



September 2026

the VINE

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

As I begin my ministry with you, I want to thank you for the warm welcome you have given Cindy and me. We already feel your kindness and generosity, and we are grateful to be part of the Grand Avenue church family.

These first few months are a time of learning for me. Every congregation has its own history, traditions, gifts, and personality. I am still getting to know you, your hopes, your concerns, and the unique culture of this church. Before I can be a good pastor, I need to become a good listener.

So I would like to ask for your help.

Please teach me how I can serve you better. What are the joys and challenges in your life? What do you hope our church can become? What kind of ministry would strengthen your faith? Your ideas, questions, and honest feedback will help me grow into the pastor God is calling me to be.

My door, my phone, and my heart are always open. If you need someone to listen, I would be honored to spend time with you. If you have questions about the Bible or faith, I would be glad to explore them with you. If you would like to talk over a cup of coffee, please let me know. If you need a ride to a doctor's appointment or another important errand and my schedule allows, I would be happy to help. If you are in the hospital, recovering at home, or simply feeling lonely, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sometimes people hesitate to "bother the pastor." Please don't. Caring for one another is one of the greatest joys of ministry, and it is a privilege to walk with you through both the celebrations and the struggles of life.

Together, let us continue to grow as a church where everyone is welcomed, loved, and encouraged to follow Jesus more faithfully. I look forward to learning from you, serving alongside you, and discovering what God has in store for Grand Avenue United Methodist Church.

May God bless you and keep you this September and always.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jerry Cho

Jerry Cho: 920-373-3081

CELEBRATE

September Birthdays

Larry Lueptow	1	Gailya Geib	16
Joanne Koskamp	5	Jeff Killey	16
Linda Klotz	6	Scott Penkivech	16
Robyn Straughn	7	Marc Eernisse	18
Ardelle Dionne	8	Charles Lohr	24
Ermine De Yarman	9	Joshua Meins	24
Rob Schafman	9	Marty Straughn	25
Jackie Sorenson	12		

September Anniversaries

Bob & Jan Griesmeyer 13

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, Volunteers, for serving in our ministry!

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
9/6	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	<i>Needed*</i>	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
9/13	Larry Maechtle	Lin Lohr	n/a	Judy, Deb, Vickie, & Kaylee	Scott Penkivech
9/20	Larry Maechtle	Ardelle Dionne	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
9/27	Larry Maechtle	Mark Grams	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech

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

CONGRATULATIONS



The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) awarded Grace Eernisse, a member of our church, the National Literacy Promotion Outstanding Service Contest Award in recognition of her years of dedicated service to the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program. The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Board of Directors recently honored Grace Eernisse on this award and her continued efforts to promote the program mission to “reduce recidivism through education.”

Congratulations Grace!

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Current Shelter Needs

Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Disinfecting Wipes, Bathing Wipes, Travel Size Mouthwash, Scrub Brush set of 3 pieces, Toilet Bowl Cleaner.

[Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)

Meal Week Thank You!

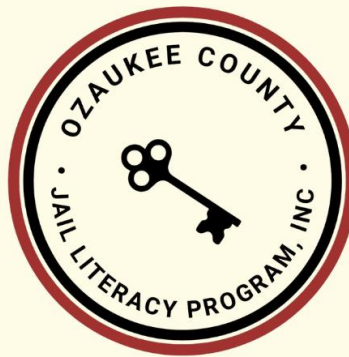
Thank you to Sandy & Mark Grams, Ardelle Dionne, Cindy Cho, Lin Lohr, and John & Cheryl Wozniak for providing meals for the Portlight Shelter guests in August. Our next opportunity to serve meals will be the week of November 9th. We welcome you to join us in this mission. Yours in service, Sandy 262-490-4856 and Cheryl 414-477-3411

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Family Promise barrel this month. Thanks to your generosity, we delivered 60 rolls of toilet paper, 150 13-gallon kitchen garbage bags, and 2 shower curtains in August.



PAPERBACK BOOK DRIVE



We are collecting paperback books (no hard covers) for the inmates of the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program (OCJLP). New or gently used paperbacks can be dropped off in the container in the narthax at church.

The OCJLP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit literacy organization that helps incarcerated adults learn skills to improve their literacy, achieve their GED or HSED certificates, and get a job.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Current Needs

Canned meats, canned beans, condiments, large soups, peanut butter, jelly, assorted pasta, and salad dressing. Also, new or gently used bath towels, sheets, and blankets.

Hat, Mitten, Scarf and Glove Giving Tree



It's not too early to start thinking of our winter season ahead.

Please start bringing hats, mittens, scarfs and gloves to church to help our neighbors in need. Please place them on the Christmas tree in the narthax. In early November, we will

divide them between Family Promise and the Ozaukee Foster Care program.

Thank you in advance, Cathy Guse



FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Sister Circle - Thursday, September 17, 7:00 pm

Christ the King, 420 W Whitefish Rd, Port Washington

Sister Circle is an ecumenical women's group that meets monthly and offers women an opportunity to share their faith and support one another. We hope you will join us!

We are beginning a new year together and reading the book, "JESUS THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN: How the First Female Disciples Help Us Know and Love the Lord" by Rebecca McLaughlin.

For the September 17th meeting, please read the Introduction and Chapter 1-Prophecy.

Questions or to receive a Sister Circle newsletter, please contact Mary at 414-828-4675 or mariwags@gmail.com.

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



September Calendar

September 13th from 6:30-8:00 pm – Cookout and Kickoff

We hope everyone had a great summer, but we can't wait to welcome you back to Lighthouse!

Join us as we kickoff another awesome program year with a campfire over at Grand Avenue UMC (right next to Lighthouse). Roast hot dogs and marshmallows, play games, meet new friends, and hear about all the exciting things planned for the year. Please bring a chair to sit on and think about who you can invite to join us for this fun evening.



September 27th from 12:00-6:30 pm – Milwaukee Brewers Game

Play ball! Come celebrate a historic season for the Brewers as we cheer them on in the final regular-season game. We will meet at Living Hope Church and carpool down to American Family Field. Game tickets and parking are covered, but students are welcome to bring \$ to purchase concessions if you would like. Please note, the stadium has gone cashless

and all carry-in bags must be clear. See American Family Field's website for more info.

You must RSVP by September 13th in order to participate.

*Drop off at Living Hope Lutheran Church (851 W. Dekora St.) in Saukville. Please eat lunch before you come!

Also, a BIG thank you to everyone who participated in our "Do Something" summer of service and/or attended the joint worship service on 8/23. It was so wonderful to worship and celebrate together! As fall and a new school year begin, we pray everyone will keep finding opportunities to "Do Something" to share God's love in service to others!

DO SOMETHING



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

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

Have questions about Lighthouse or want to get involved?

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

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



One Voice in Prayer Community Prayer Group



As we enter the fall season,
do you feel called to deepen
your prayer life?

Resumes September 2nd



Would you like to develop a
closer personal relationship
with our Creator but aren't
sure where to begin?

1st Wednesdays

beginning September 2nd

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Meeting at

Christ the King

Lutheran Church

420 W. Whitefish Rd

Port Washington, WI

Join us

in a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere
to pray for others, creation,
and the world.

Everyone is welcome!

Bring your prayer concerns and
requests, or simply join us in prayer,
thanksgiving, and music.



*...God's Spirit is right alongside
helping us along. If we don't know
how or what to pray, it
doesn't matter. He does our praying
in and for us, making prayer out of
our wordless sighs.*

Romans 8:26, 27 Message Bible

For more information

Contact Leslie Braun
lesliebraun050@gmail.com
(262) 227-8905



United Methodist Corner

A fundamentalist Christian was asked whether it bothered him that there are stories of genocide in the Bible. In one of the stories recorded in 1 Samuel 15:2-3 has God instructing King Saul to “totally destroy” the Amalekites, including women, children, infants and livestock. He had no trouble with this because he believes that God wrote the Bible. No where in the Bible are we told that God actually wrote the Bible. We read in 2 Timothy 3 that, “All scripture is inspired by God and is[a] useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, We do not believe in the inerrant Word of God. The scriptures were written by human writers guided by God to express God’s message to His people. These same human writers were subject to limitations in knowledge and cultural biases and prejudice.

The inerrant Word of God movement did not come onto the scene until hundreds of years after John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. He believed that everything sufficient for our faith and salvation is found in Holy Scripture. This means that we don’t have to treat the Bible as having supreme knowledge in fields like science and history. We don’t have to literally believe that creation was completed in seven days. The Bible is not primarily about a document of facts. The Bible is filled with stories and poetry and metaphors to enable us to grow in our relationship with God, with one another and with all of God’s creation. For me, scriptures are meant to draw us into a divine encounter with the One is the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of life.

How do we deal with difficult passages like those involving genocide. If we believe as 1 John 4 tells us, “God is love”, then we need to interpret all scripture in light of God’s love. We ask ourselves the question, what does this passage tell us about God’s love. Where is the good news of God’s love and mercy in the passage? We also need to interpret the scripture in light of our relationship with others and Christ’s command to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. The question I would raise for fundamentalist Christians is how do you reconcile the command wipe out a population with Jesus’ command to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you? These two instructions are mutually incompatible. If a push comes to a shove, I am going to place my trust in the words of Christ. I have to believe that God is always seeking for us to be reconcilers and bridgebuilders in this divisive world. May Holy Scripture, interpreted through the lens of love, guide us and lead us live in and work for a more inclusive, Christlike world.

In Christ’s love, Dave

CALENDAR

September 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, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Kitchen
Community Prayer Group	Wednesday, September 2 at 9:30 am	Christ the King
Labor Day	Monday, September 7	
Social Principles/Church & Soc	Tuesday, September 8 at 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Friendship Club	Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Administrative Council	Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 pm	Zoom
PW Woman's Club	Monday, September 14 at 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday, September 15 at 10:00 am	FAC
Sister Circle	Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 pm	Christ the King
Newsletter Article Deadline	Thursday, September 24	Office



Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrandAveChurch>

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Pastor:	Jerry Cho	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

You can help support our church through the fundraisers below:

- **Aluminum Can Collection** – Put your aluminum cans in the barrels at the back entrance into church and we'll recycle them for cash.
- **RaiseRight Scrip (Gift Card) Program** – You can order gift cards for businesses you already shop at and the church gets a donation. Forms are on the counter in the narthex or go to www.raiseright.com and use our enrollment code of 45F776D958L66.



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

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