



From Pastor Tony

Why do we publish monthly newsletters?

This is a valid question. Each month – or at least most months – much time and energy and some expense go into creating, printing, mailing, and distributing monthly newsletters.

In my forty plus years of ministry, the monthly newsletter has been a staple of church offices tasks. In the 1990's, newsletter week was known as "that week" which came around every month – and brought with it many extra hours of work on top of the ministry that took place every week. Church budgets were built around the cost of USPS bulk mail permits, the postage of each individual copy of the newsletter that was mailed, and the paper and staff time it took.

Why do we publish monthly newsletters?

I personally see it as a way to do a couple of things:

- It **informs church members** who are not regularly in worship what is happening around church.
- It is a **way to promote** new and existing ministries in the congregation.
- It is an **evangelism or outreach tool** we can share with people who are not yet part of our congregation – with the hope they will see the good things we are doing and want to be a part of this great ministry.
- It is a chance for me to be a **cheerleader** and lift up the positive things that are happening in the congregation.

But, in this time of more immediate communication – and things like the *Midweek News*, the *Friday Weekend Worship News*, and our Church Website and Facebook page – how valuable is a monthly newsletter?

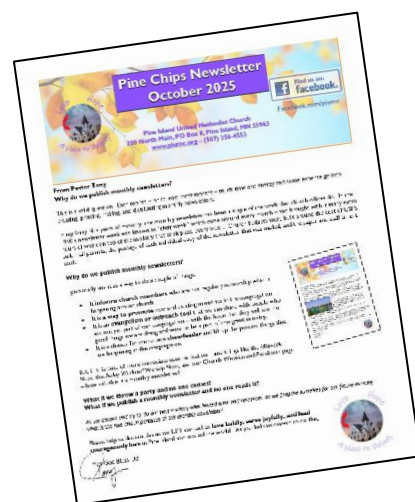
What if we throw a party and no one comes?

What if we publish a monthly newsletter and no one reads it?

As we discern and try to do our best ministry with limited time and resources, as we prepare ourselves for our future ministry, what is the role and importance of our monthly newsletter?

Please help us discern this as we fulfill our call to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** here in Pine Island and around the world. As you help us discern to do this,

May God Bless Us!



Confirmation Information for the Curious

Woo Hoo! We are off to a great start with our Confirmation Class! Our class for the 2025-2026 school year will have nine students and three or four adults helping to teach.

An orientation meeting for families was Sunday, September 21. The first Wednesday afternoon class will be Wednesday, October 1.

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 main goal of confirmation is to introduce and deepen the relationship our youth have with Jesus and having 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.

If you know of a student who might be interested in confirmation class, please let Jen or Tony in the church office know. It's not too late to be a part of the confirmation experience.

Confirmation

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



We Have a New Sunday School Director!

It is with joy we are able to announce that **Sharon Raj** has agreed to be our new Sunday School Director on a probationary basis. (If anyone wishes to step up and wants to be our Sunday School Director, Sharon promises to be your helper.)

We promise to support Sharon and all those who teach and lead our Sunday school ministry. We know the Christian nurture of our children is important. Each time a baby is baptized, we promise:

***With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.
We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others.
We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.***

Thank you to Sharon Raj and all who minister and nurture our children!



Our Annual Church Conference Meeting will be October 26

We will be participating in a **River Bluffs District Cluster Church Conference Meeting** at **Christ United Methodist Church** in Rochester with other area churches on **Sunday, October 26, starting at 2:00 pm.**



Minnesota
Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

Our **Conference Superintendent Michelle Hargrave** will be presiding at the meeting, and she will bring a special message to us from Bishop Lanette Plambeck.

Please try to attend this meeting.

Business at this Annual Church Conference which will relate to the future ministry of Pine Island UMC will include:

- **Clergy Compensation for 2026**
- **Inactive/Unresponsive Membership Report**
- **Our Reports Packet from committees and clergy**



Home Celebration Drive Though Event

Pine Island United Methodist Church Parking Lot

October 11, 2025

4pm –6pm

Menu

**Harvest Home Turkey
Stuffing**

**Mash Potatoes/Gravy
Corn / Cranberries
Chocolate revel bars**

Cost

\$16.00

(Fund raiser for PIUMC and community outreach projects)

Pine Island UMC Small Groups

Recently one of the directors at **Pine Haven** mentioned to Tony how much the small group there is **appreciated and enhances** the lives of the residents who participate. **Around here, since the time of John Wesely, about 290 years ago, Methodists have known the importance and vitality of small groups.**

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!

September is a great time for you to consider growing in your relationship with Jesus and other friends in our congregation in a small group!

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 – 1st and 3rd 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!**



Sunday	10:00 am	Coffee Fellowships
Monday	10:00 am	Pine Island Group
	1:00 pm	Pine Haven Group
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Growing as Disciples
Thursday	1:00 pm	Zumbrota Care Center
Friday	10:00 am	Pine Island Group



You are invited to our
Second Wednesday
Monthly Potluck

Wednesday, October 8
Starting at 6:00 pm

Love Hope
A Place to Belong
200 N Main St
Pine Island
Piumc.org

Illinois UMC buys billboard space that hosted Proud Boys sign

'Hate Divides, love Unites' is message on southern Illinois sign...

In response to the uproar over a Proud Boys message displayed on a billboard near Central Community High School in Breese, IL, the United Methodist Church has a simple message: **"Hate Divides, Love Unites."**

The church purchased billboard space in the same location as the Proud Boys sign, which was removed in August. It paid \$2,100 for the next four months.

"It's part of our ministry," said Paul Black, director of communication ministries for the Springfield-based Illinois Great Rivers Conference, which represents 650 United Methodist congregations and about 100,000 members across central and southern Illinois. "One of the focuses for the denomination is eradicating racism, and when you read about this group, there's no doubt there's cause for concern."



Bishop David Bard said, "In our new vision statement, we say that The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously**. "We serve our communities, in part, by standing up against hatred and division. **We lead with courage** as we seek to fulfill our baptismal vow to resist evil, injustice and oppression, and as we invite people into a vision of human life and community rooted in love and compassion. **We love boldly** by sharing the love of God for all persons with our words and actions. These billboards are one way we are living into this vision."

Black said the design for the new billboard comes from a campaign first launched by the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church. The campaign began after a private citizen erected a similar sign near a Confederate flag flying along a busy road at the Lake of the Ozarks. The church eventually took over funding for that billboard and has since expanded the effort, putting up signs in several locations throughout the state.

Kim Jenne, director of connectional ministries for the Missouri Conference, said other Methodist conferences across the country, including in Ohio and North Carolina, have also adopted the "Hate Divides, Love Unites" message in places where local communities have reported extremist activity.

Are You Reading This?

Every so often, as we consider the ministries that our congregation offers, and those that are valuable to our members and guests, we look at what we offer, with awareness of limited resources and time.

Years ago, a newsletter that was mailed to members was a primary means of communication in churches. In recent years, more people are using email and social media. Some congregations still mail monthly newsletters to all their members and constituents. Other congregations have needed to stop producing paper newsletters.

What is your **FAVORITE** part of the Newsletter?

We have had one of our out-of-town members let us know that their favorite part is the Birthdays and Anniversaries

Have you gotten far enough in the Pine Island Chips Newsletter to see this article?

Let us know by either leaving a message at the church office at **(507) 356-4553**, sending an email to office@piumc.org, leaving a message at on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Pastor.Tony.Fink/> or just mentioning it to Pastor Tony when you see him.

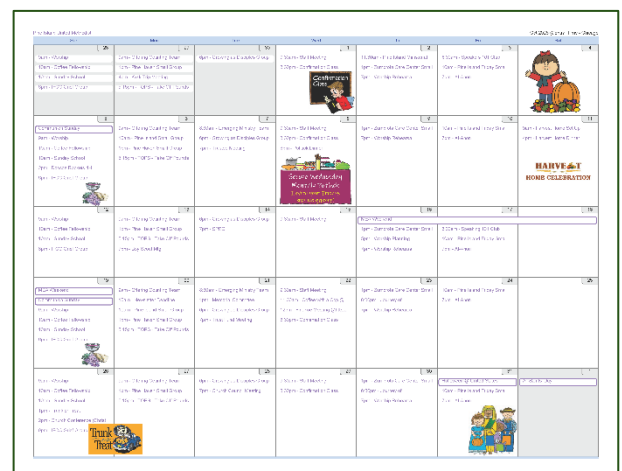
We will take the number of responses in consideration as we prioritize our ministry efforts here at Pine Island United Methodist

Keep Up To Date in October!

Our ministry is starting to take off in October with many special events!

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

Once you visit the online calendar, you can click an event on the calendar for more details, or Zoom sign in information, or the street address. You also have the option to add it to your own personal e-calendar.



[Links to the online calendar](#) are also in the weekly emails that come from our church.



Church of St. Michael, Pine Island, MN

FALL FESTIVAL 2025

Friday, October 3, 4pm-7:30pm
Our fabulous St. Michael Fish Fry



Both baked & fried fish will be offered! Take out available!

Prices: Adults \$15.00, Children 5-12 \$6.00, Family maximum \$45.00

Fall Mums available for sale! Art & Craft Vendors!

Sunday, October 5, 10:00am-3:00pm

Kids outdoor games (11:45am),

Cornhole Tournament –There will be separate games for adults & children!

(Registration at 12noon and game starts 1pm),

Fall Mums for Sale,

Silent Auction, Art & Craft Vendors,

Food available for free-will offering



Church of St. Michael 451 5th St. SW, Pine Island, MN 55963 507-356-4280



Fall Senior Festival

Thursday, October 9, 2025

2:00 pm

Faith Community Church

305 State Street N.

West Concord, MN

All Seniors are invited to come & enjoy a time of fellowship and singing the old familiar hymns.

Devotional: *Pastor David Brederland*

**~Coffee and treats will
follow the program~**

**Faith Community Church is located
on the north side of West Concord,
on Hwy. 56. Our facility is all on one
level for easy access.**





PINE ISLAND SENIOR DINING



Benefits Include:

Provides well balanced meal

Builds long lasting relationships

Boosts mental health

Improves cognitive health

Creates social opportunities

- Improve memory
- Increase attention span
- Enhances executive functions

Creates a sense of purpose

Volunteer opportunities

Maintain independence and age
in own community

Despite being surround by a community, isolation and loneliness can affect even the most social people. Eating together helps develop a sense of belonging and purpose within your community.



To join us call 507-356-2228

By sharing meals and contribution to
the social atmosphere, you can feel
valued and connected!

Thank You

Dear PUMC Praise Team,
We were so touched by your unexpected gift of the beautiful bouquet and thoughtful anniversary card. It truly meant more than we can say. Your words of encouragement, your reminders of God's love and presence, and your understanding of how our anniversary had quietly taken a backseat this year were exactly what our hearts needed.

The flowers were breathtaking, and what made them even more meaningful were the sunflowers shining so brightly in the arrangement. You probably didn't know this, but sunflowers were the main flower at our wedding 17 years ago. Seeing them again in this season felt like such a God wink—a reminder of this faithfulness in our lives and of His constant presence through both joy and challenge.

Your thoughtfulness lifted our spirits in such a special way. At an overwhelming time, your kindness gave us a moment to pause and celebrate and feel God's love reflected back to us through you. We are so grateful to be part of such a loving church family, and to know we are surrounded by people who extend their love and compassion outside of Sunday mornings.

Thank you again for blessing us in such a personal and meaningful way. We will not forget it, and are so thankful to each of you. ♥

With love and gratitude,
Armanda and Tom Smithers



Dear Pine Island United Methodist Church,
As a volunteer from Neon Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota, I am writing to thank you for your generous financial gift! We are gearing up for the new school year & the wonderful work God will do through Neon in the lives of students at the U of M!!

Thank you for your continued prayers for our students to thrive.

Sincerely,
in faith,

Linda Hammersten

Hallmark (member of Good Samaritan in Edina, MN)

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MADE WITH PAPERS FROM
WELL-MANAGED FORESTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Ensley Hinrichsen October 3
Kathie Lohmann October 3
Ken Rueber October 3
Madisyn Collins October 4
Andrea Caranza October 8
James Collins October 9
Maggie Miller October 9
Vickie Sather October 9
Lori Rasmussen-Murray October 10
Breanna Sather October 11
Walt Zimara October 11
Laura Imhof October 13
Nicole Hofschulte October 14

Arlene Noser October 15
Aubrey Blumers October 19
Shannan Weis October 22
Kari McGowan October 24
Anthony Collins October 27
Larry Sather October 27
Betsy Heller October 29
Dean Murray October 29
Clara Fink October 31
Brian Hervey October 31
Jamie Imhof October 31
Jamie Mathison October 31



Happy Anniversary

Neal & Denise Weis October 4
Joni Brooks & Ken Hames October 15
Jon & Kathy Richardson October 26



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 6pm - IFOC Grief Group	29 9am - Offering Counting Team 1pm - Pine Haven Small Group 4pm - Kwik Trip Meeting 5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds	30 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group	1 9:30am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Confirmation Class 	2 11:30am - Pine Island Ministerial 1pm - Zumbrota Care Center Small 7pm - Worship Rehearsal	3 6:30am - Speakers 101 Club 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI-Anon	4 
5 Communion Sunday 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 2pm - Roscoe Rockets 4H 6pm - IFOC Grief Group 	6 9am - Offering Counting Team 10am - Pine Island Small Group 1pm - Pine Haven Small Group 5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds	7 8:30am - Emerging Ministry Team 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group 7pm - Trustee Meeting	8 9:30am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Confirmation Class 6pm - Potluck Dinner 	9 1pm - Zumbrota Care Center Small 7pm - Worship Rehearsal	10 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI-Anon	11 9am - Harvest Home Set Up 4pm - Harvest Home Dinner HARVEST HOME CELEBRATION
12 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 6pm - IFOC Grief Group	13 9am - Offering Counting Team 1pm - Pine Haven Small Group 5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds 7pm - Boy Scout Mtg	14 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group 7pm - SPRC	15 9:30am - Staff Meeting	16 1pm - Zumbrota Care Center Small 5pm - Worship Planning 7pm - Worship Rehearsal	17 6:30am - Speaking 101 Club 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI-Anon	18
19 MEA Weekend Communion Sunday 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 6pm - IFOC Grief Group 	20 9am - Offering Counting Team 10am - Newsletter Deadline 10am - Pine Island Small Group 1pm - Pine Haven Small Group 5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds	21 8:30am - Emerging Ministry Team 1pm - Memorial Committee 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group 7pm - Trust Fund Meeting	22 9:30am - Staff Meeting 11:30am - Coffee with a Cop @ 12pm - Finance Meeting @https: 3:30pm - Confirmation Class	23 1pm - Zumbrota Care Center Small 6:30pm - Journey of 7pm - Worship Rehearsal	24 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI-Anon	25
26 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10am - Sunday School 1pm - Trunk or Treat 2pm - Church Conference (Christ 6pm - IFOC Grief Group 	27 9am - Offering Counting Team 1pm - Pine Haven Small Group 5:15pm - TOPS - Take Off Pounds	28 6pm - Growing as Disciples Group 7pm - Church Council Meeting	29 9:30am - Staff Meeting 3:30pm - Confirmation Class	30 1pm - Zumbrota Care Center Small 6:30pm - Journey of 7pm - Worship Rehearsal	31 Halloween @ United States 10am - Pine Island Friday Small 7pm - AI-Anon 	1 All Saints Day



hello
OCTOBER

HARVEST

**Home Celebration
Drive Thru Event
October 11, 2025**

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](https://www.facebook.com/PIUMC)

Our recorded videos are at

<https://piumc.org>

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Sunday School

Sundays 10:00am -10:45am

(507) 356-4553

Facebook.com/PIUMC

Pine Island United Methodist Church
200 North Main Street
P.O. Box 8
Pine Island, MN 55963