



# 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)

**July 2021**



We are invited to gather with grace for each other as a Christian faith community.

It is challenging to keep up with the many changes and challenges we face each day due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of those challenges is to consider the issue of reopening our facilities for worship and other uses. We know that everyone has done their part to reduce the risk of the virus significantly. Based on the May 13, 2021 CDC and DHS guidance along with the high individual vaccination rate for Ozaukee County and our congregation, the Administrative Council directs that we can return to all aspects of our facility usage policy to pre-pandemic levels for fully vaccinated people. Those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to social distance and wear masks as well as anyone who feels more comfortable continuing to use these precautions.

### Beginning July 1, 2021

Hymnals & Bibles in pews  
Kids Bags available  
Unrestricted pew seating  
Greeters  
Hymn Singing  
Singers/Musicians  
Communion via intinction  
Gatherings/Meetings  
Fundraisers

### Beginning September 1, 2021

Socializing in Fellowship Hall  
Coffee/Juice after service  
Cookies/Snacks after service  
Catered Meals  
Potluck Meals



Dear Grand Ave Church,  
You are such a blessing. Your generous gift to Feed My Starving Children is sending 4,487 MannaPack meals to those around the world who need it most. Every gift matters to a hungry child. You're saving lives. You're providing hope.

May God bless you,  
Mark Crea Executive Director/CEO

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



By Erica Brooks, Lighthouse Youth Director  
[erica.brooks@lighthouseyouth.org](mailto:erica.brooks@lighthouseyouth.org)

Lighthouse's weekly youth group is on pause for the summer, we will resume after Labor Day! Starting this fall we will be offering small groups for high school students. Small groups will be offered in Cedarburg and Port Washington. These groups will be going through an interactive video series called Alpha. We would love to be able to offer one more group so 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 great time for youth and their families to learn more about Lighthouse; as well as play games, eat food, and possibly win some cool prizes. All are welcome! Information will be available later this summer. For more information about Lighthouse or to contact us please visit our website, [www.lighthouseyouth.org](http://www.lighthouseyouth.org).

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### Did You Know ...

Only around 14% of plastic bottles sent to recycling are actually recycled? It depends on the for-profit market.

And what about all those bottles that never make it into the recycling bin? It's shocking to read that (according to Science Magazine) **8 million TONS** of plastic bottles end up in our planet's oceans and seas each year! It's estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than **fish in the sea!!!**

If you didn't get your reusable bag and bottle on Sunday June 20, please see Sue Merrill or Mary Kae Geittmann.

## VBS - Focus

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is right around the corner, and I hope that this four-day spiritual, devotional and super fun event will have a strong, lasting impact on the lives of our children. And, also, the lives of our adult and student volunteers! So, mark your calendars, save the dates, and get your children, your grandchildren, your friends, and your neighbors registered now!

**Monday, August 2 through Thursday, August 5 9:00am until Noon**  
**At Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Cedarburg**

To register for VBS, please visit the CUMC website at [cedarburgcumc.org/events/](http://cedarburgcumc.org/events/)

Everything we do during VBS this summer will have an emphasis on FOCUS. Remembering that faith is about acknowledging God's presence in what we can see but also in what we cannot see. It is about knowing that He is always there, touching our lives, loving us and His reach and ability is immeasurable and, frankly, inconceivable.

Let me take a minute to *focus* on what you can see. "Ever since the world was created it has been possible to see the qualities of God that are not seen. I'm talking about His eternal power and about the fact that He is God. Those things can be seen in what He has made." Romans 1:20

Think of it this way, you woke up this morning, and, more than likely, each person reading this started their day in the same way: you opened your eyes. But what did you see? Here is where things begin to differ.

For some of you, it may have been bright beams of sunshine bursting through your bedroom window. Maybe you climbed out of bed to a world that looked similar to the way it did when you laid your head down last night. Maybe your eyes peeked open to the slobbery face of that sweet dog who loyally keeps you cozy each night. Or perhaps it was a peaceful toddler who finally gave way to slumber once you allowed them to crawl into bed with you in the middle of the night . . . again.

Regardless of how you began your day, sunny or dark, quietly, or loudly, alone or surrounded by others, God faithfully gave you another day. This truth remains the same for everyone, and no one else gets the credit for giving you this. Only God has the power to set the world in motion the way He does. After all, "From the sunrise in the east to the sunset in the west, may the name of the Lord be praised." Psalm 113:3 I am certain God does this on purpose. Because no matter how difficult of a day you had yesterday, He lovingly gives you a new one today. And with that, He provides you with the daily evidence that He is here, and He is in control.

Now, let's *focus* on what we can hear from God. "So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the 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." Matthew 7:24-27 We can probably all agree that life is hard. Whether you are plowing through the inevitable challenges that "adulting" brings (parenting, paying bills, navigating tricky relationships, etc.) or you are a teenager or college student trying to manage school and friendships and discovering what you want to do with your life, IT'S HARD. And I have not even mentioned the storms. Because those happen, too, unfortunately. And they always seem to pop up at the most inconvenient times, don't they? Your car breaks down when you have a million places you need to go. The air conditioning in your house goes out when your bank account is already in the red. Or your boyfriend breaks up with you when you especially needed the companionship.

Life is hard for kids, too. Many of them are dealing with situations that are far too complicated for them to sort out. Perhaps all they see is chaos swirling around them, and they are searching for something steady and solid. It is vital that we show kids they can trust God no matter what, even in the storms. One of the goals during VBS and always is to help kids understand that God gave us His Word because He wants to be with us through the chaos. He knew things would be hard, so He lovingly provided us with His own words to guide us through it all.

Next, let's *focus* on knowing that we can talk with others about what we believe. "Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There He asked His disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist. Others say Elijah. Still others say Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' He asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! No mere human showed this to you. My Father in heaven showed this to you. Here is what I tell you. You are Peter. On this rock I will build my church. The gates of hell will not be strong enough to destroy it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven.'" Then Jesus ordered His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah." Matthew 16:13-20

Our age tends to play a huge role in our willingness to talk to others about what we believe, don't you think? It is not unusual for younger children to proclaim anything they believe to anyone they meet. And they tend to do it without shame and without filter! At this age, there is no fear of what others might think. The need to fit in does not really exist. But somewhere along the line, that changes.

Why does it become more difficult with age to talk to others about the Good News of Jesus? Because our awareness becomes greater, the need for acceptance grows stronger, and we become more selective in the places we consider to be safe.

So, with that in mind, let me take a minute to *focus* on prayer because praying for strength to continue to spread the love of Jesus is a powerful thing. Remember, you can pray anytime, anywhere, about anything. "When you pray, do not be like those who only pretend to be holy...When you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who can't be seen. Your Father will reward you because He sees what you do secretly. When you pray, do not keep talking on and on...Your Father knows what you need even before you ask Him." Matthew 6:5-8

It can be difficult to strike the right balance between reverence and relationship in our own prayer lives. Yes, when we pray, we are speaking to God, the One who made the world and everything in it. He deserves our utmost honor, respect, and admiration.

But another unrivaled quality about our Father is that He is accessible all the time. And He desires for His people to have a constant line of communication with Him. He does not require eloquent words from you, but rather your authentic and unique voice. He made you, after all. He knit you together, so He understands what upsets you, what pleases you, and what makes you lie awake at night. He simply wants you to trust Him enough to talk with Him about all of it. He wants this for children too. So, keep in mind that most kids learn how to pray by observing the habits of the adults in their lives. We all have significant opportunities to show the children in our lives that prayer can happen anytime or anywhere, and they can talk to God about ANYTHING!

Finally, let us always remember (and keep our *focus* on the fact) that we can live for God by loving others. A Pharisee asked Jesus, "'Teacher', he asked, 'which is the most important commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love Him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself!' Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments." Matthew 22-36:40 You have been given a priceless opportunity to live for God through how you love others. I hope this message has been a refreshing reminder of how to continue doing what you do as you FOCUS on the Lord. Be well. You are loved.

And do not forget to sign up for VBS today!! If you have children in your life, sign them up for this multi-day event. If you are a middle and high school student, please consider volunteering for this. It is a great opportunity to get some service hours! And, of course, any adult that wants an opportunity to enrich the lives of our children are encouraged to volunteer. There are leadership, 2-deep, behind-the-scenes, and other roles, so come as you are, you will not regret it!

I do hope you'll join us for this fun and enriching outdoor VBS experience!

*Stevie Stibor*, Director of Children's Ministries



## NOISY COLLECTION - 3rd Sunday each month

### Our Noisy Collection on July 18 will help support the Summerfield UMC Meal Program costs

Summerfield UMC serves a free hot meal on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 12 pm – 2 pm and Saturdays 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm to those in need. They never know how many guests to expect, but everyone who comes during open hours receives a hot meal.



#### Goals:

- Provide a safe environment where people can receive a nourishing hot meal.
- Offer an opportunity to establish personal connections or to reconnect with others on a regular basis.
- Help our guests identify and believe people have worth and value.
- Make available opportunities of personal transformation to our volunteers as well as our guests.

“...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me...” Matthew 25:40

Bring your coins & let's make a lot of noise on Sunday, July 18 to help support the costs of the Summerfield UMC Meal Program (quiet contributions also gladly accepted).

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

	July
Brandon Straughn	3
Stacy Zwicker	3
Melanie Strand	4
Gwen Freier	7
Steve Freier	8
Bentley Paulson	10
Darleen Reichardt	11
Patricia Strand	11
Cassidy Penkivech	19
Sue Merrill	21
Keith Betker	21
Mark Breuer	24
Kelly Weltin	27
Connie Schmitz	27
Mardy McGarry	29
Mary Kae Geittmann	29
Erin Foster	30



#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

	July
Phill B. & Mary Kae G.	3
Mark & Sandy Grams	3
Steve & Grace Prom	12
Charles & Lin Lohr	17
Steve & Cathy Walters	17



### July Volunteers

Thank you for serving in our ministry

<u>July</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>A/V</u>
4	Larry Maechtler	Pat Craig	Vicky Schafman
11	Larry Maechtler Mark Grams	Rama Bharadwaj	Dan Benning
18	Larry Maechtler	Ardelle Dionne	Scott Penkivech Vicky Schafman
25	Larry Maechtler	Mark Grams	Scott Penkivech Vicky Schafman

✚ We are in great need of people to help Host. This is 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 Maechtler or contact Vicky Schafman in the church office: office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com or 262-284-9478

✚ Many people enjoy socializing after the service. As we phase back into normal church life, we would like to offer a *simple* coffee hour after the Sunday worship 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 cookies or crackers if they choose to do so. The coffee hour attendant 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 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)

<b>Lead Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Don Greer</b>	pwumc@wi.twcbc.com
Lay Leader:	Dan Benning	bennida01@att.net
Admin. Assist:	Vicky Schafman	office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com

*Shared Regional Mission Team:*

Director of Family Ministries & Discipleship	Nate Gruber	nateg@cedarburgcumc.org
Director of Children's Ministry	Stevie Stibor	stevies@cedarburgcumc.org

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

# July 2021

**Grand Avenue United Methodist Church**  
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 262-284-9478 www.portumc.com

Rev. Don Greer pwumc@wi.twcbc.com  
 Church Office office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 5:30pm Private Group FAC	2	3
4 Independence Day 10 am Worship with communion	5	6	7 7pm AA Mtg - FAC	8 5:30pm Private Group FAC	9	10
11 10 am Worship	12	13	14 7pm AA Mtg - FAC	15 6:30pm Ad Council Mtg Fellowship Hall 5:30pm Private Group FAC	16	17
18 10 am Worship	19	20 10am Stockbox Distr. FAC	21 7pm AA Mtg - FAC	22 5:30pm Private Group FAC	23	24
25 10 am Worship	26	27	28 7pm AA Mtg - FAC	29 5:30pm Private Group FAC	30	31