



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

APRIL 2021



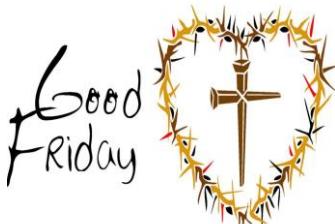
The final days in the season of Lent are known as Holy Week, and special worship services connect us with the movement of Jesus in these final days leading up to his crucifixion.



On Palm Sunday Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowd gathers with palm branches signaling this as a victory procession, and fulfilling the words of the prophet Zechariah:

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

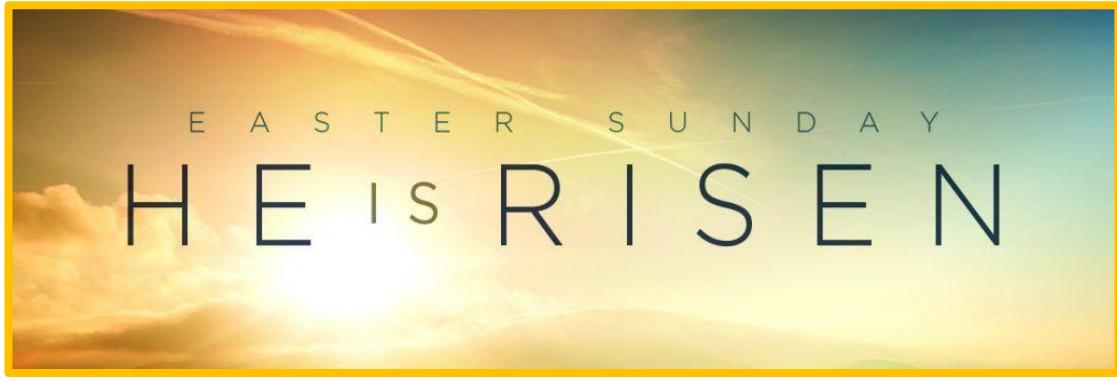
Palm Sunday Worship is a video service with a related audio podcast, connecting these events to a parable, or metaphorical image of a mother hen, used by Jesus to describe his feelings about Jerusalem.



In Holy Week Jesus celebrated a last supper with his disciples, a Passover meal, at which the sacrament of Holy Communion was established in his words and actions.

In-Person Sanctuary Holy Communion (Good Friday 4 – 7 pm) You are invited to come to the church between 4:00 and 7:00 on Good Friday to receive this sacrament in-person in family or household groups. Please wear a mask and social distance for the benefit of others. When you arrive you will be greeted, shown a place to wait until you are invited up to the altar and served. Each setting will take approximately 5-7 minutes. Please contact Vicky Schafman or the church office to register for a time.

Good Friday Ecumenical Video Service On Good Friday a video worship experience using the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the cross will be available on the church web site. This worship service is a quiet meditative experience with images, music, and the gradual extinguishing of candles signifying the death of Jesus on the cross. We share this ecumenical worship service with the other congregations in the Port Washington / Saukville area.



EASTER SUNDAY

April 4 10:00 am (in person parking lot service)

On Easter Sunday we will gather in the parking lot for Easter worship at 10:00. This service will be led by Rev. John Strassburger and Rev. Don Greer, who will bring the Easter message.

An Easter Sunday video service will also be available on our website.



A Message from Pastor John Strassburger

More than 100 million people in the U.S. have now received a COVID-19 vaccine. Hopefully, you are a recipient or will be soon. Nevertheless, it will be some time before “normalcy” returns. In last month’s newsletter I shared 5 suggestions for promoting mental and spiritual health while we wait. What follows are 5 more recommendations that you may find helpful:

- Take a break from the news. Some folks go on a social media fast for weeks. Regardless of the length of time, a regular break is important.
- Laugh. While this is a very serious time on our planet we need to breathe - and our endorphins need exercising. Humor is a gift. I hope you’ll seek the lift that comes in moments of laughter that may serve to foster a lighter countenance.
- Gratitude. It’s easy to feel deprived to some extent these days. That’s a natural response to loss. We just don’t want to get stuck there. It’s healing to focus on what is good in your life, regularly counting your blessings, maintaining your hopes for a better future.
- Listen to music. What music do you like? It can touch your soul like nothing else. While worship music is a good choice, if you like country, pop, classical, whatever - it’s ok - turn it up!
- Take time apart for prayer and meditation. Simply to rest in the presence of God in prayerful silence for 15 minutes daily is a gift to be nurtured.

We acknowledge that this pandemic season is long and not easy, and yet, as with every life struggle, God’s great Easter affirmation forever endures!

May God bless you,
Pastor John

IN-PERSON WORSHIP STATUS

Please remember to notify Vicky Schafman after you have completed your COVID vaccination process. office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com 262-284-9478 or cell: 920-207-6575

Our Administrative Council members continue to keep a close watch on what's happening in our state, county, recommendations from our Bishop, and the WI Council of Churches. This is always a priority discussion at every monthly zoom meeting.

SPECIAL UMC SUNDAY

During the month of April the United Methodist Church emphasizes Native American Ministries. This ministry supports seminary scholarships for UM Native Americans, collaborates with existing native ministries and creates programs. You can make a donation by including it with your regular offering. Please indicate Native American Ministries and the amount.



**From the
Green Corner**

More to Consider ...

**When these items end up in landfill,
this is how long it takes to break down:**

Banana peel	3-4 weeks
Apple core	2 months
Orange peels	6 months
Cotton glove	3 months
Wool socks	1-5 years
Cigarette butts	10-12 years
Aluminum Can	200-500 years
Disposable diapers	550 years

Can we all work together to take care of God's gift to us - our Earth?

The food pantry is asking if anyone knows of a senior or disabled person who needs help getting groceries. They should call the pantry and someone can help get them groceries. We have found some that need help and can't come to the pantry so the pantry has volunteers to deliver the food. They just need to be an Ozaukee County resident and 150% of poverty level. Please call the Food Pantry at 262-284-1148. Thank you. Cathy Smith, GAUMC Food Pantry Representative

Items needed in April:

Ore-ida mashed potatoes	Pineapple slices	Evaporated milk
Laundry detergent	Pancake mix	Dijon mustard
Ground gloves (dollar store)	Men's shampoo	Brown sugar
Bbq sauce	Rice	Woman's deodorant
Honey	Raisins	Dish soap

A Message from Stevie Stibor, Regional Mission Team Peace

Well, spring is finally here and the cold, snowy weather is behind us. While our winter was not too terrible, I, for one, welcome the renewal, the rebirth, and the awakening that this season brings. As we see the trees and flowers begin to bloom, the birds fly above and sun shine brighter and longer throughout our days, I hope this season also fills you all with love and peace.

This season also brings us Easter. A time for thoughtful contemplation on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time for love, for togetherness, for peace.

The definition of peace according to Webster's dictionary is "a state of tranquility or quiet." According to Wikipedia, "Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups."

Our world today definitely needs more peace. It is not about agreeing with every belief, thought or idea that we all have but it is about learning to agree to disagree when necessary. It is about learning that while we have differences in lifestyle, culture, political or social views, and so on, those differences do not need to pit us against one another. Of course, there are times when wrongdoings are so egregious stronger action is called for, but I am not speaking of those situations here. For today, I am asking us to focus on our own social peace; finding peace within ourselves so that we can be more accepting of others resulting in peace within our relationships.

If we move from our earthly definition of peace to the biblical meaning, we see that it is more than just the absence of conflict or state of rest. It is about completeness or unity and it points to the presence of something else. Something far greater than any one of us; something stronger, more powerful, more righteous. The peace of God is different from the peace of the world.

Biblical peace is not something we can create on own; we need to look to God for it is the fruit of the Spirit. God is the source of all peace. Jesus is the prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6) and He provides peace in several ways.

Jesus is our peace with God. Because of our sins, our relationship with God became fragmented and we grew apart from Him, but Jesus restored our relationship when took on our sins and died on the cross (Ephesians 2:14-16). He provided appeasement which rejoined us to God so that we may have a close, strong, and faithful relationship with Him.

Through Him we can live at peace with others in unity and in harmony. According to Ephesians 4:3, "The Holy Spirit makes you one in every way. So, try your best to remain as one. Let peace keep you together." He empowers us through His Spirit to be peacemakers with our neighbors, our families, and our enemies or those who are different from us. When difficulties do come, remember that He is the peacekeeper that keeps us together. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Jesus provides and is our peace within. We can look to 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 which says, "God is the God who gives peace. May He make you holy through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept free from blame. May you be without blame from now until our Lord Jesus comes. The God who has chosen you is faithful. He will do all these things."

Throughout the month of April, children's ministry will be focusing on peace. We will learn that God made peace with us and we can make peace with others. We will learn that we can show we care about others by walking away from a fight and being part of the solution. When we make peace with others, it is like we are building a bridge across to the other side. We can reconnect and prove we care more about each other than we do with being "right" or winning an argument. "So, let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another." (Romans 14:19)

As we enjoy the newness that springs from this season, remember that peace is not just a sense of well-being, but well-being itself, given to the believer from God himself. Being at peace brings contentment, harmony, order, fulfillment. Let us all try to release the angst, the unrest, the bitterness that creeps into our lives and instead live in the restoration and completeness that God has given us.

Peace be with you all.



Shout *Hallelujah*

Shout *Hallelujah*

Shout *Hallelujah*

NOISY COLLECTION - 3rd Sunday each month

Bring your noisy coins to our Parking Lot Service on April 18th or cash in your coins and mail a “quiet” check to the church.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This year, we will support Feed My Starving Children with a donation for supplies and meals. Hopefully, next year we'll also be able to volunteer again for meal packing sessions.

All meals are paid for by people **just like you**. FMSC relies on people's generosity to keep them going so they can feed more kids!



FMSC ships meals to their in-country meal partners. Each day FMSC partners distribute meals in schools, orphanages, clinics, and feeding programs around the world to deliver hope and break the cycle of poverty.



**Save your noisy coins (and quiet dollars) !!
Let's be generous on April 18 to help feed children around the world.**

For more information, contact Margaret Lueptow or go to www.fmsc.org

Join Us for Stepping On!

This is an ONLINE workshop! Participants will need a tablet or computer with mic/audio and have internet access.

When: April 20-June 1, 2021 seven Tuesday mornings, 10 am-12 pm.

To register: contact Kari Dombrowski at the Ozaukee County ADRC at: 262-284-8120 or email: kdombrowski@co.ozaukee.wi.us

Registration is required by April 6, 2021

Suggested Donation: \$20



One in four people age 65 or older has a fall each year.



Don't be one of them!

Stepping On has been researched and proven to reduce falls by 30%!

Dear Members of Grand Avenue United Methodist Church,
Thank you for all of your prayers, calls, cards, visits, and kind thoughtfulness after my foot surgery. I am walking well and also driving again! We all look forward to the promise of Spring!
Blessings to all,
Grace Eernisse

Thank you to everyone who supports our **church craft booth** at the Shoppes of Port Washington with your prayers and donations. 100% of the sales from our craft booth are donated to our church. Total sales for 2020 was \$5,170. The church craft booth is more than just a monetary benefit to Grand Ave Church. Through our presence at the Shoppes of Port Washington, we're able to be a witness to our faith and share events our church provides.

If you have any questions or would like to help at the Shoppes of Port Washington or donate your handmade crafts, call me at 262-284-5316.

Thanks ya'll, Margaret Lueptow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

Valerie Johnson	2
Helen Zvoloski	2
McKenna Zwicker	8
Vicky Schafman	12
Kaylee Meins	14
Erica Bastianello	18
Patricia Draeger	20
Kelly McGarry	21
Lynn Benning	25
Scott Zwicker	25
Margaret Lueptow	26
Jonathan Meins	28
Mary Jo Lueptow	29
Beth Breuer	30

April Volunteers

April	Host/Usher	Liturgist	Soundboard
4	Larry Maechtle Vicky Schafman	Mary Downing	Dan Benning
11		Kay Hamann	
18	Larry Maechtle Vicky Schafman	Jan Young	Scott Penkivech
25		Ardelle Dionne	

Volunteers needed and much appreciated!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Rick & Ermine DeYarman April 13

To volunteer, please contact Vicky Schafman
office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com 262-284-9478 or 920-207-6575

Remember to
ShopWithScrip®

Scrip orders are due by the 1st Sunday each month. You can *mail your orders* to the church or drop off your order in the west door mail slot just outside Pastor's office. 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 mailed to you. Any questions, contact Vicky on her cell 920-207-6575 or email at office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com

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

 ShopWithScrip® Powered by Great Lakes Scrip Center 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

Senior Adult Ministry Rev. John Strassburger jhstrassburger@wi.rr.com

Bishop: Rev. Hee-Soo Jung

District Superintendent: Rev. Forrest Wells