



*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](http://www.portumc.com)

**August 2021**

## **RETIREMENT**

We imagine the future as we think it may be, but it doesn't always happen as we anticipate. In June I was reappointed for an additional 4<sup>th</sup> year after completing a 3-year interim ministry assignment at Community United Methodist Church in Cedarburg, to which Grand Avenue United Methodist Church in Port Washington was added to form a regional mission partnership one year ago in August. At the time this additional extended year in this appointment was to be announced, my family faced a health crisis. In June, during the week of annual conference, it was necessary for Eldene and I to travel to our hometown in Nebraska to manage the unfolding situation there. She is still there, while I have been here during July.

A brief description of the situation may be helpful. My 91-year-old mother, who has several health problems, was hospitalized and then put into a nursing home. She is being returned to her home this week, but not as she left it. Several new kinds of support services are needed. Until this hospitalization, she was the main support system for my 69-year-old brother who is cognitively disabled, physically challenged now, and needing increased daily care to maintain his life in his home. Now neither can help the other, and I am appointed to be responsible for them both for all health care, financial, and legal matters. Much of this cannot be done long distance. With this immediate need, as a transitional effort, we are having my wife, Eldene, move to Beatrice NE to be my eyes, ears, hands, and presence, and manage their affairs with me over the telephone, through the mail, and online.

After much prayer and personal discernment, it has become apparent that I must retire as soon as possible. I have been granted retirement status by Bishop Jung and the Board of Ordained Ministry as of November 1, 2021. This is the earliest date I can retire without penalty in my clergy pension. Between now and then I am committed to work with the situation on both ends, to the best of my ability.

There is a process for discerning the need for the next leadership and appointing the next pastor. This process involves the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the District Superintendent (Rev. Forrest Wells). The process is already started, and it will work in much the same way as when an appointment is made during the regular moving season for clergy. Appointments are often made mid-year. Between now and then we have much to do together.

May God bless us all!

*Rev. Don Greer*



I would like to thank everyone for your well wishes and prayers. I am on the mend!

Thank you again,  
Cathy Smith

Dear Grand Ave United Methodist Church,  
Thank you for your generous donation in support of the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program. With the help of friends like you, OCJLP continues to be able to provide educational opportunities to inmates in Ozaukee County. On behalf of the Board of Directors of OCJLP and the inmates we serve, we extend deep appreciation for your support.

Terri Haas, Treasurer

## *Rummage Sale is Back... coming in September!*

### **Calling all men and women ...**

- ☺ **Bring** your gently used, clean stuff to the fellowship hall near the stage through September 12.
- ☺ **Help** us get ready – sort, organize and price.
- ☺ **Volunteer** during sale days: Sept 16, 17, 18 and ½ price sale days: Sept 23, 24, 25
- ☺ **Sign up** sheets will be available on the Information Counter.

Rummage Sale Coordinators: Gwen Freier 262-692-6408  
Netta Freeland 262-284-9315  
Mary Kae Geittmann 262-284-5924

Sorry, **no** TVs, dehumidifiers, computers, monitors, printers, microwaves, china cabinets, or entertainment centers.

## **LIGHTHOUSE NEWS ...** YOUTH MINISTRY

By Erica Brooks, Lighthouse Youth Director  
erica.brooks@lighthouseyouth.org



This fall Lighthouse will be offering **Alpha** for high school students. Currently we have one host, who is located in Port Washington. Alpha is an interactive, video based, group that gives students the opportunity to ask big questions about their faith, God, and life. We would love to be able to offer one more group. If you are interested in hosting a small group of high school students once a week, please contact us directly. We would love to talk with you.

Lastly, save the date for our **back-to-school event** on Sunday, September 12. This is going to be a time for youth and their families to learn more about Lighthouse and receive information for the upcoming school year. We will have games, prizes, and of course food!

*We'd like to thank Ray Shupe for his dedication and great work with Lighthouse. Enjoy retirement!  
Congratulations to Alex Pieper, our new Lighthouse President!*

## Wisdom

Well, I, for one, cannot believe it is already August. As we continue to take steps forward, moving slowly and safely out of restraints caused by the pandemic, we are finally able to see some normalcy, new or otherwise. While many things are different, the most important thing, our ability to worship God, remains unaltered. Knowing how and why we worship, takes wisdom, the ability to use our experience, knowledge, and judgement to make good decisions.

When Jesus was a boy, He grew in wisdom. God wants us to discover that wisdom, too. When we make a wise choice, we reflect the character of Jesus to the people around us. That is why having a strong foundation of wisdom is important, especially for our kids as they face pressures from others, whether at school, camp, or just hanging out with friends.

*Wisdom is about finding out what you should do and doing it.*

So, this month, Children's Ministry will focus on wisdom. Stated best in James 1:5, "If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault." Throughout the month, we will emphasize a couple of key elements associated with making wise choices.

The book of Luke tells the story of Jesus staying in Jerusalem after the Passover Feast. For Jesus, the choice to stay behind unbeknownst to his parents was clear, to gain wisdom, to learn from the teachers and ask questions. And that He did as it states in Luke 2:52, "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people." The bottom line...wisdom is worth searching for.

As we go through the five weeks in August, we will enforce the importance of trusting God to give us wisdom, of thinking before we act, of associating, befriending, and hanging out with people who are wise, and of never stopping to grow in wisdom. I do hope your kids will join us for this journey. All are welcome to join us at [cumcmosaic.com/sunday-school](http://cumcmosaic.com/sunday-school).

Peace be with all of you and God bless.

*Stevie Stibor*

Director of Children's Ministry



				August	
Mark Grams	3	Bonnie Pachner	20	Merton & Margaret Lueptow	5
Isriana Paulson	5	Spensor Paulson	20	Ross & Darleen Reichardt	14
Erika Davis	7	Jon Meins	22	Brian & Mardy McGarry	18
Laura Flack	7	Johnathon Gates	27	Marc & Grace Eernisse	22
Wanda Keller	11	Bethany Paulson	28	Larry & Mary Jo Lueptow	26
Lisa Klinski	13	Brittney Straughn	29		
Steve Prom	13	Eric Didier	29		
Michael McGarry	18	Ed Schmidt	30		
Stephanie Laabs	19	Barbara Frank	31		
Nicholas Straughn	19	Dona Keith	31		
Genny Vernon	19				
Steve Walters	19				



## NOISY COLLECTION - 3rd Sunday each month

*On Noisy Collection Sunday, August 15, we are honored to have Northcott's Executive Director, Tony A. Kearney Sr., provide the worship service message.*

### Building Careers! Empowering Families!



Northcott Neighborhood House emergency **food pantry** serves about 1,200 community residents annually. Bread, muffins and bakery goods are available daily, as well as a clothing exchange to meet family apparel needs.

Northcott Neighborhood House, Inc. is a multi-purpose community center originated by the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the General Board of Global Ministries in 1961.

Your contributions help Northcott Neighborhood House deliver job trainings, keep the food pantry stocked, and lift the spirit of the whole community. Your support will allow us to help more local Milwaukee families in need.

Together, we will provide the community with space, activities, and the opportunity to engage in community building.

Bring your coins and let's some noise to help support  
**Northcott Neighborhood House on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**  
(of course, quiet contributions are gladly accepted too).

## August Volunteers

Thank you for serving in our ministry

<u>August</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>A/V</u>
1	Larry Maechtle Mary Downing	Kay Hamann	Scott Penkivech
8	Larry Maechtle Mark Grams	Sue Killey	Scott Penkivech Vicky Schafman
15	Larry Maechtle Lin Lohr	Gailya Geib	Scott Penkivech Vicky Schafman
22	Larry Maechtle	Ardelle Dionne	Scott Penkivech Vicky Schafman
29	Larry Maechtle Mark Grams	Sandy Grams	Dan Benning

### It takes a village.... It takes a congregation

Volunteers keep our Sunday mornings running smoothly.

- ✚ **HOST:** A combination of greeter and usher responsibilities. If you are able to help occasionally or on a regular monthly rotating basis, please talk with Larry Maechtle or contact Vicky Schafman in the church office: [office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com) or 262-284-9478
- ✚ **COFFEE HOUR ATTENDANT:** This position provides an opportunity for fellowship after the service. The coffee hour attendant will make the coffee prior to the service, set out the cups, sugar, creamer, napkins and juice which are all provided by the church. The coffee hour attendant may provide simple snack of cookies or crackers if they choose to do so. This person is also responsible for cleaning up afterwards and making sure all church doors are locked before leaving the building. If you would like to be a Coffee Hour Attendant whether on an occasional basis or regular monthly rotating basis, please contact Vicky Schafman in the church office at [office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com) or 262-284-9478.
- ✚ **LAY READER:** Reads scripture and/or selected parts of the service. May also help serve communion. To volunteer on an occasional basis, please contact Vicky Schafman in the church office at [office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com) or 262-284-9478.
- ✚ **A/V** (audio/visual): Power Point experience can be easily adapted to our Easy Worship Program. If you are interested in learning more, call or text Dan Benning at 414-207-3487 or contact Vicky Schafman in the church office at [office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com) or 262-284-9478.



Scrip orders are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month. 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 ready for pick-up at church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Questions? Contact Vicky in the church office. 262-284-9478 or office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com

For a complete list of over 700 retailers, go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)



**GRAND AVE CHURCH ORDER FORM** updated 10/2/2020

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	_____	\$_____
_____	\$_____	_____	\$_____
_____	\$_____	_____	\$_____
_____	\$_____	_____	\$_____
<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>			<b>\$_____</b>

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Order Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 [www.portumc.com](http://www.portumc.com)

**Lead Pastor: Rev. Don Greer** [pwumc@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:pwumc@wi.twcbc.com)

Lay Leader: Dan Benning [bennida01@att.net](mailto:bennida01@att.net)

Admin. Assist: Vicky Schafman [office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com)

*Shared Regional Mission Team:*

Director of Family Ministries & Discipleship Nate Gruber [nateg@cedarburgcumc.org](mailto:nateg@cedarburgcumc.org)

Director of Children's Ministry Stevie Stibor [stevies@cedarburgcumc.org](mailto:stevies@cedarburgcumc.org)

Bishop: Rev. Hee-Soo Jung District Superintendent: Rev. Forrest Wells