



November 2025 *the VINE*

Dear Grand Avenue Church Family and Friends,

Here we are in November, the weather is turning cold and the days are darker. This change can be viewed symbolically with the trials of life. A metaphorical transition from the bright sunshine of summer to the cold darkness of winter. For me this is no mere metaphor, since November marks the last time I saw my incredible son Nick alive. While this could be for me a month that truly is a line of demarcation between the light that was and the darkness that is I have chosen a different paradigm.

My paradigm is that of my Lord's Truth. A truth that allows me to acknowledge the ignorance of my understanding and surrender to the certainty of my Father's love. A love that is absolute, perfect, unconditional and never-ending. From this perspective I can walk through November experiencing His love in pain and joy. It is a paradigm of gratitude for the loving presence of my Father.

Where is God's love in the darkness of our pain? We need only look with our heart to see and feel His loving presence and compassionate embrace. A light that shine all the brighter in the deepest darkness if we have the courage to open our tear-filled eyes and peer into that cold darkness. We will find Him there with outstretched arms offering the only comfort that can sustain us.

November, the month of Thanksgiving, is for me a time to mindfully examine my life and identify the many ways in which God's presence has and continues to demonstrate His love and purpose for me. This is a lesson that has the power to shape our faith, since God's perfect love will never fail us and is most needed in the deepest darkness. A darkness that cannot be survived without His light. It logically follows, that in all the trials of this life we should choose to turn to Him and experience a comfort and love that is beyond human/physical understanding. A spiritual love and completeness that the darkness of this world cannot quench.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Vince

CELEBRATE

November Birthdays

George Pacher	11/3
Dan Weltin	11/9
Rebecca Derk	11/12
Nolan Draeger	11/28

November Anniversaries

Jon & Vickie Meins	11/11
Peter & Ann Schmidt	11/20

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, Volunteers, for serving in our ministry!

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
11/2	Larry Maechtle	Bruce McCullum	Mary Downing	Gwen, Ed, & Netta	Scott Penkivech
11/9	Larry Maechtle	Nancy Haacke	n/a	Church Potluck	Scott Penkivech
11/16	Larry Maechtle	Marc Eernisse	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
11/23	Larry Maechtle	Rama Bharadwaj	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
11/30	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech

*Please see coffee hour sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Christmas Tree Decorating

We will be trimming the Christmas tree on **Monday, November 24th, at 11:00 am**. Anyone interested in helping is invited to join in!

Advent Candle Lighting

We need volunteers to light our advent candles during worship on **November 30th, and December 7th, 14th, 21st, & 24th**. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or let the office know if you can help.

Christmas Eve Liturgists

We need multiple liturgists to help read the Christmas Story during our **December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7pm**. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or let the office know if you can help.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Current Shelter Needs

Gift Cards, full size blankets, full size mattress pads, kitchen dish rags, kitchen forks, laundry dryer sheets, and gallon Ziploc bags - [Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)

Meal Week Thank You!

We served 21 guests at the Family Promise Portlight Shelter during our meal week last week. **Thank you to Gwen & Ed Frier, Dave & Cathy Guse, Barbara Jones, Rama Bharadwaj, Sandy & Mark Grams, and Cheryl & John Wozniak for preparing and/or serving 3 of the meals.** Christ the King served the other 2 meals. Also thank you to everyone that donated to the meal fund which purchased an assortment of juices and juice boxes for the meal.

Recent Donations from our Church

The following were donated to Family Promise from our church from either Costco/Amazon purchases or donations left in the barrel at church. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

14 cans of Lysol Disinfectant spray
960 dryer sheets
48 stainless steel forks
10 lbs of OxyClean stain remover
304 Tide laundry pods
42 Arm and Hammer laundry detergent packs
2 full size bed mattress covers
208 rolls of toilet paper
34 Ziploc gallon freezer bags
Miscellaneous toiletries

Giving Tree



Thank you to everyone that donated winter hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to our Giving Tree for Family Promise and Ozaukee County Foster Care. Thank you for keeping our neighbors in need warm!



MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Current Needs

Pudding Snacks, Canned Fruit, Applesauce, Boxed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Soup, Pasta, Fresh Vegetables (especially carrots), Fruit Cups, Toilet Paper, and Fresh Fruits (Apples or Oranges). ** No need for canned green beans, potatoes, or onions.

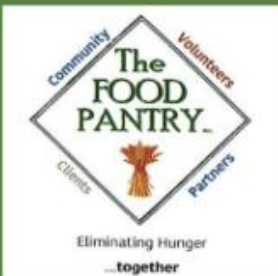


Gift a Child

Gift a child is a program sponsored by The Food Pantry, Inc. headquartered in Port Washington, WI

The program provides holiday gifts to children in Ozaukee County through the pantry, or through the Ozaukee Non-Profit Center.

Children served are ages infant through high school. Children receive a gift they want, a gift they need, a gift to wear, and a gift to read. A person or group may sponsor a child, a family, or a category. We also accept donations of any new items.



How You Can Help

- Sponsor a child
- Sponsor a family
- Donate new items
- Donate funds

For more information, contact us at 262-261-5095, or email at patkozak2021@gmail.com

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.

United Methodist Student Day is November 30th

United Methodists have been investing in our students for more than 100 years. Student Day invites the church to support United Methodist students in achieving their educational goals. You can make a special offering to Student Day any Sunday by indicating **“UM Student Day”** in the memo line.



Your support funds
scholarships for
United Methodist
students

100%

of your donation funds
scholarships

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Immigration Talk

The Church and Society group invites the entire congregation to join us on **Tuesday, November 4th, at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. Norma Duckworth from Voces de la Frontera will informally talk to us on Immigrants, their rights, and what's happening to them right now. As an Interfaith Organizer, she will give us a true picture, not media version of what's going on. Ms Duckworth will also present ideas on what we, as United Methodists, aligned with OUR Social Principles might do to help. Mark your calendars for Nov. 4th, bring a friend, come with your questions.

Advent Study

10 am - Wednesdays

November 19th and December 3rd, 10th, & 17th

Experience Advent with the Scriptures that inspire Christmas. In *Voices of Advent*, Matthew L. Skinner leads readers through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. We listen as Jesus promises to return to us in the future, to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the Messiah, to the faithful people and poets who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus's birth, and to the angels and visionaries who praise God when Christmas dawns. Listen carefully to the Bible's various perspectives that shape our preparations for Christmas; you'll hear hope in all of them. *Voices of Advent* helps readers experience Advent not only as the start of the Christian Church Year, but also as the powerful overture that sets the tone for the incredible story of Jesus.

Books are \$12 and available on the counter in the narthex.

Awesome Women Christmas Dinner

All women of the church are invited to the annual Christmas dinner:

Monday, December 8th at Plier's Full Circle Restaurant

3704 Highland Drive, Port Washington

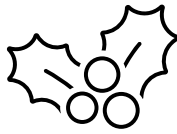
5:30 P.M. Social Time

6 P.M. PWHS Choir "Limited Edition"

6:30 P.M. Dinner

The Port Washington High School choir, "Limited Edition", will entertain us again and we will have a basket out for a free will offering. The price of your meal includes entrée, coffee or iced tea, tax, and tip. **Make checks out to "Awesome Women" and all orders and money must be given to Kay Hamann by Sunday, November 30th.**

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



Awesome Women's Christmas Dinner

Below are the choices for this year's dinner. Please read all of the descriptions before you order. The sides will be asked the night of the dinner (soup, salad etc.). All money must be to Kay Hamann by Nov. 30th so that everything is in place to pay for our meals that night. **Make checks out to "Awesome Women"**.
Thanks, Kay

Top Sirloin Steak 8 oz.

\$ 33.00

includes: soup or salad or coleslaw, choice of potato, dinner rolls and choice of coffee or iced tea.

Ma Plier's Tenderloin Tips

\$ 33.00

includes: soup or salad or coleslaw, dinner rolls and choice of coffee or iced tea.

Tips sauteed with onions, mushrooms, tomatoes, and mixed peppers. Served over noodles with gravy.

Baked Chicken Cordon Bleu

\$ 32.00

includes: soup or salad or coleslaw, dinner rolls and choice of coffee or iced tea.

10 oz. chicken breast stuffed with ham and cheese, pan fried with flour & egg, baked until golden brown and topped with a mushroom gravy, served over rice.

Shrimp

\$ 31.00

includes: soup or salad or coleslaw, choice of potato, dinner rolls and choice of coffee or iced tea.

Served beer battered or lightly breaded.

Meatloaf Monday

\$ 30.00

Homemade meatloaf served with mash potatoes, gravy, corn, soup or salad and coffee or iced tea.

Name _____

(circle your choice above)

I will need a ride _____

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



November Events

**Unless otherwise noted, all events will take place at Lighthouse HQ
(513 W. Grand Ave. in Port Washington)*

November 9th AND November 16th from 6:30-8:00 pm

Lighthouse Life Nights are a mix of games, conversation, and activities centered around a particular topic for each night. This year we are walking through the Bible and in these two nights we'll be covering the bulk of the Old Testament as we explore God's story of love and redemption for the world.



November 23rd from 6:00-7:00 pm – Friendsgiving Celebration

In the season of giving thanks, we are so thankful for all of the amazing students that make up Lighthouse Youth Ministry! Join us for a night of celebrating one another as we gather for a goofy potluck-style meal together. This year's theme is... miniature food! Create bite-sized versions of classic dishes or find items that are already on the small side that you can share. We'll end with some fun miniature themed games as well, so grab a friend and be sure to join us for our annual Friendsgiving celebration.



Lighthouse events are open to all students in grades 5-12

Have questions about Lighthouse or want to get involved?

Contact Director Christin Flucke at 262-483-9582 or christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org

Giving Tuesday

DECEMBER 2
5 PM TO 7:30 PM

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE A TICKET OR
FOR ADDITIONAL EVENT INFO

HUGE SILENT AUCTION

MUSIC BY BELLA MUSIK

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

\$15
per person

10 and
under free

Hosted at Parkside Community
UCC Church in Saukville

LIGHTHOUSE
YOUTH MINISTRY



United Methodist Corner

One of Wesley's major teachings in Methodism is holiness of heart and life. Holiness of heart are spiritual practices such as prayer, Scripture reading, meditation, worship, communion and fasting that enable us to grow in our love for God. Holiness of life or social holiness are practices, such as acts of mercy and justice, that enables us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

A spiritual practice that has gained in popularity in contemporary spirituality is St. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises; namely the Examen. The Examen is a daily spiritual discipline consisting of five parts. There is no direct evidence that Wesley drew from Ignatius' Exercises in his writings, but their thoughts on spiritual growth being a lifelong journey are closely aligned.

Spiritual director, Mark Thibedeaux, helps us to remember the different parts using an R pattern: request, relish, review, repentance and resolve. **Request** is taking a few minutes to ask for God's presence to come to you in a way you can recognize and rejoice. **Relish** is looking at the past day and recalling those experiences and events of which you are especially grateful. Sometimes, we can take life for granted, forgetting how much God cares and loves us. **Review** is taking a prayerful look at your past day. Where were you blessed? Were there situations where you hurt or offended someone? Did I neglect or do or say something? Where was God present that you may have overlooked? **Repentance** is about feeling remorse for something that has transpired for which we need to repent. The scriptures speak to the need to "die with Christ". We die with Christ when we "die to those actions and words that impede us from experiencing Christ's transforming presence. Finally, **Resolve** is trusting that tomorrow will be a new day because God is working in your life, bringing to mind all those joyous things for which you can be thankful, encouraging you to examine your life in the light of His merciful presence, offering forgiveness as you turn in repentance for past sins, and bringing you hope for new beginnings.

For me, the most critical step in the process is review. Socrates once said that an unexamined life is a life not worth living. From a spiritual perspective, when we examine our lives, we are opening our souls to the healing and transforming power of God. That step can really make life worth living because we are seeking to follow God's will and purpose.

In Christ's love,
Dave

THANK YOU NOTES

I wish to thank Cheryl Wozniak for taking over the Christmas tree decorating. After 30 plus years I have decided it was time for some much younger energy to take the reigns. Thanks to all that have helped me over the years. - Kay

CHURCH NEWS

Charge Conference & Potluck – November 9th

Our Annual Charge Conference will be on Sunday, November 9th in Fellowship Hall after worship, to review our ministry, receive reports, and adopt goals recommended by the church council. We will celebrate with a potluck. There is a sign-up on the bulletin board if you are interested in bringing a dish to share. Please plan to join the celebration!

Narcan Fund

Opioid overdoses seem to occur in two parts of the population: the young, who believe they will never die and who are sometimes willing to experiment on their bodies, and the elderly, who are often prescribed opioid pain-killers and who sometimes forget that they have taken their medications, leading to an inadvertent second pill and a resulting overdose.

Narcan is an over-the-counter nasal spray used to treat known or possible opioid overdose. Being over-the-counter, no doctor's prescription is needed to buy it and no special training is needed to administer it.

Last year we installed AED defibrillators in both the church and the FAC. It is now proposed that we install Narcan cabinets next to the AED cabinets, thus making sure that the drug is readily available in case of need.

Two wall-hung Narcan cabinets, complete with alarms, signage, instructions, the drug itself, and installation are available for about \$550.00 in total. A special fund has been set up to collect donations and your help is requested. Please mark your gifts "for Narcan." If you have any questions, Jan Young will do his best to answer them.

Craft Booth

Thank you for your continued donations to our Craft Booth! We are looking for donations of quality Christmas items and puzzles at this time. Remember to shop at our Craft Booth downtown at the Artisan Market, 123 N Franklin St. in Port Washington.

CHURCH NEWS, cont.

Volunteer/Committee Opportunities

Hopefully you've seen "Serve Joyfully" is part of the new vision for the United Methodist Church. The church's call to serve joyfully is not about adding more to overstuffed schedules. Jesus never served out of obligation. His service was not mechanical or strategic. It was deeply personal and joyful. He washed feet. He fed crowds. He restored dignity. He touched the untouchable. And all the while, he served with joy, not because it was easy, but because it revealed the nature of God.

There are plenty of opportunities to serve joyfully at Grand Avenue Church this coming year. Several of our committees have people finishing multi-year commitments and are in need of new members to continue the committee's work. Please take time to prayerfully consider serving joyfully in one of the positions listed below.

Lay Member to Annual Conference

A lay leader representative to an annual conference is an elected member of a local congregation who serves as a voting delegate and liaison to the larger conference meeting, representing their church's interests and sharing information. Their responsibilities include participating in conference sessions, voting on legislation (except clergy-related matters), and reporting back to their local congregation and church council after the conference ends.

Trustees Committee - several opportunities

Effective trustees will function as Christian stewards of property God has entrusted to the congregation. This includes supervising and maintaining both the physical property of the congregation and gifts made to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective and all legal requirements related to the property are satisfied. This team has oversight and care of all local church property, buildings, and equipment to further the mission of the church.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) - several opportunities

The staff-parish committee is charged with managing employee relations and serves as the liaison between the pastor and staff, and the congregation, to promote an effective ministry. They develop job descriptions, conduct interviews, hire, and evaluate all staff positions (pastor, pastoral assistant, administrative assistant, and organist, as needed). They also support, strengthen, nurture, and encourage the pastor and staff.

Administrative Council Member at Large

An "at-large" administrative council member does not hold a specific leadership role like treasurer or committee chair, but represents the general membership. They participate in the council's work of envisioning, planning, and implementing the church's mission and ministry, and also help interpret the actions of the annual and general conferences.

Please reach out to Dan Benning if you are interested in learning more about these opportunities to serve joyfully or have any questions.

CALENDAR

November Events

Worship Service	Weekly Sunday at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
AA Meeting	Weekly Wednesday at 8:00 pm	FAC
Private Meeting	Weekly Thursday at 5:30 pm	FAC
ADRC Meal Distribution	Mon – Fri from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Kitchen
All Saints Sunday	Sunday, November 2	
Immigration Talk	Monday, November 4 at 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Charge Conference & Potluck	Sunday, November 9	Fellowship Hall
PW Woman's Club	Monday, November 10, 10am – 2pm	Fellowship Hall
Social Principles	Tuesday, November 11 at 1:00 pm	Gathering Area
Friendship Club	Wednesday, November 12 at 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Admin Council	Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 pm	Zoom
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday, November 18 at 10:00 am	FAC
Advent Book Study	Wednesday, November 19 at 10:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Sister Circle	Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 pm	Christ the King
Newsletter Article Deadline	Friday, November 21	Office
Christmas Tree Decorating	Monday, November 24 at 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Ecumenical Thanksgiving	Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm	Parkside UCC
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27	Office Closed
UM Student Sunday	Sunday, November 30	
1 st Sunday of Advent	Sunday, November 30 at 10:00am	

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 www.portumc.com
 Pastor: Vince Pepin pastor@portumc.org
 Pastoral Assistant: Dave Guse senegaldave1@gmail.com
 Administrative Assistant: Stacy Peters office@portumc.org
 Lay Leader: Dan Benning bennida01@att.net
 Admin Council Chair: Mark Grams mgrams@wi.rr.com
 Bishop: Dan Schwerin / District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. InSun Lee

Remember Our Endowment Fund



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™



Community THANKSGIVING SERVICE & PIE SOCIAL

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025
AT 7 PM**

GIVING
thanks
in the
desert

**LOCATION:
PARKSIDE COMMUNITY UCC
166 W. DEKORA ST, SAUKVILLE (HWY 33 BY GRADY PARK)**

A COLLABORATION OF:
A Place to Be Spirituality Center • Christ the King ELCA
First Congregational UCC • Grand Avenue UMC
Living Hope ELCA • Parkside Community UCC • St. John's XXIII

Orders are due in the church office on the 1st Sunday of each month. Please remember to include your payment. You can also order on-line at www.raiseright.com Your order of gift cards will be ready for pickup at church on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Questions? Contact the Kay Hamann at 262-284-3168 or khamann530@yahoo.com

*Each retailer makes a donation to the church for every gift card purchased.
For a complete list of over 700 participating retailers, go to www.raiseright.com*

RETAILER	QTY	TOTAL
Amazon \$25		
Amazon \$100		
Arby's \$10		
AutoZone \$25		
Barnes & Noble \$10		
Barnes & Noble \$25		
Bath & Body Works \$10		
Bath & Body Works \$25		
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25		
BP \$50		
BP \$100		
Burger King \$10		
Cousins Subs \$10		
CVS Pharmacy \$25		
CVS Pharmacy \$100		
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25		
Dick's Sporting Goods \$100		
Exxon \$50		
Fleet Farm \$25		
Fleet Farm \$100		
Home Depot \$25		
Home Depot \$100		
Jiffy Lube \$30		
Kohl's \$25		
Kohl's \$100		
Kwik Trip \$25		
Kwik Trip \$50		
Kwik Trip \$100		

RETAILER	QTY	TOTAL
Meijer \$25		
Meijer \$50		
Meijer \$100		
Mobil \$50		
Noodles & Company \$10		
Panera Bread \$10		
Panera Bread \$25		
Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10		
Pick'n Save(WI) \$25		
Pick'n Save(WI) \$50		
Pick'n Save(WI) \$100		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) \$25		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) \$50		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) \$100		
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25		
Sendik's Food Market \$25		
Sendik's Food Market \$50		
Sendik's Food Market \$100		
Speedway \$25		
Speedway \$50		
Starbucks \$10		
Starbucks \$25		
Subway Restaurants \$10		
Target \$25		
Target \$50		
Walgreens \$25		
Walmart \$25		
Walmart \$50		
Walmart \$100		

Total number of gift cards ordered: _____

Total amount due: _____

Name _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to
Grand Ave Church