

April 2026

the VINE



Hello Grand Avenue Church Family and Friends,

We enter April celebrating the start of spring and Easter. In fact, I view Easter as the doorway to the spring season. As nature awakens from its winter slumber and spring blossoms in color and warmth, we as Christians begin a new season of rebirth and renewal.

The significance and meaning of this singular event in human history cannot be overstated. In accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior we have conquered sin and death once and for all. This means that even when we stumble and fall short of perfection we need not worry for Jesus stands ready and willing to forgive us and restore us to right union with God. This allows us to continue on the path of transformation into the likeness of Jesus in our own lives.

As we embark on this new Christian year let us do so with joy and gratitude for the gift Jesus Christ has given us. Let us always remember that though our lives are messy, and we fall short of perfection, because He lives, we are assured that we too will live in the light of His divine love and grace.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16

“But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” - 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved” – Ephesians 2:4-5

Brother in Christ,
Pastor Vince



CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday

Cody Graff
Valerie Johnson
Mary Downing
McKenna Zwicker
Vicky Schafman
Kaylee Meins
Jean Butler
Erica Bastianello

April 1
April 2
April 4
April 8
April 12
April 14
April 16
April 18

Kelly Mc Garry
Lynn Benning
Scott Zwicker
Margaret Lueptow
Jonathan Meins
Mary Jo Lueptow
Beth Breuer

April 21
April 25
April 25
April 26
April 28
April 29
April 30

Happy Anniversary

Rick & Ermine DeYarman April 13
Jim & Jackie Sorenson April 29

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, Volunteers, for serving in our ministry!

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
4/5	Larry Maechtle	Marc Eernisse	<i>Needed*</i>	Easter Breakfast	Scott Penkivech
4/12	Larry Maechtle	Rama Bharadwaj	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
4/19	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
4/26	Larry Maechtle	Lin Lohr	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech

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

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Current Needs

Cereal, canned fruit, canned meat, Hamburger Helper, chili, boxed potatoes, pancake mix, condiments, salad dressing, black beans, garbanzo beans, taco shells, and rice.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Thank You!

Thanks to all the generous donations in the Family Promise barrel and gift card donations, we were able to make a large delivery this past month including many rolls of toilet paper, a wide array of cleaning products, and \$225 in Walmart, Meijer, and Domino's gift cards.

Thank you to all who donated!

Current Shelter Needs

[Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)



**When the
Pipes Break,
the Mission
Doesn't**

Together we can keep families safe.

Dear Friends of Family Promise,

During the extreme cold on January 24, a pipe froze and burst in our beloved Portlight Shelter.

The damage is significant. Mitigation has been recently completed, and the repairs and restoration are underway. We are working with a trusted local restoration company to make sure everything is repaired safely and thoroughly before families return to the space.

Our mission, however, has not paused.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Since January 24, the families in our shelter program have been staying in local hotel rooms so they can remain safe and together while repairs are underway.

Here is what that looks like right now:

- 5 hotel rooms
- \$70 per room, per night
- 38 days, and counting

That's \$350 per night to ensure families experiencing homelessness have a warm, secure place to sleep.

We are also covering breakfast and lunch each day. Dinner continues to be provided by our incredible volunteers.

We are grateful that we can keep serving without interruption. At the same time, these unexpected costs add up quickly.

Today, we are inviting our community to help us cover these unexpected expenses

- Hotel stays for families
- Ongoing meal support
- Repair and restoration costs

A gift of:

\$100 helps provide a night of shelter for a family

\$250 helps provide a week of meals for a family

\$500 helps cover restoration materials and labor

\$1,000 helps cover both emergency hotel stays and critical restoration work

If you are able, we would be grateful for your support.

This space is more than a building. It is where families regroup, stabilize, and take steps toward lasting independence. We are committed to reopening it as soon as it is safe and ready.

When the pipes break, the mission doesn't.

Thank you for standing with families in Ozaukee County.

With gratitude, Mike, CEO, Family Promise Ozaukee County

There is a Family Promise donation jar on the table at the back church if you want to help cover some of their unexpected expenses. Donations can also be mailed or dropped off at the Family Promise office on Grand Avenue (next door to Tello's).

Dine to Donate

Benefiting the
Family Promise of Ozaukee County
Youth Homeless Program

MONDAY, APRIL 20TH

5:00 - 8:00 PM

Culver's

1407 W. Grand, Port Washington

10% of all sales from dine-in orders, drive-through, and mobile orders will benefit the Youth Homeless Program



MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Join Voces de la Frontera, Wisconsin's largest grassroots immigration rights organization, for an informative presentation on immigration: myths, facts, and faith.

Learn important background on the challenges and opportunities that immigrant communities have, plus ways in which you can show solidarity with immigrant families in our local communities.

This is your chance to ask questions, get answers, and join a growing movement fighting for dignity for all.



DATE

WEDS., APRIL 15



TIME

1:00 PM



LOCATION

GRAND AVENUE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

505 W GRAND AVE,
PORT WASHINGTON



CONTACT

262-284-9478



Grand Avenue United
Methodist Church

www.portumc.com



VOCES
de la Frontera

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES



Upcoming Events

Please note, there will be no Lighthouse gatherings on April 5th or April 12th.



April 19th from 6:30-8:00 pm– Lighthouse Life Night

Lighthouse Life Nights will be offered once a month and will be a mix of games, conversation, and activities centered around a particular topic for each night. This semester, we will continue walking through the Bible together and digging into the Gospels and other New Testament themes as we explore God's story of love and redemption for the world.

April 26th from 6:00-8:00 pm – Bowling Event

Come enjoy a fun evening of bowling at Circle B Recreation in Cedarburg*.

Bowling, shoe rental, and snacks are all included.



**Students can be dropped off/picked up from Lighthouse HQ and we will carpool together. If you prefer to meet us at Circle B, that's fine, please just be sure to let Christin know!*

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 talk to Christin by April 19th if you're interested in participating!

**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.*

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

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



Adult Service Trip

Sunday, August 2 - Tuesday, August 4

Serve in Chicago

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors near and far. Every year, we send youth on service trips, then see pictures and hear stories of the amazing opportunities they've had to grow in faith by serving others. **This year, adults get a turn too!**

Grow in faith and fellowship with others as we spend three days and two nights in Chicago. We'll share the love of Jesus at various service and meal sites, learn from existing ministries, and laugh, pray, and worship together.



Details

- ✓ For adults from all Lighthouse partner churches
- ✓ Cost: \$200 per person
- ✓ Leaving after worship on Sunday, August 2
- ✓ Returning Tuesday evening, August 4
- ✓ Downtown Chicago free time on Tuesday afternoon
- ✓ No experience or special skills needed! There will be a mix of projects to meet all ability levels.

Where are we staying?

- ✓ Jesus People USA
- ✓ Meals included
- ✓ Dorm-style housing with bunk beds and shared bathrooms



Interested?



SIGN UP BY MARCH 29

lighthouseyouth.org/chicago2026



CHURCH NEWS



Grand Avenue United Methodist Church

505 W. Grand Avenue, Port Washington, WI 53074

262-284-9478 www.portumc.com

March 24, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of Grand Avenue United Methodist Church,

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Bishop Dan Schwerin has appointed Reverend Jerry Cho to be our new pastor, effective July 1, 2026. This announcement follows weeks of preparation by your SPRC and the bishop's cabinet on assessing the pastoral needs of our church and the cabinet's finding the best possible match of a pastor to our needs. The SPRC has been working closely with our district superintendent to ensure that our traditions, current challenges, and future opportunities are thoughtfully considered as the Bishop discerns our new pastor. The committee has met with the superintendent. This past week our committee met again with the superintendent and our new pastor.

In this Introductory Meeting the new pastor, Rev. Jerry Cho, spoke of his gifts and skills for ministry, his background and family. He is currently serving in the Bay View United Methodist Church in Milwaukee. He is married to Cindy (a retired teacher), with two stepsons, and four grandchildren. His gifts include pastoral care and counseling, visitations, cross-cultural ministry, and following the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. Our committee believes that Rev. Cho has the gifts we asked for and that we need for our ministry. We look forward to building a healthy relationship with him beginning in July.

Please join our committee in praying and working for a smooth transition of pastoral leadership, as we prepare to say goodbye to Pastor Vince Pepin and family and to welcome Pastor Cho and family into our congregation and community.

Faithfully,

Dan Benning, Lay Leader

Sandy Grams, Chairperson, Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Mary Kae Geitmann, Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Barb Frank, Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Bob Griesmeyer, Staff-Parish Relations Committee



CHURCH NEWS, cont.

Grand Avenue United Methodist Church
505 W. Grand Avenue
Port Washington, WI 53074

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Journey through this sacred week with us as we reflect on the events leading up to the crucifixion and celebrate the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday with a warm, fellowship-filled breakfast, followed by a powerful worship service.

10 AM

March 29 | Palm Sunday
Passion Narrative

6 PM

April 2 | Maundy Thursday
Last Supper Service

12-5 PM

April 3 | Good Friday
Prayer Vigil

8:30 AM

April 5 | Easter Sunday
Breakfast

10 AM

April 5 | Easter Sunday
Worship Service

For more information call 262-284-9478 or visit www.portumc.com

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.

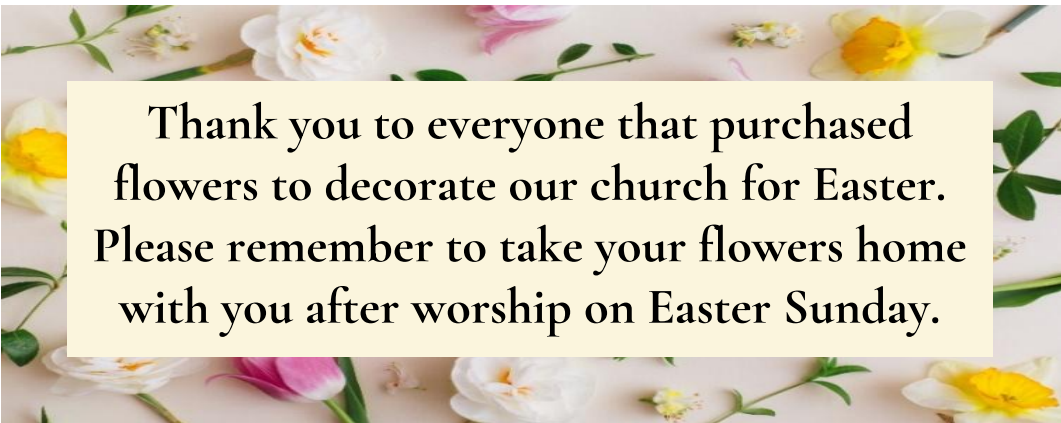
It has now been three years since our parking lot was repaved. To protect that investment and ensure a safe, welcoming space for all who gather here, it is time to reseal the lot. Regular maintenance like this helps extend its life, avoid more costly repairs in the future, and keep our facilities in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

THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you to everyone that purchased flowers to decorate our church for Easter. Please remember to take your flowers home with you after worship on Easter Sunday.



United Methodist Corner

The following quote has been attributed to John Wesley, “the world is my parish”. The history behind this quote is that Wesley was being denied the freedom to preach in some Anglican parishes. Some of the priests were jealous of Wesley because of his preaching efforts to help reform the Anglican Church. So, Wesley had decided that he would resort to outdoor preaching claiming that the world is his parish for preaching the Gospel. He would preach in the open fields and the mines where workers labored as many as sixteen-hour days. The Methodist movement soon became a popular movement spreading across England and eventually coming to North America.

In the early days of Methodism in America, pastors were assigned to a parish which was a geographical area as opposed to a building or chapel. There is a story of Bishop Francis Asbury assigning a pastor to the Natchez Circuit. When the pastor asked where that church was located, Asbury pointed to the territory of Tennessee and Arkansas and said, "see what you can establish here". A number of parishes today trace their existence back to this pastor's outreach efforts and the seeds that he spread.

Today, United Methodist church buildings blanket every corner of our country thanks to the outreach of dedicated pastors and lay leaders who spread the good news of God's love in Christ. We, like other mainline denominations today, are declining in membership, attendance, and worship. With less coming to our worship services, preaching has been confined to those who are attending members. Congregations need that witness of Christ. We need to nurture one another and build one another up in the Lord. Perhaps it is time for the church to get serious once again about claiming the area around us as our parish. I realize the cultural landscape has changed. The population is no longer homogenous with the church culture as it was forty or fifty years ago. Our culture, in fact, has become much more diverse. This does not mean that others around us are not hungry for some deeper connection and purpose in life. Perhaps, it is time for the church to see the world as our parish. God's prevenient grace (love that goes before us) is already at work in the world. God is inviting us to reach out with Christ's healing and transforming love to those around us at the point of their need, as opposed to our need to bring them into our church. Can we again cultivate that burning desire to see others connected to the Christ who is all in all? God's waiting for our response.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Dave

CALENDAR

April 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 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Kitchen
Community Prayer Group	Wednesday, April 1 at 9:30 am	Christ the King
Lent Study Group	Wednesday, April 1 at 11 am	Fellowship Hall
Maudy Thursday	Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Prayer Vigil	Good Friday, April 3, 12 – 5 pm	Sanctuary
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, April 5 at 8:30	Fellowship Hall
Spring Election	Tuesday, April 7, all day	Fellowship Hall
Friendship Club	Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Admin Council	Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm	Zoom
PW Woman's Club	Monday, April 13, 11 am – 2 pm	Fellowship Hall
Social Principles	Tuesday, April 14, 1 pm	Fellowship Hall
Immigration Presentation	Wednesday, April 15, 1 pm	Fellowship Hall
Immigration Training	Thursday, April 16, 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Sister Circle	Thursday, April 16, 7 pm	Christ the King
Native American Ministries Sunday	Sunday - April 19	
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday, April 21 at 10:00 am	FAC & Parking Lot
Happy Earth Day!	Wednesday, April 22: Please Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle	
Newsletter Articles Due	Friday, April 24	Office

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



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

RaiseRight formerly ShopWithScrip

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*