



APRIL 2023 ISSUE

# THE PINEVILLE CONNECTION

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

SEARCH,  
RESCUE AND  
RECOVERY

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# Pineville Connection

## FROM PASTOR MARK

*“To be actively engaging in relationships with each other and the community around us...”*

I just returned from Pineville Elementary School where members of our church are hosting a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. This evening, in our Fellowship Building, Pineville Neighbors Place will be convening a Community Conversation “to lift the unique and often silenced voices of the community... related to criminal justice system policies and practices.”

Throughout the week, children and youth from the surrounding communities fill the meeting spaces to practice music, to work on merit badges, and on Sunday, they gather around tables with their family to learn the stories of Jesus.

Each week, men and women walk out of the doors from worship and into local schools to invest in children through Heart Math, or our weekly backpack program that provides food for families who are food-insecure.

Tuesdays are a big day around here. Faithful volunteers greet newcomers to our community to assist them in navigating a new culture and language through English as Second Language Classes (ESL). After worship planning, staff meeting, or book discussion, our staff team can be seen walking to one of the many local restaurants for lunch, supporting our local businesses, enjoying fellowship with each other, and occasionally running into many of you!

I could go on!!!

God has been at work in this community through this church for more than 140 years. We are the inheritors of this rich heritage. We are stewards of these stories and witnesses to what God has done and is doing. We also anticipate the ministries yet to be, in Jesus name.

This is what it looks like to be **Rooted in Christ and Community**. I am so honored and excited to be one of your pastors, and to have the privilege to shepherd this church and this staff in ministry. I look forward to where God is leading us.

*Now to God, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. -Ephesians 3.20-21*



*Rev. Dr. Mark Curtis*

# Pineville Connection

## FROM PASTOR JESSICA

This is the first Easter season that my 4-year-old granddaughter, Halle, went to an Ash Wednesday Service. She was so intrigued with our Director of Family and Children's Ministry Kelly Chiseck's presentation during the Children Sermon. Miss Kelly helped the children hide a beautiful banner that spelled out the word *Alleluia*. They put it in a special box. They also put Easter grass, Easter eggs and some lollipops in the box. That box is hidden somewhere in the church waiting for Easter morning when the *Alleluia* can be set free again and the banner hung in our Sanctuary for all to proclaim His praise.



*Jessica Edwards*

This is exciting, especially when you are 4.

"Grandma, is it Alleluia Day yet?" Halle asks while we are brushing our teeth.

"No, you have to wait a long time before Alleluia Day," I reply, as I help her with her pajamas. "Will the candy still be in the box? I want a lollipop. Is the box still hiding."

"Yes, the candy will be there and the box is still hiding," as we snuggle together before sleep.

"Halle, do you remember what Alleluia means?" I ask.

"My name, Halle-liua, Praise the Lord!" She reminds me.

"Yep (Halle is one of seven words in Hebrew that is used to express praise)! You were named to praise. That is something that makes Jesus so happy to hear His praise on our lips. It helps us to stay grateful."

The conversation continues and candy and Jesus and praise are mingled together as my sleepy granddaughter can't wait for Alleluia Day.

I am so grateful she attends Pineville UMC, that her family, at home and at church, tell her about Jesus. Someday she will hear the stories about His death on the cross, His great love sacrifice for her. She will hear about His glorious resurrection and will ponder the eastern sky looking for His return. Is there anything greater that we can teach our children, tell our friends and live for each day?

***Alleluia, Easter is here.***

# PINEVILLE NEIGHBORS PLACE: SHARING DIGNITY, HOPE AND GOD'S LOVE

BY MELISSA MCGILL

March 4, 2016 was a day that changed Jane Shutt's life. She was at her desk at Pineville United Methodist Church where she worked as administrative assistant. The office was closed and she taking advantage of the quiet to catch up on some work, when the doorbell rang. It was a homeless gentleman named Thomas,\* a familiar face, someone she'd known for about a year. He was living out of a storage unit at the time and Jane hadn't seen him in several months.

"He said, 'Mama Jane, it's my birthday and you're my family. I don't have anyone else to spend my birthday with.'"

So Jane and her husband Mark celebrated Thomas's birthday at the church, with lunch, a cupcake and the company of found family. When we think of Holy Communion, we often think of Hawaiian bread or wafers with grape juice but maybe sometimes it looks like a birthday cupcake.

"I've told this story a hundred times and I still get tears in my eyes thinking about it. Afterwards, I texted my best friends [and Pineville Neighbors Place cofounders] Kathryn and Mary Jo. I really felt God move in my soul that we needed to do something and now."

In August 2016, Pineville Neighbors Place was born. By 2018, Pineville Neighbors Place provided \$33,000 of financial



*Jane Shutt (far right) at a Back-to-School Backpack Event in 2022.*

assistance for rent and utilities that year, by connecting Pineville neighbors to resources through partner agency Crisis Assistance Ministry near Uptown.

Flash forward to the present and that number has grown exponentially to almost \$550,000 in 2022. To manage the volume of need in our community, Pineville Neighbors Place has grown to four staff members, including a bilingual administrative assistant, a social worker and church member Susan Rose in IT.

"Pineville Neighbors Place is one of the best examples of God's incarnate ministry in the world," says Pastor Mark. "As a result of the relationship between Thomas, Jane, and God, a seed was planted. That mustard seed, nurtured in prayer, giant leaps of faith, thousands of

*\*names have been changed for privacy*

*continued next page...*



L-R: Shop with A Cop; Backpacks; PNP CoFounders Mary Jo, Kathryn and Jane; Potato Drop.

## PINEVILLE NEIGHBORS PLACE, CONTINUED...

volunteer hours, has become a source of hope to thousands more men, women and children, a witness to the power of faith in Jesus, and an ongoing fulfillment on the prayer, 'on Earth, as it is in heaven.'"

Pineville Neighbors Place focuses on preventing homelessness in zip code 28134 (which encompasses the town of Pineville) and the families of Pineville and Sterling Elementary Schools. Their priority is helping those who are just one flat tire or one missed paycheck away from homelessness to stay in their homes, through financial assistance, food pantries, budgeting classes, community advocacy, crisis response and more.

The community response has been overwhelming for Jane. "To see the way this community comes together in supporting ALL of our neighbors is just the best. People really care and they want to do it right here in their own community."

With so many accomplishments to her credit, what matters most to Jane is the love that Pineville Neighbors Place shares.

"People feel the love, they feel like somebody cares. They can call us in the worst of times and feel like someone hears them and sees them and wants to do something to help them. We have given people respect, dignity, hope and love."

Jane's next adventure will be retirement and moving to Charlottesville, Virginia with her husband Mark to be closer to their children. At the end of April, Jane will pass the reins of Pineville Neighbors Place to Staci McBride, the new executive director. The work that God began in and through Jane continues. Pineville Neighbors Place will be in great hands.

"These are my people and I know that Staci will love them, too. We're really excited about what this new chapter will hold."

## Pineville Neighbors Place 5th Annual Fundraiser Dinner Thursday, April 20, 6:30-8pm

Make plans to attend Pineville Neighbor's Place 5th Annual Fundraiser Dinner at our Church. The cost is \$20 per person. Tickets and sponsorships are available at [pinevilleneighbors.org](http://pinevilleneighbors.org). Can't come to the dinner? You can still support PNP by visiting [pinevilleneighbors.org](http://pinevilleneighbors.org) to make a financial gift.



## Easter Announcements

**Easter Flower Crosses** - Interested in helping with the flower crosses? Please contact Stacy Hodes at StacyH9706@gmail.com

**Holy Week Ushers** - Interested in serving as an usher during Holy Week worship services? Contact Billy Chiseck at Chiseckfamily@bellsouth.net.

**Easter Breakfast** - On Easter Sunday, make plans to join our Church family for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Thanks to the Worship Committee for providing this meal!



## Holy Week Sermon Series: Search, Rescue and Recovery



Katrina. 9/11. Tsunami in India and Indonesia. Earthquake in Turkey/ Syria. Tragic events in our history call forth some of the greatest responses of humanity in order to mobilize efforts to search for survivors, carry out rescue missions to get them out of harm's way, and then get them the relief they need in order to begin the process of healing and recovery in their new life. This Holy Week and Easter, you are invited to join us for a look at the greatest Search, Rescue, and Recovery story effort ever undertaken. Together, we will explore how and why, the God of all creation, separated from relationship with humanity, set out on a search and rescue mission that risked everything, in order to offer back to humanity what it was not even aware it had lost.



### Welcome to Pineville – Sunday, April 30

Interested in learning more about the Church? Join Pastor Mark and other church leaders in the Fellowship Building after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 30 for an introduction to the mission and ministry of Pineville United Methodist Church and how you can get involved.

## Vacation Bible School Registration

Calling all heroes! VBS will be **July 17-23, 2023** from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. We welcome all children rising Kindergarten through rising 5th grade. Register at [pinevilleumc.org/vacation-bible-school](http://pinevilleumc.org/vacation-bible-school).



# LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

## Prayer Ministry List for Healing:

Sue Weed; Mario Esposito; Sue Glendening; Rebecca Humphrey; Martha Turner; Hannah Claire Calbreath; Theresa Potts; Libby McManis; Carl Weatherman; Larry Warren; Lisa Johnston; Gene Pharr; Sylvia Ashcroft; Janice Walker and family; Betty Luetkemeier; Ken Walker; Carolyn Harris; Eve Perry; Joe Thompson; Donna Threewitt; Carol Payne; Amanda DeHeaven; Diane Snead; Marietta Young; Gail Williams; Mike Kish; Barbara Anderson; Rusty Humphrey; Sharon Thompson; Debbie Babington; Kathy Luetkemeier; Barbara McInerney; John Hopkins; Toni Marquette; Rev. Adrienne Brewington; Bob Nark; Sara Collins; Peter Hodes; Chris Harmon; Debbie Rivers; Vito Banci; Toi Warren.

## On Going Concerns:

Tracie Clark; Teddy Quimet; George House; Glennette Ranson; Robert Kagel; Glen Walker; Joey Furnas; Matt Schnebelen; Mary Ella Treece; Gloria Baker; Ray Phillips; Christel Short; Ruth Gleason; David Krueger; Sharlene Adams; Prakash Laud; John Racey; Larry Wadsworth; Allen Morris; Gary Short; Lisa Akers; Dr. Bill James; Doris McClee; Mary & Bill Hawkins; Mike House; Jackie; Dot Phillips; LaVon Sigmon; Les Haga; Nicole Rippey; Wyamon Price; Joyce Hunter; Mark Decker; Brian Naylis; Flor Quesada; Judy Workman; Allie Gullede; Rev. Dean Guest; Gwen Brown.

### Share a prayer request:

We would love to join you in prayer. You can share a prayer request by submitting a Prayer request card in the Attendance Pads or by contacting the church office.

### Join the Prayer Team

Our Prayer Team meets every Monday at 11:00 in Stacy Hall. Contact Darlis Gross at [Hidol51@aol.com](mailto:Hidol51@aol.com) for more information.



## April Birthdays

Steven Geohagan 4/2  
 Luke Blankenship 4/2  
 Kay Burns 4/3  
 Katy Keller 4/4  
 Rachel Dedmon 4/4  
 Tom Read 4/5  
 Carolyn Hendrix 4/5  
 Bradley Nark 4/6  
 Patsy Payne 4/7  
 Sherry Rikard 4/7  
 Bob Nark 4/8  
 Roger Burba 4/9  
 Abbie Franks 4/9  
 Colin Emmerton 4/10  
 Reid Emmerton 4/10  
 Megan Campbell 4/11

Eli Shenise 4/11  
 Jackson Harris 4/11  
 Branden Babin 4/12  
 Helen Bova 4/13  
 Meredith Hayes 4/13  
 Hayden Lynch 4/13  
 Sorphia Gillespie 4/13  
 Gail Courtright 4/14  
 Daniel McMillan 4/14  
 Mackenzie Allred 4/14  
 Henry Gross 4/15  
 Lotes Nelson 4/16  
 Sharon Thompson 4/16  
 Neena Hudson 4/16  
 Brian Johnston 4/17  
 Elise McMillan 4/17

Jonny Eaker 4/18  
 Tim Rogers 4/19  
 Cynthia Karim 4/20  
 Chris McClure 4/20  
 Paul Claiborne 4/21  
 Pat Mulhearn 4/22  
 Josh McClure 4/23  
 Evan Stinson-Wesley 4/23  
 Trey Patton 4/24  
 Tyler Becker 4/25  
 Daniel Shutt 4/26  
 Paul Richi 4/27  
 Martha Shumate 4/27  
 Elizabeth Dennis 4/27  
 Josie Sigman 4/29  
 Benjamin Blankenship 4/29

## Poetry Corner

### Imagine

by Michelle Babin

Can one just imagine? How Jesus felt that day.  
 When they hung him on the cross and took his life away.

Can you imagine the Roman soldiers,  
 as they mocked and pierced his side?  
 In addition, as the blood flowed from Him,  
 Jesus bowed his head and died.  
 Can you imagine how his mother felt,  
 as she kneeled at the feet of her son?

As the angry mob was crying Crucify him, it is done.  
 Can you imagine both Marys  
 when they went to the tomb that day?  
 And found that the grave was empty,  
 and the stone was rolled away.

He is not here, He has risen. It was all in God's great plans.  
 And the only proof that He ever died  
 was the nail prints in His hands.  
 Now, can you imagine what we would have done  
 if that had been you or me?  
 Could we have said, "Father please forgive them  
 for they know what they do."

© 2003, Journey with God, A Collection of Inspirational Poetry

## Military Concerns

Joey Calbreath  
 Jerome Menendez  
 Scott Weeks  
 Bill Hillis  
 Adam McClary  
 Joe Soderlund  
 Elijah Read  
 Michael Douglas  
 Noah Lewis  
 Chase Lewis  
 Arielle Aeby  
 Matt Windisch  
 Tyler Baucom  
 Samuel Faulkner  
 Garrett Rodriguez  
 Cameron Jackson  
 Richard Beaman





# APRIL

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### KEY DATES

- 4/1 - Paws in the Park
- 4/2 - Palm Sunday
- 4/5 - Golden Pines
- 4/6 - Maundy Thursday
- 4/7 - Good Friday
- 4/9 - Easter
- 4/20 - Pineville Neighbors Place Fundraiser Dinner
- 4/30 - Welcome to Pineville

For the full calendar, please visit [pinevilleumc.org/events/month](http://pinevilleumc.org/events/month).

## Weekly Events

**Sundays :**  
 9:00 a.m. Worship  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship

**Mondays:**  
 11:00 a.m. Prayer Ministry

**Tuesdays:**  
 9:30 a.m. ESL Class  
 6:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training

**Wednesdays:**  
 7:00 p.m. Worship Band

**Monday - Thursday**  
 Church office open  
 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**A Note About The Pineville Connection:**

The Pineville Connection seeks to share the stories of our church as we fulfill our mission. If you would like to submit an article for next month's newsletter, please send it to [mmcgill@pinevilleumc.org](mailto:mmcgill@pinevilleumc.org) by April 15th!

Pineville UMC  
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A hand reaching up from the water, symbolizing rescue and recovery. The hand is positioned on the right side of the image, with fingers curled as if grasping something. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the background is a cloudy sky. The overall mood is one of hope and assistance.

# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

## SEARCH, RESCUE AND RECOVERY

**Holy Thursday, April 6**  
7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

**Good Friday, April 7**  
7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

**Easter Sunday, April 9**  
Sunrise Worship Front Steps of Church at 7:00 a.m.  
Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.  
Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.  
Worship in the Crossroads Center at 11:00 a.m.