



441 Pine Street, Williamsport PA
17701

(570) 323-4604

Pastor James B. Wooster, Jr.

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THE PINE NEEDLE

March 2024

A Note from the Pastor

March 17th is St Patrick's Day. Many will use the day set aside to commemorate his death as an excuse to wear green and to drink to excess. But few, know anything about the man the day is supposed to honor. For starters, St Patrick wasn't even Irish and Patrick isn't his real name!

While the facts of his life are still shrouded in mystery, here's his "abbreviated" story: Maewyn Succat was born in Britain somewhere around the end of the 4th century. His family was churched but does not appear to have been particularly religious. Some have even suggested that he was an atheist. But, when Succat was 16, he was kidnapped by pirates (and you thought Church History would be boring!) and forced into slavery in Ireland. He came to believe that his enslavement was a punishment for his lack of belief and turned to God. During his enslavement, he began to rely more and more on his faith. After six years as a slave, Succat had a vision in which an angel told him to leave Ireland. Succat escaped from slavery and returned to his homeland. There he had a second vision of an angel, this time telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. He entered religious studies, which lasted 15 years. When he completed his studies, he was ordained a priest and sent to Ireland. According to legend, it is at his ordination that he took the name Patrick.

For twenty years, Patrick traveled throughout Ireland baptizing new believers and setting up churches, monasteries, and schools. This was not always easy. He often offended local leaders and was imprisoned and threatened with death several times. The details of his death are a bit fuzzy. It seems to be well-accepted that his death occurred on March 17th. The year is debated. There are those who lobby for his death in 493 (making him well over 100 at the time of his death). There are those who push for a 461 date, putting Patrick in his 70's.

One last fact that may surprise you: Patrick was never actually canonized by the Catholic Church. His "sainthood" has been conferred more by popular acclaim than church formalization. St Patrick was a man who served Jesus faithfully despite the difficulty. He deserves to be memorialized in ways more fitting than our fashion choices and drunken debauchery. Might I challenge you, in his honor, to set aside some time every day this month and pray through this prayer attributed to him:

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of the wind,
Depth of the sea,
Stability of the earth,
Firmness of the rock.

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,

Pastor James



God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me,
Afar and anear,
Alone or in a multitude.

Christ shield me today
Against wounding
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through the mighty strength
Of the Lord of creation.

Leadership Team Update (2/21/24)

Action Items:

Approved 2 requests from Foundation Committee:

Return to principal to be 10% for 2023

Expenditures to Shepherd of the Streets for \$1,500 and American Rescue Workers for \$1,000

Approved the Lenten Offering to be split between Saving Grace and Pine Street Ministries

Discussion Items:

2024 Budget

Faxon Kenmar Update

Alarm Update

Request from Valley Learning Community to use the church one day a week for 18 weeks total

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



Altar Flowers: March 10th is available. If you would like to provide flowers for this Sunday service, please contact Barb Flock @ 570-326-6970. The cost is \$25.00.

New Church Directory: If you would like a 2024 Church Directory, please contact the church office @ 570-323-4604.

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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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship help is available from funds given to the church. A gift is designated for music students. If you are going to study music in college, you may be eligible for tuition assistance or help with lesson fees. If you are going to attend one of our United Methodist Colleges, you may be eligible for tuition assistance from the R. Andrew Lady Scholarship Fund or The Pine Street Music Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee will receive the applications **due June 5th** and determine the recipients. Applications are available from the church office. ~ Nancy Lady

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

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PINE STREET MARCH CALENDAR

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|----------------------------|--|
| Mar 2nd | World Day of Prayer, 10 a.m. Trinity Episcopal |
| Mar 3rd | “Soup” Potluck following the morning worship service in Fellowship Hall. Plan to bring your favorite soup to share. |
| Mar 6th | Sermon Study Group, 10 a.m. in the library |
| Mar 10th | UMCOR Sunday, special offering |
| Mar 11th | Food Bank, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Wahoo Dr., Williamsport |
| Mar 13th | Sermon Study Group, 10 a.m. in the library |
| Mar 16th | Prayer Walk @ Faxon Kenmar, 11 a.m. |
| Mar 20th | Sermon Study Group, 10 a.m. in the library |

- Mar 20th** **United Women in Faith, 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex**
- Mar 20th** **Leadership Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
- Mar 23rd** **Open Dance, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**
- Mar 24th** **Palm Sunday, 10 a.m. Join us as we kick off holy week. Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Everyone present will receive a palm branch.**
- Mar 24th** **Easter Flower orders due TODAY!**
- Mar 28th** **Holy Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary- Set time aside for this interactive prayer service inspired by the events of Holy Thursday.**
- Mar 29th** **Good Friday Service, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a quest reflective service of scripture and prayer designed to help us draw near the cross of Jesus.**
- Mar 31st** **Easter Sunday. HE IS RISEN!**
- Mar 31st** **Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m., Short Park, Loyalsock. Be among the first to declare "Christ is Risen" at our Sunrise Service. You are welcome to bring a breakfast and eat at the park afterwards.**
- Mar 31st** **Easter Service, 10 a.m. Pine Street Sanctuary. We will gather as a congregation and celebrate the Resurrection. Communion will be offered.**
- Apr 1, 2 & 3** **YMCA Childcare, all day in Wesley Hall**

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

You are invited to St. Paul Calvary's "Spring Tea Party". **Sunday, March 17th**, 2 p.m. @ St Paul Calvary. Program: Potting Bench Market. Please RSVP to Pat Wittig @ 570-322-4330 by March 12th.

March 20th, 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex. Lenten program and communion. Pastor James will be the speaker.

April 6th, 9 a.m. Spiritual Enrichment Day @ The Beacon - a UMC, Hughesville, Pa

Any questions about UWF events, please contact Pat Wittig @ 570-322-4330

Thank you....

We want to express our sincere appreciation for the heartwarming support we received from so many in our Pine Street family throughout our daughter Cecile's battle with brain cancer. The meals, cards, and, especially the many prayers nourished her and us during her struggle. Her memorial service was made extra special by the caring additions from Pastor James, Dr. Piper, Mark Porter, and Kristin Ivers. Thank you and God Bless You ~ Kathryn Penfield & Gene Weigle

Each day we are seeing an increase in the most basic needs in our community. Thank you for your recent donation to our general fund ~ Tammev Edkin, Exec. Dir. United Churches of Lyc.Cty

It is only through partners such as yourselves that we can work to help others to become their best selves. Thank you for your support ~ Calvin Phillips, Exec. Dir. WECCC

We received your check for \$439.00 and wanted to sincerely thank you for all you do for us and the community ~ Sojourner Truth Ministries



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, or **Pat Wittig** at (570) 322-4330, place them in the offering plate or email the church office (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

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.

APRIL PINE NEEDLE

APRIL Pine Needle submissions may be given to the church office via email (office@pinestreetumc.org) or by a typed copy by **Monday, March 25th**.

DID YOU KNOW? You can receive the Pine Needle via email. Contact the church office (570-323-4604 to be added to our email list.

EASTER FLOWERS

POTTED FLOWERS WILL BE DISPLAYED ON EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 24th. The cost is \$10.00.

- Place order in the offering plate or drop off in the office along with payment. Checks should be payable to “Pine Street UMC”, Memo: Easter Flowers.
- Payment must accompany orders. Please no late orders.
- Plants will be displayed on Easter Sunday and may be picked up after the service.

Additional order forms are located on the tables in the main hall and in the Lobby.

Please indicate quantity:

_____ HYACINTH 6 ½” POT (3 BULBS)

_____ MINI DAFFODILS 6 ½” POT

_____ PANSIES 8” PAN

_____ TULIPS 6 ½” POT (6 BULBS)

NAME: _____

_____ IN MEMORY OF: _____

_____ IN HONOR OF: _____

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2 10am - World Day of
10am - Worship 11:30am - Soup Potluck	6pm - AA Meeting WH 7pm - BSF (Bible Study)	5:30pm - Strengthening 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	10am - Sermon Study 10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers	7pm - Choir	8	9
3	4	5	6	7	15	16 11am - Prayer Walk @ 2pm - McWilliams Event
UMCOR SUNDAY 10am - Worship	1pm - Food Bank @ 6pm - AA Meeting WH 7pm - BSF (Bible Study)	5:30pm - Strengthening 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	10am - Sermon Study 10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers	7pm - Choir	22	23 7pm - Open Dance @
17	18	19	20	21	29	30 12pm - Piano Festival-
10am - Worship 2pm - UWF Spring Tea @	6pm - AA Meeting WH 7pm - BSF (Bible Study)	5:30pm - Strengthening 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	10am - Sermon Study 10:30am - Weight 1:30pm - UWF- 6pm - Weight Watchers 6:30pm - Leadership	7pm - Choir	6:30pm - GOOD FRIDAY 7pm - Choir	12pm - Piano Festival-
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Holy Week Palm Sunday 10am - Worship	6pm - AA Meeting WH 7pm - BSF (Bible Study)	6pm - AA Tuesday Group	10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers	6:30pm - Holy Thursday 7pm - Choir	6:30pm - GOOD FRIDAY 7pm - Choir	12pm - Piano Festival-
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
EASTER SUNDAY 6:30am - Easter Sunrise 10am - Worship						

PINE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

441 Pine Street
Williamsport PA 17701



March 2024



Pine Street United Methodist Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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

Check out Pine Street UMC Facebook page

Witnessing to our faith and serving Christ in our Community