

January 2024
the VINE



We continue to offer our prayers, love, and support to Pastor Vince and his family as they journey through the unimaginable grief and pain of the passing of their son and brother, Nicholas Pepin.

In Times of Sorrow

May you see God's light on the path ahead

When the road you walk is dark.

May you always hear,

Even in your hour of sorrow,

The gentle singing of the lark.

When times are hard may hardness

Never turn your heart to stone,

May you always remember

when the shadows fall,

You do not walk alone.

- Author Unknown

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

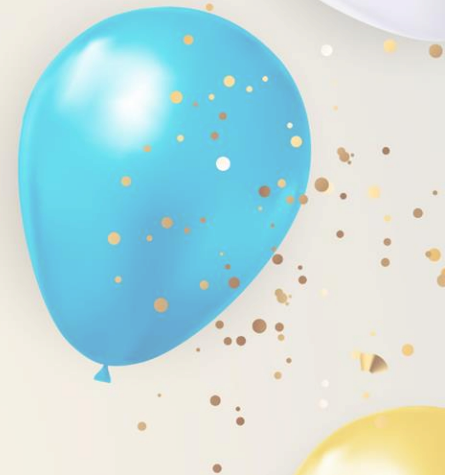
505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 www.portumc.com

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
Council Chairperson:	Mark Grams	mgrams@wi.rr.com
SPRC Chairperson:	Mary Kae Geittmann	mkaeg214@gmail.com
Bishop: Rev. Hee-Soo Jung / District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Insor		

CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday

Larry Maechtle	1
Tori Meins	3
Cathy Guse	12
Lin Lohr	13
Axton Meins	16
Larry Caro	19
Charles Kirkendall	23
Ann Schmidt	23
Rick De Yarman	25
Rama Bharadwaj	27
Victoria Berger	30
Gregg Lentz	30



VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, *Volunteers*, for serving in our ministry!

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
1/7	Larry Maechtle	Mary Downing	<i>Needed*</i>	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
1/14	Larry Maechtle	Marc Eernisse	n/a	Guse Family	Scott Penkivech
1/21	Larry Maechtle	Sandy Grams	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
1/28	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech

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

CHRISTMAS JOY



A great time was had by all on the bus trip to the Old World Christmas Market in Elkhart Lake. A big thank you to the Griesmeyers for the gift of the trip.

CHRISTMAS JOY, cont.

Awesome Women Christmas Dinner



Thank you to all the women of the church that could attend this year's Awesome Women Christmas Dinner at Plier's Full Circle Restaurant. The Port Washington High School choir was delightful, the meal delicious, and the company divine.



FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES



January Events

January 7th from 6:00-8:30pm - Skateland

Join us as we “roll” into 2024 with a skate party at Ozaukee Skateland! We’ll meet at Lighthouse at 6:00 and carpool to Cedarburg together. Admission and skate rental is included, but feel free to bring a few \$ for snacks if you would like.



January 21st from 6:30-8:00 pm – Video Games and Birthday Kits

Show off your skills and enjoy some friendly competition with a variety of group-friendly video games such as Mario Kart or Wii Sports. Plus, while you’re waiting for your turn to play, we will be assembling birthday kits to donate to our local food pantries.

Help the Lighthouse Youth spread some birthday joy to those in our community!



Lighthouse will once again be collecting items such as cake mix, frosting, candles, etc. to assemble “birthday kits” to donate to our local food pantries. These kits will help ensure that pantry guests can enjoy a birthday celebration on their special day. **Be on the lookout for the birthday cake collection poster at each church with more details about what items are needed.**

Please submit all donations by Wednesday, January 17th.

Lighthouse events are open to all students in grades 5-12 and, unless otherwise noted, take place at Lighthouse HQ (513 W. Grand Ave. in Port Washington).

Have questions about Lighthouse or want to get involved?

Contact Director Christin Flucke at 262-483-9582 or christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org

THANK YOU NOTES

Grand Ave. UMC,

Thank you for all the contributions you made to the Jingle Bell Bash! The gifts you donated are the reason kids will have smiling faces on Christmas morning.

The generosity from you and your members does not go unnoticed.

Thank you,

Family Promise



Thanks to all who supported The Food Pantry in 2023. Because of you, The Food Pantry was able to assist 380 families, and over 1,000 members. God bless you for helping those most in need!
- The Port Food Pantry

A huge thank you to Dan Benning and Dave & Rebecca Derk for putting up our Christmas tree this year, and to John & Cheryl Wozniak, Larry Maechtle, Barb Jones, Jean Butler, and Gwen Freier for decorating the tree and the church.





505 W. Grand Avenue
Port Washington, WI 53074
LighthouseYouth.org
IRS Non-Profit #83-1944535

December 18, 2023

Dear Members of Grand Avenue United Methodist Church,

Thank you very much for your recent contributions to support Lighthouse Youth Ministry's 2023 Giving Tuesday fundraising event!

We appreciate all those who contributed items for the auction baskets, as well as everyone who was able to attend the event. We also want to extend an extra thank you to your congregation for allowing us to utilize your building to host the event! Because of friends like you, Lighthouse was able to raise more than \$10,000 on Giving Tuesday, November 28, 2023! All of the proceeds from this event will be used for youth programming and ongoing improvements at our youth center.

We are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support of Lighthouse and investment in the youth of our community. We ask for your continued prayers and generosity as we work to grow this ministry and fulfill our mission of offering a safe and affirming community where all youth grades 5-12 are WELCOMED regardless of religious affiliation or beliefs, EMPOWERED to explore questions of faith and life, and EQUIPPED to serve their community and the world.

Your friends,

Alex Pieper
Lighthouse Board President

Christin Flucke
Lighthouse Program Director



Thank you to everyone that donated books to enhance the children's library at the Portlight Shelter! Grand Avenue Church looks forward to starting the new Children's Tutoring and Book Donation ministry in the new year.

LOVE LIGHTS 2023

Giving thanks for all the gifts of life and love. We praise God for the people who have so richly blessed our lives by offering this gift of Love Lights for missions through our apportionments.

In honor of our children and our parents.

In memory of Evalyn Jean Eernisse.

From Jill Eernisse and Bob Graff

In honor of my church family, GAUMC. Every single one of you touch my heart with feelings of happiness and joy.

In memory of my cousin William Nerhus, Fargo, ND.

From Mary Downing

In honor of my brother Paul for being a great help to me these months.

In memory of my parents, sister-in-law Wendy Maechtle, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and Muriel Ford and Barb Preising.

From Larry Maechtle

In memory of Harold Aagerup.

From Barb Aagerup

In memory of Phill Bruno, who brought so much laughter into my life!

From Mary Kae Geittmann

In memory of Lucille Miller, Bette Guse, and Esther E.

From Cathy and Dave Guse

In honor of family and friends.

From Margaret and Merton Lueptow

In honor of our dear family and our special friends.

From Grace and Marc Eernisse

In honor of Debie & Dennis Armstrong and Dave & Cathy Guse.

In memory of Ken Blanton, Skip Holle, and Michael Holle.

From Barbara Jones

In honor of my sons Dennis and Peter.

In memory of my husband Denny and parents Wilfred and Alma Maechtle.

From Susan Merrill

In honor of my daughter, Joanne and sister, Lavern.

In memory of my husband Paul, sister Arline, sister-in-law Jane, niece Veronica, and Muriel Ford.

From Edna Koskamp

In honor of my daughter, Chris Craig, and son, Todd Craig.

In memory of my sister Jean Tippery.

From Pat Craig

In loving memory of Wayne Frank From, Spencer Frank Family, Sean Frank Family, and Stefan Frank Family.

From Barbara Frank with love and memories.

In honor of Bob and Jan Griesmeyer.

From Mary, Gailya, Nancy, Gwen, Val, cousin Val, Jean, Barbara, Mary Kae, Ermine, Sarah, Rama, Netta, and Bonnie

In honor of the Pepin Family.

In memory of my dear son, Peter.

From Mary Kae Geittmann

In honor of my Mom, Aunt Laverne, Pastor Vince, Sherri Pepin and family, and organist Abigail Grosnick.

In memory of my Dad, Aunt Jane, cousin Veronica, Mrs. Janeshek, and Nick Pepin.

From Joanne Koskamp

In honor of the newest member of our family, Zion.

In memory of my teammate and best friend, Bob Hamann.

From Kay Hamann

In honor of our children Tab, Robyn, and Marty. Grandchildren Sarah, Brandon, Brittany, and Nick. Great-grandchildren Aiden, Jordy, and Ivy.

In memory of our parents, Charles and Frances Price & Gertrude and Richard Freeland. Brothers Ken Price and Ken Freeland. Sister-in-law Shelly. Neice Kim. Sarah's Mom Donna.

From Jake and Netta Freeland

In honor of Chuck and Abby.

In memory of Katie Sue.

From Lin Lohr

In honor of children, grandchildren, granddaughter, and grandson graduation.

In memory of Emily Cleer, Harris, Elizabeth, Marshall Sullivan, Floyd & Helen Cleer, Elizabeth Champlin, and Jack and Skip Flack.

From Laura & Mark Flack

In honor of children Connie & Dennis, Debbie & Chris, Heidi & Brian, Vickie & Jon, Bob, John & Jackie.

In honor of grandchildren Joe & Carla, Emily & Keith, Zach & Ally, Nicole & Brett, Candy & Adam, Sara & Kenney, Josh & Tori, Justin & Steffany, Jacob & Hanna, Danelle & Greg, Mike, Frank, Amber, and Jonathan.

In honor of great-grandchildren Ethan, Izaiah, Ava, Carson, Evelyn, Kaylie, Grayson, Alarik, Rune, Parker, Aydon, Kaylee, Owen, Axton, Kayson, Iris, and Calvin.

In memory of Mother, Dad, Stepfather Joe, Sister-in-law Buzz, and dear daughter-in-law Mary.

From Judy Maechtle

In honor of Douglas, Patricia, and Tyler.

In memory of Parents David & Sadie Schmidt and Edwin & Josephine Gantner.

From Edward & Joanne Schmidt

In honor of Marissa Keller Garcia who through faith and courage has been fighting breast cancer for 3+ years.
In honor of our children, Melissa & Aaron White, Matthew Grams, Our grandchildren Sydney, Taylor, and Skylar White. Our father Eddie Grams.

In memory of our parents, Walt & Mary Tebbit, Dee Grams, our brothers, Brad & Gary Grams, and our friend Sarah Stitt Collins.

From Mark and Sandy Grams

In honor of my daughters, Steph, Carrie, and Sarah, and my friends of Grand Ave Church.

In memory of Allan Haacke, my husband of 44 years, and my parents, Beth and Don Conway.

From Nancy Haacke

In honor of my mother Judy Maechtle, children Nicole (Brett), Michael, Candance (Adam), Franklyn, and grandchildren Calvin and Iris.

In memory of Grandma Funk and Dad Monroe.

From Deb Jacobs

In honor of our children Mark & Tina, Randy & Anne, and Steve. Our grandchildren Sarah & Jaryd, Karl, Emily, Michael & Scooter.

In memory of Parents Ed & Lydia Freier and Adolph & Charlotte Thein.

From Ed & Gwen Freier

In memory of David Olson.

From Anne Marie Olson

In honor of George & Clara Miller and William & Emma Martin.

In memory of William & Dorothy Martin, Fred & Johanna Wilke, and Carl & Louisa Setzer Families, Benj and Scooter Martin.

From Jay Martin

In memory of Calvin and Muriel Ford, Teri Gosewehr, Marilyn Davis, and Niki Seabright. **From**
Forever missed by Debra, Lori, Patti, and Stacy

In honor of my husband, Scott, and daughters, McKenna, Madison, and Mallory. Beyond blessed.

From Stacy Zwicker

In honor of my family, Debra Ford; Lori & Gary Lanser (Cody & Mary Leigh, Alexis, Jordan, and Seth); Patti & Dale Rismeyer (Kyle and Adam & Erika Daane); Greg Gosewehr, Justin & Stephanie (Jameson) Urban, and Matt Gosewehr. Forever blessed.

From Stacy Zwicker

In honor of Kevin, Curt, Jeff & Jamie, Allison, Alyssa, Jordyn, Logan, Alec, Hunter, Cody, Dakota, and Leland.

In memory of Mom & Dad, brother Jim & Dan, nephew Mike & Brandon, sweet niece Carrie Sue, and friends Diane & Ramona.

From Cathy Smith

In loving honor of the Pepin Family.

In loving memory of Nicholas Pepin.

From Your Grand Avenue Church family



United Methodist Corner

Wesley called salvation and faith the two great pillars of Christianity. In last column, I described Wesley's understanding of salvation. This month's column explores the Wesleyan/United Methodist understanding of the word faith. What is meant by the word "faith" in our tradition? Wesley understood faith not primarily as assenting or adhering to certain doctrines, but about trusting in God for what God has done and will continue to do in our lives. Faith for Wesley was not primarily about the faith that we will someday go to heaven. Faith has very much to do with the way in which we live this life. **Faith is about being transformed by the One in whom we put our trust.** We need to be careful and not come to think that "faith" is something that we possess or something that we do, like good works. Faith is a gift of God that we are to exercise to enable us to place our trust and our lives in the hands of a Compassionate and Gracious God.

Faith and salvation are deeply connected. We are assured that we are saved and justified by our trust that Christ died for our sins. We did nothing to deserve or earn this salvation. As Roman 5:9 says, "While we were yet sinners (dead in our trespasses), Christ died for us. This shows God's unconditional love for us". God did something for us that we can't do for ourselves. We trust that as we give our lives to God and follow Christ on the road of discipleship, that the Spirit will work to perfect us in love for God and our neighbor. This is called sanctifying grace which saves us and which restores us and renews us God's loving image.

You may have heard the line that we walk by faith and not by sight. Even though the Spirit may seem invisible to us, our faith is not wishful thinking, undue optimism or fantasy. Faith has substance. Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as the "assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen". Wesley describes this divine assurance in Hebrews as divine evidence. He wrote that you cannot stand convicted of something unless you have some evidence that moves you to trust in the things you cannot see. He uses the example that before we can live as children of God, we must first have the assurance (evidence) that God is claiming us as His children. Wesley cites Romans 8:16 as such evidence, "but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God." We may not be able to see with our physical sight, but God grants us the capacity to trust with our spiritual sight.

We may not know what is exactly coming down the road, but we know that our future is secure in God's hands. God is our God and we are His people. This is expressed in one of the greatest admonitions of our faith in all of scripture from the Apostle Paul, "No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:36-39).

Blessings, Dave.

CHURCH NEWS

The AED Project is Done!



We now have our second AED device which will be installed in the FAC soon. Many thanks go to the people who donated to this project, to Stacy Peters for her help organizing it, and to the George Warren AED Fund, which donated our second machine.

George Warren was a dentist practicing in Madison. In 2002, while out for a run, he suffered a heart attack. The first police car responding to the 911 call did not have an AED, but the second car arriving did. That AED saved Dr. Warren's life and put him on a path of raising funds for and donating AEDs for first responders and for public spaces in southern Wisconsin. Dr. Warren passed away in 2021 but his son, Dr. Robb Warren, now runs the dental practice and continues operation of the fund. We, at the Grand

Ave Church, represent the fund's forty-fourth gift since 2002. Many thanks to Robb Warren!

We actually raised a little more money than needed. The excess, together with any donations received in the future, will be kept in a separate AED fund and used in the coming years to cover ongoing expenses for battery replacement and other maintenance needs..

CALENDAR

Monthly Events

Worship Service	Weekly Sunday at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
AA Meeting	Weekly Wednesday at 7:00 pm	FAC
Private Meeting	Weekly Thursday at 5:30 pm	FAC
ADRC Meal Distribution	Mon – Fri from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Kitchen
Social Principles Group	Tuesday Jan. 9 at 1:00 pm	Gathering Area
LifeLine Health Screening	Wednesday Jan. 10, 9 am – 5 pm	Fellowship Hall
Choir Practice	Wed. Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31 at 6:30pm	Balcony
Finance & Admin Council	Thursday Jan. 11 at 6:30 pm	via Zoom
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday Jan. 16 at 10:00am	FAC & Parking Lot
Newsletter Article Deadline	Tuesday Jan. 23	Office



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 pick-up 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*