



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 2024

### *From the Pastor...*

I know they just went back to school from Thanksgiving break this morning, but my kids are already counting down the days until Christmas break. This year, because of when the holiday falls, they get a whopping twelve straight days off school. Twelve days free from lectures, homework, schedules, and having to get up in the morning. (Don't tell them that some schools in our area get sixteen days off!) I can't say that I blame them. Even as adults, most of us look forward to Christmas as a break—a chance to get some time off. I know with all the baking, wrapping, cleaning, and hosting, it doesn't feel like much of a "break," but it is at least a chance to step out of our routines and do something a little different for a few days.

Christmas is different. It's a time filled with traditions, joy, and a sense of wonder that seems to stretch across the season. We celebrate with lights, gifts, music, and meals shared with loved ones. It's in those extraordinary moments that we look for the true meaning of Christmas. We hear it in the notes of a favorite carol, see it in the soft glow of candlelight, or feel it around the table with people we hold dear. These moments remind us of the beauty and significance of the holiday—that Christ came into the world to bring hope and salvation. There's certainly nothing wrong with marking Christmas as special.

But think with me for a moment about the Christmas story in Luke 2. The good news of Christmas doesn't come to those who have stepped away from their everyday lives. Instead, the angels bring the news to a group of shepherds who were... at work.

These shepherds weren't at the temple. They weren't praying or studying the bible (This is NOT an encouragement to stop doing those things). They were doing their jobs, out in the fields, taking care of their sheep—ordinary, daily work. And it was there, in the middle of that work, that God showed up. The sky filled with light, and the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!" The message was clear: the Savior of the world had been born, and they were invited to see him. And yes, the shepherds immediately went to find Jesus, leaving their sheep behind *for a time*. But they didn't stay in Bethlehem. They returned to the fields. They went back to work.

The good news came to them *while* they were working. Their everyday, ordinary moments became the setting for the extraordinary presence of God. Right here in the middle of the Christmas story is a reminder that we don't have to step away from our lives to experience God. His good news doesn't just

come on special holidays or at big events. It comes in the everyday, in the midst of whatever we're doing. And when it comes, it transforms our routines into something sacred.

What if instead of looking forward to the differentness of Christmas, we look for God in the ordinary. Where might God want to meet you this Christmas? How might Christ show up in your own workdays and routines? Could you encounter him in the middle of emails, grocery lists, meetings, or lessons? Can you recognize his presence in coworkers, customers, or family members? If you're a student, could Christ meet you in your studies, friendships, or hallways? And if you're retired, how might Christ show up in the middle of your volunteer work, time with grandkids, serving in the church, or even in your quiet moments?

This Christmas let's not wait for a big celebration or a picture-perfect moment to look for Christ. Instead, let's open our eyes to the ways he's already showing up in the everyday—while we're running errands, working through to-do lists, or even just catching our breath in the quiet moments.

The same God who brought the angels to the shepherds in their fields is with US, ready to meet us in the middle of our routines. Whether we're juggling work, heading to school, or savoring retirement, his message of hope, joy, and peace is for us. So, wherever you find yourself this season, know that God is there.

May your Christmas be full of those unexpected moments of grace and joy, and may you find God right there in the middle of it all.

***Pastor James***

.....

**Leadership Team Update:** November 13, 2024

**Action Items:**

Approved the following distributions from the Foundation Committee: Shepherd of the Streets - \$862, American Rescue Workers - \$862, and Sojourner Truth Ministries - \$3,000.

Approved the pastoral appointment of James Wooster for 2025 - 2026.

Approved the 2025 pastoral compensation for 2025.

**Discussion Items:**

Merge Agreement Status between Pine Street and Faxon Kenmar

Sale of Faxon Kenmar Church and Parsonage for \$270,000 (\$297,000)

Organ status - moving began 11-11-24 and installation will begin in January

A monthly communication for financial reports to the congregation

Next Meeting: **December 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**



**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.

### MERGER UPDATES:

**The Faxon Kenmar Church building and parsonage are SOLD!**

The sale contract for Faxon Kenmar and the parsonage will reach its 45 day hold before the end of 2024 when the sale becomes final. Continue to bring your petitions to God for the future purpose of these buildings.

## OFFICE HOURS –

Monday - Thursday – 8 AM – 2:30 PM

Friday – 8 AM – 12 PM

**Dec 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – Church Office CLOSED**

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

## Worship Schedule *10AM Worship* *10AM Nursery/Preschool Age*

### STAYING CONNECTED

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

Not able to make it to in-house worship? You can 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)



## *WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HERE...*

**Christmas Cantata:** Sunday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.: Please join us for our Christmas Cantata, we will be having a meal immediately following the service in Wesley Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us.

**Noon Year's Eve Celebration:** December 31<sup>st</sup> 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. A party where kids can eat, do crafts, dance and have a countdown...to NOON! AND a balloon drop! Please join us for this fun and exciting event for the whole family!

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Noon Year's Eve Celebration. Greeters, Food Servers or want to lead a craft? Please see Pastor James or Lisa. This is a fun event with children everywhere, music, food, crafts and a balloon drop at NOON! Join us as we count down to 2025!

**Valentines Day Dinner & Dance:** February 8, 2025, 6 p.m. We will be hosting a Valentines Dinner & Dance. Tickets will be on sale in January. Mark your calendars now for a nice evening with good food, friends and possibly a valentine.

**Bloodmobile:** February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Sign up a [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

**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.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@



## **PINE STREET DECEMBER CALENDAR**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Dec 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b>Family Promise Week</b>   |
| <b>Dec 4<sup>th</sup></b>                     | <b>Sermon Study, 10 am. in the library</b>   |
| <b>Dec 8<sup>th</sup></b>                     | <b>Williamsport Music Club's "Music by Candlelight", 4 p.m., Pine Street Sanctuary</b> |
| <b>Dec 9<sup>th</sup></b>                     | <b>Food Bank, 1 p.m., Wahoo Drive, Williamsport</b>                                    |
| <b>Dec 11<sup>th</sup></b>                    | <b>Sermon Study, 10 a.m. in the library</b>  |
| <b>Dec 11<sup>th</sup></b>                    | <b>United Women in Faith, 1:30 p.m. in the narthex</b>                                 |
| <b>Dec 15<sup>th</sup></b>                    | <b>Cantata, 10 a.m. Meal 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall</b>                             |
| <b>Dec 18<sup>th</sup></b>                    | <b>Sermon Study, 10 a.m. in the library</b>  |
| <b>Dec 18<sup>th</sup></b>                    | <b>Leadership Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</b>   |
| <b>Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>-Jan 3<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>YMCA School-Age Childcare in Wesley Hall</b>  |

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup>**                      **Family Christmas Eve Service, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Christmas Eve in the Park, 5 p.m. Short Park, 2131 Northway Road**  
**Traditional Candlelight Service, 8 p.m., Pine Street Sanctuary**

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>**                      **Merry Christmas! Church Office CLOSED**

**Dec 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**              **Church Office CLOSED**

**Dec 28<sup>th</sup>**                      **Open Dance, 7p.m., PS gym**

**Jan 1, 2025**                   **Happy New Year**

^^

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

**Monthly Meeting**, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex. Join us for our Annual Christmas program.

Planning Ahead: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.

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



**Community Events**

**An Advent Festival of Music & Carols: Church of the Resurrection, 75 Musser Lane, Muncy, Pa**

**Sunday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 p.m.** Chancel bells of First United Methodist & the First UMC Cantata Choir

**Sunday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.** Ryan Workman, Tenor and Friends

**Sunday, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.** Williamsport Flute Choir

**Christmas Recital:** Williamsport Chapter American Guild of Organists, Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 S. Howard Street, South Williamsport, Pa.

**Sunday, Dec 29<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Strengthening Families Program:** February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:30 p.m. @ Pine Street UMC.

A program for parents and youth 10-14. Help your family learn to manage emotions, set goals, avoid peer pressure, make better decisions, and strengthen relationships. 7-week program on Tuesday nights. Dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m. Groups begin at 6 p.m. Receive \$150.00 in gift cards for attending at least 6 weeks. Register today with Lydia at 570-337-4269



## 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 are here! They may be picked up in the church office during office hours.*

*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.

\*\*\*\*\*



## JANUARY PINE NEEDLE

**JANUARY** 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 **Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

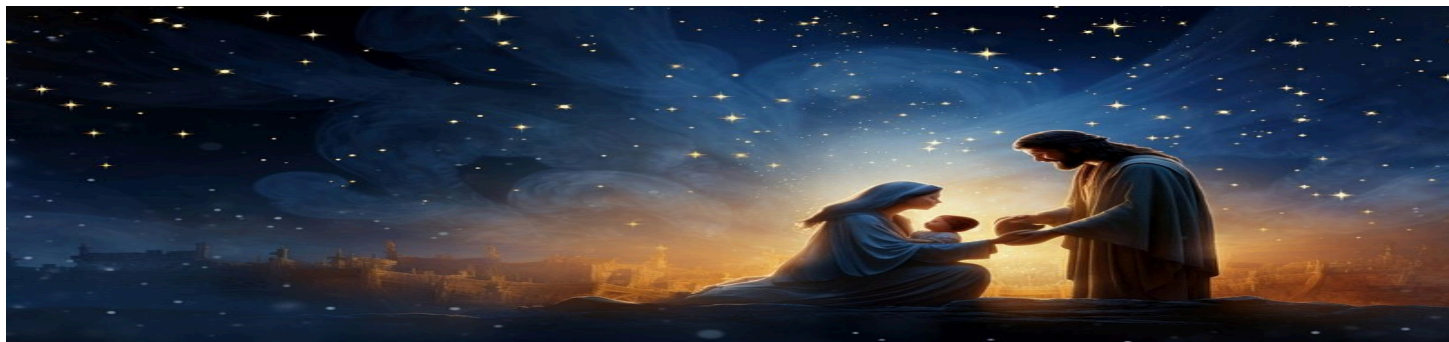
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

### **DID YOU KNOW....**

**You can receive the Pine Needle via email. Contact the church office (570-323-4604) to be added to our email group or removed from our mailing list.**

**MINISTRY WIN:** Our building is blessed to have so many activities happening. Please pray for the groups who enter that they may see Jesus in all we do and say.

**AND** be sure to check with the office regarding any event planning to make sure the space is available.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - Worship 7pm - Al-Anon	2 6pm - AA Meeting WH 6pm - BSF	3 8:30am - VLC Classes 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 1pm - VLC OM Meeting 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	4 10am - Sermon Bible 10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers	5 7pm - Choir Practice	6	7 12pm - Co-op Science
8 10am - Worship 7pm - Al-Anon	9 1pm - Food Bank @ 6pm - AA Meeting WH 6pm - BSF	10 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 1pm - VLC OM Meeting 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	11 10am - Sermon Bible 10:30am - Weight 1:30pm - UWF-Annual 6pm - Weight Watchers	12 5pm - Antioch Basketball 7pm - Choir Practice	13	14 8am - C&Y Christmas 1pm - Al-Anon Holiday
15 10am - Christmas 10am - Worship 7pm - Al-Anon	16 6pm - AA Meeting WH	17 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 1pm - VLC OM Meeting 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	18 10am - Sermon Bible 10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers 6:30pm - Leadership	19 5pm - Antioch Basketball 7pm - Choir Practice	20	21
22 10am - Worship 7pm - Al-Anon	23 YMCA Childcare 6pm - AA Meeting WH	24 9:30am - Family Kid- 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 5pm - Christmas in the 6pm - AA Tuesday Group 8pm - Traditional	25 Christmas Day	26 Church Office - CLOSED YMCA Childcare 5pm - Antioch Basketball 7pm - Choir Practice	27 Church Office - CLOSED YMCA Childcare	28 7pm - Open Dance
29 10am - Worship 7pm - Al-Anon	30 YMCA Childcare 6pm - AA Meeting WH	31 10:30am - Year's Eve 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	1	2	3	4

STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

441 Pine Street  
Williamsport PA 17701

Happy Birthday

JESUS

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

Check out Pine Street UMC Facebook page

**Witnessing to our faith and serving Christ in our Community**