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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

THE PINE NEEDLE

January 2025

A Note from the Pastor

Happy New Year, Pine Streeters!

The start of a new year always feels like an invitation, doesn't it? An invitation to start fresh, refocus, and reimagine what God is calling us to in our lives. As we kick off 2025, our sermon series, Reset, will guide us through the Gospel of Luke, exploring how Jesus offers us new beginnings and a deeper sense of purpose.

The idea of reset isn't about making resolutions or setting goals—it's about pausing to reflect and asking God to realign our hearts and minds with His will. Last Sunday, I invited you to take a moment for this kind of reflection. I asked you to write a letter to yourself describing an area of life where you need a reset. If you haven't had the chance to complete your letter yet, it's not too late! Extras are available at the church, and I encourage you to participate. We'll hold onto your letters and mail them back to you around Easter as a reminder of your personal journey.

I also invited you to share your New Year's resolutions with me so I can pray for you and offer support. If you haven't shared yours yet, feel free to email me or drop them off at church. I'm looking forward to partnering with you in prayer as we take these steps of faith together.

To help guide us on this journey, we've created a **Luke Study Guide**, designed to complement our sermon series. It's filled with insights, discussion prompts, and reflective questions to help you dive deeper into the Gospel of Luke. Copies are available at the church or in your weekly email, so be sure to pick one up.

So, how can we embrace this season of resetting? Here are three ways to consider:

1. Pause for Reflection:

Take a moment each day to sit quietly with God. This month, we're introducing a Prayer of Examen in the newsletter, a practice designed to help you review your day with gratitude and discernment. It's a simple yet powerful tool for resetting your focus on what truly matters.

2. Let Go and Let God:

A reset often means releasing what no longer serves us—old habits, unhealthy patterns, or even unrealistic expectations. Ask God to help you surrender these things and make room for His transformative work.

3. Commit to Community:

A reset is easier when we do it together. Lean into the support of your church family. Join us on Sundays, get involved in Wednesday’s sermon discussion group, or reach out if you need prayer or guidance. We’re here for one another!

As we step into this new season, I encourage you to embrace the beauty of beginning again. Whether you’re resetting in your faith, your relationships, or your personal goals, know that God’s grace is abundant, and His mercies are new every morning.

Let’s walk this road together, expectant of all God will do in and through us this year.

Pastor James



The Prayer of Examen

January: A Fresh Start

The Prayer of Examen is a centuries-old Christian practice created by St. Ignatius of Loyola. It’s a way to pause and reflect on where God is working in your life and how you can respond. Ignatius believed that God is present in every moment—whether joyful, challenging, or mundane—and this prayer helps us notice His presence.

Each month, we’ll provide a new Prayer of Examen guide tailored to the season, giving you a simple tool to connect with God. These prayers are designed to help you start each month with gratitude, reflection, and hope.

As we begin a new year, take a few moments ask how God is inviting us into something new.

How to Begin:

1. Set aside 10–15 minutes in a quiet place.
2. Take a few deep breaths and invite God to meet you in this time of prayer.
3. Use the steps below to guide your reflection. Feel free to journal your thoughts or simply pray silently.

The Prayer of Examen:

1. Begin with Hope: Pray: “Lord, as I enter this new year, help me notice where You are at work in my life. Show me how I can grow closer to You.”
2. Thank God for Opportunities: Reflect: “What opportunities, challenges, or fresh starts might this

month bring? How can I approach them with gratitude and trust?”

3. Ask for Guidance: Pray: “What areas of my life need Your direction this month, Lord? Where are You inviting me to grow or change?”

4. Prepare Your Heart: Reflect: “Are there any worries, fears, or distractions I need to release so I can embrace this month fully?”

5. Commit to Trust: Pray: “Lord, I trust that You will guide me this month. Help me follow You faithfully.”

6. End with Anticipation: Pray: “Thank You, God, for walking with me into this new year. Help me see Your presence every day.”

Leadership Team Update: December 18, 2024

Action Items:

Approved the transfer of up to \$105,000 from the Endowment Fund to the General Fund to address the deficiencies from the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan.

Approved the Finance Team's proposed 2025 paid staff compensation plan.

Approved the Finance Team's proposed 2025 Ministry Spending Plan.

Discussion Items:

Merge Agreement Status

Faxon Kenmar Church and Parsonage Settlement and Closing

Organ Installation

Next Meeting: **January 15, 2025, 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

You're Invited:
Sundays @ 11 a.m.
(following morning worship service)
Light refreshments will be provided.

We want to get to know you!

If you would like to provide refreshments (homemade or bought) any Sunday, sign up located in the lobby or please contact Gail Maurer at 570-419-4781.

MERGER UPDATES:

The sale of Faxon Kenmar was final on December 23, 2024. Thank you to all who helped bring us to this point. You are all ROCKSTARS!!

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 Programming

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



Noon Year's Eve Celebration: Thank you to all who helped, we absolutely cannot do it without YOU. We had 175+ attendees. Fun, food, crafts, music and of course, our balloon drop! It really is the highlight of the morning. Put us on your calendar for December 31st, 2025.

Valentines Day Dinner & Dance: February 8, 2025, 6 p.m. We will be hosting a Valentines Dinner & Dance. Tickets on sale now. Music by Williamsport Area High School Big Band and catered by The Food Guy. Mark your calendars and get your tickets now for a nice evening with good food, friends and music. See Donna or Dale Diermyer.

Souper Bowl Sunday: February 9th. Plan to join us following the morning worship for soup and fellowship. Soup will be available to take home too.

Bloodmobile: February 19th, 2025. Sign up a www.redcross.org. Volunteers are needed for registration and the canteen. Contact Lisa at the church office.

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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PINE STREET JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan 1st Happy New Year! 2025**
- Jan 2nd & 3rd YMCA Childcare will be here**
- Jan 13th-17th Susquehanna Cabinet Meeting in Wesley Hall**
- Jan 13th Food Bank, 1 p.m., Wahoo Drive, Williamsport**
- Jan 14th VLC Co-op begins every Tuesday through April 8th**
- Jan 15th Sermon Study, 10 a.m. in the meeting room**
- Jan 15th United Women in Faith, 1:30 p.m. in the lobby - **CANCELLED****
- Jan 15th Leadership Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
- Jan 21st Valley Learning Co-Op students return on Tuesdays until April**
- Jan 22nd Sermon Study, 10 a.m. in the library**
- Jan 25th Open Dance, 7p.m., PS gym**
- Feb 4th Foundation Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
- Feb 8th Valentine's Dinner & Dance, 6 p.m. in PS gym**

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UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Monthly Meeting, Jan 15th, 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex. **CANCELLED due to program issue and weather**

**Planning Ahead: February 19th, 1:30 p.m.
March 8th, 10:30 a.m., World Day of Prayer. Location to be determined.**

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

It's a BOY!!

Congratulations to Karl & Kristin Ivers on the birth of their 2nd grandson.

Kepler Pike Ivers, Jan 8, 2025, 9lbs. 10 oz. (5th generation of K.P.I.)

Mom & Dad: Dawn and Kevin Ivers

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Community Events

Strengthening Families Program: February 18th, 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



THANK YOU...



"Thank you all for your help and fellowship during Pine Street's annual ThankOut Sunday.

The Soup turned out great and with everyone's help we were able to send almost 300 pints of soup out into our community to let people know that we are thankful for them. We are Thankful for you!" ~ Nick & Candy Grimes

Pine Street for hosting our 86th annual WMC Candlelight service. We are grateful for the beautiful accommodations ~ Kristin Ivers, Williamsport Music Club

P.S Foundation, Your generosity is appreciated, and making a difference in people's lives ~
Pastor Mark, Shepherd of the Streets

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2 YMCA Childcare 5pm - Antioch Basketball 7pm - Choir Practice	3 YMCA Childcare	4
5 10am - Worship 7pm - AI-Anon	6 6pm - AA Meeting WH 6pm - BSF	7 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 1pm - VLC OM Meeting 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	8 10am - Sermon Bible 10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers	9 5pm - Antioch Basketball 7pm - Choir Practice	10	11
12 10am - Worship 7pm - AI-Anon	13 Susquehanna Cabinet 1pm - Food Bank 6pm - AA Meeting WH 6pm - BSF	14 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	15 10am - Sermon Bible 10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers 6:30pm - Leadership	16 5pm - Antioch Basketball 7pm - Choir Practice	17 12:30pm - VLC OM	18
19 10am - Worship 7pm - AI-Anon	20 Inauguration Day Martin Luther King Jr. 6pm - AA Meeting WH 6pm - BSF	21 9am - VLC Classes 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 1pm - VLC OM Meeting 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	22 10am - Sermon Bible 10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers	23 5pm - Antioch Basketball 7pm - Choir Practice	24	25 10am - District 48 AA 12:30pm - VLC OM 7pm - Open Dance
26 10am - Worship 7pm - AI-Anon	27 6pm - AA Meeting WH 6pm - BSF	28 9am - VLC Classes 1pm - Sink or Swim NA 1pm - VLC OM Meeting 6pm - AA Tuesday Group	29 10am - Sermon Bible 10:30am - Weight 6pm - Weight Watchers	30 5pm - Antioch Basketball 7pm - Choir Practice	31	1

441 Pine Street
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JANUARY 2025



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