



Grand Ave Church

the VINE

*I am the vine, you are the branches ...
John 15:5*

Lead Pastor: Rev Don Greer

505 W. Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 www.portumc.com

June 2021

GAUMC In Person Worship – Policy Update on Face Masks

Starting in June, leadership is announcing a policy update based on recent guidance from the CDC. That guidance advises that people who are fully vaccinated can go without face masks and social distancing in most public and private settings both indoors and outdoors.

Our church policy is being updated for fully vaccinated people, that masking is optional; strongly encouraged, but optional. Those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to social distance and wear masks.

The science around the coronavirus suggests that fully vaccinated people are protected against severe disease and present little risk of transmitting the virus. At the same time, worship is a mixed gathering including people who remain vulnerable, including unvaccinated children, people who are not vaccinated, and adults with compromised immune systems due to illness and cancer treatments.

Churches are spiritual communities that prioritize care for the most vulnerable. A recent statement from the WI Council of Churches: *“but faith-based gatherings, particularly worship, are unique enough occasions that they are unlike a general indoor setting covered by most CDC guidelines . . . many church gatherings are somewhat like public transit, where people of mixed vaccination status are together for some time with limited ventilation.”*

Our behavior as a spiritual community is influenced first by our concern for the well-being of others, as expressed in the first of the general rules for Methodists: “to do no harm.” This is the reason we are encouraging fully vaccinated people to consider continuing to wear a face mask in worship, not for your own need, not because it is required of you, but out of regard for the conscience, comfort, and sense of safety of others.

Paul gave similar guidance in his first letter to the Corinthian church in a matter involving the conscience of believers with different sensibilities around dietary rules. His position was that we are not required to do something just because it is allowed. We adjust our behavior so as not to offend the conscience of those with whom we are in community, particularly those who are weaker. Paul writes: *“All things are lawful,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other.”*

We are invited to gather with grace for each other as a Christian faith community.

Pastor Don Greer

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE?

A MONTH OF SPECIAL SUNDAYS

JUNE 6 COMMUNION & WORSHIP led by Nate and Pastor John



“Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners,
that proves God’s love toward us.”

JUNE 13 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Join us on Sunday June 13, to share in a beautiful day of commitment and joy with our confirmands:

*Jackson Foster
Jason Kissinger
William Kissinger*

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

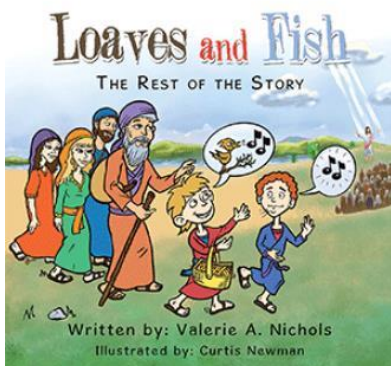
JUNE 20 Presentation by the Social Principles Group



The Social Principles group has a mission --- to live responsibly, to be kind to the Earth, which is God’s creation. For us, this means our goal is to reduce one-time use of plastic shopping bags and plastic water bottles.

On **Sunday, June 20th**, we will be giving each of you something to join us in our efforts. Please come and see how WE can meet the goal of eliminating plastic bags and one time use plastic bottles from going into landfills and yes, even the oceans!

JUNE 27 Guest Author, Val Nichols



We are excited to announce a very special service Sunday, June 27

Cedarburg author, Val Nichols, will grace us with the reading of her latest children’s Christian book, “Loaves and Fish: The Rest of the Story”. Be sure to come and listen as Val shares her creatively written and beautifully illustrated story. Bring your young children, grandchildren, and neighbors for this delightfully meaningful message for the young and young at heart.

A Message from Pastor John Strassburger

Dear Folks,

I welcome the arrival of June and the prospect of enjoying the summer months. It's always nice to have something to look forward to. I felt glad for the opportunity to serve in a part-time staff role with the church in senior adult ministries having long enjoyed those responsibilities and relationships as a pastor over the years. Today, I realize more fully that I am a "senior" adult. In conversation with Pastor Don, I shared that it is time for me to step back from official responsibilities in favor of assuming informal congregational relationships. So, my last responsibility as a staff member will be to assist in serving communion in worship on Sunday, June 6th.

We've frequently heard and/or said, that the last year has been an exceptional one. That's been reflected in some of the limitations of traditional pastoral ministries with seniors. It's also meant adapting ministries and participating in new expressions of ministry this year. It's been both a pleasure and my honor to work with staff and members of GAUMC. As I've said previously in various contexts, I believe the church is blessed with fine staff and lay leadership. So, I simply wish to express my gratitude for sharing ministry with you during this past season and look forward to what possibilities a new season may bring.

May God bless you all,

Pastor John



Thank you to all who sent birthday wishes to my mom on her 100th. They were greatly appreciated. She particularly liked the little notes people wrote in her cards. Thanks for making her day special.

Lin Lohr and family

Dear Grand Ave UMC,
Words cannot express how grateful we are for your donation. Your gift helps provide affordable housing, food, childcare, clothing, and supportive services to those working to move out of poverty.

Thank you for your wonderful gift, blessings to all at Grand Ave UMC!

William Schmitt,
Executive Director
United Methodist Children's
Services of Wisconsin

Dear Grand Ave Friends,
Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and kind words after my sister, Debbie, passed away. Your sympathy and support mean a lot to Vicky and me.

In Christ,
Rob Schafman

Thank you for your donation. We are grateful for your gift and concern for the clients we serve. It is greatly appreciated.

Kathy Wendt, Volunteer
The Food Pantry

Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church

TO: Grand Avenue UMC

Congratulations and Thank You for paying your 2020 Apportionment Covenant in full!

Amid the special circumstances of COVID-19 social distancing, we want to extend a special THANK YOU for your church's faithfulness in supporting connectional ministries within the Wisconsin Conference and around the world. For all churches in the WI Conference combined, 75% of apportionments were paid.

You are in the thoughts and prayers of our Finance Team at the Conference Office as you seek to find new ways to worship and reach out in the name of Jesus Christ in your community.

Blessings, Sarah L. Sneider, Conference Treasurer & Director of Administration

CONGRATS GRADUATES

Class of 2021

YOU DID IT!

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Priyanka Bharadwaj</i> | <i>UW Green Bay</i> | <i>Daughter of Rama Bharadwaj</i> |
| <i>Jacob Craig</i> | <i>Milwaukee School of Engineering</i> | <i>Grandson of Pat Craig</i> |
| <i>Jackson Foster</i> | <i>Cedar Grove-Belgium Middle School</i> | <i>Son of Erin & Bill Foster</i> |
| <i>Bennett Frank</i> | <i>UWM</i> | <i>Grandson of Barb Frank</i> |
| <i>Mason Frank</i> | <i>Port High School</i> | <i>Grandson of Barb Frank</i> |
| <i>Tyler Merrill</i> | <i>Littleton HS, MA</i> | <i>Grandson of Sue Merrill</i> |
| <i>Damian Parker</i> | <i>Wendell Krinn Vocational HS, FL</i> | <i>Grandson of Laura & Mark Flack</i> |
| <i>Amanda Penkivech</i> | <i>UW Oshkosh</i> | <i>Daughter of Scott & Sue Penkivech</i> |
| <i>Logan Smith</i> | <i>Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School</i> | <i>Grandson of Cathy Smith</i> |
| <i>Tiffany Woodka</i> | <i>Goshen High School, IN</i> | <i>Granddaughter of Laura & Mark Flack</i> |
| <i>Cody Youngthunder</i> | <i>TJ Middle School</i> | <i>Grandson of Cathy Smith</i> |
| <i>Hunter Youngthunder</i> | <i>Port High School</i> | <i>Grandson of Cathy Smith</i> |

PLANTS AND MORE... OUTDOOR SALE IS COMING UP FAST!

Saturday, June 12 9 am to 3 pm

Featured at this sale will be: outdoor perennials, indoor houseplants, lawn and gardening items, kids' toys, bikes, camping and other summer sport equipment - anything used outdoors particularly in the summer.

June 1st - 9th

Bring your donated **items for this outdoor sale** to the church fellowship hall near the stage.

Friday, June 11th

Bring your donated **plants** to the fellowship hall

We will need help pricing before the sale and help on Saturday during the sale. Contact: Gwen Freier, Netta Freeland, or Mary Kae Geittmann to say YES, I WILL HELP!! 😊

P.S. Please do not bring anything to the church for our regular rummage sale which will be held in September (date TBD).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | June |
|-----------------------|------|
| Jake & Netta Freeland | 3 |
| Mark & Laura Flack | 6 |
| Dan & Kelly Weltin | 11 |
| Scott & Stacy Zwicker | 12 |
| Keith & Emily Betker | 14 |
| Rob & Vicky Schafman | 20 |
| Jeff & Sue Killey | 24 |
| Jan & Mary Young | 24 |
| David & Laura Didier | 30 |

Directory Update

Barb Preising has a new address, same phone number:

900 S Spring St. #211
Port Washington WI 53074

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | June |
|-----------------|------|
| Vickie Meins | 1 |
| Jill Eernisse | 6 |
| Cathy Walters | 6 |
| Bill Foster | 8 |
| Sue Hamann | 15 |
| Kayla Killey | 15 |
| Netta Freeland | 17 |
| Rachal Guse | 17 |
| Jason Kissinger | 20 |
| Pat Craig | 28 |
| Frank Schroeter | 29 |
| Natalie Benning | 30 |

A Message from Stevie Stibor, Regional Mission Team

Confidence

What if we all had the confidence to do whatever we wanted? Just think of what we could do if we had no concerns with what other people thought of us and no fear of failure. For me, that would be so energizing because, for me, that lack of confidence is what holds me back...time and time again. Now, I know that there are people out there who say that they do not care about what others think, but, deep down, is that truly the case? It is human nature. As social beings we most certainly want to feel accepted, we want to feel loved, and we want to feel like we belong.

Confidence is tough for most of us. As adults, it is sometimes hard to convince ourselves that we are good enough and it is even more difficult for kids. Kids are subject to unsolicited opinions from their peers, their teachers, their friends and even their families. Many times, these opinions are given with the best of intentions but, not always. And, let us face it, it takes an awful lot of accolades to erase one, "you're not good enough." It is hard. Life is hard.

Often, confidence is largely based on what we do well or what a teacher or parent might say about us, but true confidence is built on something that last forever. It comes from within. It grows within you and shines outwardly. That confidence is found in understanding how God sees us.

Here is the good news, when you learn to see yourself the way God sees you, you can live with true confidence. You can take on anything life throws your way. We can be truly confident in the love that God has for each one of us.

Remember, God created us. We have been created in His image and He does not make mistakes. You are a person who was created by God, a child of a king. And He created you to be who **you** are. His intent for you is not to be someone else or to live in the shadow of others but to shine bright in the magnificence of you.

Throughout the month of June, children's ministry at CUMC will focus on confidence. During this series, lessons and stories will strive to help us learn to see ourselves the way that God sees us. We will emphasize four guiding principles: 1) You can be confident because God loves you; 2) God's plan is the best plan; 3) God can use you no matter what; and 4) God can do the impossible.

As we move through the month, our goal will be to learn to be ourselves because we are already awesome, to live the life God intended for us, and to love ourselves as God loves us. "I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13 NIV

You belong here and you are loved. Stay confident in who you are. God bless.

Stevie Stibor

Vacation Bible School is back!!

We are very excited to announce that VBS will be back this summer!

**Save the date: Monday, August 2 through Thursday, August 5
9:00am – 12:00pm**

We invite all elementary and preschool aged kids (pre-K through 5th grades) to join us for this super fun, outdoor event. This year's event will be held at Community United Methodist Church in Cedarburg. We hope to have great representation from our Grand Avenue UMC kids!!

You can discover a lot when you take the time to **FOCUS!**

SO, GET READY TO FOCUS ON

How we can **HEAR FROM GOD**

How we can **TALK TO GOD**

How we can **LIVE FOR GOD**

Join us and discover how good God is!



If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact Stevie Stibor at [sstibor@gmail.com](mailto:ssstibor@gmail.com) or 414-403-0277. We hope you'll join us!



NOISY COLLECTION - 3rd Sunday each month

Bring your noisy coins (and quiet dollars) on Sunday, **June 20** to help support our team going to Wildfire Youth Mission and Ministry

In July, our Lighthouse Youth Ministry team will be headed up to the Superior, WI / Duluth, MN area for a week of mission work. We will be working with various causes, from a soup kitchen, the YMCA camp, a daycare center, a women's shelter, and a food pantry. The team will also participate in worship, sharing, and fun experiences. This is a hands-on mission experience that makes a real difference in the lives of real people. We want to help spread the love of God like wildfire!

The June Noisy Collection will be used to offset the team's travel expenses. Collect your change (or quieter contributions) and bring it for this collection on June 20 and let's make a thunderous and joyful noise to the Lord.



Juneteenth 50th Anniversary



Northcott Neighborhood House and the Juneteenth Planning Committee invite you to be a part of the celebration of Emancipation. To mark their 50th anniversary, Milwaukee's Juneteenth Day Parade and Celebration is set to take place Saturday, June 19 from 8 am to 4 pm. The Juneteenth Day Celebration in Milwaukee is among the oldest and longest running such parades in the nation.

Join this historical and educational experience on Saturday, June 19, 2021.
For more information about Juneteenth Day, call 414-372-3770

WISCONSIN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry, also called WIR, is an internet database that tracks vaccine records for Wisconsin children and adults.

WIR and similar systems are important tools to make sure that children and adults receive vaccines on time and reduce the time and money it takes to find old vaccine records.



Access Your or Your Child's Vaccination Records

Public vaccine record access allows people to look up their child's or their own vaccine record in WIR. Many people in Wisconsin receive vaccines from more than one doctor, or health care provider. Public access allows people to find their vaccine record quickly and efficiently no matter where they are in the state.

To access your or your child's immunization records you will need the person's first and last names, their date of birth, and either their Social Security number, Medicaid ID number, or their health care member ID number.

Step 1. Go to <https://www.dhfswir.org> to access the WIR public immunization records portal.
Public Immunization Record Access

Step 2. On the next screen, enter the first and last name

Step 3. Enter the birth date using the MM/DD/YYYY format in the Birth Date field, or use the pop-up calendar by clicking the calendar icon to the right of the field.

Step 4. Enter one of the following:

The person's Social Security number, Medicaid ID, or Health Care member ID

Step 5. Click the Search button.

The next thing you will see is the vaccine record and a list of recommended vaccines that the person should receive. If you do not see a vaccine record, or you receive an error message, call your doctor's office.

Step 6. Click the Print button, if needed. You can give the printed record as proof of vaccination for child care, summer camp, school, university, or employment purposes.

To unlock your record or have your record sent to a third party, use the *Wisconsin Immunization Registry Record Release Authorization*

June Volunteers

| June | Host | Lay Reader | A/V |
|------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6 | Larry Maechtle | Mary Downing | Dan Benning Vicky Schafman |
| 13 | Larry Maechtle Mark Grams | Sandy Grams | Scott Penkivech Vicky Schafman |
| 20 | Larry Maechtle | Cheryl Wozniak | Dan Benning Scott Penkivech |
| 27 | Larry Maechtle Mary Downing | Jan Young | Dan Benning Vicky Schafman |

Volunteers needed and much appreciated!

To volunteer, please contact Vicky Schafman
office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com 262-284-9478


Remember to


Scrip orders are due by the 1st Sunday each month. Please remember to include your payment. Of course, you can always order on-line or through the RaiseRight app.

Your order of Scrip Cards will be ready for pick-up at church on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Any orders not picked up will be mailed.

Questions? Contact Vicky in the church office. 262-284-9478 or office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com

For a complete list of over 700 retailers, go to www.shopwithscrip.com



GRAND AVE CHURCH ORDER FORM

| Retailer | Card Value | # of Cards | Total Cost |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Exxon/Mobil | \$50, \$250 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Kwik Trip | \$25, \$50, \$100 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| BP | \$50, \$100, \$250 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Meijer | \$25, \$50, \$100 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Piggly Wiggly | \$25, \$50, \$100 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Sendik's Food Market | \$25, \$50, \$100 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Kohls | \$25, \$100 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Walmart | \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Target | \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Home Depot | \$25, \$100, \$500 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Mills Fleet Farm | \$25, \$100 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Domino's | \$10, \$25 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Pizza Hut | \$10 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Papa Murphy's | \$10 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Burger King | \$10 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Panera Bread | \$10, \$25 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ | _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ | _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ | _____ | \$ _____ |
| ORDER TOTAL | | | \$ _____ |

Your Name _____ **Check #** _____ **Order Date** _____

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 www.portumc.com

Lead Pastor: Rev. Don Greer pwumc@wi.twcbc.com

Lay Leader: Dan Benning bennida01@att.net

Admin. Assist: Vicky Schafman office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com

Shared Regional Mission Team:

| | | |
|--|------------------------|--|
| Director of Family Ministries & Discipleship | Nate Gruber | nateg@cedarburgcumc.org |
| Director of Children's Ministry | Stevie Stibor | stevies@cedarburgcumc.org |
| Director of Senior Adult Ministry | Rev. John Strassburger | jhstrassburger@wi.rr.com |

Bishop: Rev. Hee-Soo Jung District Superintendent: Rev. Forrest Wells