

November 2026

the VINE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the month of November, I would like to share two thoughts with you: **our responsibility as citizens and our gratitude for God's blessings.**

November is an important month for our nation as we exercise our right to vote. I encourage every eligible member of our congregation to participate in the election. Voting is not only a civic duty but also an opportunity to put our faith and values into action.

I believe that our vote can be a prayer in action. Through our votes, we express our hopes for the kind of country we want to build—a nation rooted in justice, peace, equality, compassion, kindness, and human decency. We may have different political opinions and preferences, but I hope we can agree that every human being deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

As Christians, we are called not only to pray for a better world but also to participate in making it a better place for everyone. Our faith should inspire us to be responsible citizens who care about the common good, especially the poor, the vulnerable, and those whose voices are often unheard.

November is also the season of Thanksgiving. In the midst of our busy lives, we sometimes forget how richly we have been blessed. Thanksgiving invites us to pause, count our blessings, and **renew our attitude of gratitude.**

The Apostle Paul reminds us, "Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Even when life is not easy, there is much for which we can be thankful: the gift of life, our families and friends, our health, our daily bread, and the love and grace of God that sustain us.

I am especially grateful for each of you, the faithful members of Grand Avenue United Methodist Church. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, your kindness, and your continued support of our church and its ministry. Your faithfulness makes our church a caring and welcoming community.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, may we remember that gratitude is more than a feeling. It is also expressed through our actions—by sharing our blessings, caring for our neighbors, and extending God's love beyond the walls of our church.

May this November be a time of renewed faith, responsible citizenship, generous hearts, and grateful living.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!

With gratitude and blessings,

Pastor Jerry Cho

920-373-3081

CELEBRATE

November Birthdays

George Pacher	11/3
Dan Weltin	11/9
Rebecca Derk	11/12

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
11/1	Larry Maechtle	Cindy Cho	TBD	Nancy Haacke	Scott Penkivech
11/8	Larry Maechtle	Rama Bharadwaj	n/a	Church Potluck	Scott Penkivech
11/15	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	n/a	Bonnie & Maple	Scott Penkivech
11/22	Larry Maechtle	Lin Lohr	n/a	***Needed****	Scott Penkivech
11/29	Larry Maechtle	Ardelle Dionne	n/a	***Needed****	Scott Penkivech

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

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Advent Candle Lighting

HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, THE CHRIST CANDLE

Would you like to feel the pleasure of lighting one of our Advent Candles during worship this year? Extended Families, Duos, Groups of Friends, Strangers WELCOME!

We have five dates for your experience- November 29th, December 6th, 13th, 20th or 24th. Pick your date and let the Worship Committee know your choice now!

Christmas Eve Liturgists

Would you like to read a part of the Miraculous Christmas Story during our December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 pm? Help us remember, focus, and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas! There are many scriptures to be read! Participate in the excitement! You are wanted here! Contact the Worship Committee. Better yet, JOIN US!

Want To Make A Joyful Noise?

The Music Committee is looking for musicians who would like to share their talents with our congregation throughout the Advent and Christmas Season, including Christmas Eve! Classical, Contemporary, Folk, Country, Soul…. Solos, Duets, Trios, Quartets…. Instrumental also desired and welcome! WE LOVE it ALL!

Let us know the Title, Composer, and when you would like to perform. We will find the Perfect Spot to place your Musical Offering in worship!

See Ardelle Dionne, Sue Merrill, or Stacy in the GAUMC Office if interested.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

FamilyPromise of Ozaukee County

Current Shelter Needs

Laundry detergent pods (high priority), hand soap pumps, women's shave cream, toilet paper, toilet bowl cleaner, paper towels, loofah sponges, and earplugs.

Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List

Upcoming Meal Week

Our next opportunity to serve meals at the Portlight Shelter with Christ the King Church is **November 9th – 13th.** The shelter is currently housing 10 adults, 1 teen, and 6 children ages 4-12. Thanks to generous donations to the Family Promise fund, we are able to reimburse volunteers for the cost of their meals. Simply submit your receipts to the church office.

If preparing a meal is not your cup of tea but you would like to participate in this mission, you are welcome to order a meal from your favorite store or restaurant, deliver it to the shelter, and submit your receipt to the church office for reimbursement.

Note: the best window for dinner arrival is between 5:15 and 5:30, though food may be brought before that time. The volunteers bringing the food may choose to help set up the meal, if their schedule allows. They may also stay and visit with guests if they would like. It's really up to the volunteers.

Sign up using this link or call the church office at 262-284-9478. Thanks for considering being a part of this important ministry! 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 last month. Thanks to your generosity, we delivered 609 13-gallon kitchen garbage bags, 2000 fabric softener sheets, 200 vinyl gloves, 240 rolls of toilet paper, 20 bottles of Lysol toilet bowl cleaner, and Soft soap/Dove soap in October.





MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.

Current Needs

Canned chicken, canned salmon, Spam, condiments, vegetable oil, large soup, Hamberger Helper, salad dressing, canned fruit, and paper towels.

Giving Tree

Sunday, Nov. 8th, is the last day to bring in hats, mittens, scarfs and gloves to help our neighbors in need. Place them on the Christmas tree in the narthex and we will divide them between Family Promise and the Ozaukee Foster Care program.

Starting Nov. 15th, we will be switching the giving tree over to collect Christmas gifts for The Food Pantry and Family Promise. Look for the gift tags on the tree and take one to donate a gift.

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Advent Study

11 am - Wednesdays

November 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th

A reminder that Dave is leading a four-week Advent study during the month of November. The reason for the earlier starting time is that he will be having hip replacement surgery on December 3rd. The study resource is entitled **Advent Can Still Change the World by Josh Scott**. The study will be held on Wednesday mornings from 11:00 a.m. to noon beginning on November 4th.

Books are $16 and available on the counter in the narthex next to the sign-up sheet.

Awesome Women's Christmas Dinner

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

Monday, December 7th 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.

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.). **Make checks out to "Awesome Women" and all orders and money must be given to Mary Kae Geittmann by Sunday, November 29th.**

Top Sirloin Steak 8 oz. **$ 37.00**

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

Broasted Chicken and Ribs **$ 31.00**

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

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 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.

LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY

November Events

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

November 1st from 6:30-8:00 pm – Lighthouse Life Night
Lighthouse Life Nights will be offered once a month and will be a mix of games, conversation, and activities centered around a particular topic for each night. This year, we will be highlighting different topics of spiritual growth including prayer, worship, and how faith impacts our daily life.





November 15th from 6:00-7:00 pm – Friendsgiving
In the season of giving thanks, we are so thankful for all the amazing students that make up Lighthouse! Join us for a night of celebrating one another as we gather for a goofy potluck-style meal together. This year's theme is "Nacho Ordinary Thanksgiving" featuring a nacho/walking taco bar with all the fixings and some fiesta-style fun!

Saturday, November 21st from 10:00-2:00 – Feeding America Service Project
Each year, Milwaukee hosts a huge "Stuff the Bus" holiday food drive. This day is the last day of the collection, and we will be partnering with Feeding America to help them sort through the abundance of donations that come in. Please meet at Lighthouse and we'll carpool down to Milwaukee together.

FEEDING AMERICA

Please RSVP by November 15th in order to fill out the necessary registration information with Feeding America.



Also, remember to save the date for our 2027 Summer Service Trip!
We will be heading to Duluth from June 20-25 for an amazing week of service, learning, and fun! This trip is open to any students who will have completed grades 8-12 by that time. Please talk to Christin by Nov. 15th if you are interested in participating or learning more.

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

Don't forget to save the date and join us for our annual Giving Tuesday Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction fundraiser! This year's event will be held on Tuesday, December 1st at Parkside Community UCC Church in Saukville. Come enjoy a delicious meal and beautiful live music while you bid on more than 100 silent auction items. Tickets are available online or from your church's Lighthouse board representative. If you have donations for the silent auction, please contact Christin Flucke or your board reps by Sunday, November 8th. Thank you for your continued support of this great ministry that we do together!


Giving Tuesday
SPAGHETTI SUPPER
DECEMBER 1
5 pm to 7:30pm
at Parkside Community UCC
166 W. Dekora St. Saukville
HUGE SILENT AUCTION
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT
Gluten Free & Vegetarian Options Available
MUSIC BY BELLA MUSIK
50/50 RAFFLE
LIGHTHOUSE
YOUTH MINISTRY
$15 per person
10 and under free

United Methodist Corner

Jesus' healing of the 10 lepers in Luke's Gospel has often been used in Thanksgiving Eve Services. The message seems to be about the importance of being thankful for what God has given to us. We celebrate the harvest and our material blessings as part of our Civil Holiday of Thanksgiving in the U.S.A. I think Jesus had another motive here in this story. There were 10 lepers who were healed but the only one who returned to give God thanks was a Samaritan. This is a significant detail, because this Samaritan had no standing before Jesus. Jesus could have easily turned away from him. Faithful Jews hated Samaritans because they considered them to be half-breeds. Jesus, by healing the Samaritan, gave us a glimpse of how God viewed Samaritans.

Jesus asked another question, "Where are the other nine?" Why did they not come back to give God thanks. We could come up with some possible reasons. Perhaps they did not come back because they expected to be healed. They may have considered themselves as better and more deserving of God's healing and favor than this Samaritan. The one thing that Christians have been resisting for the last two years is the reality that we live by God's grace. We love others because God first loved us. Christians have tried to turn God into what I would call a transactional God. We will follow the rules, so that we can find God's favor and salvation in return.

Jews are not the only ones guilty of thinking that they are more important than the cultures around them. We have Christians today who think they are more important than others because of their morality, or because they believe in the right doctrines, or their class, or their race. God has graced us all with the gift of life. I am no more significant in God's eyes than anyone else living on this planet.

This Thanksgiving, while I am munching on that turkey leg, I am going to give God thanks for the undeserved gift of life. I am going to thank God for all of creation (I'm still working on the mosquito thing). I pray that God will continue to help us to see to live out this sense of gratitude with everyone and everything we encounter on the road of life.

In Christ's love,

Dave

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Grand Ave. members and friends,

Thank you so much for all the well wishes you gave me at my surprise 85th birthday party on Sunday, Oct. 11th. How you all kept a secret was amazing and well appreciated by my family planners. Thank you again. God Bless you all.

Prayers, Judy Maechtle





Thank you to everyone that hosted or participated in the informal pastor meetings. What a delightful way to get to know each other better.







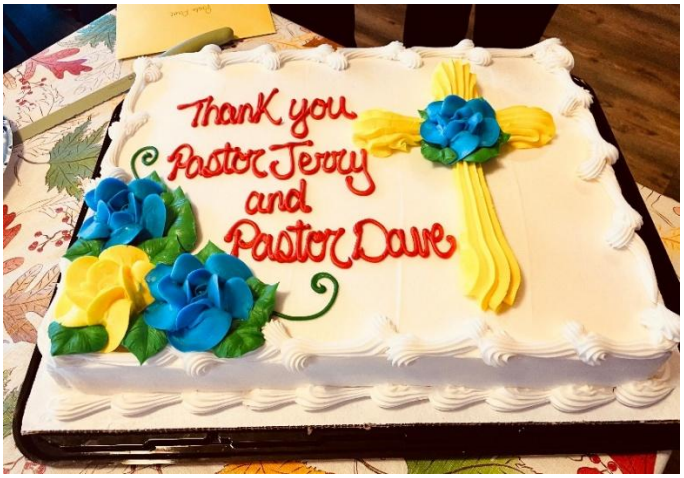
CHURCH NEWS

Charge Conference & Potluck – November 8th

Our Annual Charge Conference will be on Sunday, November 8th to review our ministry, receive reports, and adopt goals recommended by the church council. We will celebrate with a potluck after worship in Fellowship Hall,. 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!

Pastor Appreciation Thank You

Thank you to everyone that helped us celebrate Pastor Appreciation on October 4th. We are very grateful for the spiritual leadership Pastor Jerry and Pastor Dave provide us all!





Silent Auction Donations Needed



GAUMC is putting together a money tree and gift basket for the Lighthouse Youth Ministry Silent Auction on Giving Tuesday, December 1st.

We are looking for monetary donations to help create these. Donations can be made by indicating “Lighthouse Auction” on the payment and placing it on the offering plate.

All donations are needed by Sunday, November 1st.

Knock, Knock! Who’s There? A New Back Door!

Hopefully you have noticed the new back door that our Trustees had installed this week. The electronics still have to get hooked up, but what a great improvement to our church this will be when all done! It is not too late to contribute to cover this significant expense. Every contribution, big or small, helps. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

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 1	Sanctuary
General Election	Tuesday, November 3, all day	Fellowship Hall
Community Prayer Group	Wednesday, November 4 at 9:30 am	Christ the King
Advent Book Study	Wednesday, November 4 at 11 am	Fellowship Hall
Charge Conference & Potluck	Sunday, November 8	Fellowship Hall
PW Woman's Club	Monday, November 9, 10am – 2pm	Fellowship Hall
Family Promise Meal Week	Monday, Nov. 9 – Friday Nov. 13	Portlight Shelter
Social Principles	Tuesday, November 10 at 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Advent Book Study	Wednesday, November 11 at 11 am	Fellowship Hall
Friendship Club	Wednesday, November 11 at 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Admin Council	Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 pm	Zoom
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday, November 17 at 10:00 am	FAC
Advent Book Study	Wednesday, November 18 at 11 am	Fellowship Hall
Sister Circle	Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 pm	Christ the King
Newsletter Article Deadline	Monday, November 23	Office
Ecumenical Thanksgiving	Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 pm	Christ the King
Advent Book Study	Wednesday, November 25 at 11 am	Fellowship Hall
Book Club	Wednesday, November 25 at 1 pm	Fellowship Hall

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

Remember Our Endowment Fund

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

Note: The livestream execution mentioned below has been cancelled,
but we still wish to share the letter from the Council of Bishops.

Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church
110 Maryland Avenue, NE • Suite 301 • Washington, D.C. 20002
www.unitedmethodistbishops.org

A Pastoral Letter on the Proposed Livestreamed Execution at Fort Hood

From the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church
Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr., President
October 2026

To the people called United Methodists in Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the United States, and to all who seek the way of Christ:

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

We write about an event in one nation because it holds up a mirror to all of us. Every society, on every continent where our church lives, is tempted to answer violence with spectacle, to bless national power with the name of God, and to make a whole people pay for the crime of one. What is happening in the United States is a local test of a global faithfulness.

On November 5, 2009, 13 people were killed and more than 30 wounded at Fort Hood, a U.S. Army base in Texas. We grieve with the families of the fallen and with the survivors who still carry wounds in body and spirit. Nidal Hasan has admitted to these killings. He must be held fully accountable, and nothing we say excuses what he did.

The U.S. Department of Defense now plans to execute him by firing squad on December 3 and to livestream the execution to the public (BBC). The Council of Bishops opposes this plan. Turning the death of a human being into a public broadcast does not honor the victims. It coarsens the conscience of a people and contradicts the gospel we proclaim.

Survivor Alonzo Lunsford, who was shot seven times that day, supports the sentence and plans to be present. Yet he has said the public should not watch, out of concern for what it teaches the young (BBC). We honor his witness. Justice for survivors does not require a broadcast to millions.

Across our connection, we know this temptation in many forms: crowds gathered to watch public executions, drug wars waged through killings without trial, mob justice in the street, and leaders who claim Christ while dividing neighbors by faith, tribe, or origin. Wherever death becomes theater, people learn that killing is how power settles things. And a livestream reaches every screen in the world. What one nation broadcasts, the whole world is invited to watch.

"An eye for an eye" was given to limit vengeance, not to license it. In Matthew 5:38–48, Jesus calls us further still: do not answer evil in kind; love your enemies; pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of a God who sends rain on the just and the unjust.

Our Lord himself died by public execution, staged by an empire to display its power and frighten the watching crowd. Christians, of all people, should refuse to gather around such a spectacle again.

The United Methodist Church has long opposed the death penalty, because every life bears God's image and remains within reach of grace. We are grateful that Christian leaders from many traditions have also called this plan "a barbaric promotion of a culture of death" (National Catholic Reporter) and a "public spectacle" that fails to uphold "the dignity of every human being" (CBC).

In the United States and in many nations, some voices fuse Christian faith with national power, treating the cross as a banner for the nation rather than the sign of a crucified Lord who loved his enemies. The church of Jesus Christ belongs to no nation. Our first citizenship is in the reign of God, which gathers people from every tribe and tongue.

Where Christians suffer violence for their faith, we stand with them in prayer and solidarity. Where Christians hold power, we must never use it to make others suffer. Hasan claimed to act in the name of Islam, and our Muslim neighbors must not bear the blame for one man's crime. Neither should migrants and minorities anywhere become the scapegoats of a nation's fear.

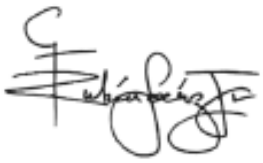
John Wesley called the world his parish, and he did not wait for slavery to become unpopular before naming it. In Thoughts Upon Slavery (1774), he declared it "as irreconcilable to justice as to mercy." Days before his death, he urged William Wilberforce to keep opposing "that execrable villainy, which is the scandal of religion" (Christian History Institute). Wesley knew that when Christians bless cruelty, the scandal falls on religion itself.

We urge U.S. leaders to end plans for a livestreamed execution. We invite every United Methodist congregation, in every land, to pray for the families of the fallen and the survivors, for our Muslim and migrant neighbors, and for all who hold authority. We can hold evil accountable without becoming what we oppose.

A Prayer

God of every nation and every people, comfort the families of the fallen and all who carry the wounds of violence. Guard our hearts from vengeance and our eyes from cruelty. Shield the stranger, the minority, and the migrant from blame and harm. Free your church in every land from false allegiance, and give us the courage of those who came before us to follow your Son, who loved even his enemies. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Walking with You in Christ's Mission,



Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church