

# Pine Chips Newsletter

## April 2025



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



[Facebook.com/piumc](https://Facebook.com/piumc)

### From Pastor Tony

Holy Week will be here before we know it. This year it is the week of April 13-19. This special week includes some of the most meaningful experiences of our faith – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.



We go from the triumphant celebration of Jesus entering Jerusalem amid waving palm branches, to the somber last supper he had with his disciples, into the dark despair of his agonizing death on the cross, back to jubilant celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and his victory over sin and death. It is a week of emotional highs and lows; we go from the darkest despair to culminating with the most celebratory and joyous day in human history.

This leads to the question:

### Do you have a “Good Friday Faith” or an “Easter Faith”?

Which is the message you carry in your heart – is it

*“Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins because he loves me so much”?*

or is it

*“He is risen! He is risen indeed! I have abundant, eternal life and joy!”?*

I was raised with the words of the Good Friday faith, because I was told the only way I would get into heaven after I died was to believe and completely trust that Jesus died on the cross for my sins.

And I still do believe that with all my heart.

Then I was touched by the power of the resurrected and living Christ. He is risen indeed(!), and I have abundant, eternal life and joy!

I wanted to tell my friends about Jesus Christ because of a joy that welled up within me because of knowing Jesus in a personal way. (This was years before I even thought about becoming a pastor!)

### So, which is better? A “Good Friday Faith” or an “Easter Faith”?

Both. In our faith, like in our life, we need a balance. On the one hand, we need to remember that we need forgiveness for the bad things we do. On the other hand, we need to celebrate the wonderful new life we have been given through Jesus and share this joy with others.

We are called to share the love and grace and abundant life which can be experienced today and for eternity. The message we need to share with everyone, especially those who have not truly heard and responded to this invitation of Jesus; especially those who need to hear that they are welcomed and loved by Jesus (*and us!*).

As we share the love of Christ and his grace to all,

May God Bless Us!

We are called  
to share the  
love and grace  
and abundant  
life which can  
be experienced  
today and for  
eternity.



# Holy Week

## **Join us for Holy Week**

**Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday**

**Sunday, April 13**

Our children will be singing at the worship services and processing with their palm branches.



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*Our Holy week services help us remember what took place during the last hours of Jesus' life...*



**MAUNDY  
Thursday**

**Maundy Thursday**  
**Thursday, April 17**  
**7:00 pm**

Hear the story of Jesus and his disciples in the Upper Room for the Last Supper. As a part of the service, we will celebrate Holy Communion and enjoy the true and real presence of Jesus with us as we partake of this holy meal.

**Good Friday**  
**Friday, April 18**  
**7:00 pm**

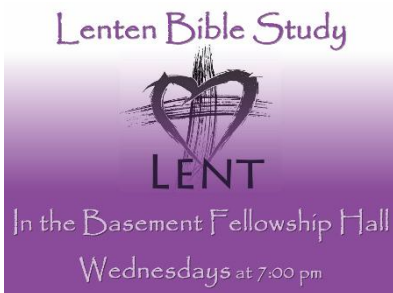
Join us as for a special Tenebrae service – a service of increasing darkness – as we walk through the final hours of Jesus' life and remember his love and sacrifice for us on the cross... and then grieve as we leave Jesus' dead body in a nearby, unused tomb.



(Livestreams of our services will be available at <https://www.facebook.com/piumc.>)

## **We are in the Season of Lent**

We are in the 40-day season of preparation called “Lent” which continues through Holy Week until Easter Sunday (which is April 20 this year.) Some of you will notice that 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.



## **Lenten Bible Study is Wednesdays at 7:00**

We are having a five-session Bible Study in Lent focusing on the last week of Jesus’ life which culminates with his resurrection on Easter. This study will be in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm following a soup dinner.

Lenten Bible Study			
2025			
	3/12/2025	Luke 19:29-48	Palm Sunday
	3/19/2025	Luke 20-21	Various Teachings
	3/26/2025	Luke 22:1-38	The Last Supper
	4/2/2025	Luke 22:39 - 23:25	Arrest and Trial
	4/9/2025	Luke 23:26-56	The Way of Sorrow and Crucifixion

## **Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers**

One of our traditions is to gather with our friends and meet new friends at soup dinners during Lent. We are continuing that tradition this year. You can come just for our 6:00 pm dinner and social time if you wish (without needing to stay for the Bible Study.)

There is a clipboard with a signup sheet in the Sanctuary where you can sign up to provide soup or a hotdish (cook's choice). Or you can sign up to just bring a dessert or help clean up – an important role, too!



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

# We're Getting Closer on Finalizing our Pictorial Directory!!

Are we get into the final stages of our church pictorial directory, one of the important parts of this directory are the addresses and phone numbers of our members and friends.

**Unless we hear from you, we will assume it is okay for us to include the mailing address, phone numbers, and family members in our directory.**

We do not plan to have this directory available on the internet – it will just be printed, paper directories available to our church members and friends.

We may also include email addresses.

**If you do not want your name, address, or phone numbers in our church pictorial directory, be sure to contact the church office by April 15, 2025.**

**Thanks to Dean Murray and Jacob Peterman for their work on this important project!**



# 2025 Easter Flower order

Your Name:

**Due Friday, April 11**

Flower	How many	In Honor	In Memory
Easter Lily \$15.00			
Tulip \$15.00			
Begonia \$22.00			
Kalanchoe \$22.00			
Gerbera \$20.00			
Mum \$22.00			
Hydrangea \$32.00			

NUMBER OF FLOWERS

TOTAL PRICE \$

# THANK YOU!



## Worldwide regionalization to come before the 2025 Minnesota Annual Conference Session



At this year's Annual Conference Session in June, one business item on the agenda is voting on constitutional amendments that were passed by General Conference in 2024. In order to become church law, constitutional amendments must be passed by at least two-thirds of General Conference. This step has already occurred. Now, the amendments must be ratified by annual conferences. Amendments must be supported by two-thirds of the total voting members of all United Methodist annual conferences combined.

One set of legislation to be ratified is related to [Worldwide Regionalization](#), which aims to give The United Methodist Church's different geographic regions equal standing in decision-making. Regionalization has become United Methodist



**Regionalization allows United Methodists to best serve their unique communities.**

shorthand for a package of legislation that would restructure the denomination. Under the legislation, the U.S. and each central conference—church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines—would become regional conferences with the same authority to adapt the Book of Discipline, the denomination's policy book, for more missional effectiveness. At present, only central conferences have that authority under the denomination's constitution to adapt the Discipline as missional needs and different legal contexts require.

The intent of regionalization is to allow United Methodists to best serve their unique communities. This is done through a restructuring that allows for contextualization while maintaining our United Methodist connectionalism.

This restructuring does not change [United Methodist beliefs](#) including, but not limited to, the beliefs outlined in the Apostle's Creed such as the Triune God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the virgin birth and full divinity of Christ, Jesus' resurrection and ascension, in the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit and the bodily resurrection. It does not change the United Methodist belief that the Bible "contains all things necessary for salvation."

**The UMC beliefs are not changing**



Pine Island United Methodist Church's delegate to this year's Annual Conference Session is Margie Berg.

To read a more detailed article, go to

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/worldwide-regionalization-to-come-before-annual-conference-18997362>

## Members of the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office will be with us in April

We will be having a special Safety Presentation on Sunday, April 6, at 10:30 am.

You are invited to join us as **Earl Merchlewitz, the Emergency Management Director** and **Malloree McCarthy the Emergency Management Deputy Director** from the



Goodhue County Sheriff's Office join us to talk about being safe when we are in public spaces and situational awareness.



We will meet on Sunday morning April 6 after a short time of Coffee Fellowship.

# Will You Help Support Our Campus Ministry at the U of M?

Our Wesley Foundation has been a part of the University of Minnesota for generations. They are renewing this ministry for a new generation of college students. Do you have a heart for students at the U of M? Please consider a gift...

**neon** Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota

Dear Pastors and Mission Chairs,

**Neon** is the campus ministry of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota. It is led by **Jean Carlos Diaz**, the new Director of the Wesley Foundation. Jean Carlos launched this ministry with one simple prayer: God, would you help us create a community that is colorful, bright, and new because of You?

**Colorful** – because God invites and includes all of us, even those who have been pushed away.  
**Bright** – because what God is up to is compelling, bold, and visible even in the darkness.  
**New** – because Jesus offers us a new life, a new world, a new city, and a new campus.

Inspired by this, we changed our campus ministry name to **Neon** – a colorful community of changemakers. In Greek, Neon means new, and we believe God wants to do something new at the U of M. Flowing from our Wesleyan tradition and mission, we know God's grace can make all things new.

**God has heard our prayer.** Every week, new students are finding this exciting campus ministry. Neon Nights—a weekly evening of fellowship, a free meal from local restaurants, and a powerful message—is the foundation of this ministry. After one semester, we are seeing an average of 30 students weekly and up to 60 people at events!

**That's why we need your help.** We need individuals and churches to give financially to make these nights possible. Buying chicken tenders and renting space on campus is one of the cheapest investments we can make in the next generation. The cost of losing them is much greater.

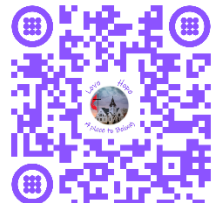
This campus ministry is dependent on the financial support of United Methodists in Minnesota. **Please support Neon through the Wesley Foundation by including it in your missions' budget and in special offerings.**

Thank you for believing in what God can do at the University of Minnesota. Would you partner with us and with God to do something **colorful, bright, and new?**

Yours in Christ,  
**The Wesley Foundation Board**

Marcia Alexander Epworth UMC	Jim Behm	Peter Cleveland Excelsior UMC	Isiah Dennis	Bill Eaves White Bear Lake UMC
Karen Everson UMC of Anoka	Chris Hagge Spirit of Hope UMC			
Kent Holmes Good Samaritan UMC	Joann Knutson Good Samaritan UMC			
Mike Mills Eden Prairie UMC	Dan Wetterstrom The Grove UMC			

You can give your gift through Pine Island UMC, at <https://piumc.org/giving/>, or talk to Pastor Tony about other options to give your gift.



## Join a Pine Island UMC Small Group!

In small groups, people 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.

Almost every day of the week, we have a small group that meets as a part of Pine Island United Methodist Church! Please call the church office for small group locations. Here's a list of our Small Groups:

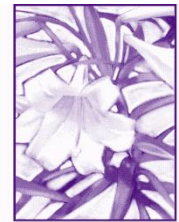
- **Sunday Coffee Fellowships** – in the Sanctuary starting at 10:00 am
- **Monday Coffee Fellowship** Group in Pine Island – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 10:00 am
- **Pine Haven** Coffee Fellowship Group – Mondays at 1:00 pm
- **“Growing in Faith”** Group – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at church
- **Zumbrota Care Center** Group – Thursdays at 1:00 pm
- **Friday Coffee Fellowship** Group – Fridays at 10:00 am in Pine Island

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

## Easter Hospitality

Easter is Sunday, April 20, this year. On this day our church will be filled with the members of our congregation celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **“He is Risen!” we will proclaim!** Jesus has saved us from eternal death! But as we celebrate this Good News, we might forget that,

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”*



**Easter Hospitality**

**Others have also been invited by Jesus to this day of celebration.**

At Christmas and Easter, people are more open to attending a church service than at any other time of the year. As a result, this is the best time for you to invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family to join you for this special worship service.



Easter is coming! Jesus is risen from the dead and has saved the world from sin and death! Let us invite those for whom Jesus died to save to join us in the celebration! **And let us be ready to welcome them by sharing the love of Jesus, offering hope to those who are looking for meaning in their life, and showing them that we are creating a place where everyone can feel like they belong!**





# Happy Birthday



April 2 -- Bryant Weis  
April 3 -- Sandy Anderson  
April 4 -- Connie Sather  
April 9 -- Marie Rolbiecki  
April 9 -- Wes Sorum  
April 11 -- Ken Hames  
April 12 -- Aleah Sonnenberg  
April 13 -- Michelle Huneke  
April 13 -- Eli Lowry  
April 16 -- Emily Miller

April 17 -- Mike Bruce  
April 18 -- Milo Miller  
April 18 -- Joshua Thornburg  
April 22 -- Jeremy Ryan  
April 23 -- Tammy Markham  
April 23 -- Sam Miller  
April 25 -- Collin Murray  
April 28 -- Chase Smithers  
April 30 -- Tucker Fogarty  
April 30 -- Mattsen Heller



# HAPPY. Anniversary

April 3--Rick & Diane Murray  
April 8--Bill & Nancy Kent  
April 25--Jim & Sandy Anderson















holidays

Apr 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Sunday School</p> <p>6pm - IFOC Grief Group</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am - Offering Counting Team</p> <p>1pm - Pine Haven Small Group</p> <p>5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:30am - Emerging Ministry Team</p> <p>6pm - Growing as Disciples Group</p> <p>7pm - Trustee Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Lent Soup Dinner</p> <p>7pm - Lenten Bible Study</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>11:30am - Pine Island Ministerial</p> <p>1pm - Zumbrota Care Center</p> <p>7pm - Worship Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30am - Speakers 101 Club</p> <p>10am - Pine Island Friday Small</p> <p>7pm - AI Anon</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am - Sheriff's Safety</p> <p>2pm - Roscoe Rockets 4-H</p> <p>6pm - IFOC Grief Group</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>9am - Offering Counting Team</p> <p>10am - Pine Island Small Group</p> <p>1pm - Pine Haven Small Group</p> <p>5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6pm - Growing as Disciples Group</p> <p>7pm - SPRC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Lent Soup Dinner</p> <p>6pm - Potluck Dinner</p> <p>7pm - Lenten Bible Study</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>1pm - Zumbrota Care Center</p> <p>7pm - Worship Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am - Pine Island Friday Small</p> <p>7pm - AI Anon</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Sunday School</p> <p>6pm - IFOC Grief Group</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>9am - Offering Counting Team</p> <p>1pm - Pine Haven Small Group</p> <p>5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scout Mtg</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30am - Emerging Ministry Team</p> <p>6pm - Growing as Disciples Group</p> <p>7pm - Trust Fund meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>12pm - Finance Meeting @ <a href="https://www.zumbrota.org">https://www.zumbrota.org</a></p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Maundy Thursday</p> <p>1pm - Zumbrota Care Center</p> <p>4:45pm - Worship Planning</p> <p>6pm - Worship Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Maundy Thursday Service</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>6:30am - Speaking 101 Club</p> <p>10am - Pine Island Friday Small</p> <p>7pm - AI Anon</p> <p>7pm - Good Friday Service</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>Holy Saturday</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Sunday School</p> <p>6pm - IFOC Grief Group</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Easter Monday</p> <p>9am - Offering Counting Team</p> <p>10am - Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>10am - Pine Island Small Group</p> <p>1pm - Pine Haven Small Group</p> <p>5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6pm - Growing as Disciples Group</p> <p>7pm - Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>5pm - Passover Seder</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1pm - Zumbrota Care Center</p> <p>7pm - Worship Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am - Pine Island Friday Small</p> <p>7pm - AI Anon</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Sunday School</p> <p>6pm - IFOC Grief Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am - Offering Counting Team</p> <p>1pm - Pine Haven Small Group</p> <p>5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8am - Memorial Gifts Sunday</p> <p>6pm - Growing as Disciples Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:30am - Pine Island Ministerial</p> <p>1pm - Zumbrota Care Center</p> <p>7pm - Worship Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30am - Speakers 101 Club</p> <p>10am - Pine Island Friday Small</p> <p>7pm - AI Anon</p>	<p>3</p>



## **Worship Services**

### **Inside - Online**

- 9:00am Inside Sanctuary
- 9:00am Live Feed on Facebook
- 10:00am Coffee Fellowship
- 10:00am Sunday School

### **Join us online at**

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

### **Our recorded videos are at**

<https://piumc.org>



**(507) 356-4553**

**PIUMC.ORG**

**Facebook.com/PIUMC**

**Palm Sunday, April 13**

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

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