



JANUARY 2024 ISSUE

THE PINEVILLE CONNECTION

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



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Pineville Connection

FROM PASTOR MARK

LIFE WITH GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND OUR NEIGHBOR *CHURCH-WIDE THEME 2024*

The Mission of Pineville UMC is to Make Disciples Rooted in Christ and Community. Here is the question I would like for us to think about this year. What does it look like to live life **with** God, **with** one another, and **with** our neighbor?

Somewhere along the way, the church became a ministry to the community, an institution for people. Jesus invites his disciples to follow him. Jesus' life was first and foremost a life **with** people.

Jesus called people by name. He ate meals **with** them. He listened to them. He traveled **with** them. He saw them even when other people did not.

Jesus challenged the assumptions of the religious leaders who were supposed to be in ministry to the community. He challenged the authority of the institutions that were supposed to be for the people.

What we see in Jesus is God who lives **with** people where they are, as they are. God dwelling with God's people. God eating **with** people. God walking **with** people. God talking **with** people.

So, if our lives should reflect the life of Jesus, maybe things would look a little bit different. And the church? What if the church was a place that taught people how to live life **with** God instead of about God? What if the church taught people how to live **with** people instead of how to minister to people? What if the church existed to be a place where we experience life **with** our neighbors instead of an institution for people to attend?

What we see in Jesus is God who lives with people where they are, as they are.

Let's follow this Jesus. Together, I invite us all to learn more about life **with** God, **with** one another and **with** our neighbors.



Rev. Dr. Mark Curtis



NEW SERMON SERIES

LIFE WITH FRIENDS

Why does it seem more difficult to make friends these days? Connecting with people just seems more challenging. Global pandemics, social media, ideological differences...these might explain some of the reasons. Perhaps we need a relationship refresher. This January let's go back to the basics of friendship. Together we will examine stories from the Bible about how God works through strangers becoming friends. Along the way, we might just rediscover what civility and friendship can look like in a sometimes-uncivilized world. We hope you will join us!

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 by December 15!

FROM PASTOR JESSICA

Friendship is one of the true treasures in life. It is a gift from God. When I was younger, I often heard my elders complain that it was harder to make friends when you were older. I watch in awe as my little granddaughter meets someone at the park and asks them to play or to be friends. My oldest granddaughter even mourns when they have to leave behind someone they just met and probably will not see again. Why is it so hard when we are older?

Sometimes it is our schedules and business. Sometimes it is a challenge to spend time with someone new because we have many established friendships. Whatever the reason, it is the gathering of strangers that is lauded in scripture. Friendship on every level is a worthy goal for the believer. How else can we fully share the goodness of God with others? Let's enjoy renewing our friendship skills this month.



Jessica Edwards

Rooted in Christ and Community

Golden Pines on January 3

Happy New Year to our Golden Pines friends! Our next luncheon will be on January 3 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Building. Staci McBride will be speaking to us about Pineville Neighbors Place and the ministries that they support. Come join us for food and good fellowship! Please call the church office at (704) 889-2022.

Help Pack Away Christmas Decorations on January 7

The Worship Ministry Team has scheduled the removal of the Christmas decorations for Sunday, January 7, 2024, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. But we need your participation to accomplish this task! Please plan to help as you are able; there's a job for everyone! Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to help!

International Mission in April 2024

A trip is being planned to Honduras with Living Water International to provide clean water for a community in need. This will be our third trip with Living Water, and promises to be a life changing experience. Dates of the trip are April 21-27, 2024. Questions? Contact Jeff Mills (jeffm@hoopaughgrading.com) or Paul Claiborne (pclaiborne2@gmail.com).



Youth News

Youth Winter Ski Retreat - January 26-28

We are going to Lake Junaluska, NC for a Winter Ski Retreat during the last weekend of January 26-28. I need to know who is going and who wants to ski, as soon as possible, so I can make accurate reservations and plan for chaperones. The last day to sign up will be January 2. Youth are welcome to invite their friends. The cost per youth is \$150 for the weekend, and I will need that by January 7.



During the retreat, we will be able to meet other people from various youth organizations. Our guest speaker is Wayne Kerr with music by the Crawley Family. We will meet at the church at 4:30, and the goal is to be on the road by 5:00 p.m. on January 26. My estimated return time is about 4:00 p.m. on January 28. There will not be any youth group at the church on that Sunday, January 28 that we return. Youth will resume on Sunday, February 4.

Happening on January 21

Myers Park UMC and Myers Park Presbyterian have teamed up to offer an amazing Mental Health Workshop, and we have been invited! This workshop will be held in both churches on January 21 at 4 pm. Both parents and youth are invited. The parents will have their own informative workshop in 1 church with a guest speaker while the youth are in the other church with their own guest speakers. The main topic is navigating today's Social Media. The event ends at 6, but everyone is welcome to stay for dinner starting at 6 at MP UMC.

Regular Scheduled Youth Group Sundays:

January 7
January 14
February 4
February 11

Questions? Contact Marissa at mruland@pinevilleumc.org.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Prayer Ministry List for Healing: Sonnie Kale; Sam Whaley; Oliver Davis; Linda Read; Delphine Rose; Gary; Betty McManaway; Elizabeth Read Levant; Danielle Adams; Bruce Heldman; David Mattern; Joshua Morales; Pat Shouse; Debbie Heiges; Jim Wilson; Michelle Babin; Nancy Seago; Johnny Dantzler; Audrey Hamm; Eve Perry; Rebecca Rushing; Kevin Adams; Madison Washington; Brian Naylis; Stoo Potts; Everest Nykel and parents Shelby and Adam Nykel; Thomas Cassidy; Genovia Ragin; Betty Lemon; George Harmon; Tara Murray; Martha Turner; Sharon Truesdale; Nicole Rippy; Robert Quick; Hannah Claire Calbreath; Lisa Johnston; Janice Walker and family; Carolyn Harris; Donna Threewitt; Sara Collins; Chris Harmon; Larry & Toi Warren.

On Going Concerns: Patsy Payne; Charles and Sharon Gaskins; Amanda DeHeaven; 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; Sue Weed; Toni Marquette; Joe Thompson; Barbara Anderson; John Rea; George House; Glennette Ranson; Glen Walker; Ray Phillips; Christel Short; John Racey; Larry Wadsworth; Allen Morris; Gary Short; Dr. Bill James; Doris McClee; Bill Hawkins; Mary Hawkins; Mike House; Jackie; LaVon Sigmon; Les Haga; Wyamon Price; Mark Decker; Flor Quesada; Allie Gullede; Rev. Dean Guest.

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 for more information.



JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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	31			

KEY DATES

- 1/3 - Golden Pines
- 1/7 - Undecorate the Church
- 1/21 - Youth Mental Health Workshop
- 1/23 - UMW
- 1/26-1/28 - Youth Winter Retreat

For the full calendar and more information, please visit pinevilleumc.org/calendar.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bill Phillips 1/3
 Donna Scibilia 1/3
 Jerry Emmerton 1/4
 Eddie Hudson 1/4
 Aubrey Rogers 1/5
 Christine Burk 1/7
 Eve Perry 1/8
 Amelia Stinson-Wesley 1/9
 Lorelle Krueger 1/10
 Jane Hayes 1/10
 Bill Clark 1/11
 Jacob Rippy 1/12
 Zach Eaker 1/12
 Jessica Edwards 1/13
 Vince Livengood 1/14
 Mike Kellett 1/15

Michael Henry 1/15
 Emma Hatmaker 1/17
 Sairy Richardson 1/18
 Gilda Bass 1/19
 Katie Geohagan 1/19
 McKenna Bioletti 1/19
 Amy Treece 1/20
 Doug Currier 1/21
 Kemly Cordero 1/21
 Brandy Richi 1/22
 Billy Chiseck 1/24
 Glenda Bramlet 1/25
 Maggie Jack 1/25
 Hannah Harris 1/26
 Clay Parker 1/27
 Alyce Emmerton 1/27

Sarah Harris 1/28
 Bill Coberly 1/29
 Calvin Harrelson 1/29
 Sarah Kissel 1/29
 Ileana Richardson 1/29
 Dennis Rushing 1/30
 Chris Eaker 1/30
 Mary Griffin 1/31
 Jason Emmerton 1/31

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YOUTH WINTER RETREAT

JANUARY 26-28
DETAILS INSIDE

