



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

441 Pine Street, Williamsport PA 17701

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Pastor James B. Wooster, Jr.

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THE PINE NEEDLE – SEPTEMBER 2023

A Note from the Pastor

Journalists recognize a good sound bite when they hear one. Most interviewees ramble on a bit, but eventually, they say something that answers the question at hand succinctly, meaningfully, and memorably. If you don't give them at least one or two memorable quotes, chances are you won't make it on the air.

This fall, we will be exploring Paul's letter to the Philippians. This letter is filled with memorable sound bites. Each one is packed with significant power and truth. They've been quoted, memorized, and stitched onto pillows for years!

Just listen to some of them:

- ☐ 1:6- being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
- ☐ 1:21- For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.
- ☐ 1:27- Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel.
- ☐ 2:3-4- Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others.
- ☐ 2:5-11- Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- ☐ 2:12-13- Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you.
- ☐ 3:13-14-One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- ☐ 4:4- Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say rejoice.
- ☐ 4:6-7- Do not be anxious about anything. But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

□ 4:8-Finally, Brothers and Sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable . . . think on these things.

□ 4:13- I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Not bad for four chapters!

It's my hope that as we journey through Philippians together these familiar verses will take on new meaning and power in our lives.

Pastor James

Advent Devotional

It has been a yearly tradition at Pine Street to create our own Advent/Christmas Devotional. I know you have found it meaningful to share words of encouragement and to read words of encouragement from fellow Pine Streeters. In order to keep this tradition alive, we need your help. Consider this an invitation to write a short devotional to be shared as part of our Advent/Christmas devotional for 2023.

This year our Advent theme will be "Sing we now of Christmas." We will be focusing on the meanings and stories of familiar Christmas carols. There's certainly plenty to reflect on. You could write a devotional based on a word or phrase from your favorite Christmas carol. Maybe you've always heard a deeper meaning in one of the secular Christmas songs. Perhaps you could share with us a memory about a favorite carol. Another option would be to explore some of the songs that Luke associates with the first Christmas. We want you to feel free to write as God leads, even it means going in a different direction and doesn't fit the theme. If you need some additional support or resources, I, Pastor James, will be happy to share my library with you. Each devotional should be 150 – 200 words and include: a Scripture verse, a title if you have one, the devotional content, a short closing prayer, and the author's name. We'd like to have a rough idea of how many writers we will have, so if you would like to participate, please let us know by October 15th. You do not need to tell us what you are writing about, but if you would like to write for a specific date, please let us know that as well. We will do our best to honor those requests.

We would like to have the devotionals in hand by November 4th to allow enough time for compiling and printing before the first Sunday of Advent (December 3rd). The best way to submit your devotion is via email to pastor@pinestreetumc.org. Please, if possible, submit your devotional as a MS Word document with "Advent Devotional" in the subject line. While email is the preferred method of submission, we can also accept paper copies if needed.

Praying For Pine Street with the Apostle Paul

Each month, we're featuring one of the prayers the Apostle Paul prayed over his churches. We invite you to allow his prayers to shape and inform your prayers for Pine Street, others and even yourself. Try praying the passage itself, making Paul's prayer your own by slightly paraphrasing it to insert either your name, the names of others or Pine Street Church. Pray through the full prayer several times, covering various persons and groups, and adjusting the pronouns as needed.

This month's prayer is from 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17:

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.



Leadership Team Update (8/16/23)

There were no action items.

Discussion Items:

A tentative job description has been created for Todd's replacement.

Staff and Pastor reviews will be scheduled in the near future.

New phone units should be in place soon.

Security System Update:

Dir Solutions proposal includes 2 projects: Access Control Doors and Security Camera System. We are awaiting other proposals.

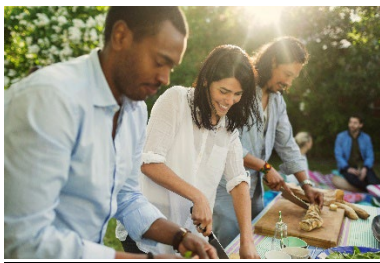
Announcements:

A couple of baptisms have been scheduled.

There are plans for a potential confirmation class.

Please keep the Leadership Team in your prayers as they seek to serve both Christ and his Church.

- ☐ Pray for members of the Leadership Team to gain wisdom from the Word.
- ☐ Pray for members of the Leadership Team to speak boldly on behalf of the Lord.
- ☐ Pray for members of the Leadership Team to have perseverance and courage during difficult times.
- ☐ Pray for members of the Leadership Team to honor God in all their decisions.
- ☐ Pray for members of the Leadership Team to have patience with members of the church.
- ☐ Pray for members of the Leadership Team to lead their congregation on a godly path of righteousness.



Fellowship & Refreshments

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.

OFFICE HOURS –

The change in office hours has worked well. So, we decided to keep them. These are now the regular church office hours:

Monday - Thursday – 8 AM – 2:30 PM

Friday – 8 AM – 12 PM

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

Worship Schedule ***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



Rev. Dr. Charles Berkheimer

An extensive collection of the sermons of the Rev. Dr. Charles Berkheimer, Pastor at Pine Street from 1943-1951, are in the Archives of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church, housed at Lycoming College. They can be accessed by contacting John F. Piper, Jr., Chair of the Commission on Archives and History of the Conference at 570-322-8278 or piper@lycoming.edu or Dr. Milton Loyer, Archivist of the Conference. Dr. Loyer can be reached at 570-321-4088 or loyer@lycoming.edu.

The collection of sermons was presented to Pine Street by Carolyn Berkheimer Rosser, her daughter Carly Smith, and her sister-in-law Nancy Berkheimer. The collection includes sermons preached at many of Dr. Berkheimer's appointments and are not limited to those preached at Pine Street. The general importance of this collection led the donors to agree to have it moved to the Conference Archives to make it more readily available to researchers.

This note was written June 21, 2023

John F. Piper, Jr.



ATTENTION STUDENTS: If you are participating in a post high school FULL-TIME course of study, you are eligible to receive a Pine Street UMC Education Grant of \$200.00 to encourage you in your pursuit. This is possible through action of the Scholarship Committee and our Leadership Team. To register for this grant, please contact the church office for a registration form and submit it **before September 30th**.

JOB OPENING: Pine Street Church is looking for a part-time Facilities Maintenance person. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Lisa at the church office (570) 323-4604.

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ON THE CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER @ PINE STREET

- Sept 4th** Labor Day Holiday. Church office will be **CLOSED**
- Sept 12th** United Women in Faith Luncheon, 12:30 p.m. @ St. Paul Calvary
- Sept 13th** Philippians Sermon Study begins, 10:00 a.m. in the church Library
- Sept 20th** Leadership Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Wesley Hall
- Sept 28th-30th** JVB Library Book Sale
- Sept 30th** Open Dance, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Gym/Fellowship Hall
- Oct 7th** United Women in Faith Annual Day. Contact Pat Wittig for details
- Oct 8th** United Churches of Lycoming County Crop Walk, 1 p.m. @ St. Mark's

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**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

The United Women of Faith of the St. Paul UMC  
cordially invite  
the UWF of Pine Street UMC  
to a Fall Luncheon  
Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>  
12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
1427 Memorial Ave, Williamsport

Following the luncheon, the program will feature Tom Wetzal at the piano. Please join us!  
RSVP by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> to Pat Wittig @ [psw342000@yahoo.com](mailto:psw342000@yahoo.com) or 570-322-4330.

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Community events and dates of interest

Music Together – A music class for children ages 0-6 yrs. held on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. @ Pine Street UMC. Classes begin Monday, Sept 11th through Monday, October 30th. Sign-up at MusicTogetherofBloomsburg.com or contact Kerry Kenny @ 570-575-0053. Kerry is a Registered Music Together Teacher.

Strengthening Families Program 10-14 – A FREE 7-week program that focuses on strengthening parenting skills, building family strengths, and preventing teen substance use and other behavior problems. For children aged 10-14 and their caregivers. Begins Tuesdays September 12th 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. @ Pine Street UMC. Register by contacting Lydia @ 570-337-4269 at West Branch Drug & Alcohol. Childcare for younger siblings provided. Hearty family meals provided and \$150.00 gift card for attending 6 of the 7 weeks.

Golf Tournament – Save the date! 12th Annual United Churches of Lycoming County Golf Tournament will be Saturday, September 29th, 9 a.m. shotgun start at White Deer Golf Course. The cost per person is \$110.00.

Thank you...

WITHOUT YOU ...the task of pulling cable/wire would have been more time consuming and costly. Larry Breon, Dale Diermeyer, Joe Bielski and Mark Bielski, WE APPRECIATE YOU!! Thank you for helping. ~ The Church staff

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## PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

**Our Prayer Warriors are available for you!** Prayer requests may be submitted to **Marilyn Kern** at (570) 323-7814 or [pennstate326@aol.com](mailto:pennstate326@aol.com), or **Pat Wittig** at (570) 322-4330, placed in the offering plate or directly to the church office ([office@pinestreetumc.org](mailto:office@pinestreetumc.org)).

*“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 NIV*

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

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## **OCTOBER PINE NEEDLE**

Please have any material for the **October Pine Needle** in the church office no later than **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</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             | 28                                                            | 29                                                           | 30                                                                                                             | 31                                     | 1        | 2   |
| 10am - Worship | 3<br>Church Office Closed<br>Labor Day<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH | 4<br>5<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>6pm - Weight Watchers | 6<br>7pm - Chior                                                                                               | 7<br>8<br>15                           | 9        | 16  |
| 10am - Worship | 10<br>5:30pm - Music Together<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH          | 11<br>5:30pm - WB Strengthening                              | 12<br>10am - Sermon Study<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                | 13<br>7pm - Chior                      | 14       | 21  |
| 10am - Worship | 17<br>5:30pm - Music Together<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH          | 18<br>5:30pm - WB Strengthening                              | 19<br>10am - Sermon Study<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>6pm - Weight Watchers<br>6:30pm - Leadership Meeting | 20<br>7pm - Chior                      | 22       | 23  |
| 10am - Worship | 24<br>5:30pm - Music Together<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH          | 25<br>Library Book Sale Set-up<br>5:30pm - WB Strengthening  | 26<br>10am - Sermon Study<br>10:30am - Weight Watchers<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                | 27<br>Library Book Sale<br>7pm - Chior | 28<br>29 | 30  |

# PINE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

441 Pine Street  
Williamsport PA 17701



*September 2023*



## 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**