



Pine Chips Newsletter

February 2023



Pine Island United Methodist Church
200 North Main, PO Box 8, Pine Island, MN 55963
www.piumc.org – (507) 356-4553

From Pastor Tony

We are living in exciting times...

At our January Church Council meeting, we listed Trends Impacting Church Leadership for 2023 from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. They are:

- In-person attendance will continue to be lower than pre-pandemic times
- A hybrid approach to worship is still necessary
- Focusing on relationships is critical in the post-pandemic reality
- Congregational giving is bouncing back but many churches still face an uncertain financial future
- Churches increasingly employ part-time clergy and more lay staff

At the January Pine Island Chamber of Commerce meeting, Mayor David Friese was our guest and told local business and community leaders about positive improvements and challenges in our city. These include:

- Installation of inclusive playground equipment and a new Pickleball/Ice Rink
- Final stages of a multi-year infrastructure improvement project (street and sewer upgrades)
- The possibility of new housing and new housing options
- Collaboration with nearby local communities and the local Pine Island Area School District
- Being the fastest growing community in Goodhue County

Because our congregation is located in a vibrant and growing community, our future and possibilities are brighter than other small-town congregations in Minnesota. We are already able to celebrate new members joining our church, new persons worshipping God with us on Sundays, more small groups starting each month, growing numbers of children and families active in our ministry, and increased ministry and outreach to our community.

At the same time, we are seeing United Methodist congregations in Minnesota and across the country disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church, with some joining a new Global Methodist Church. (This is being done even before our global 2024 United Methodist General Conference meets to make decisions about where our denomination is headed. If you remember, the 2020 General Conference was postponed twice and eventually cancelled due to international travel restrictions relating to COVID-19.)

We look forward to serving Jesus now and generations into the future. We know that we are blessed by God and are not alone in our ministry – God is with us!

As we move into our future,

May God Bless Us!

BECAUSE OUR CONGREGATION IS
LOCATED IN A VIBRANT AND
GROWING COMMUNITY, OUR FUTURE
AND POSSIBILITIES ARE BRIGHT

We Did It!

We are pleased to share the great news that with your generous help, we have been able to pay all of our expenses, including our 2022 apportioned share of mission and ministry for the United Methodist Church.

(In other words, we paid our 2022 apportionments in full! This is our “fair share” of support for the worldwide mission and ministry of the UMC.)

The Pine Island UMC has paid our annual apportionments in full for the last 35 years in a row! Pine Island was not able to pay 100% in 1986... but for every remaining year for which records can be found, our apportionment payment has been 100%. And we have now paid our 2022 apportionments in full, adding to our tradition of 100% support of our worldwide mission and ministry for **at least** the last 38 years!

Thank you to everyone who financially supported our church in 2022!!

And it gets better!

Your year-end donations have allowed us to pay off our bank operating loan in full!

Thank You for supporting the mission and ministry of Pine Island United Methodist Church!

Remember that we need your help and support in 2023!



Make Plans to Join Us for Lent!

Ash Wednesday is February 22 this year. Ash Wednesday marks the 40-day season of preparation called “Lent.” Some of you will notice there are more than 40 days between February 22 (Ash Wednesday) and April 9 (the date of Easter this year). The quick answer is that Sundays during Lent don’t count as traditional fasting days. I’ll tell you some other time why Easter Sunday does not come on the same day (or month!) each year.

We will have an Ash Wednesday service on February 22.

Ash Wednesday

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*



We will then begin our Lenten Study the following Wednesday, on March 1. We are still making final decisions on the book – it will be a Bible Study Book this year. We are also exploring the possibility of having multiple times for these Wednesday classes.

Make plans to join us for worship and study Wednesdays in Lent.

A Pine Island UMC Small Group for Every Day of the Week!

In small groups, people will connect with one another and make deeper friendships in our congregation. Along the way, these groups will help us grow in our faith in Jesus Christ and encourage us to live more faithfully as Christians.

Once each day of the week, we have a small group that meets as a part of Pine Island United Methodist Church! Here's a list of our Small Groups:

- Sunday Coffee Fellowships (in the Sanctuary, Online, and in the Parking Lot starting at 10:00 am)
- Monday Coffee Fellowship Group in Pine Island (on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 10:00 am)
- Tuesday "Growing in Faith" Group at 6:00 pm which focuses on accountable discipleship
- Wednesday Evening Digital Coffeehouse at 6:00 pm at www.facebook.com/groups/piumc.digital.campus
- Thursday Coffee Fellowship Group at 11:00 am in Zumbrota
- Friday Coffee Fellowship Group at 10:00 am in Pine Island
- Saturday morning Women's Fellowship Group meets the first of each month at 9:00 am

Watch for news about another group starting soon in Pine Island!

There is always room to add more groups for more people to find a place where everyone knows your name and cares about you and your faith in Jesus!

Contact the Church Office at (507) 356-4553 if you would like more information about these groups or if you have ideas about new groups.

In addition to offering **Love** and **Hope**, **we are also a Place to Belong!**



Be A Part of a Small Group!

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Sunday | 10:00 am | Coffee Fellowships |
| Monday | 10:00 am | Pine Island Group |
| Tuesday | 6:00 pm | Growing as Disciples |
| Wednesday | 6:00 pm | Digital Coffeehouse |
| Thursday | 11:00 am | Zumbrota Group |
| Friday | 10:00 am | Pine Island Group |
| Saturday | 9:00 am | Women's Fellowship |

Pastor Tony Will be the Spiritual Director for Emmaus Retreat

Pastor Tony will be serving as the Spiritual Director for the **men's 3-Day Walk to Emmaus Retreat to be held February 16-19, 2023**, at Lakeview United Methodist Healthcare Center in Fairmont, Minnesota. **The women's weekend is February 23-26, 2023**



The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as He is revealed to you through other believers. It is a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity. There are weekends in February for men and for women.

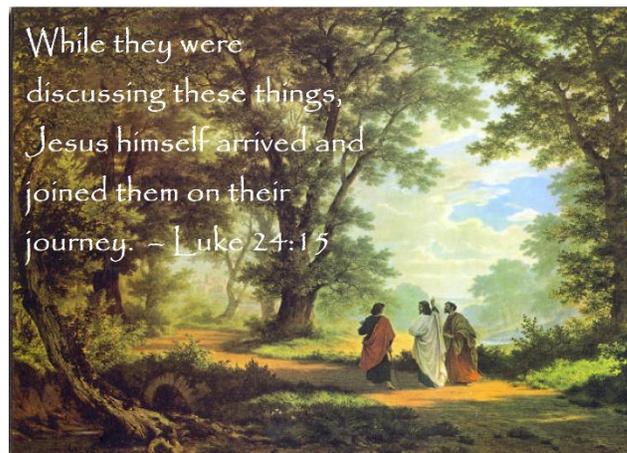
Following the three days, participants are given an opportunity to join in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ. **The purpose of Walk to Emmaus is to develop leaders for the church. It will inspire, challenge, and equip participants for Christian action in their homes, churches, and places of work.** Walk to Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

The Upper Room's "Walk to Emmaus" gets its name from the story in Luke 24:13-35, which provides the central image for the three-day experience and follow-up. Luke tells the story of that first Easter afternoon when the risen Christ appeared to the two disciples who were walking together along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Who should go to an Emmaus weekend? Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination who are...

- Members of a local church
- Have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives
- May have unanswered questions about their faith
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner

Learn more by visiting the [Walk to Emmaus website](#).



If you'd like to hear more about this retreat opportunity, please talk to one of our members of the Pine Island congregation who has attended this retreat in the past. In addition to Pastor Tony, 18 members of our congregation have participated in *Unidos en Christo* or The Walk to Emmaus (the Upper Room version of *Cursillo*.) Call the church to see who is on the list.

Coffee Fellowship Throughout the Week!



Meet New Friends!

Visit with Those You Already Know...

Coffee Fellowship is offered every Sunday **in the Sanctuary** at 10:00am following the 9:00 am service.

Coffee, hot water, and hot chocolate is also available **in the Parking Lot** beginning at 10:00 am before the 10:30 am service.



There is also the option to join us each Sunday **online** at our **Pine Island UMC Digital Campus for Coffee Fellowship** following the 9:00 am service. The "room" will be opened up near the end of the 9:00 am service for those who want to join in. A worship slide will appear at the end of the service for those who wish to join online.



We also have our **"Digital Coffeehouse"** on **Wednesdays at 6:00 pm!** New persons are joining us from around the country on Wednesday evenings. Scan the QR code above or go to www.piumc.org for the link to our digital campus.

**Make plans to join us on Sunday or Wednesday,
visit with your friends,
and make new ones!**

What's Happening at Church Today?

Things change here at church almost daily! As a result, our monthly church calendar is updated often.

To see an up-to-minute calendar, go to <https://piumc.org/calendar/> to see the most recent version.



Winter Weather Closings

It is wintertime... and the time of **Winter Weather Cancellations**.

Our Policy at Pine Island United Methodist Church is that when the Pine Island Area Schools are closed, scheduled meetings and worship services will be cancelled or adjusted.

In certain cases, if the school has an e-learning day, a meeting or a class may use a Zoom or Facebook option.

If school is dismissed early because of the weather, church activities for that evening will be canceled or adjusted.

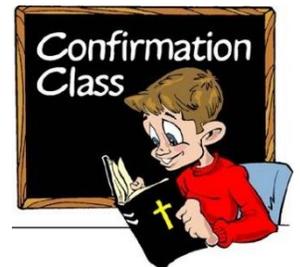


Rehearsals or appointments may make adjustments as needed.

Please talk to Pastor Tony if you have any questions about our congregation's winter weather policy.

Confirmation Update

Woo Hoo! We have completed our study of the Book of Genesis and are now quickly moving through the Book of Exodus. Along the way we are learning things that are in the Bible that are not mentioned in Sunday School with children. We have also learned that when the school has an "e-learning day," ... Guess what?! We have a Zoom Confirmation Class!



Please keep our students and leaders in your prayers. We ask that this will be a year of spiritual growth and formation as they learn more about their faith.

Our Confirmation Class instructors this year are Chris Dietz, Jodie Shanahan, James "Crash" Miller (our Online Ministry Specialist who will join us occasionally) and Tony Fink.

One of the main goals of confirmation is to introduce and deepen the relationship our youth have with Jesus. Another main goal is to have them be active and continue to be active in the life of a local congregation so their faith will continue to grow throughout high school and the rest of their lives.

Confirmation

Please talk to Pastor Tony if you have any questions about our congregation's confirmation program.

If You Go to the Hospital...

We need your help to know who is in the hospital. If you know of someone, please let the Church Office know at (507) 356-4553. Pastor Tony can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days each week on his cellphone (507) 236-3781.



Pastoral
Hospital
Visitation

Generations ago, hospitals would call churches and let them know which of their members were in the hospital. More recently, local pastors had access to "religious census" reports, which listed patients by their church.

This is no longer the case.

Patients at Mayo Clinic hospitals in Rochester are now able to request **an unlimited number of visitors** to be placed on their visitor list. **All visitors must be on the patient's visitor list or will not be allowed to visit. A clergy person needs to be on the list so they can visit.** (Yes, Pastor Tony needs to be added to the patient's list in order to get through the door into the hospital.) The Children's hospital and birthing centers have their own adapted rules due to their particularly sensitive population.

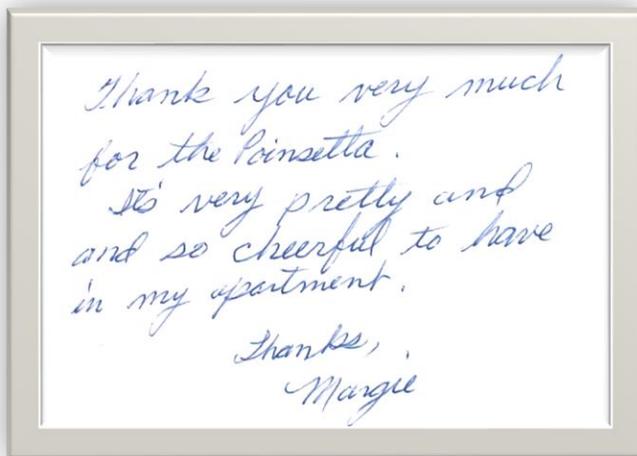


Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your cards, prayers, visits, phone calls, a meal, treats and a beautiful crocheted lap rug. Surgery went smoothly and recovery improves every day. Greg is an excellent nurse. I have been touched by all the attention. Never have I felt such a part of this church community or any community. Happy New Year for you all. I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Finnegan



Thank You from the Salvation Army

Thank you all for your donations of money and time during the 2022 Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign in Goodhue County. Thus far, slightly over \$12,000 has been raised in Goodhue County, with nearly \$1,000 from the Bell ringing at the Kettle in Pine Island at Island Market. Most of the funds raised stay in Goodhue County and are put to work to assist clients facing an emergency.



This past year, the Goodhue County Salvation Army assisted 82 clients with financial assistance for rent/deposit, car repair and household items from the Red Wing Salvation Army Store. Many of these clients were not able to obtain some or all of the assistance needed through their own means and other agencies, so the Salvation Army was able to fill in the remaining assistance gaps. The Goodhue County Salvation Army is managed by a volunteer board, who oversees fund raising and spending priorities.

A special thank you to Pastor Tony and Pine Island United Methodist Church for leading the Pine Island Kettle Campaign and for overseeing the fund raising. **2022 was the best year in Kettle donations from Pine Island!** Again, thank you to all who donated money and time.

For more information on the Goodhue Salvation Army, please contact Tom Kuelbs at (651) 746-3566, or stop in the Red Wing Store and speak with Stacy McConnel.

Blessings and all the best,
Tom Kuelbs
Minnesota Field Representative
The Salvation Army



Thank you to members and friends of our congregation who sent Christmas Cards and Family Christmas Letters to us! It warmed our heart to receive your cards and wishes – and it was fun hearing the news from your family.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Joleen and Tony Fink



Koronis Ministries Final Tabernacle Update

December 2022

Dear friends,

Greetings to you and your loved ones from Koronis Ministries!

Miracles are front and center in our minds during Christmas season as we celebrate the arrival of Immanuel ("God with us") and the world-changing events of that first Christmas morn! As Christians, our eyes should always be open to the miraculous in our lives as God continues to work in our midst.



Here at Koronis Ministries we are celebrating the miraculous this season – the completion of our new Tabernacle meeting and dining center! The vision for this building emerged more than three decades ago as the Koronis Board recognized the structural challenges and seasonal limitations of our original Tabernacle. Finally, after years of planning and fundraising, hampered by pandemic, infrastructure, cost, and permitting challenges, we can now rejoice in the completion of this beautiful new structure that will serve the church for decades to come! Scores of you joined us on September 10th for a special service celebrating 100 years of ministry and consecrating our new Tabernacle. Since that day, numerous retreat groups have enjoyed gathering for delicious meals in the building's new dining room, casual fellowship in the fireplace lobby, and meaningful times of worship overlooking the lake. This coming year we are seeing keen interest in this beautiful new meeting space. Already, we plan to host a large statewide clergy gathering and a confirmation retreat for the MN United Methodist churches, a regional gathering of camp professionals, plus a growing number of retreats for groups as large as 250 people! Thanks be to God! And a sincere thank you to all who contributed to help make this project possible.

The final cost for the completed building, including all supporting infrastructure projects like a new septic system and major site paving, was nearly \$5 million – the largest single project in the ministry's history! Three million dollars of these funds have come from the generosity of donors like you, proceeds from the sale of former UMC camp properties, and insurance money from the fire that destroyed our former kitchen at the end of 2019. The remaining cost of the building was financed via a \$2 million construction loan that will need to be paid back over the next 15 years. We believe the new Tabernacle will help contribute to the cost of these loan payments, subsidized by additional proceeds from the sale of a nearby camp property. However, to keep Koronis Ministries fiscally healthy and moving forward, it is imperative that we limit the debt burden on the camp as much as possible. We are asking you to consider giving a year-end gift to the completion of the Tabernacle project. By helping us limit our construction debt, your gift will help the camp remain vibrant for decades to come.

Christmas Blessings,


Dan Ziegler, Executive Director

Camp & Retreat Center
15752 Lake Ave | Paynesville, MN 56362
P. 320.243.4544 | www.koronisministries.org


Koronis
MINISTRIES



Fall 2022:
New Koronis
Tabernacle





Happy

BIRTHDAY

Candice Deikman February 2
John Hoehne February 6
Carl Weis February 7
Kodey Weis February 8
Betty Andrist February 9
Kylie Meyer February 12
Ann Murray February 13
Miranda Murray February 14
Dawn Pfannkuch February 14
Harold Sinning February 15
Graham Smithers February 15

Alyssa Murray-Matzek February 17
Scott Miller February 18
Cody Stofferahn February 21
Jordan Collins February 25
Lloyd Archer February 26
Neletta Harper February 26
Tony Murray February 27
Nancy Trelstad February 28



*Happy
Anniversary*

Don & Barb Vang February 3
Ken & Shirley Hall February 9
Don & Noreen Sanford February 12
Dean & Jen Sorum February 25



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 29 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 10:30am - Parking Lot Worship | 30 9:15am - Pine Island Yoga Club 5:15pm - TOPS | 31 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group | 1 9am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Digital Coffeehouse | 2 Groundhog Day @ United States 11am - Small Group - Zumbrota 12pm - Ministerial 7pm - Worship Rehearsal | 3 6:30am - Toastmasters 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI Anon | 4 9am - Women's Fellowship Group |
| 5 Communion Sunday 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 10:30am - Parking Lot of Worship | 6 9am - Renew Webroot 9:15am - Pine Island Yoga Club 10am - Pine Island Small Group 5:15pm - TOPS | 7 8am - Emerging Ministry 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group 7pm - Trustee Meeting | 8 9am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Missions Committee 3:30pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Digital Coffeehouse | 9 11am - Small Group - Zumbrota 5:45pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Worship Rehearsal | 10 6:30am - Toastmasters 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI Anon | 11 |
| 12 Lincoln's Birthday @ United States 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 10:30am - Parking Lot of Worship 2pm - Rosco Rockets -4H | 13 9:15am - Pine Island Yoga Club 5:15pm - TOPS 7pm - Boy Scout Mtg | 14 Valentine's Day @ United States 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group 7pm - SPRC | 15 9am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Finance 3:30pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Digital Coffeehouse | 16 10am - Honoring Loss Grief Group 11am - Small Group - Zumbrota 7pm - Worship Rehearsal 7:30pm - Worship Planning | 17 6:30am - Toastmasters 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI Anon | 18 |
| 19 Communion Sunday 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 10:30am - Parking Lot of Worship | 20 9:15am - Pine Island Yoga Club 10am - Newsletter Deadline 10am - Pine Island Small Group 5:15pm - TOPS | 21 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras 8am - Emerging Ministry 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group | 22 Ash Wednesday 9am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Digital Coffeehouse | 23 10am - Honoring Loss Grief Group 11am - Small Group - Zumbrota 7pm - Worship Rehearsal | 24 6:30am - Toastmasters 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI Anon | 25 |
| 26 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 10:30am - Parking Lot of Worship | 27 9:15am - Pine Island Yoga Club 5:15pm - TOPS | 28 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group 7pm - Church Council Meeting | 1 9am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Digital Coffeehouse | 2 10am - Honoring Loss Grief Group 11am - Small Group - Zumbrota 12pm - Ministerial 7pm - Worship Rehearsal | 3 6:30am - Toastmasters 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI Anon | 4 9am - Women's Fellowship Group |



Worship Services

Inside – Outside – Online

9:00 AM Inside Sanctuary

9:00 AM – Live Feed on Facebook

10:00 AM Coffee in Parking Lot

10:30 AM Parking Lot Worship

Join us to watch live at

<https://www.facebook.com/Piumc>

You can also watch the
recorded videos at

<https://piumc.org>



HELLO
February



(507)-356-4553

PIUMC.ORG

Facebook.com/PIMC

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