

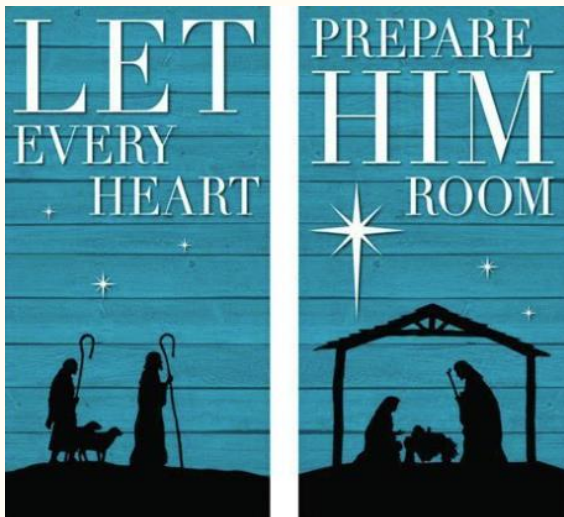
Grand Ave United Methodist Church



the VINE

December 2022

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 www.portumc.com



Celebrate Christmas
at
Grand Ave Church
on Christmas Eve
Saturday, Dec 24 7:00 pm
(We will be closed on Sunday December 25)

Dear Grand Avenue Church Family and Friends,

It is the season of Advent that ushers in the anticipatory period leading up to the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We get the word Advent from the Latin word *adventus* which means coming. This then is not only a season in which we recognize His birth, but it is one in which we recognize the need to be prepared for His glorious return. It is my prayer, that as each of us prepares for the outward traditions of Christmas (presents, decorations, gatherings and the like) that won't ignore it's more important spiritual significance. Let us ensure that we find time to reflect on our faith and relationship with our Lord and His Church.

This season is one that provides us an opportunity to recognize the true peace that comes from having Jesus at the center of our lives. In the midst of all our current challenges and concerns, let us recognize that the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!"

Together, this holiday season, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate God's presence in our lives and His dominion over all things of this world. May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families, and loved ones at this most glorious time of year.

I extend to you my prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year 2023!

Pastor Vince

CELEBRATE



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

**Sunday, Dec 18
after the service**

The church will provide beef & gravy, buns, and drinks. If you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December		December	
Lila Lentz	2	Mark Davis	21
Dan Benning	7	Michael Lueptow	21
Amelia Bastianello	9	Amanda Penkivech	21
Joyce Kirkendall	10	Ava Lentz	22
Henry Weltin	14	Mike Vernon	25
Emily Betker	16	Michael Lentz	26
		Barb Jones	27

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December	
Mark & Beth Breuer	16
Scott & Sue Penkivech	23
Gordon & Ardell Dionne	24
Dan & Lynn Benning	29
Mike & Geny Vernon	29



LOVE LIGHTS

During this holiday season you can "purchase" love lights in honor or memory of someone special to you. The Christmas Eve bulletin will list *for whom* and *from whom* the love lights have been purchased. The money received from love lights is committed to our conference mission apportionment. Let's have some fun sharing our love and lighting our tree!

In honor _____

and/or

In memory of _____

Given by: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please return this form with your cash or check payable to Grand Ave UM Church by Sunday December 11. You can place it in the offering box or mail it to the church office: Grand Ave UM Church, 505 W Grand Ave, Port Washington WI 53074

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Christmas is coming... The Hat and Mitten tree is up! Please place your donated new hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens on the tree by Sunday, Dec 11. Items collected will be taken to Ozaukee County Human Services for needy families this winter season. Any questions, please contact Cathy Guse.

FAMILY PROMISE consistently has an urgent need for diapers sizes 5, 6, and 7; Tide pods; dryer sheets; ziplock bags, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, etc); and garbage bags. Other items needed include: deodorant, fruit juice boxes, gas cards, healthy snacks, seasoned rice, dried soups, and mac & cheese.

You can place your donated items in the Family Promise bin in our hallway. Any questions, contact Sandy Grams or Cheryl Wozniak.

NOISY COLLECTION 3rd Sunday of each month



Port Washington Food Pantry - December 18

The Food Pantry has been dedicated to meeting the needs for healthy food in our community since 1982. They are open for food and clothing distributions to qualified individuals and families on Tuesdays from 9:30am – noon and 4:00pm – 6:00 pm.

We are blessed to be a blessing... on December 18, bring your noisy coins (and quiet donations) to help support The Food Pantry.

Shout *Hallelujah* for all the good work and lives touched through the *The Food Pantry in Port Washington.*

As always, you can help The Food Pantry by donating non-perishable foods in the bin outside our church front door. Cathy Smith checks the bin regularly and delivers items to the pantry.

Current needs include: Peanut butter, taco shells, spaghetti sauce, tomato paste, tomato sauce, canned tomatoes, Rice-a-Roni, canned chicken, Manwich, & paper grocery bags.

VOLUNTEERS

December Volunteers *Thank you for serving in our ministry*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>A/V</u>	<u>Coffee Host</u>
12/04	Larry Maechtle	Kay Hamann	Scott Penkivech	
12/11	Larry Maechtle	Marc Eernisse	Scott Penkivech	Bonnie Pachner
12/18	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	Dan Benning	Pot Luck
12/24	Larry Maechtle	TBD-any volunteers?		

To host a coffee hour, please sign-up on the bulletin board.

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

The Social Principles Group will be meeting Dec. 13th at 1:00 pm in the gathering area. The next four meetings we will be comparing the proposed newly developed United Methodist Social Principles with the previous handbook. The December meeting will focus on the Community of All Creation. Everyone is always welcome to join us!



In this season full of reminders to give thanks and celebrate all that 2022 has brought us, I wanted to take a moment and say **THANK YOU** on behalf of all members of the Lighthouse board as well as all of the students we were able to serve this year!

- Thank you for your prayers and your financial support!
- Thank you for encouraging the middle and high school youth in your families and congregations to participate in Lighthouse programming (and know that we ALWAYS welcome new faces)!
- Thank you for your warm welcome as I stepped into my role as Lighthouse's new Director!

Our vision for Lighthouse Youth Ministry is to be a safe and affirming community where all youth are:

- ***WELCOMED** regardless of religious affiliation or beliefs,
- ***EMPOWERED** to explore questions of faith and life, and
- ***EQUIPPED** to serve their community and the world.

We've been able to accomplish these goals this year in new and exciting ways as we have resumed regular youth programming, meeting roughly twice a month for a variety of fellowship and service activities. We have been getting

anywhere from 7-15 students participating in these activities this fall. Participants have enjoyed getting to know one another through events such as a bonfire and a trip to Spieker's Pumpkin Farm. They've also had fun serving their neighbors by packing sack lunches for Milwaukee Rescue Mission, holding a "Trick-or-Treat So Others Can Eat" food drive for the Saukville Food Pantry, and serving dinner at two different meal sites in Milwaukee.

Later this month, we will be helping to host a Christmas party for the children housed by Family Promise, and we look forward to partnering with them again in the spring to put together Easter baskets for the children as well. Other things on the horizon for 2023 include a skiing/tubing outing, a youth conference in the WI Dells, and a multi-day mission trip this summer (stay tuned for more info on these events coming soon!)

Lighthouse, like all of us, has been on quite a journey over the last few years. It has not always been easy, but as we look back at 2022, we are thankful for the many hands and hearts that have shaped this ministry and are very excited about where God will lead us in the year(s) to come!

If you would like to learn more about Lighthouse, get involved, or offer additional support, please do not hesitate to contact me or any members of the Lighthouse board.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless our work together as we serve God's beloved children!

Christin Flucke - *Lighthouse Youth Director*



CHURCH NEWS



Grand Avenue United Methodist Church is seeking candidates for the position of Administrative Assistant. The person in this position will be a critical contributor to our ministry. They need to be dependable, enthusiastic, personable, self-directed, and able to work with confidential information. This individual must be willing and able to work alone, with the pastor, and with congregational members.

The role requires a solid understanding of Microsoft O365 (Word, Excel, and Outlook) and an ability to learn a member management application, presentation tools, etc.

Responsibilities include:

- Serve as the church receptionist
- Prepare the weekly Sunday bulletins
- Prepare and distribute the monthly Newsletter
- Inventory and order all church supplies
- Serve as the communication link and resource person for the congregation
- Update and annually distribute the church directory
- Other duties as directed

The part-time position is planned for 20 hours per week. The working hours are flexible, with some remote work a possibility. Starting pay is \$20/hour.

Please send your resume to either:

Dan Benning, Lay Leader
Marc Eernisse, SPRC

bennida01@att.net
marc@eernissefh.com



2022 Financial Update:

For 2022, all bills are being paid and there is no borrowing. Our apportionments are on schedule to be paid in full this year. Your giving has been generous in support of our ministries at Grand Avenue UMC. Your support of our Noisy Collection causes is being celebrated by those in need of our support.



2023 Budget Planning:

The Finance Team and the Administrative Council have been working on the 2023 budget. After a number of revisions, the Administrative Council will be completing a final review of the 2023 budget at their meeting on Thursday, December 8th.

Pledging this year is \$118,575. This amount is down **\$21,411** as compared to the 2022 amount of \$139,986. All other sources of budgeted income, except for the craft booth (up \$2000) are the same as in 2022. Our planned 2023 income is budgeted at \$151,228.



Key changes to our 2023 expenses are:

- Apportionments are reduced by \$2,194 since we moved to a half-time minister
- Utilities are increased by 15% or \$2,100 based on anticipated rate increases for electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater
- Wages are reduced by \$7,295 based on the revised plan for the replacement office administrator
- Ministry programs are reduced by \$8,590. The Lighthouse Youth Ministry, Senior Ministry, and Music Ministry are still funded.

Our planned 2023 expense is budgeted at \$153,887.

This will result in a budget deficit of **\$2,659**.

The Finance Team and the Administrative Council will continue to monitor our income and expenses on a monthly basis to see if further changes need to be made.

WI CONFERENCE NEWS

Wisconsin Annual Conference 2022

By Sue Killey

The Wisconsin Annual Conference (WAC) met with 2/3 of the delegates present in Green Bay and 1/3 of delegates on-line June 11-13, 2022. The conference theme was, "Discerning God's Will for All," based upon Romans 12:1-2. We are called to model healing dialogue, restore our commitment to the beloved community of raised awareness of racial justice and radical inclusion. Our conference honored cultural diversity including sacred drumming by our local Native Americans, mission dinner with our South Korean guests, recognizing new Hispanic congregations, enjoying music from Hmong congregations, and reflecting on poems and texts by Langston Hughes, an African-American author.

The conference business began with approval of the consent agenda, routine items such as youth ministries and camp promotion. Next the budget for 2023 was presented. During 2021, the Conference received over 1 million dollars that supported over 125 programs across the state. WAC ended 2021 with \$180,941. The allocation percentages for the 2023 budget were presented. The full budget presentation can be found at www.wisconsinumc.org.

The basis for the settlement for the Boy Scout Survivors' Trust Fund is our principle of restorative healing. The settlement commits the UMC to provide \$30 million as a part of the total financial settlement of \$850 million. Our Wisconsin Conference portion is \$208,096. The Bishop does not want to add this amount to our apportionments, and instead would like special local offerings to raise those funds. Approved. Going forward all local congregations need to review and update their Safe Sanctuaries Policies on an annual basis. These policies are working as Wisconsin has had no victims come forward since the adoption of them.

Three churches: Hixton, North Prairie, and Bloom City were approved for discontinuance based on declining membership and attendance. All members were encouraged to join nearby UMC congregations.

Trinity UMC in Waldo petitioned for disaffiliation and discontinuance from WAC based on old language of the Book of Discipline (not having to do with human sexuality language from the 2019 special General Conference.) This is a difficult process with a majority of Trinity's membership voting to separate and paying to WAC for future pensions and the property. Members wishing to remain United Methodists were encouraged to join nearby UMC congregations.

Other important approved resolutions included: Support for Reproductive Health Care Rights and Justice, Development of Comprehensive Sex Education Curriculum by Discipleship Ministries, and Resolution Formally Requesting the Congressional Delegation from Wisconsin to Act on Responsible Fire-Arm Legislation.

The WAC nominated Rev. Dan Schwerin as a candidate for Bishop to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference. Jurisdictional Conference met at the beginning of November, and Rev. Schwerin was elected Bishop. He was assigned Northern Illinois Conference. Rev. Schwerin led a new church start in Hartford, Still Waters UMC.

Bishop Jung presented the State of the Church. He advised us that when we know who we are as United Methodists, then we know what our mission is. We are people of both personal and

WI CONFERENCE NEWS continued

social holiness and are to be involved in introspection for our own journey related to anti-racism. We are called to recognize, repent, and restore our relationships with Native Peoples, Boy Scouts, and victims of our historical attitudes. We need to speak well of those who leave the UMC, but no one needs to leave. John Wesley spoke earnestly of unity until death. We need to think of ourselves as servants of Christ and as stewards of God's Earth.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend WAC 2022.

In depth reports are found on www.wisconsinumc.org.

CONTACTS AND CALENDAR

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Join us each Sunday for worship at 10:00 am

Pastor Vince Pepin

pastor@portumc.org

Office: 262-284-9478 Cell: 262-388-4765

Lay Leader: Dan Benning bennida01@att.net

Council Chairperson: Mark Grams mgrams@wi.rr.com

SPRC Chairperson: Marc Eernisse marc@eernissefh.com

Bishop: Rev. Hee-Soo Jung / District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Insor

November	December 2022						January
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1	2	3	
	10:30am – 12:30pm Mon – Fri ADRC Meal Delivery - Kitchen				5:30pm Private Mtg - FAC		
4 10:00 am Worship Service	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	10:30am – 12:30pm Mon – Fri ADRC Meal Delivery - Kitchen				6:30 pm Ad Council		
			7pm AA Mtg - FAC	5:30pm Private Mtg - FAC			
11 10:00 am Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	10:30am – 12:30pm Mon – Fri ADRC Meal Delivery - Kitchen					Parking lot reserved	
	9:30-3:30 PW Women's Club Fellowship Hall & Kitchen	9:30-11am Caregivers Connection – library	1pm Social Principles Group Gathering Area	7pm AA Mtg - FAC	5:30pm Private Mtg - FAC		
18 10:00 am Worship Service Christmas Potluck following the service	19	20	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	
		10:30am – 12:30pm Mon – Fri ADRC Meal Delivery - Kitchen					
		10am Stockbox Distribution FAC		7pm AA Mtg - FAC	5:30pm Private Mtg - FAC		
25 Christmas Day Church closed	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	10:30am – 12:30pm Mon – Fri ADRC Meal Delivery - Kitchen						
			7pm AA Mtg - FAC	5:30pm Private Mtg - FAC			

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 pick-up 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