



Cross~Wind

Connection

January 2024

Happy New Year! As I'm writing this, we still have a little over a week to go in 2023, but I've already started designing the worship services into January, so I've started writing 2024. Can you believe the new year is almost here?

I'm not a fan of New Year's resolutions. For the most part, we drop them by the beginning of February if not before. However, a new year can be a good time to set some goals and begin to make some positive changes to achieve them.

I think 2024 will be a good time to focus on our growth as disciples of Jesus. Remember, the mission of Cross~Wind is to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." It's easy to say that, but not always easy to do.

In 2024, I want to offer several opportunities to help us to grow from wherever we happen to be in our spiritual lives and take a few positive steps to grow a few steps closer to where we want to be in our relationship to God.

I'm thinking and praying about developing a Cross~Wind Way of Life—meaning having eight to ten simple, memorable phrases that we can all use to define what it means for us to live as disciples within the community of Cross~Wind United Methodist Church. You'll hear more about that as the year goes on.

I want to offer short term opportunities to give us practical steps we can make to grow closer to God.

The first of these is coming in January. "Life with God" is a nine-week small group experience to look at developing a balanced way to live a life of deeper connection with God. We're not bystanders in our spiritual lives; we're active participants with God, who is ever inviting us into relationship with him.

Jesus gave us a complete picture of God, and demonstrated how we can experience vitality and fullness in our life with God (Col. 2:9, Jn. 10:10). The historical Church (Christians), despite its divisions and differences, has upheld the core characteristics of Christ's life through what we now call traditions.

Taken together, these traditions help us envision a balanced spiritual life. They serve as a guide to help us take on the life of Jesus – to become like Jesus ourselves – and as a result to be transformed from the inside out.

These traditions are: **Contemplative: The Prayer-Filled Life; Holiness: The Virtuous Life; Charismatic: The Spirit-Empowered Life; Social Justice: The Compassionate Life; Evangelical: The Word-Centered Life; and Incarnational: The Sacramental Life.**

Beginning Wednesday January 24 at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM (choose which time works for you), we will spend nine weeks exploring these "streams of living water" and learning how these streams can bring us closer to God.

Look for the sign-up sheet or contact me for more information.

Peace and Good!

Tim

Mark Your Calendar!
Northwest District Leadership Day

Join us for a day of worship and informative workshops February 3 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at Monticello United Methodist Church

Trainings include: Staff Parish Relations Committee, The Single Board Structure, Discipleship, Finance, Rural Ministry & much more!

JANUARY

Birthdays

Oakleigh Buck	January 1
Samantha Emmons	January 1
Patty Fiscel	January 3
Jeff Key	January 3
Melinda Fry	January 5
Jim Layman	January 7
Bill Rynerson	January 8
Becky Silance	January 12
Janet Woodworth	January 14
Nancy DeHaven	January 18
Wayne Asselin	January 23
Betty Guess	January 23
Sue Kinnaman	January 26
James McMinn	January 26
Judy Best	January 27
Julie Layman	January 30

Anniversaries

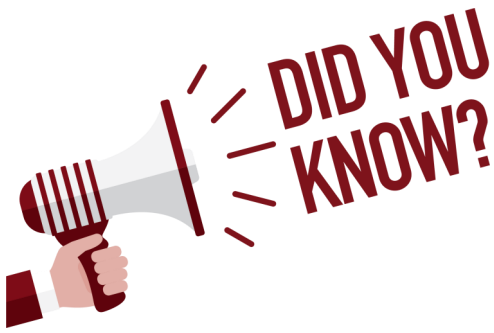
Chuck & Brenda Carmin	January 3
Larry & Mary Leffert	January 21
John & Carol Chamness	January 30
Roger & Janet Woodworth	January 30



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

The weekly offering amount needed to meet our annual budget is **\$5,740.00**

November 26	79	\$2,545.10
December 3	86	\$8,851.50
December 10	107	\$2,725.10
December 17	116	\$3,868.02
December 24	102	\$12,137.08
December 31	Will be in next month's newsletter	



*Congratulations to
Curtis Wilson and Sarah Fisher on their engagement!*



**2024
Offering Envelopes**



If you did not pick up your 2024 offering envelopes they are in the office waiting for you. Stop by and pick them up!

On Sunday, December 24th, we celebrated with

*Anninston Wilson
Emilia Wilson*

As they received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism



If your ministry group needs to cancel due to weather this winter please let the office know by 3:00pm so the building can be locked at the end of the work day. Thank you.

Ladies did you notice the improvements that have made to each stall in the restroom? We want to thank Jimmy Langford for donating the materials needed for the repairs, Dave Downham for the labor done on the repairs, and to Lori Burk for donating the new trash cans.



Bible Trivia

What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?

Answer found at the end of the "Mark the Date" Report



Linda Benedict Hoffman

My first experience of church was in 1955 after my dad died. My great aunt invited mom and the six of us kids to attend her church, Bethlehem UMC near Twelve Mile. It was a fun church to grow up in and learn about God.

As an adult I filled many pairs of shoes, SS teacher, Youth leader, UMW president, praise team, hospitality for Sunday morning, funeral meal chairperson, and missions team leader. I raised my four children in that church and six of my grandchildren.

In 2004 I realized that all I was doing at church wasn't doing anything for me. I needed something new, I needed to be spiritually fed, I chose Cross~Wind because I knew so many members through The Walk to Emmaus teams I had worked on. I told Kayc that I was burnt out, she told me that for the next year to just be there, soaking up God's Word and presence, not to serve on anything. That was the best decision I ever made!

I thoroughly enjoy being a part of Triple S, the prayer shawl ministry, baking cookies for whatever occasion, and helping where I'm asked to help.

The Cross~Wind family welcomed me with open arms. The greatest gift was the way the church family prayed for us ten years ago when my son was injured, we still feel God's love through all of you.

My life's work has been Jill of all trades, mistress of none. I've milked cows, did field work, worked at the old RBM, waited tables, worked at Wal Mart, and also worked as an instructional assistant at Logansport High School. I've been a volunteer at Emmaus Mission Center for 23 years. Now I just serve in an advisory position.

Ron and I have been married for 43 years, we have 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren (and a whole bunch of people who call us mom and dad and are very special in our lives.)

It is my great joy to now have 1 grandson and 2 great granddaughters attend church at Cross~Wind with me. We were 5 generations strong in the Methodist church since that day in 1955!



Fun New Year's Facts to Brush up on the Holiday's History!

Over 50 tons of trash are left in Times Square after New Year's Eve celebrations. About 3,000 pounds of that is confetti—that's a lot to clean up!



The confetti dropped in Times Square is holding secret messages. The confetti in Times Square has thousands of people's wishes written on them. In 2015 "wishfetti" became a part of the tradition. People write their wishes for the new year and submit them to the Wish Wall in Times Square (or online) and those wishes are turned into the confetti that falls over the crowd at midnight.

Many Brazilians welcome the New Year at the beach. It is considered good luck to make seven wishes while jumping seven waves — so you can count on a good old New Year's beach party down in Rio de Janeiro!

If you hear plates breaking in Denmark on New Year's Eve, it's considered good luck. The Danes hold a tradition of throwing plates at the front door of family and friends' homes to welcome good fortune for the new year.

ABC's 'New Year's Rockin' Eve' show is a long standing tradition. Dick Clark began hosting the show in 1974. In December 2004, Clark suffered a stroke and Regis Philbin stepped in at the last minute to host. In 2005, Clark officially handed hosting duties over to Ryan Seacrest.

Most New Year's resolutions aren't taken too seriously. Nearly 80% of resolutions made at the beginning of the year are forgotten by February. So no worries if you need to restart!

The first Times Square New Year's party was thrown for a newspaper. The annual tradition of gathering in Times Square for New Year's started as a party to celebrate the opening of the *New York Times* building in 1904. Over 200,000 people attended.

Though the parties raged on, there wasn't a ball drop until 1907. Fireworks were previously used to welcome the new year, but they were banned because burning embers were falling on the crowd. A ball being lowered on a flagpole was a safer bet.



Hershey, PA drops a giant Kiss to ring in the new year. Other Pennsylvania towns have traditions that play off their names. In Mechanicsburg, they drop a wrench. In Dillsburg, they drop a pickle.

The New Year's kiss started with the Romans. Although things got a little friskier back then, ancient Romans are credited with the kissing tradition because of their Saturnalia festival. It was a celebration honoring Saturn, the god of time, where all social norms went out the window. Many of the celebrations influenced the Christmas and New Year's festivities that became the focus when Christianity took over the Roman Empire.



THINK ORANGE **Grades K-5**



Children's Christmas Play

Thank you to All involved in the making of this year's Christmas Play! It's so much fun to watch the kids on the Big Screen!

New Year New Pictures

Check out our bulletin board this month. It's filled with fresh pictures of our beautiful children!



January's Virtue:

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

January's Bible Verse:

Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large.

-Luke 16:10a (NIrV)

🧨 *Happy New Year!* 🧨

Questions? Email me at linda@crosswindministries.net
Linda Eshelman – Director of Children's Ministry

If you are on the **Cross~Wind Ad Council** there will be a meeting **Wednesday, January 17 at 6:00pm** to discuss the 2024 budget. Church members representing these program ministries include Pastor/Staff Parish-Relations Chair, Trustee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, Lay Leader, Lay Member of the Annual Conference, Financial Secretary, Church Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Church Council Chair. Please be prepared to offer 2024 goals and any leadership reports.

Lori Burk

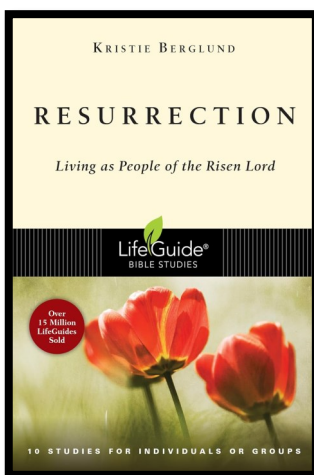
Ad Council Chairman



Our next *Prayer Meeting* will be **Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30pm.**

Our 2023 prayer meetings were a time that we met as a family in the sanctuary to lift our voices in prayer. Starting in 2024 our time of prayer will look a little different. Pastor Tim will lead our prayer time online. Please mark January 30 on your calendar and join us on Facebook live or YouTube live. If you are unable to attend during the live prayer meeting you can still join us in prayer by watching it on Facebook or YouTube at a later time that works best for you. God loves it when we bring our request and praises to Him.

Food Finders Mobile Pantry has offered Cross~Wind the opportunity to help serve the community on **Thursday, January 25** from 10:30am to 1:00pm. We are looking for volunteers to help hand out food to those that are in need. If you have any questions or are willing to help serve, please contact Pastor Tim or Deb in the office



Sunday Morning Bible Study January 7 – March 10

Becky Groff will lead the study *Resurrection: Living as People of the Risen Lord.*

Christ's resurrection changed everything. What does it mean to live in the light of that glorious day? This ten-session Bible Study explores the role of resurrection in our lives through a survey of both New and Old Testament passages. Discover your calling and identity as a child of the risen Lord.

The study book is \$12.00. This study will meet between the two Sunday morning services, starting at 9:40am and ending at 10:40am. All are welcome.


Bible Trivia Answer: Locusts

January Scripture Readings

- January 1—The Holy Name of Jesus—Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Philippians 2:5-13;
Luke 2:15-21*
- January 1—New Year's Day—Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a;
Matthew 25:31-46
- January 2—The 9th Day of Christmas—1 John 2:22-29; Psalm 98:1-5; John 1:19-28
- January 3—Gilbert Haven—1 John 3:1-6; Psalm 98:1-2, 4-7; John 1:29-34
- January 4—Juniper—1 John 3:7-10; Psalm 98:1-2, 8-10; John 1:35-42
- January 5—The 12th Day of Christmas—1 John 3:11-18; Psalm 100; John 1:43-51
- January 6—Epiphany of the Lord—Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12;
Matthew 2:1-12*
- January 7—Baptism of the Lord—Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
- January 8—Richard Watson—1 Samuel 1:1-8; Psalm 116:10-17; Mark 1:14-20
- January 9—1 Samuel 1:9-20; Psalm 123; Mark 1:29-39
- January 10—James Varick—1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 40:1-10; Mark 1:40-45
- January 11—1 Samuel 4:1c-11; Psalm 44:7-14, 23-26
- January 12—Aelred of Hexham—1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Psalm 89:15-18; Mark 2:1-12*
- January 13—Hilary of Poitiers—1 Samuel 9:1-4, 15-19, 10:1ab; Psalm 21:1-7;
Mark 2:13-17*
- January 14—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany—1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
- January 15—Paul of Thebes—1 Samuel 15:16-23; Psalm 50:7-15, 24; Mark 2:18-22
- January 16—Hiram Rhoades Revels—1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 89:19-27; Mark 2:23-28
- January 17—Antony, Abbot of Egypt—1 Samuel 17:32-51; Psalm 144:1-10; Mark 3:1-6*
- January 18—The Confession of Peter—Acts 4:8-13; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 5:1-4;
Matthew 16:13-19*
- January 19—John Ernest Rattenbury—1 Samuel 24:2-20; Psalm 57; Mark 3:13-19
- January 20—2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19-27; Psalm 80:1-7; John 8:51-59
- January 21—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany—Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
- January 22—2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Psalm 89:19-28; Mark 3:19b-30
- January 23—Sarah Ann Dickey—2 Samuel 6:12b-19; Psalm 24:7-10; Mark 3:31-35
- January 24—Francis de Sales—2 Samuel 7:4-17; Psalm 89:1-4; Mark 4:1-20
- January 25—The Conversion of Paul—Acts 26:9-21; Psalm 67; Galatians 1:11-24;
Matthew 10:16-22*
- January 26—Timothy and Titus—2 Samuel 11:1-17; Psalm 51:1-10; Mark 4:26-34*
- January 27—John Chrysostom—2 Samuel 12:1-25; Psalm 51:11-18; Mark 4:35-41*
- January 28—4th Sunday after the Epiphany—Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
- January 29—2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-14; Psalm 3; Mark 5:1-20
- January 30—Charles—2 Samuel 18:9-14, 24-19:3; Psalm 86:1-6; Mark 5:21-43
- January 31—John Raleigh Mott—2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Psalm 32:1-8; Mark 6:1-6

JANUARY

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 	2 10:45am Triple S Bible Study 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	3 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+ 6:00pm Women's Bible Study	4 6:15pm Choir 7:00pm Praise Team	5	6
7 Communion 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40am Resurrection Study 10:50am Contemporary Worship 12:00pm Youth Group	8 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+ 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	9 10:45am Triple S Bible Study	10 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+	11 6:15pm Choir 7:00pm Praise Team	12	13
14 Giving Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40am Resurrection Study 10:50am Contemporary Worship 10:50am Think Orange 12:00pm Youth Group	15 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+ 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	16 10:45am Triple S Bible Study	17 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+ 6:00pm Ad Council Meeting	18 6:15pm Choir 7:00pm Praise Team	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due
21 Choir Sings 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40am Resurrection Study 10:50am Contemporary Worship 10:50am Think Orange 12:00pm Youth Group	22 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+ 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	23 10:45am Triple S Bible Study	24 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+ 10:00am Life With God Study 6:00pm Life With God Study	25 10:30am Food Finders 6:15pm Choir 7:00pm Praise Team	26	27
28 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40am Resurrection Study 10:50am Contemporary Worship 10:50am Think Orange 12:00pm Youth Group	29 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+ 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	30 10:45am Triple S Bible Study 6:30pm On-line Prayer Meeting	31 9:30am Area Five Exercise 60+ 10:00am Life With God Study 6:00pm Life With God Study			