



NOVEMBER 2023 ISSUE

# THE PINEVILLE CONNECTION

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

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# Pineville Connection

## FROM PASTOR MARK

This year, Commitment Sunday, or as we have affectionately come to call it here at PUMC, “Gratitude Sunday” is November 12. Our stewardship campaign theme is *Grace for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*. Many of you may find the phrase familiar from the hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness*.

Our Stewardship Team, in collaboration with our staff, have been working to provide the people in our community of faith an understanding of the variety of ways God is active and moving in and through the ministries of this church. A glimpse of God’s grace in everyday moments of individuals like you. A snapshot of how the offering you give on Sunday provides meal for a hungry child.



Rev. Dr. Mark Curtis

A window into rooms that once sat empty six days a week and now are filled with music almost every day of the week!

**How do you capture God moments?** The laughter of lighthearted banter alongside tears of grief? The deep penetrating silences when there are no answers to be found? The goofy moments when Pastor Mark’s joke falls flat, again. The response of a child’s voice from the Family Table’s during the sermon, punctuating the point, as though God is saying, “Listen Up!”

Our God is a God who likes to tell stories. Word pictures created to remind us that we are not alone. God is with us. We are not the first person to deal with this problem. God will not abandon us. And we can rest assured that God can be trusted. God is faithful.

**Grace for Today, Hope for Tomorrow.** Investing our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness into the ministries of Pineville UMC with gratitude on Commitment Sunday provides grace for those in our community today, and hope for those who will be here tomorrow.

With gratitude,  
Pastor Mark

# NEW SERMON SERIES

## GRACE FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Our Stewardship theme this year is “Grace for Today; Hope for Tomorrow.” Our sermon series this month will focus on the various ways God is at work in our daily lives whether we are aware or not. Our faith reminds us that there is grace for today, in the joyful moments as well as moments of grief. Our faith reminds us that because of Jesus, we have hope for tomorrow. I encourage you to join us for this meaningful and timely journey during this season of gratitude.



# YOUTH MINISTRY RELAUNCH

Exciting youth events are coming this month. Pineville United Methodist Church will be relaunching our youth ministry under the guidance of our new Director of Youth Ministry Marissa Ruland.

- **Sunday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Building** - All parents of youth of invited to join an Informational meeting
- **Sunday, November 12 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Crossroads Center** - All middle and high school youth are invited for food, fun, and games at our Youth Launch Party! Make plans to attend and bring a friend



**Questions?** Contact Marissa at [mruland@pinevilleumc.org](mailto:mruland@pinevilleumc.org).

### 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 October 15!

# MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER: MARISSA RULAND

Join us in welcoming our new Director of Youth Ministries Marissa Ruland. Marissa has been part of the PUMC family in some way or another for the last ten years. Marissa has two daughters (ages 14 and 18) and has always worked with youth/children in a variety of different ways, including helping with the youth ministry, the children's ministry, and Upward Sports.

**What are you reading right now? What are you watching?** I am reading the *Red Queen* Series by Victoria Aveyard, and I am about to finish the first book *Red Queen*. The other book I'm reading is the 2nd book in the series *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi, *Tales from the Cafe*.

**What's on your bucket list?** Travel! I love to see different parts of the world. Next stop is Switzerland in March.

**What's your favorite hymn or worship song?** The hymn *How Great Thou Art*, Mercy Me's "I Can Only Imagine" and "Breathe" by Michael W. Smith

**Do you have a favorite practice that helps to strengthen your faith?** I meditate every morning and every evening. We ask a lot of God throughout the day, but rarely do we sit and listen. Meditating helps me to slow down and listen to what God has to tell me.

**Do you have a favorite Bible verse?** Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, for when he is older, he will not depart from it.



*Marissa Ruland*  
*Director of Youth Ministry*

**What are your hopes for your ministry at Pineville UMC?** My hope for the ministry is to be a safe place for the youth of the community to come and grow in faith and love. I want children of all backgrounds to feel like they have a place here where they can get to know their creator.

**How can the congregation support you as you begin?** I will always take all the prayers and good vibes sent our way. Continue to pray for our youth and pray that they (the youth) know they have a place in the heart of our church. Soon, we will be rolling out events and will be in need of people to spend time with our youth in a safe sanctuary. Thank you in advance.

# DEALING WITH OUR EMOTIONS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

**SPONSORED BY STEPHEN MINISTRY**

With the holiday season approaching, how can you prepare yourself for the full range of emotions that may accompany a loss or life change? Jay Cobb, executive director of Sanctuary Counseling Group, will speak about processing emotions during the holiday on **Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Building. This event is sponsored by our Stephen Ministry and is open to the entire congregation and community.



Jay Cobb is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) as well as a North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC). Jay holds a Master's in Counseling from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. His undergraduate degree is in education from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Jay works with those dealing with the pain and burdens of life: depression, anxiety, shame, adjustment difficulties, career issues, relationship concerns, trauma recovery, and addiction. He works with men, women, couples, and young adults. His goal is to walk with his clients down the path they are on, helping them to determine their goals, see new opportunities, and make changes as they learn new perspectives.

Sanctuary Counseling Group has provided mental health counseling and pastoral counseling in the greater Charlotte area and in satellite offices in cities and towns around the Western Piedmont of North Carolina for over 50 years.

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

On All Saints Day, we will remember those who have passed away this year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us. Make plans to join us for this special commemoration of the faithful saints of Pineville UMC.





# THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

FROM THE WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

How do you know when the Advent/Christmas season is beginning here at Pineville UMC?

Well, the wreaths are hung, the Christmas trees in the Fellowship Building and the Crossroads Center are decorated, the Christmas candles are placed in the windows and our beautiful Chrismon Tree takes its place of honor in the Sanctuary!

All this is done as part of the anticipating, waiting and watching for the coming of the Christ child! But it cannot be done without volunteers from the congregation.

**The Worship Ministry Team has scheduled the Hanging of the Greens for Saturday, December 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. We estimate that we will need approximately 20 volunteers, which will allow us to complete the work within our two (2) hour time frame.**

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome, however, we will definitely need a few fearless, able-bodied persons who are willing to climb a ladder to reach the top of the tallest trees. Coffee, hot chocolate and cookies will be served!

What goes up, will eventually need to be taken down! We will also need volunteers to remove all of the decorations, which we have planned to do after the 11am worship service, on Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2024.

A signup sheet will be available in the Gathering Area in early November. There will be two columns, one for **decorating on December 2** and one for **undecorating on January 7**. We appreciate your help and thank you for your willingness to participate!

# Rise Against Hunger

With the help of about 80 volunteers, we packed 10,000 meals in 90 minutes with Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, October 15. Thanks to everyone who supported this outreach ministry - financially, logistically or by packing meals! We couldn't have done it without you!

Pictured: (left) Ashley Heldman and Elle; (top right) The Ogden Family and Sharon Thompson; (bottom right) Mary Nark and her granddaughters, Lauren and Brad Russell, Mike Sloan.



# Pineville Fall Festival

Our Church hosted a tent at Pineville Fall Festival again this year to offer families a clean, safe and private place to change diapers and/or nurse children. Thanks to everyone who helped make this annual event such a success!

Pictured: (left photo) Debbie Gafney and Betty Luetkemeier; (right photo) Marissa Ruland, Marcy Eaker, Kelly Chiseck, Louise Hair, Billy Chiscek and Ashley Bolick.



# LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

**Prayer Ministry List for Healing:** Nancy Seago; Calvin Treen; Alan Paulas; Johnny Dantzler; Audrey Hamm; Students and teachers; Eve Perry; Rebecca Rushing; Kevin Adams; Madison Washington; Patsy Payne; Brian Naylis; Harry Dwyer; Stoo Potts; Everest Nykel and parents Shelby and Adam Nykel; Teresa Feola: Gary; Thomas Cassidy; Genovia Ragin; Betty Lemon; George Harmon; Sharon Baucom; Mary Hawkins; Tara Murray; Saretta Burns; Martha Turner; Sharon Truesdale; Mary Ann Rippy; Nicole Rippy; David Bennett; Dani Morton; Charles and Sharon Gaskins; Robert Quick; Hannah Claire Calbreath; Lisa Johnston; Janice Walker and family; Carolyn Harris; Donna Threewitt; Amanda DeHeaven; Mike Kish; Sara Collins; Chris Harmon; Larry & Toi Warren.

**On Going Concerns:** Dot Phillips; Bill McGough; Gene Pharr; Jeanne Long; Brittany Alden and parents Holt and Mary Alice Poling; Larry Gunter; Vito Banci; John Hopkins; Joann Parris; Dwight Keller; Marietta Young; Nancy Nyilyk; Sue Weed; Toni Marquette; Joe Thompson; Barbara Anderson; John Rea; Teddy Quimet; George House; Glennette Ranson; Glen Walker; Ray Phillips; Christel Short; Sharlene Adams; John Racey; Larry Wadsworth; Allen Morris; Gary Short; Lisa Akers; Dr. Bill James; Doris McClee; Bill Hawkins; Mike House; Jackie; LaVon Sigmon; Les Haga; Wyamon Price; Mark Decker; Flor Quesada; Allie Gulledge; Rev. Dean Guest; Gwen Brown.

**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.

## 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.





# NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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

- 11/1 - Golden Pines
- 11/5 - Youth Ministry Parents Meeting
- 11/12 - Gratitude Sunday  
Backpack Packing  
Youth Launch Party
- 11/16 - Stephen Ministry's Dealing with Emotions during the Holidays
- 11/23 - Thanksgiving Day
- 11/28 - United Methodist Women

For the full calendar and more information, please visit [pinevilleumc.org/calendar](http://pinevilleumc.org/calendar).

# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Marianne Hoover 11/1  
 Katie Hoover 11/1  
 Carol Schmidt 11/3  
 Ronald Sanchez 11/3  
 Murrill Snipes 11/5  
 Casey Adams 11/5  
 Lauren Gilbert 11/6  
 Beth Maher 11/7  
 Amy Ballowe 11/8  
 Eddie Cribb 11/9  
 Olivia Chiseck 11/9  
 Avery Chiseck 11/9  
 Janet Boice 11/10  
 Owen Green 11/10

Ann Schafran 11/11  
 Jeff Mills 11/11  
 Le Russell 11/11  
 Chaney Dedmon 11/13  
 Brenda Cable 11/14  
 Jacob Kressner 11/16  
 Janet Wilson 11/17  
 Renee Haidar 11/18  
 Beth Sauls 11/19  
 Kelly Chiseck 11/20  
 Donna Helms 11/21  
 Rebecca Rushing 11/21  
 Jenifer Rubottom 11/22  
 Jennifer Hayes 11/23

Donna Rybicky-Wilson 11/23  
 Nancy Clark 11/24  
 Mary Hawkins 11/24  
 Jean D'Arconte 11/25  
 Dottie Rea 11/26  
 Chuck Wilson 11/26  
 Bill Hillis 11/26  
 Ann Timmerman 11/27  
 Gary Baughman 11/27  
 Katherine Sonner 11/29  
 Keith Bioletti 11/29  
 Nicholas Ratchev 11/30  
 Stella Smithey 11/30

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# YOUTH NEWS

Parents' Meeting on Nov. 5  
Youth Launch Party on Nov. 12