



*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

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## THE PINE NEEDLE

JANUARY 2024

### A Note from the Pastor

The month of January is named after one of the lesser-known Roman gods: Janus. Janus was considered to be the god of doors, gates, and transitions. Janus is usually depicted with two faces, one facing the past and one facing the future. It's fairly easy to see how Janus and January become connected. As the New Year dawns, we can't help but reflect on the year that has passed (the goals we accomplished, the failures we'd rather forget about), while looking ahead to the future and resolving that next year will be better.

Even though we as Christians don't subscribe to the Roman gods such as Janus, it's still wise for us to engage in a bit of reflection. The Bible encourages us to do exactly this:

❖ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Eph. 5:15–17)

❖ Consider your ways. You have sown much and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough, you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. (Hag. 1:5–7)

❖ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. (Col. 4:5)



So here are a few questions to help you as you reflect.

Looking back:

- Where or when did I feel closest to God this past year?
- Where or when did I feel farthest from God?
- What were my greatest joys?
- What were my greatest disappointments?
- How did God use me this year for his kingdom?
- Did I miss or refuse any opportunities from God?

Looking Ahead:

- What am I excited about in 2024?
- What am I nervous about?
- What is one thing I could do this year to increase my enjoyment of God?
- What is one thing God is calling me to do as we start the New Year?

If anything emerged during this activity that you would like to discuss with me, please know that I am here for you. I'm more than willing to suggest books, resources, or spiritual disciplines. I'm happy just to listen and pray with you.

May God bless us all as we seek Him in 2024.

*Pastor James*



### **5 things to pray in the New Year**

Based on <http://youthfellowship.org/articles/7-new-things-to-pray-for-in-a-new-year/>

#### **1. For a New experience of God's Love**

Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

(Lam 3:23).

#### **2. For a New Song of Joy**



I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD. Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. (Psa. 40:1-4).

### **3. For a New Heart**

Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! (Ez 18: 31-32) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws., (Ez 36;26-27)

### **4. For a New Sincerity**

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Cor 5:6-8).

### **5. For the grace to cultivate New Attitudes**

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph 4:22-24)

## **Leadership Team Update (12/13/23)**

### **Action Items:**

Approved a transfer of 4% of undesignated endowment income to balance the 2023 budget.



## **Discussion Items:**

**Faxon Kenmar Merger Update:** A letter has been sent to members of Pine Street UMC. Opportunities are being planned for both congregations to gather together.

**Phone System Update:** The new phones are installed and working. As a result of this work, our fire alarm system will need to be updated.

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



**Family Promise Week: JAN 28<sup>TH</sup> – FEB 3<sup>RD</sup>.** We will be providing meals for the families at Family Promise. Are you available and able to make a meal, order a take-out meal or provide the ingredients for a meal (they can cook for themselves)? Contact Lisa @ 570-323-4604 to pick your date. Next Family Promise week: Feb 25<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup>

**New Church Directory:** We will be putting out a new church directory for 2024. **Please take a minute to contact the church office to make any necessary changes.** If you are aware of anyone who wishes to STOP receiving mail from Pine Street, please let us know. New directories will be available in late January.

**Code Blue:** Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup> @ First Church, 601 Market Street. They are always seeking volunteers for overnights or meals for Code Blue guests. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pastor James or Susan Best at 570-326-1943

**200<sup>TH</sup> 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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### PINE STREET **JANUARY** CALENDAR

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	Happy New Year "2024" Church Office CLOSED
Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	YMCA School-Age Program, Wesley Hall
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	United Women in Faith, 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel- <b>CANCELLED</b>



Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the Chappel
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	Historical Society Meeting , 1 p.m., Wesley Hall
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	WB Strengthening Families Program, 5:30 p.m., Wesley Hall
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	WB Strengthening Families Program, 5:30 p.m., Wesley Hall

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## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> , 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel- **CANCELED**

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*Planning ahead for 2024.... dates of interest*

### Upcoming Events

**\*Please note that all dates are tentative and may change**

#### January

#### February

- Sweetheart Dance-February 10
- Ash Wednesday- Wednesday, February 14
- Lent- Wednesday, February 14 – Saturday, March 30

#### March

- Lent- Wednesday, February 14 – Saturday, March 30
- Palm Sunday- Sunday, March 24
- Maundy Thursday- Thursday, March 28
- Good Friday- Friday, March 29
- Easter Sunday- Sunday, March 31

#### April

- Bloodmobile – April 15
- United Methodist General Conference- Tuesday, April 23 – Friday, May 3

#### May

- Mother's Day- Sunday, May 12
- Memorial Day Weekend- Friday, May 25- Monday, May 27
- Annual Conference – Thursday, May 30 – Saturday, June 1

#### June

- Pine Street Indoor Yard Sale
- Annual Conference – Thursday, May 30 – Saturday, June 1



- **Father's Day- Sunday, June 16**

## **July**

- **July 4th – Thursday, July 4**

## **August**

- **Transform- Monday, August 5- Friday, August 9**
- **Back to School Sunday- Sunday, August 25 (estimated)**
- **Labor Day Weekend- Friday August 30-Monday, September 2**

## **September**

- **Labor Day Weekend- Friday August 30-Monday, September 2**

## **October**

- **World Communion Sunday- Sunday, October 6**
- **Trunk or Treat- Wednesday, October 23 (estimated)**

## **November**

- **All Saints' Celebration- Sunday, November 3**
- **Veteran's Sunday- Sunday, November 10**
- **Thanksgiving Sunday- Sunday November 24**
- **Thank Out- Sunday, November 24**

## **December**

- **Advent- Sunday, December 1- Tuesday, December 24**
- **Christmas Eve- Tuesday, December 24**
- **Noon Year's Eve- Tuesday, December 31**

## **To Be Determined:**

- **CrossCutters Game- Summer 2024**
- **Charge Conference- Fall 2024**

## **Thank you....**

As always, we have been so blessed by the generosity of the people of Pine Street during the Holiday season. The gifts, cards, and other Remembrances mean a lot to us. We hope that your holiday was as blessed as you made ours. Thank you, Pastor James, Michelle, Karis, and Isaac.

Merry Christmas! Thank you once again for blessing me through PSUMC's College Connection. I look forward to receiving encouraging pieces like the cards that you send my way. I appreciate the time and effort that you put into helping me stay strong. ~ Alex McWilliams

It is because of your generosity that American Rescue Workers is able to stand in the gap for thousands of families in crisis each year. Thank you for the \$500.00 to benefit the ministry of ARW ~ Valerie Fessler, Director of Development & Community Engagement



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**Prayer chain**

**Do you have a need? Do you have a praise report? Is there someone you'd like lifted up in prayer? Let us help.** Share your request(s) with our prayer chain by submitting them to **Marilyn Kern** at (570) 323-7814 or [pennstate326@aol.com](mailto:pennstate326@aol.com), or **Pat Wittig** at (570) 322-4330, place them in the offering plate or email the church office ([office@pinestreetumc.org](mailto:office@pinestreetumc.org)).

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **Philippians 4:6**

**WAYS TO SUPPORT PSUMC FINANCIALLY**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024 HAVE ARRIVED. THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY.**

*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*

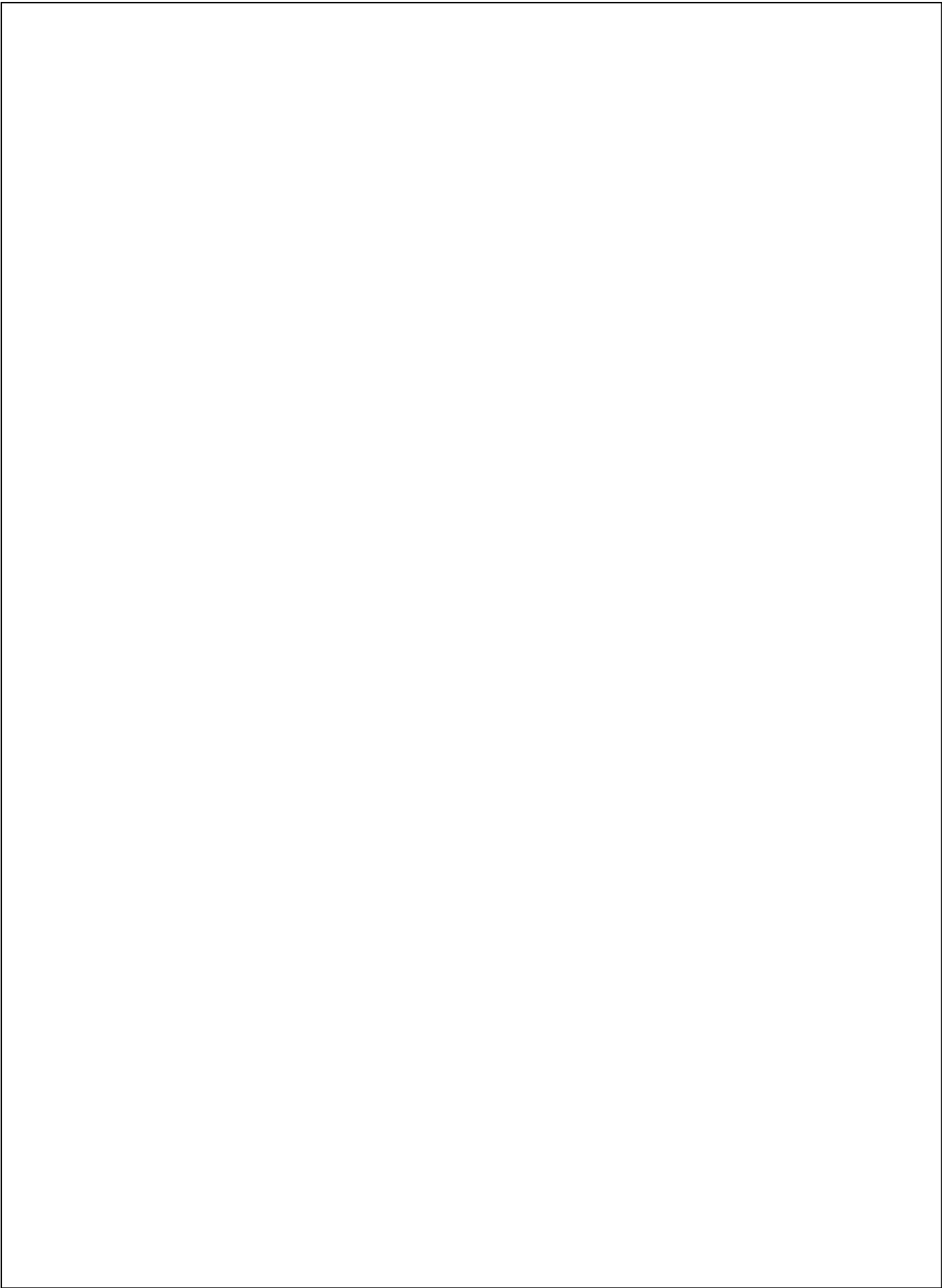
Green offering envelopes are available for those who wish to use them. And as always, cash or checks may be given. Some may also wish to mail in their offering to the church office.

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**FEBRUARY PINE NEEDLE**

**FEBRUARY** Pine Needle submissions may be given to the church office via email ([office@pinestreetumc.org](mailto:office@pinestreetumc.org)) or by a typed copy by **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>**.







## PINE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

441 Pine Street  
Williamsport PA 17701



# DECEMBER 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**