



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

441 Pine Street, Williamsport PA 17701

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Office hours: Mon-Thu 8:30-2, Fri 8:30-12

THE PINE NEEDLE

March 2026

A Note from the Pastor

March always feels like a month of transition.

One day it is cold and gray. The next day the sun lingers a little longer and you can almost believe spring is coming. The ground is still hard in places, but something underneath is beginning to stir. We live for a while in that in-between — not quite winter, not quite spring.

In the life of the church, we are in a similar space. We are moving toward Holy Week and Easter. We know resurrection is coming. But we do not rush there. We walk the road with Jesus.

In some ways, even this anniversary year is a kind of transition — a moment between what has been and what is still unfolding. As we celebrate two hundred years of God's faithfulness at Pine Street, we give thanks for those who came before us. And at the same time, we ask what faithfulness looks like for us now — in this generation, in this community.

And I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that many of us are walking through transitions personally as well. Some are waiting for clarity. Some are carrying grief. Some are stepping into new responsibilities. Some are simply tired.

Scripture meets us in these in-between moments. In Ecclesiastes 3 we are reminded that "There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under heaven" (CEB). Faith includes learning to live well in the season we are actually in — not the one behind us, and not the one we wish would hurry up and arrive.

Jesus once said, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain" (John 12:24, CEB). Growth begins in hidden places. Before there is bloom, there is burial. Before there is visible life, there is quiet surrender. Before there is resurrection, there is a tomb.

Transition can feel uncertain. Waiting can feel slow. Yet this is often where God does his deepest work — forming roots that will one day bear fruit.

So perhaps the invitation this month is simple: Pay attention. Do not rush the season you are in. Trust that even when the branches look bare, God is not absent. He is at work.

Easter will come.

But for now, we remain faithful in this in-between space — trusting that the One who brings life from the grave is already moving beneath the surface.

Pastor James

A Lenten Read: Fight Like Jesus by Jason Porterfield

Many of you have already begun reading *Fight Like Jesus* as we journey toward Easter. If you haven't started yet, there's still time to join in. The book follows Jesus toward Jerusalem, inviting us to consider how faithfulness, truth, and self-giving love shape the way we face conflict and hardship in everyday life.

We'll gather for two sets of conversations in the chapel:

- March 8 (after worship) or March 10 (10:30 a.m.)
- April 12 (after worship) or April 14 (10:30 a.m.)

You're welcome whether you've read every page or just a few chapters. Copies are still available through the church.



Our 200th Anniversary...

Because of their out-reach, James Oglethorpe, the founder of the Georgia colony, invited the Wesley brothers to “be pastors to the colonists and missionaries to the Native Americans.” They set out with high hopes. According to Christianity.com, John wrote in his journal: “My chief motive is the hope of saving my own soul. I hope to learn the true sense of the Gospel of Christ by preaching it to” the Native Americans.

By: Joan Schell

Pine Street 200th Anniversary Sponsorships

Sunday, September 13th Bishop Burgos-Nunez will be worshipping with us. We will enjoy a catered meal following the service. Sponsorships for this celebration are available. If you would like to participate, please mark “200th Anniversary” on your donation. Thank you!



Leadership Team Next Meeting: March 25th @ 6:30 p.m.



Please keep the Leadership Team in your prayers as they seek to serve both Christ and his Church.

Help Us Welcome Well

One of the quiet strengths of Pine Street is hospitality. But meaningful welcome doesn't happen automatically — it happens when we're intentional.

If you notice someone new in worship, introduce yourself. Sit near them. Help them find the nursery, children's programming, or coffee hour. A simple conversation can turn a visit into a connection.

If you see someone standing alone during fellowship time, that's not a problem — it's an opportunity.

Welcoming isn't just the job of greeters. It's the calling of the whole church.

Thank you for helping Pine Street be a place where people are seen, known, and valued.



Holy Week: March 29th – April 5th

- ✚ Palm Sunday, March 29th @ 10 a.m.
- ✚ Maundy Thursday, April 2nd @ 6:30 p.m.
- ✚ Good Friday, April 3rd @ 6:30 p.m.
- ✚ Easter, April 5th
 - Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. @ Short Park
 - Easter Worship 10 a.m. @ Pine Street



Food Bank: March 9th

- 1 p.m., Wahoo Drive, Williamsport
- Volunteer Opportunity

United Women in Faith, March 7th

- ❖ World Day of Prayer, 10 a.m. @ Clarkstown UMC, 99th event prepared by women of Nigeria

- ❖ Monthly meeting, March 18th, 1:30 p.m. @ Pine Street
- ❖ Tea Party, 2 p.m. @ St. Paul Calvary

Scholarships: March 1st – June 1st

Scholarship applications are now available. Contact the church office 570-323-4604.

April Pine Needle:

Submissions are due by Wednesday, March 25th.

Finding Your Place

Here are a few places where you might find your place right now:

Connection Team

We are forming a Connection Team to strengthen relationships and create welcoming spaces — especially for young adults, but not exclusively. If you're interested in learning more, speak with Pastor James.

Communion Preparation

We are looking for someone willing to help prepare the bread and cup for Holy Communion. If you would like to explore this role, please speak with Cathy Marr.

Communion Servers

We are also seeking additional people to assist in serving Communion during worship. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor James.

Greeters and Ushers

A warm welcome at the door helps set the tone for worship each week. If you would like to serve in this way, speak with Dale or Donna Diermyer.

If you're unsure where you fit, we would be glad to talk with you. There is a place for you here.

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Because of Pine Street

Because of you ... when a family needs medical equipment, when a neighbor runs short on groceries, or when a child needs school supplies, help is already in motion. Through our support of Mission Central, practical care is ready when it is needed most.

Because of you ... our kitchen became a gathering place for the United Churches of Lycoming County campus ministry soup sale. What might have been simply a fundraiser became a shared effort across congregations, with Pine Street serving as a central and welcoming space for distribution and connection.

Because of you ... when Roads to Freedom's building was unavailable, their clients did

not have to stand outside in the cold to receive their monthly checks. They stepped into warmth, into shelter, into dignity.

Because of you ... love takes shape through steady generosity and quiet faithfulness.

Prayer Requests?

Contact Marilyn Kern (570) 323-7814 or pennstate326@aol.com

Pat Wittig (570) 322-4330

Email the church office (office@pinestreetumc.org).

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

- In person, 10 a.m.
- Livestream link
- On the Radio, 9 a.m. WWPA 1340AM and 101.7 FM

GIVING OPTIONS:

In person or mail
Electronic
Via our website: www.pinestreetumc.org

EASTER FLOWERS

POTTED FLOWERS WILL BE DISPLAYED ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 29th 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)

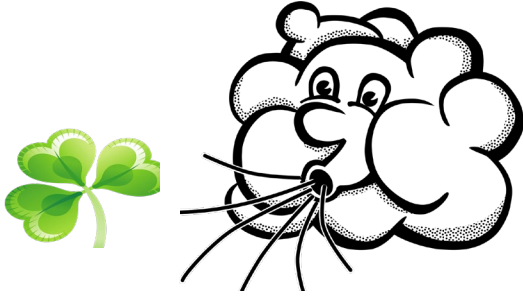
_____ DAFFODILS 6 ½" POT

_____ PANSIES 8" PAN

_____ TULIPS 6 ½" POT (6 BULBS)

NAME: _____

441 Pine Street
Williamsport PA 17701



MARCH 2026



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