

May 2026

the VINE



Hello Grand Avenue Church Family and Friends,

May is here and summer is just around the corner. The days are longer and the weather is getting warmer. This time of year, after the cold of winter and spring, is a season of renewal and increased activity. We are busy camping, fishing, gardening, hiking any number of outdoor activities depending on our interests. It is a time to enjoy the long-awaited warmth of summer.

What a blessing it is for us to have the opportunity to enjoy the activities of these long summer days. As we plan for this summer season let us not forget God in the hustle and bustle of this active time of year. It is important for us that we walk with our Lord all year long. So, as we plan to enjoy God's blessings let us also plan to continue our pursuit of reconciliation.

Our reconciliation, our transformation of spirit can't afford a three or four month lay-off and it is important for us to understand that this requires very little of us. All we need to do is simply set aside time each day to talk to God and engage in His Word. This is what it means to be faithful in our pursuit of seeking a meaningful relationship with God. In making a conscious choice to seek a personal relationship with God we are blessed with the indwelling of His Spirit, which will enrich everything else in our lives. Our focus this summer should be to include our Lord in our celebration of this season. Understanding that all seasons are made even fuller by His inclusion.

I pray everyone has a blessed and full summer season.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Vince



CELEBRATE

May Birthdays

Joanne Schmidt	8
Ed Freier	18
Jackson Foster	23
Danielle Klinski	25
Peter Schmidt	25
Melissa White	26
Erica Lueptow	29
Kay Hamann	30
Joe Klinski	30
Noah Laabs	30
Justin Meins	31

May Anniversaries

Charles & Joyce Kirkendall	7
Mark & Beth Davis	13
Joe & Lisa Klinski	20
Ed & Gwen Freier	21
George & Bonnie Pachner	23

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, Volunteers, for serving in our ministry!

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
5/3	Larry Maechtle	Ardelle Dionne	Cathy Guse	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
5/10	Larry Maechtle	Mark Grams	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
5/17	Larry Maechtle	Sandy Grams	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
5/24	Larry Maechtle	Cathy Guse	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
5/31	Larry Maechtle	Lin Lohr	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech

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

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Current Needs

Canned fruit, Hamburger Helper, Boxed potatoes, Canned dinners, Canned meat, Canned yams, Canned beans, Pie filling, Shaped pasta (no spaghetti noodles), Cake mixes and frosting, Cereal, Pancake mix and syrup, Condiments, jam, and jelly, Boxed pudding, Chili, Body wash, and Tissues.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



**Please join us for a community
open house!**

**The Food Pantry, Inc.
1777 W Grand Avenue
Port Washington, WI**

Sunday, May 3rd, Noon until 3 PM

- **Building Tours**
- **Free cake while it lasts!**
- **Mask coloring kits for children**
- **Food and beverages available for purchase**
- **Bring a food donation if you wish!**



MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Upcoming Meal Week

Our next opportunity to serve meals at the Portlight Shelter with Christ the King Church is **May 11th – May 15th**. Please consider helping with this mission by providing a side dish, helping serve a meal, or being a meal leader. Funds are available for reimbursement of your meal costs. 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!

Thanks to those who donated items for Family Promise. We collected and delivered the following in April:

- A huge bag of magic erasers
 - 150 storage bags
 - 16 Bath Loofahs
 - 10 deodorant sticks
 - 12 hand soap pumps
 - 1 jug of laundry soap
- an assortment of small items

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Also, thank you to everyone that donated to help cover the shelter's unexpected expense while they temporarily housed guests at a motel. Although repairs are ongoing at Portlight, guests returned to the shelter on Monday, April 20th. Both staff and guests were eager to resume regular shelter operations. Thank you for your support!

Current Shelter Needs

Gift Cards: Walmart, Amazon, Grocery stores, Dollar Tree, & Fast food. These are great to have on hand for those in immediate need (both at Portlight and at the main office).

Cleaning sponges, bathroom towel sets, loofah body sponges, travel-size mouthwash, daytime & nighttime Cold & Flu Relief, Clorox Cleanup Spray, toilet bowl cleaner, and paper towels.

[Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES



May Events

Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00-11:00 am – Feed My Starving Children Packing Event in Grafton

Come help pack meals for kids around the world with Feed My Starving Children. Portal Industries in Grafton is hosting this mobile packing event, and it is open to Lighthouse youth, siblings, parents, congregation members, etc.

Please RSVP to Christin ASAP if you plan to participate.



**Students can be dropped off/picked up directly from Portal (1015 Cedar Creek Road) in Grafton or meet at Lighthouse at 8:30 am to carpool together.*



May 17th from 6:30-8:00 pm – Lighthouse Life Night

Lighthouse Life Nights are offered once a month and feature a mix of games, conversation, and activities centered around a particular topic for each night. This will be our final Lighthouse Life night for the program year as we conclude our year-long journey through the Bible.

May 24th from 5:00-8:30 pm - End of Year Celebration at Slick City Action Park

Join us in celebrating the end of another school year alongside all your Lighthouse pals with a trip to Slick City Action Park in Wauwatosa. We will carpool together and enjoy an evening of epic slides, games, and pizza! **Please RSVP by Sunday, May 3rd**



Lighthouse events are open to all students in grades 5-12. Have questions or want to get involved? Contact Director Christin Flucke at 262-483-9582 or email christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org

Another exciting ecumenical opportunity!

Superheroes assemble! Join us as we enjoy five awesome and action-packed mornings of superhero themed crafts, games, snacks, songs, and more! We'll hear stories of some super cool kids in the Bible and learn how YOU can be a hero by answering the call to help others too. This program will run June 8-12 from 9:00-11:30 am each day at Living Hope Lutheran Church in Saukville, but you do NOT need to be connected with Living Hope to participate! VBS is open to all kids ages 4 - completed 4th grade. We're also looking for adult and youth volunteers. Please visit myvbs.org/pws or talk to Christin Flucke for more information. **The deadline to register is May 15th.**





United Methodist Corner

I have just finished a thought-provoking book entitled *Aura of Hope* by Lovett Weems. Lovett is the founder and senior consultant of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at our Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C.. I first got acquainted with the work of the Lewis center with their publication of topics like 50 practical ways to help your congregation to grow in stewardship and 50 ways to welcome a new pastor.

In *Aura of Hope*, Weems is providing a vision and path for United Methodists after the pandemic and the disaffiliation. Our denomination lost about 25% of its membership through the disaffiliation process with the heaviest losses coming in the Southern part of our country.

Weems describes in the book how we reached this stage. Methodism at one point in our history was the largest Protestant denomination surpassing the Southern Baptists. This growth of Methodist did not happen by accident. Many of the Methodists in the late 18th and early 19th century lived in major cities like New York City and Philadelphia. Bishop Francis Asbury and church leaders had discovered that there was a growing population that was migrating to rural areas. They traveled to where the people were and ministered to their needs. As a result of their efforts and the power of the Holy Spirit, a flourish of denominations were established. Churches became the worship and spiritual center for people. People continued to come to church. The culture around us has changed. It no longer reflects the culture of many of our churches. Attending worship is no longer a priority for many people. The assumption that people will come to us is no longer working.

Weems suggests that the path towards renewed hope for United Methodism is going to happen in four ways: first, we need to begin with the people God has given us. We need to commit to intentionally grow in our discipleship at Grand Avenue; second, go where the people are. We are not speaking geographically. We need to go and form relationships outside the walls of the church; third, we need to focus on serving people's spiritual, emotional, and physical needs; fourth, we need to remember those living in the margins. The future is going to require a lot of prayer and a lot of learning since in some ways, like Francis Asbury, we are entering into a new frontier.

As Weems reminds us, hope is not born by our optimism in the future. Hope is born of God's faithfulness in our past. The same God who has blessed us in the past, is with us in the future, will be the same God who will lead us safely home. May it become our passion to want to have others come to know and experience this God of amazing grace and compassion..

In Christ's Love, Dave

OBITUARY WRITING WORKSHOP

This two part workshop will guide you in crafting a personal, reflective, and meaningful obituary to capture your legacy and help alleviate this for loved ones. We'll share templates, tips on balancing facts with stories, and techniques for creating an engaging and honest tribute.

**WEDNESDAY MAY 6TH &
WEDNESDAY JUNE 3RD**
at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

**SIGN UP TO SAVE
YOUR SPOT!**

Grand Avenue United Methodist Church
505 W. Grand Ave., Port Washington, WI

For more information: www.portumc.com

CHURCH NEWS, cont.

May 31st is Peace with Justice Sunday

The United Methodist Church is committed to leading social transformation in a peaceful way, and on this special Sunday, you can provide financial support to help the Church lead this effort worldwide. You can give a special offering to Peace with Justice Sunday any Sunday in May by **marking your offering as "Peace with Justice"**.



Image credit: clipartmax.com

UNITED METHODIST SPECIAL SUNDAY
PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

50% REMAINS IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

50% FUNDS PEACEMAKING MINISTRIES AND GRANTS

SUPPORT
Donations support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize networks to engage in social advocacy and action.

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

CHURCH NEWS, cont.



Caring for Our Church Home – Sealing the Parking Lot

In **Haggai 1:7–8 (NRSV)**, we are reminded:

“Consider how you have fared... build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord.”

And in **1 Corinthians 14:40 (NRSV)**:

“But all things should be done decently and in order.”

These passages call us not only to worship, but to care for the spaces that make ministry possible. Our church building and grounds are tools for God’s work—welcoming members, hosting ministries, and serving our community.

It has now been three years since our parking lot was repaved. To protect that investment and ensure a safe, welcoming space for all who gather here, it is time to reseal the lot. Regular maintenance like this helps extend its life, avoid more costly repairs in the future, and keep our facilities in good condition for everyone who uses them.

We invite you to prayerfully consider contributing toward this important project. Every gift, no matter the size, helps us care for our church home so that it may continue to serve God’s work in an orderly and honorable way.

If you would like to give, please mark your contribution for “Parking Lot Maintenance” or contact the church office for more information.

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to our shared ministry.



CALENDAR

May 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, May 6 at 9:30 am	Christ the King
Obituary Writing Workshop	Wednesday, May 6 at 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
National Day of Prayer	Thursday, May 7	
Mother's Day	Sunday, May 10	
Family Promise Meal Week	Monday May 11 – Friday May 15	Portlight Shelter
Social Principles Group	Tuesday, May 12 at 1:00 pm	Gathering Area
Friendship Club	Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Admin Council	Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 pm	Zoom
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday May 19 at 10:00 am	FAC & Parking Lot
Newsletter Article Deadline	Friday, May 22	Office
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25	
Peace with Justice Sunday	Sunday, May 31	



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™

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*