted by a heavenly star so we wouldn’t miss the importance of his birth; he gave us Jesus suffering on a criminal’s cross, so we would see the significance of his death; he gave us the resurrection so we would understand this life is not the end, but a new beginning awaits us. Glory days indeed!

Christmas is a reminder of the power of God through the personification of Christ. We still need this proof of our own ability to feel the touch of God the almighty on our hearts/minds/souls, to experience his peace. We yearn for virtuous living. We strive for goodness and acceptance. We long for love. And it’s all right in front of us under the guise of the Christmas message. Eternity epitomized.

For those of us who are thrifty savers, which is probably all of us in this economy, we have a value pack here. The trinity is God in triplicate—three for one! How much luckier could we get?!? Immanuel, God IS with us, every day...and according to the wit and wisdom of Ben Franklin, “a good conscience is a continual Christmas.” God works triple time for us. PRAISE HIM! And you’ll experience the joy, hope and love of Christmas all year long.

*Dear Trinity God—Thank you for giving us each a conscience, for the knowledge of good and evil, for wisdom which helps us do what is right every day. Help us recognize your power and might, and worship you accordingly. Let us embrace the magnificence of Christmas and the gift of Jesus as the most precious offering, an effort by you to help us understand your glory. Humbly we ask your continued blessing.*  
*Amen.*

~Christine R. Kindon

## “Silent Night”

### **Psalms 89:5 “The heavens praise your wonders, LORD, your faithfulness too...”**

When I was in sixth grade, I’d ride my bike to my nearest neighbor-friend’s house to visit and play, escaping my two older siblings and baby brother for a short while. My classmate Pam Powell had an older brother, too, but hers was in the army, serving in Germany. She was so excited when he came home on leave that she invited me to meet him. I pedaled my bike quickly down the remote country road, anxious to see why he was so special. With an infectious smile and engaging personality, he was sweet and kind to us preteen girls, and he patiently taught us the German words to my favorite Christmas carol, “Silent Night.” I remember the harsh foreign words choking in the back of my mouth (-CHT), the S sounding like SH, the W a V, and his laughter at our attempts. He was patient and persevering, not giving up until we had mastered the beautiful song: “Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht. Nur das traute hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!” It still is imprinted on my memory.

We all know the legend of how the church organist Franz Gruber set young Pastor Joseph Mohr’s poem to music with his simple three-chord guitar accompaniment to “save” the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass service when the pipe organ was broken, but we might not know how the classic carol first performed that snowy night as a duet by the musician and his minister in the remote village near Salzburg, Austria in 1818 survived. First, the organ repairman, Karl Mauracher,

Five men and four children are responsible for giving us this precious holiday standard that we sing at every Christmas Eve service holding our shining candles high in tribute to Christ, our beloved babe born humbly in a manger centuries ago.

*Dear Heavenly Father—Thank you for the birth and example of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May we cherish the peace he bestows upon us as we worship him as “love’s pure light,” holding tight to the lessons we are still learning of your redeeming grace and the “glories streaming from heaven afar.” As the peace of a silent night hopefully embraces us and our country, “with the angels, let us sing, Alleluia to our King.” And may we all “sleep in heavenly peace.” Thank you for this wondrous gift of faith, this light of love shining in our hearts.  
Amen.*

We invite you to join us following the Sunday morning worship service for some fellowship & refreshments. **We want to get to know you!** And if you would like to provide refreshments (homemade or bought) any Sunday, please contact Gail Maurer at 570-419-4781.

**\*\* The church office hours may change during the Christmas Holiday. Be sure to watch the weekly announcements and weekly news as we get closer to that time.**

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

## **Worship Schedule**

***9AM Adult & Youth Sunday School***

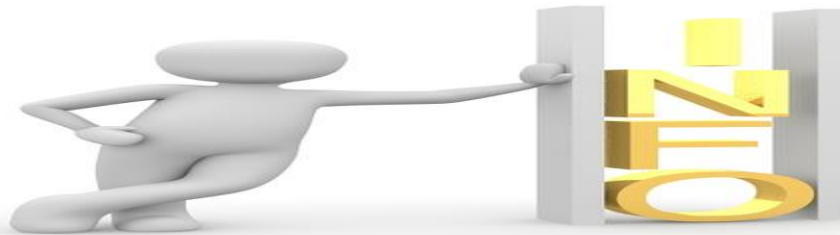
***10AM Worship***

***10AM Children's Program***

## **STAYING CONNECTED**

**RADIO SERVICE:** You can tune in at **9AM** for our previous week's service on WHPA 1340AM and 101.7 FM

Not able to make it to in-house worship? You are able to join us by "**Live Stream.**" The links will be found in the weekly email, on our Facebook page each week or go to [www.pinestreetumc.org](http://www.pinestreetumc.org)



**A Christmas Luncheon** – will be provided directly after the Cantata on Sunday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship hall. Please sign up in the Lobby with the number attending. We need desserts. We are also looking for volunteers to help set-up and prepare the meal on Saturday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Judie Scott ☎ (570) 326-2587 for details.

**Second Mile Giving** – The new second mile giving option is Firetree Place. It is located at 600 Campbell Street in Williamsport just around the corner from Pine Street. The building dates back to 1979. The Federal Housing Authority constructed the facility as a recreation center. It has a long history of community service. It is a non-profit organization open to serve the needs of children with after school programs, recreation and hot meals. Fresh Express, a free food program is also available to the community. You may designate your offering to Firetree Place January – June 2023. Thank you for supporting this outreach.

**Crop Walk** – Because of your generous gifts we gave \$555.00 to this year's crop walk fundraiser. YOU are Pine Street and God continues to bless others through your giving.



### **ON THE CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER @ PINE STREET**

- Dec 5, 6 & 7** Agora Cyber School Testing, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Use Pine Street Entrance
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** United Women in Faith Christmas Meeting, 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex
- Dec 12<sup>th</sup>** Food Bank, 1-3 p.m.
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Cantata, 10 a.m., Morning Worship Service. Christmas Luncheon following service in Fellowship Hall. Sign-up requested.
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>** Family Promise
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** Leadership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Lobby
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas in the Park, 5 p.m. Short Park, Northway Rd., Wmspt. Join us as we take Christmas to the Community. A family friendly celebration: we'll sing carols and tell the Christmas Story.
- Christmas Eve Service: A Festival of Lessons & Carols, 8 p.m. Pine Street Sanctuary.** The service is inspired by a century-old tradition. Readings from the Old & New Testaments interspersed with beautiful music invite you to reflect on the birth of Jesus.
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Family Worship, 10:00 a.m. Come celebrate with us!
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** NOON Year's Eve (tentative), 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pine Street Gym
- Open Dance, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall**
- Jan 1<sup>st</sup>** Happy New Year

**\*\* The church office hours may change during the Christmas Holiday. Be sure to watch the weekly announcements and weekly news as we get closer to that time.**

## College Connection

I wanted to bring everyone up-to-date on the College Connection. It's going great right now! I currently have four students in the program.

Alex McWilliams – Lancaster Bible College

Collin Porter – Northwestern

Frances Beaughley – Lock Haven

Paige Porter – Slippery Rock

Paige is just beginning her college journey. Usually the students receive three \$10 gift cards and a prayer card. I really appreciate the response to this program and look forward to seeing the students as they come back to church!

Cindie Synder

We are always open to gift card donations for this ministry. You may give them to Cindie directly or drop them off at the church office.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The Pine Street United Women in Faith will hold their annual Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex. The program will feature special music by Kristin Ivers and Mary Pewterbaugh, scripture, Advent readings and carols. A fellowship hour will follow the program. Please join us.

Recognition...At the Conference Annual Meeting at Lake Wilona, Pine Street Women in Faith was recognized as a Five Star Unit for our areas of giving. Congratulations!!

~~~~~

### *Community events and dates of interest*

#### **Mid-week Advent services at St. Mark's**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church (142 Market Street) invites you to mid-week Advent services every Wednesday beginning November 27 through December 21 from 12:15-12:45. These services will be held in St. Mark's chapel and are intended to provide additional opportunities to reflect upon the ways Christ comes to us.

*Christmas Candlelight Service, Williamsport Music Club @ Pine Street, December 4<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m.*

**Catch the Spirit, Downtown Holiday Event**, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 5 -8 p.m. The FREE event will feature music, Lewy the Grinch, carolers and outdoor vendors on Pine Street. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with our community and share our Christmas Joy!

We will need: dozens of Christmas cookies, portable fire pits, firewood and people to greet and mingle. Stay tuned to the weekly announcements for more information.



## *Thank you...*

Dear Pastor Wooster & Rev. Piper... " We were honored that Pine Street thought to dedicate the Heritage Room to our parents and the Schells. We had such a nice time seeing so many church members that we have known through the years. You all make up a wonderful congregation doing such meaningful work for the community. Mom & Dad would have been so touched." ~ Nancy, Margie, Carol & Joan Brouse

"Your support is instrumental to the work we do at Mission Central". "As we celebrated 20 years of incredible work on June 27, 2022, we know now is not the time to slow down". Thank you for your gift of \$124.50 ~ Hope Harrison, Mission Central

Special thanks...to Joe Bielski, Glenda & Larry Breon, Mitzi & Jim Burget, Al & Karen Cook, Barb & Corey Flock, Larry Fryda, Floyd Hartman, Karl & Kristin Ivers, Barb Johnson, Thelma Lentz, Maureen Pratt and Doug & Paula Yenner for volunteering at the Central PA Food Bank on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Outreach Ministry

We are grateful...for your generous support of the mission and programs of the YWCA with your recent donation of hygiene products. "Please know your contribution truly makes a difference in the lives of those we serve." ~ Brittany Fischer & Amber Morningstar, YWCA Northcentral PA



## **PRAYER CHAIN**

**Prayer changes things!! Our Prayer Warriors are available for you!** Prayer requests may be submitted to Carole Fulmer or Marilyn Kern, placed in the offering box or directly to the church office ([office@pinestreetumc.org](mailto:office@pinestreetumc.org)).

## **WAYS TO SUPPORT PSUMC FINANCIALLY**

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*



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. Some also wish to mail in their offering to the church office.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **JANUARY PINE NEEDLE**

Please have any material for the **January Pine Needle** in the church office no later than **Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**. If possible, please send all articles to the church via email or provide a typed copy.





| Sun                                                                                                                | Mon                                                                                                    | Tue                                     | Wed                                                                                                                      | Thu                                                                                                                                                                            | Fri                                    | Sat                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27<br>9am - Adult & Youth Sunday<br>10am - Worship                                                                 | 28<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH<br>6:30pm - BSF                                                              | 29<br>BLaST                             | 30<br>BLaST<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                                        | 1<br>BLaST<br>10am - Music Club Rehearsal<br>10:15am - Music Together<br>10:30am - Praise Team<br>1:30pm - Sojourner Truth<br>6pm - Keiser Volleyball<br>7pm - Sanctuary Choir | 2<br>BLaST                             | 3<br>8pm - YPAA Event                                                                                      |
| 4<br>9am - Adult & Youth Sunday<br>10am - Worship<br>4pm - Music Club Candle                                       | 5<br>BLaST<br>8am - Agora Cyber Testing<br>9am - Social Service<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH<br>6:30pm - BSF | 6<br>BLaST<br>8am - Agora Cyber Testing | 7<br>BLaST<br>8am - Agora Cyber Testing<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>1:30pm - UWF Christmas<br>6pm - Weight Watchers  | 8<br>BLaST<br>10:15am - Music Together<br>10:30am - Praise Team<br>6pm - Keiser Volleyball<br>7pm - Sanctuary Choir                                                            | 9<br>BLaST                             | 10<br>10am - AA Workshop                                                                                   |
| 11<br>9am - Adult & Youth Sunday<br>10am - Worship                                                                 | 12<br>BLaST<br>1pm - Food Bank-Volunteer<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH                                        | 13<br>BLaST                             | 14<br>BLaST<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                                        | 15<br>BLaST<br>10:30am - Praise Team<br>6pm - Keiser Volleyball<br>7pm - Sanctuary Choir                                                                                       | 16<br>BLaST<br>5pm - Catch the Spirit- | 17                                                                                                         |
| 18<br>Family Promise Meals<br>9am - Adult & Youth Sunday<br>10am - Christmas Cantata-<br>11am - Christmas Luncheon | 19<br>BLaST<br>Family Promise Meals<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH                                             | 20<br>BLaST<br>Family Promise Meals     | 21<br>BLaST<br>Family Promise Meals<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>6pm - Weight Watchers<br>6:30pm - Leadership Meeting | 22<br>Family Promise Meals<br>10:30am - Praise Team<br>6pm - Keiser Volleyball<br>7pm - Sanctuary Choir                                                                        | 23<br>Family Promise Meals             | 24<br>CHRISTMAS EVE<br>Family Promise Meals<br>5pm - Christmas in the Park-<br>8pm - Christmas Eve Service |
| 25<br>Christmas Day<br>9am - Adult & Youth Sunday<br>10am - Worship                                                | 26<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH                                                                              | 27                                      | 28<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                                                 | 29<br>10:30am - Praise Team<br>6pm - Keiser Volleyball<br>7pm - Sanctuary Choir                                                                                                | 30                                     | 31<br>NEW YEAR'S EVE<br>9pm - Open Dance                                                                   |

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



**December 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**