



Grand Ave Church

the VINE

*I am the vine, you are the branches ...
John 15:5*

Pastor: Rev Don Greer

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

FEBRUARY 2021

Hello Friends,

We are moving into the second month of the new year. Are you, on occasion like me, still writing 2020? It's born of habit. Accepting the new sometimes takes time, even when we may be looking forward to changes. The "old" can retain some hold on us while we are moving forward. In some respects it would be easier if we could simply set some of the past down and embrace what is coming to us from God's future.

On the road of faith, the Spirit of God calls to us from what is meant to be realized. I believe we are most alive when we sense that we are being receptive or open to God's dreaming. Jesus said: "The Spirit blows where it wishes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going..." Our best response is a willingness to put ourselves at God's disposal. Our discernment of God's movement within and among us is through a prayerful heart and the wise company of the community of faith.

I am grateful for the church. New things will be coming to us as a church during this year. I pray that I will be open to that which we will share together and grateful for God's sustaining presence throughout our lives.

God bless you,

Pastor John Strassburger

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

As we enter the month of February, we continue the journey of personal and communal renewal and renovation that happens when we tap into the Parables of Jesus. We have been walking through several of Jesus' parables during our weekly video services and have been digging deeper in our weekly audio podcast. We will continue to unearth what God is speaking to us through Jesus' parables in early February.

This year provides us with an early Easter (April 3), Ash Wednesday (February 17), and Lenten season, which means all of us will be considering the path to the cross beginning in February in our online services. It seems fitting that we look at the Parables of Jesus, because they point us to the paradoxically Christian path of finding life through death - that on the other side of the cross we find God! It is a difficult message for us to wrap our minds around, and very often Jesus' teachings and words don't make sense to our rational minds. But through experience, we can attest to the life-giving freedom that comes when one "lays down their life for their friends." Even amid the brokenness of our world, God is still alive and active through the Body of Christ.



Please join us online, share our weekly services with a friend, and take advantage of this time in your home to meditate on what God has done for you and through you in the world.

Both our video service and audio podcast can be found on our church website.

Nathaniel Gruber, Director of Family Ministries & Discipleship
Grand Avenue UMC & Community UMC, WI



From the Green Corner

Helping the environment with 4 simple changes.

		Waste you save per year
1 reusable bag		= 783 plastic bags 
1 reusable bottle		= 83 plastic bottles 
1 reusable cup		= 1256 plastic cups 
1 reusable straw		= 295 plastic straws 

A Message from Stevie Stibor, Regional Mission Team

KINDNESS

Kindness. Sadly, in today's world, this has become more of a buzz word than an actual behavior. So often, we get lost and we go throughout our day thinking only of ourselves and ourselves alone. We get caught up in our day-to-day routines; striving to climb higher and higher, get more and more. But are our lives really measured by our monetary success? Are the material, tangent things we have at the end of the day truly what matters most? I know as you read this, you are probably answering "no" to both questions. That is, after all, what we are supposed to say, right? But do our lives reflect this? Are we fulfilled by possessions or by goodness in spirit, in kindness, in generosity, in consideration?

I hope you take some time to think about this and let this be a call to action. Believe me, I know that many of you are genuinely kind, both in your behavior and in your actions. But let this be a call to action to inspire kindness in others by living our lives in a way that reflects goodness towards our families, our friends, those in need and those who are different from us. Once it starts, it is so contagious.

Have you ever gone through a Starbuck's (or any) drive thru to find that the car ahead of you paid for your order? It is the best when that happens. Not because someone else paid for you but because it brightens your day and inspires you to be kind; to pay it forward. If this has happened to you, you paid for the order placed by the car behind you, didn't you? Because kindness is contagious. For me, there has never been a time in which I financially came out ahead because of these random acts of kindness; the order behind me is always more expensive than mine but that is not the point. It is about the joy it brought to my day, in the inspiration, the reminder to be kind to others, because we are all God's family.

Let me offer a true definition. Kindness is a behavior marked by *acts* of generosity, consideration, or concern for others *without expecting anything in return*. In its truest form, it is not about the limelight, praise or reward. It is doing something, actively, that does not require notoriety, that does not require payback. It is about doing good because we are good, more importantly because God is absolutely good. He created us and entrusted us to take care of our world and of each other.

God was kind to us even when we did not deserve it. Because of His love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Those we know and those we do not know. Those who are like us and those who are different from us. Everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. When you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and you show them how much God loves them.

Kindness should be a characteristic of people who follow Jesus. Not only did Jesus model kindness He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated. It is the "golden rule", Matthew 7:12(a), "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."

Throughout the month of February, children's ministry will focus on kindness. We will emphasize that kindness is not just a word or the latest fad, it is an action. It is a conscience decision to do for others, to accept others despite our differences, and it is to do these things without the expectation of reward or acknowledgement. It is being kind because we strive to be good.

Each week our messages will concentrate on one of four key concepts:

1. Be kind to others because God is kind to you.
2. Be kind to family and friends.
3. Be kinder than you have to be.
4. Be kind to people who are different from you.

While these messages are delivered via our children's ministry venues (primarily Facebook and our family website, www.cumcmosaic.com), I invite everyone of all ages to engage in these teachings. We certainly can all learn to be kinder and inspire others by our acts of kindness. It is contagious!

"You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So, put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." Colossians 3:12, NIV



Shout *Hallelujah*

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NOISY COLLECTION - 3rd Sunday each month

February Noisy Collection benefits United Methodist Children's Services

*Even though we won't be bringing our noisy coins
and shaking the buckets in church on February 21, we can
cash in our coins and mail a "quiet" check to the church.*

Shout Hallelujah! as you drop it in the mailbox!

UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S SERVICES WHERE MIRACLES HAPPEN

History

United Methodist Children's Services was organized in 1962 and serves men, women, children, and families.

Mission

Based upon its fundamental belief in God's love, United Methodist Children's Services values the dignity, potential, and worth of each individual; and creates a nurturing environment and sense of community in which miracles happen.

Services Include:

- The Growing Tree Children's Center. Serving children in the UMCS housing program and those in the surrounding community. Many children are from families who participate in the W-2 Welfare to Work Program.
- The Family Resource Center. One of the largest emergency food pantry sites in Milwaukee County, based on the number of people it serves. Through this invaluable resource, United Methodist Children's Services can distribute emergency food supplies and clothing to low-income families and provide other essential community services.
- Seventy units of low-income, affordable housing. The housing program provides safe, quality residences for families. The families also receive additional support services to ensure their needs are met.
- Sustainable community initiative. This program works within the Washington Park Neighborhood to ensure it's a safe place for residents to live, work, and play.

**UMCS videos showing updates to their housing and food pantry programs
are available on our church website at www.portumc.com**

LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH

Sunday nights from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Due to COVID restrictions, Lighthouse Youth Group is meeting at Christ the King Church until further notice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hamilton & Dinner	February 12
Treat Yo Self Spa Night	February 26
Live Action Among Us	March 5
Movie Night	March 13

All middle and high school youth are welcome! If you'd like more information, please feel free to contact me.

Erica Brooks <erica@vineyardchurch.co>
Lighthouse Youth Director
Youth Pastor, Vineyard Church

Happy Birthday

	January
Jake Freeland	3
Nelson Benning	9
Melissa Strand	11
Todd Bloedow	11
Nancy Haacke	14
Alexis Reichardt	16
Kayla Klinski	17
Chris Killey	19
Will Kissinger	20
Rene Keller	22
Laura Didier	27

Happy Anniversary

	February
Larry & June Caro	19
Gregg & Erica Lentz	26

2021 CHURCH DIRECTORY

New directories are available in pdf and printed formats. PDF directories will be emailed. Printed copies will be handed out in our church parking lot on Monday, Feb 1 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm and also on Tuesday, Feb 2 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

Any questions, contact Vicky Schafman at office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com or 920-207-6575

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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Shared Regional Mission Team:

Director of Family Ministries & Discipleship	Nate Gruber	nateg@cedarburgcumc.org
Director of Children's Ministry	Stevie Stibor	stevies@cedarburgcumc.org
Senior Adult Ministry	Rev. John Strassburger	jhstrassburger@wi.rr.com

Bishop: Rev. Hee-Soo Jung

District Superintendent: Rev. Forrest Wells

Remember to
ShopWithScrip®

Scrip orders are due by **noon on the first MONDAY of each month**. You can *mail your orders* to the church or drop off your order in the west door mail slot just outside Pastor's office. 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 mailed to you. Any questions, contact Vicky on her cell 920-207-6575 or email at office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com

For a complete list of over 700 retailers, go to 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	_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____

ORDER TOTAL _____ **\$** _____

Your Name _____ **Check #** _____ **Order Date** _____