



# 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)

**MAY 2021**

## Coming Inside for Worship Beginning Sunday, May 2 10:00 am

In-person inside worship services in the sanctuary will start on the first Sunday in May (May 2). This has been a long wait, and we thank everyone for patiently and supportively bearing with us as our local church leadership continue to responsibly navigate through this pandemic with our safety in mind. At the April Administrative Council meeting it was decided to start in-person indoor worship services according to Wisconsin Council of Churches safety guidelines. This is a return to the sanctuary, but it is *not a return to normal*. For a while it will be a *new normal*.

The main doors to the church (cross and flame door, and power door) will be open at 9:45 am, 15 minutes before the worship service starts at 10:00 am. Attendance will be monitored, including the contact information of visitors, in case contact tracing becomes necessary if someone becomes sick. There will be no gathering or waiting in the entry area behind the sanctuary; as you arrive you will be greeted and seated immediately by a host. Face masks will be required of all, and social distancing will be maintained. Every other pew row will be available for seating. The entry path into the sanctuary will be down the center aisle. A bulletin will be provided, but hymnals and Bibles will not be available in the pews. You are encouraged to bring a Bible from home. Congregational singing remains a very high-risk activity. All worship music will be by performance only; you may hum along or sing *softly* inside your face mask. Offering plates will not be passed from person to person; an offering box will be located at the sanctuary door. Worship leaders and speakers, when not wearing face masks, will be distanced in the pulpit or at the altar only. Service length will be managed to last between 30 and 45 minutes. The worship service will be livestreamed for those who are not ready yet or cannot attend. At the end of the worship service, you will be dismissed by a host to maintain social distancing while inside the building. All socializing after the worship service must take place outdoors.

It is not the same as before, but it is a way we can assemble in person for now. Pastor Don will be preaching on May 2 and May 9. The sacrament of communion will be offered on May 9. On May 16 (the target date CUMC plans to start in-person indoor worship in Cedarburg) a rotation schedule will begin on Sunday mornings with service leadership from the shared ministry team.

I look forward to seeing you in worship. We have been waiting a long time. Let's do this well!

*Pastor Don Greer*

Gordon and I would like to thank our church family for all your prayers, calls and lovely cards during our time of grief in the death of Gordon's brother, Bill. We appreciated them so much.

May God Bless you all.  
Gordon and Ardelle Dionne



Thank you to everyone who sent cards, offered prayers, well wishes, and phone calls before and after Ed's surgery. We appreciate for your support.

Ed & Gwen Freier

Thank you for your cards and prayers after the loss of my son, Thor. These are very difficult days but I'll get through this with the continued prayerful support of my Christian friends and church.

Tim Paulson

Dear Friends at Grand Avenue UMC,  
Thank you for your generous donation to Advocates of Ozaukee. Donors like you empower Advocates to go above and beyond for our clients and our goal of providing domestic and sexual violence awareness, advocacy, safety and justice.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Fischer  
Advocates of Ozaukee Executive Director

Dear Members of Grand Avenue Church,  
Thank you for your generous donation to Family Promise of Ozaukee County in appreciation of our community service. This past year was challenging for all of us due to the pandemic; even more difficult for our families at risk or experiencing homelessness. In 2020, we provided assistance to 309 households; a 200% increase from 2019.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Kathleen Christenson Fisher  
Chief Executive Officer  
Family Promise of Ozaukee County

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### *A Message from Pastor John Strassburger*

Thank God it's spring! We have so long-awaited relief from winter's stormy blasts, frigid temperatures, the prolonged cover of darkness and the barren vegetation dominating our landscape. Given the added dimension of the pandemic it's been a long season of being closed up, closed down and closed in. The human soul cries out for opening to light, for warmth, for being awakened again to life.

From the community of faith, we hear the affirmation of the inborn need for opening our hearts and minds to the transforming, restorative, healing power of God. Like a moth drawn to light, our hearts yearn to embrace the innate movement toward the continuous, lived experience of an unfettered relating with God and neighbor, - of our true, "at-homeness" being restored.

All kinds of reasons exist for us today to be cautious, hyper-vigilant, to be apprehensive, to avoid being vulnerable to the new. Yet, the Spirit of God persists, repeatedly calling us from death into life. This is the Easter proclamation that what is of darkness and death in our lives and world is ultimately overcome by the life-force, the Spirit of God.

That is my prayer for you and me, that we may, by God's grace risk opening up, however gradually, to the wisdom that seeking to live into that truth is the call of God. As we enter this new season together, may we realize the gift of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"! And in doing so, may God bless you,

*Pastor John*  
Regional Mission Team



**Sundays 6:00-7:30 pm YOUTH GROUP 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

Play games, have snacks, worship together, discuss scripture, and always finish by praying with each other. Join us sometime!

**6K World Vision Run Saturday, May 29 9:00 – 11:30 am**

The Global 6K for Water is a virtual event! It can be done by anyone, anywhere – alone or in families. When you walk or run 6K from your own home or neighborhood, you'll provide clean water to one person in need. The cost is \$25.00 for those under 18 years old and \$50 for those 18 and older. To register, use the link on the Lighthouse calendar of events.

**View the Lighthouse calendar of events at**  
<https://lighthouseyouth.org/new-events> or [www.portumc.com](http://www.portumc.com)

Erica Brooks  
Lighthouse Youth Director and Youth Pastor at Vineyard Church  
[erica.brooks@lighthouseyouth.org](mailto:erica.brooks@lighthouseyouth.org)

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**RUMMAGE SALE NEWS!**  
**Please read these details carefully!!**

In June we will have an **outdoor only** sale with perennials, houseplants, lawn and gardening things, kids' toys, camping equipment --- anything used outdoors, especially during the summer months. This sale will be held **Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In September when we can be more certain that the majority of people have been vaccinated, we will hold our major indoor sale. Please set aside your treasures for both sales as you are doing spring cleaning. 😊

**DO NOT bring anything to church for these sales before June 1<sup>st</sup>, as the Fellowship Hall will be used for High School testing in May. From June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup> bring items for ONLY the June sale --- please put them in the Fellowship Hall near the stage. Bring plants Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.** We will need help pricing before the sale and help on Saturday during the sale. Contact: Gwen Freier, Netta Freeland, or Mary Kae Geittmann to say YES, I WILL HELP!! 😊

Specific dates for the September sale will be announced later. More information will also be coming out in future Newsletters.

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**PLASTIC! PLASTIC! PLASTIC!**

For several months now, the Green Corner has presented facts about how one-use disposable plastic is harming our environment, hoping we can help change the habitual use of so much plastic.

Plastic use is highlighted in the very first chapter of our United Methodist Church Social Principles book. It is about taking care of God's creation – our Earth!

Our Nation, along with the rest of the world, just celebrated Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. With many people working together worldwide, we can keep plastic out of our oceans and landfills. In the coming weeks, **our Social Principles group will be offering every member of Grand Ave** two ways to help eliminate single use plastic. We think you will like these and want to use them!

## A Message from Stevie Stibor, Regional Mission Team

### Commitment

Commitment is something with which we all struggle, at least with some things at certain points in our lives. But it is also such a crucial part of living a full, uncompromised life. So why is it so hard to have committed focus on things that are important to us? Time? Daily pressures of life? This is just to name a few but we all know the list can go on and on. But what if we learned new skills, new ways to manage our time, new methods to focus on what truly matters? That could be a game changer, right? So, let's try.

What are the most important things to which we should commit ourselves? Remember, you are reading an article within the church newsletter, so I am hoping you thought to put God at the top of your list. But you may have also thought of health, family, career, etc. Whatever is on your list, learning to show commitment is a fluid skill so once you master it, it can be applied repeatedly in many areas of your life. The biggest hurdle is truly believing that what is important *is* important. Not just something you say but something that is worthy of action, of practice, of discipline.

To run the race of life, you need to train and grow stronger every day. Growing in faith is not something that happens by merely cramming more information about the Bible into your brain. All that knowledge means nothing if we do not give ourselves opportunities to experience what that knowledge can do in our hearts. To fully experience faith, we need to practice our faith. And that takes commitment. While this article is mainly focused on growing our relationship with God, the message within can be applied to any area in your life that you hold in high regard. This is about persistence, determination, discipline and above all else, putting our words into action.

Keep practicing what matters most. "In a race, all the runners run. But only one gets the prize. You know that don't you? So run in a way that will get you the prize. All who take part in the games train hard. They do it to get a crown that will not last. But we do it to get a crown that will last forever." (1 Corinthians 9:24-25 NIV) My husband used to own a personal training business and he would always tell his clients not to train to get in shape for a specific occasion but instead train to get your body and mind as healthy as it can be for the long haul. Because when you prepare for an occasion, that day will come and go and once it passes, you lose your motivation. You no longer have a date you are working toward, so you are more likely to fall back into your old ways. That is kind of what 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 is all about. Do not train to win a game that will come and go but train to win a life with God. A life of abundance that is present every day.

**Practice hearing from God.** "So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on a rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash.' Jesus finished saying all these things. The crowds were amazed at His teaching. That's because He taught like one who had authority. He did not speak like their teachers of the law." (Matthew 7:24-29 NIV). This reading is about proper foundations just as commitment is about building something unwavering. When we just talk about things, that is like building a house on sand. It falls away at the first storm, the first trial, the first obstacle. Having a committed relationship with God is about building something strong, something that stands the test of time, something that cannot be broken by earthly complications. It is about putting active practice behind our words. It is that practice that changes the sand into stone and makes our commitment unbreakable.

**Practice praying to God.** “One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples spoke to Him. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’ Jesus said to them, ‘When you pray, this is what you say. Father may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted.” (Luke 11:1-4 NIV). How very powerful prayer is! In times of trial, in times of rejoice, in all times we turn and should turn to prayer. This is how we communicate with God. The practice of prayer helps us to grow closer to Him. Just as we must study for a test or spend time practicing or training for sports, we should make time to spend with God.

**Practice living for God.** “Jesus sat down across from the place where people put their temple offerings. He watched the crowd putting their money into the offering boxes. Many rich people threw large amounts into them. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins. They were only worth a few pennies. Jesus asked His disciples to come to Him. He said, ‘What I am about to tell you is true. That poor widow has just put more into the offering box than all the others. They all gave a lot because they are rich. But she gave even though she is poor. She put in everything she had. That was all she had to live on.” (Mark 12:41-44 NIV). This reading is about much more than money; it is about putting all you have into what you do, especially into your relationship with God. You can either be all in or you can be only partially in. Does your faith shine through throughout your daily life or is it only apparent on Sundays or when it serves a purpose? To live a godly life takes practice. It takes commitment.

It all comes down to this, “Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.” (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV). The bottom line is that commitment is making a plan and putting that plan into practice.

I hope this message finds you all safe, healthy, and happy. Peace be with you all.

*Stevie Stibor*

Regional Mission Team, Director of Children’s Ministries

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## **NOISY COLLECTION - 3rd Sunday each month**

***Bring your noisy coins (and quiet dollars) on Sunday, May 16 to help support OCJLP.***

### **The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Inc. (OCJLP)**

provides educational opportunities to incarcerated adults through compassionate delivery of services and community support in a secular, non-discriminatory educational environment.



“The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program continues to positively impact not just education, but also the attitude and feelings of self-worth of inmates housed at the Ozaukee County Jail.” - Sheriff James G. Johnson

For more information contact Grace Eernisse or go to [www.ozaukeejailiteracy.org](http://www.ozaukeejailiteracy.org)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

	May
Joanne Schmidt	8
Ed Freier	18
Merton Lueptow	21
Jackson Foster	23
Danielle Klinski	25
Peter Schmidt	25
Allan Keller	27
Erica Lueptow	29
Kay Hamann	30
Joe Klinski	30
Justin Meins	31

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

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

**May Volunteers**

May	Host	Lay Reader	A/V
2	Larry Maechtle Mark Grams	Kay Hamann	Dan Benning Scott Penkivech
9	Larry Maechtle Mark Grams	Mary Kae Geittmann	Dan Benning Scott Penkivech
16	Larry Maechtle Mark Grams	Marc Eernisse	Dan Benning Vicky Schafman
23	Larry Maechtle Mark Grams	Gailya Geib	Scott Penkivech Vicky Schafman
30	Larry Maechtle Vicky Schafman	Rama Bharadwaj	Dan Benning Scott Penkivech

**Volunteers needed and much appreciated!**

To volunteer, please contact Vicky Schafman  
office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com 262-284-9478

The outside **Little<sup>faith</sup> Library** is getting low on books. Do you have Christian books that are just sitting on your book shelf? Why not donate them to the church? People walking past the church do stop and see what's available. We pray the books and Bibles that have been taken help and bless the readers.

Please bring your books to the church office.

Questions?  
Contact Vicky Schafman

**DO YOU LIKE TO GARDEN?**

The planted areas in the front of our building and back parking lot need a gardener! If you enjoy gardening and would be willing to care for these areas, please contact Sandy Grams, Trustee Chair or Vicky Schafman in the church office.


Remember to  


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. Any orders not picked up will be mailed.**

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**

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)

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

*Shared Regional Mission Team:*

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Director of Children's Ministry	Stevie Stibor	<a href="mailto:stevies@cedarburgcumc.org">stevies@cedarburgcumc.org</a>
Director of Senior Adult Ministry	Rev. John Strassburger	<a href="mailto:jhstrassburger@wi.rr.com">jhstrassburger@wi.rr.com</a>

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