



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

441 Pine Street, Williamsport PA 17701

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THE PINE NEEDLE – NOVEMBER 2023

A note from the Pastor

“What are you thankful for?” It’s a question that is posed at the Thanksgiving table every year. And if your experience is like most people, the question is met with blank faces that eventually give way to the same answers year after year after year: I’m thankful for my . . .family. . . kids. . . spouse. . .health. . . job. . . etc.

Let’s be clear those are good things to be thankful for (especially if your kids or spouse are at the table with you!), but those are also the easy answers (especially if your kids or spouse are at the table). And because they are also the expected answers, they can sometimes stop the conversation rather than inspiring more. (I’ve said what I’m thankful for, now let’s eat!) What if this year we went beyond the expected answers? What if rather than reaching for the easy answers we put a little more thought into our answers? What if rather than simply a lead up to the meal, we allowed the question to change the way we looked at our lives?

Here are 15 questions designed to push us further in our thanksgiving.

1. What school subject are you glad you took? What teachers are you thankful for?
2. What kind act was shown to you that you are thankful for?
3. What worship song or hymn are you thankful for?
4. What book are you grateful you read? Why?
5. What is something that you take for granted but really appreciate?
6. What attribute of God are you most thankful for?
7. What local business do you really appreciate?
8. What life-lesson are you grateful you learned?
9. What Bible verse are you most thankful for?
10. What place are you thankful you got to visit or experience?
11. What job does somebody do that often goes unnoticed, but you are grateful it gets done?



12. What negative experience turned out to have long-term positive benefits that you appreciate?
13. What answers to prayer are you most grateful for?
14. What is something that you struggle to be thankful for but know you should be?
15. What has God done in your life that you are most thankful for?

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 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24:

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.



Leadership Team Update (10/18/23)

ACTION ITEMS

Approved Family Promise and Pine Street UM Church to be the recipients of this year's Advent Offering. The amount will be split evenly.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Faxon Kenmar Merger:

We are exploring a possible merger. A group of 4 members from each church will be discussing all aspects of a potential merger. This group is hoping to meet soon. No decision has been made at this point. A merger will not occur until both congregations vote to approve.

Phone System Update:

All hardware has been updated and we are waiting for an installation date.

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 –

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 WWPA 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





SOCK-tober: You SOCKED it out of the park! Your generosity is so appreciated. People in need this winter will be blessed and warmer because of you. Thank you for the socks!

Trunk or Treat: Another ministry win! We gave out 175 hot dogs! We had 3 trunks for children to get treats and we got to engage with people from our community. Thank you so much to Mark, Chris & Anna Nevill and Mike & Diane Stanzione for helping with the food. Thelma Lentz, Richard & Sue Cashera and Barb & Corey Flock for hosting trunks.

Operation Christmas Child: There is still time to get your shoebox. Shoeboxes are filled with items for children around the world for Christmas. You may pick up a shoebox at the church or obtain your own. Small toys, stuffed animals, balls, crayons, pencils, notebook, sunglasses, toothbrush, nail clippers, craft kits and books are just some ideas. Shoeboxes can be for a boy or girl, ages 2-4, 5-7, 8-10, 11-13 etc. **DO NOT INCLUDE:** toothpaste, liquids, money, breakable, scary items or food, gum, and candy. Contact the church office with any questions. **Shoeboxes are due by Sunday, Nov. 12th.**

Don't want to fill a shoebox? You can sponsor a box by helping defray the cost of shipping with just \$10.00. Put a note with your donation, put it in the offering and we will see that it gets to the right place.

Let's buy toys!!! During November and December, we will be collecting toys for foster children through Dwell. Often families are notified at the last minute there is a child in need of care and have little time to prepare. Our toys will allow a child to pick an item or two to take with them to their new surroundings. A collection box is located in the lobby. Contact the church office with any questions.

John Bower Sunday School Basketball League...has begun planning for the upcoming season. While Pine Street may not have enough youngsters in any of the age groups to form a team, we can place interested players with teams of other churches. Anyone with a child interested in playing should contact the church office for a registration form. The following are the divisions by grade: k-2 beginner [8'hoops], 3-5 peewee [defense only allowed ½ court], 4-6 midget [full court], 7-9 junior and 10-12 senior. All players must attend school to be eligible.

200TH ANNIVERSARY: Pine Street will be celebrating our 200th anniversary in 2026. If you would be interested in being part of the team that helps plan our anniversary celebration, please contact Pastor James.

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ON THE CALENDAR FOR November @ PINE STREET

Nov 5th	All Saints/All Souls Day
Nov 6th	Foundation Meeting in the Meeting Room, 6:30 p.m.
Nov 11th	Veteran's Day
Nov 12th	Free Veteran's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. RSVP's appreciated 570-323-4604
Nov 13th	Food Bank, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Wahoo Dr., Williamsport
Nov 13th-20th	Operation Christmas Child collection, daily in Fellowship Hall
Nov 13th	Charge Conference, 6:30 p.m. St. John's Newberry
Nov 15th	United Women in Faith, 1:30 p.m., in the lobby
Nov 15th	Leadership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the lobby
Nov 19th	Thank-out Sunday
Nov 23rd	Thanksgiving Day. Church Office CLOSED
Nov 24th	Church Office CLOSESD
Nov 25th	Open Dance, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Dec 6th	United Women in Faith Christmas Program, 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex

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### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

World Community Day, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. Heshbon Park United Methodist.

World Community Day, sponsored by Church Women United will be celebrated on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at Heshbon Park United Methodist Church at 10:00 a.m. Please note the time and date change.

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex. Each November we receive the World Thank Offering. On a Sunday designated by the Finance Committee the congregation will be invited to share in this offering. Envelopes will be found in the Sunday bulletin. This offering helps disadvantaged children and youth through the Board of Global Missions.

Three of our women attended the Williamsport District Annual meeting at Wyalusing. Our unit received a certificate noting that we are a Five Start Unit for our faithful giving in five required areas. Two of our ladies attended the Conference annual meeting in Bellefonte.

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Community events and dates of interest

You are invited...to attend the Williamsport Music Club's annual Christmas Music by Candlelight program, Sunday, December 3rd @ 4 p.m., Pine Street UMC. Marilyn Burget & Kay Huffman are serving as co-chairs. A free will offering will go to the American Rescue Workers.

Thank you...

I'd like to thank the folks that took me to and brought me back home from Geisinger. I REALLY appreciate the rides.
~ Carol Shultz

Your prayers for my grandson, Steven are appreciated. His ankle set when they first wrapped it and stayed in place, so he no longer needs surgery and will be able to return to work sooner than expected. ~ Bev Karney

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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

As Pine Street prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

Offering envelopes for 2023 have been ordered. We will let you know once they are received.

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

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### **December PINE NEEDLE**

Please have any material for the **December Pine Needle** in the church office no later than **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>**. If possible, please send all articles to the church via email or provide a typed copy.

NOTE: The January Pine Needle will be arriving late (by Jan 15<sup>th</sup>).



## **POINSETTIAS WILL BE DISPLAYED IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**COST IS \$7.75 EACH**

Plants are available to those who wish to purchase one as a memorial or in honor of someone. Order form and payment (checks made to: Pine Street UMC) may be placed in the offering or dropped at the church office. **No late orders, please. Payment must accompany orders.** Plants may be picked up after the Dec 24<sup>th</sup> worship service.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

| Sun                                             | Mon                                                                                                                                              | Tue                     | Wed                                                                                             | Thu                                            | Fri                             | Sat                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 29                                              | 30                                                                                                                                               | 31                      | 1<br>10:30am - Weight<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                                  | 2<br>7pm - Chior                               | 3                               | 4<br>10am - UWF-World<br>5pm - NA Fellowship @ |
| 5<br>All Saints/All Souls<br>10am - Worship     | 6<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH<br>6pm - Foundation<br>7pm - BSF (Bible Study)                                                                          | 7<br>6:30pm - Gatehouse | 8<br>10:30am - Weight<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                                  | 9<br>7pm - Chior                               | 10<br>Veterans Day (substitute) | 11<br>Veterans Day<br>4:30pm - Courter Party @ |
| 12<br>10am - Worship<br>11:30am - FREE Veterans | 13<br>Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection<br>1pm - Food Bank-Wahoo<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH<br>6:30pm - Charge<br>7pm - BSF (Bible Study) | 14                      | 15<br>10:30am - Weight<br>1:30pm - United Women<br>6pm - Weight Watchers<br>6:30pm - Leadership | 16<br>7pm - Chior                              | 17                              | 18                                             |
| 19<br>Thank Out<br>10am - Worship               | 20<br>Operation Christmas<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH<br>7pm - BSF (Bible Study)                                                                      | 21                      | 22<br>10:30am - Weight<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                                 | 23<br>Church Office CLOSED<br>Thanksgiving Day | 24<br>Church Office CLOSED      | 25<br>7pm - Open Dance @                       |
| 26<br>10am - Worship                            | 27<br>6pm - AA Meeting WH<br>7pm - BSF (Bible Study)                                                                                             | 28                      | 29<br>10:30am - Weight<br>6pm - Weight Watchers                                                 | 30<br>7pm - Chior                              | 1                               | 2                                              |

# PINE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

441 Pine Street  
Williamsport PA 17701



*November 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**