

October 2026
the VINE

A Season of Change and Gratitude

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

— Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Grand Avenue Church Family,

October is one of my favorite months of the year. The air becomes cooler, the leaves begin to change their colors, and the days gradually grow shorter. Everywhere we look, nature reminds us that life is always changing.

Since coming to Grand Avenue United Methodist Church in July, I have also been experiencing a season of change. I have been learning your names, hearing your stories, becoming familiar with the traditions of our church, and discovering the gifts and ministries of this congregation. I am grateful for the warm welcome you have given me.

Change is not always easy. Sometimes we welcome it, and sometimes we resist it. Yet the Bible reminds us that there is “a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” God can be present in every season of our lives—in beginnings and endings, in joy and sorrow, in certainty and uncertainty.

As the leaves change this October, perhaps we can ask ourselves: What might God be inviting me to change? Is there an old resentment I need to release? Is there a new way I can serve my church or community? Is there something for which I have forgotten to give thanks?

I believe a healthy church is not simply a place where people attend worship on Sunday. It is a community where we learn to love God and one another, where we care for those who are hurting, welcome those who feel left out, and encourage one another along the journey of faith.

As we enter this beautiful season of autumn, may we be thankful for what has been, open to what is coming, and attentive to what God is doing among us today.

May God bless you and your family throughout this beautiful October season.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jerry Cho

Jerry Cho: 920-373-3081



CELEBRATE

October Birthdays

Sue Penkivech	7	Bryan Olson	19
Grace Eernisse	8	Claire Olson	19
Judy Maechtle	8	Sandy Grams	24
Jan Young	11	Amanda Kissinger	24
Bob Griesmeyer	13	Jack Lentz	25
David Didier	16	Eva Gates	26
Dave Guse	18	Mallory Zwicker	29
June Caro	19	Sydni Foster	31

October Anniversaries

Ed & Joanne Schmidt	9
Bill & Erin Foster	11

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, Volunteers, for serving in our ministry!

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
10/4	Larry Maechtle	Sandy Grams	Mary D.	SPRC Committee	Scott Penkivech
10/11	Larry Maechtle	Cathy Guse	n/a	Mary Downing & Pat Craig	Scott Penkivech
10/18	Larry Maechtle	Mary Downing	n/a	Cindy Cho	Scott Penkivech
10/25	Larry Maechtle	Nancy Haacke	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech

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

SAVE THE DATE

Awesome Women Christmas Dinner

All women of the church are invited to the annual Christmas dinner:

Monday, December 7th at Plier's Full Circle Restaurant

3704 Highland Drive, Port Washington

5:30 P.M. Social Time

6 P.M. PWHS Choir "Limited Edition"

6:30 P.M. Dinner

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Current Shelter Needs

Clear liquid hand soap refill, hand soap pumps, 13-gallon garbage bags, women's 3 blade disposable razors, disposable exam gloves – size large, dryer sheets, laundry detergent pods, toilet bowl cleaner, foaming bath cleaner, and earplugs.

[Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Family Promise barrel last month. Thanks to your generosity, we delivered 8 travel size mouth wash, 3 bars of soap, 36 rolls of toilet paper, 3 tooth brushes, 3 travel size shampoo, 1 roll of paper toweling, 1200 dryer sheets, 600 disinfecting wipes, 900 baby wipes, 6 soft soap refills, and 20 disposable razors in September.



MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.

October 4th is World Communion Sunday

On World Communion Sunday, United Methodists join Christians of different traditions to recognize our ecumenical oneness in Christ. Congregations throughout the denomination join together for a special offering to help students from around the world reach their full potential through scholarships, training, and mentoring. You can support World Communion Sunday by making a **special offering and indicating “World Communion Sunday”**.



Your support funds several significant educational initiatives

- 50%** of your donation funds scholarships for undergraduate or graduate students of color pursuing ministry
- 35%** of your donation funds training grants for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity and access
- 15%** of your donation funds leadership development grants in partner churches

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

DINE TO DONATE WITH



470 E Green Bay Ave, Saukville, WI 53080

When
October 23rd

From the hours of
4pm-8pm

20% of all sales at Redstone Kitchen
will benefit Family Promise of
Ozaukee County.

Halloween Ball



Help the Port Washington Food Pantry scare away hunger!
Presenting Sponsors: Diane & Dave Hofferbert

Saturday October 24, 2026

Drinks & Dancing
Costume Contest

EDISON HALL - PORT WASHINGTON 7 PM - 11 PM

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT: [HTTPS://FPHALLOWEENBALL2026.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://fphalloweenball2026.eventbrite.com)

TICKET COST: \$50 - ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE PORT WASHINGTON FOOD PANTRY

ADULTS ONLY

CALL TOM DIDIER FOR MORE INFORMATION - 414.881.3290



SCAN HERE

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Current Needs

Canned meats, canned beans, canned fruits and vegetables, large soups, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, and condiments.

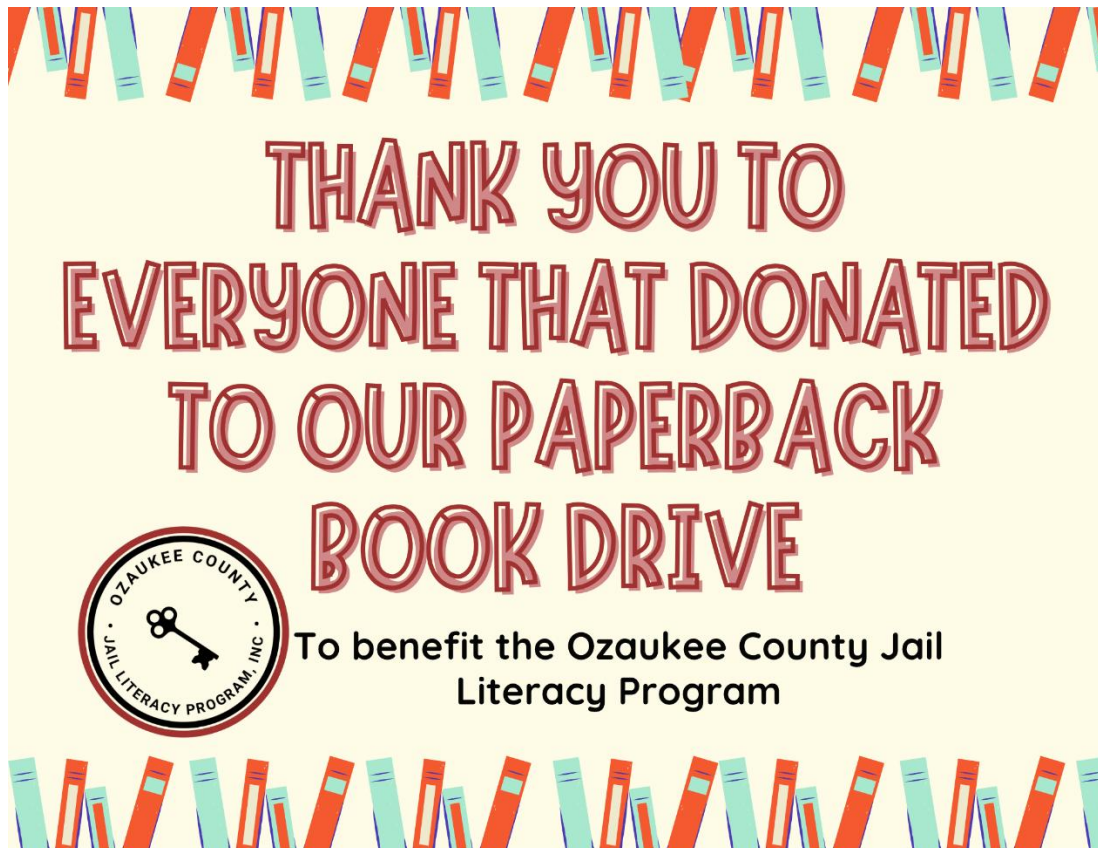
Hat, Mitten, Scarf and Glove Giving Tree



It's not too early to start thinking of our winter season ahead.

Please start bringing hats, mittens, scarfs and gloves to church to help our neighbors in need. Please place them on the Christmas tree in the narthex. In early November, we will divide them between Family Promise and the Ozaukee Foster Care program.

Thank you in advance, Cathy Guse



FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

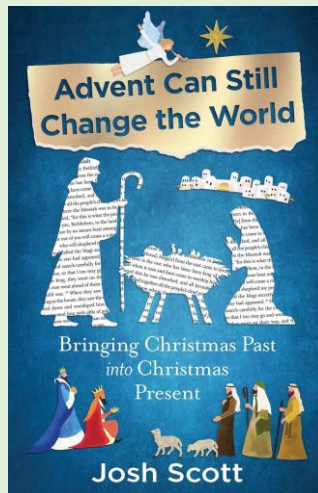
Sister Circle - Thursday, October 15, 7:00 pm **Christ the King, 420 W Whitefish Rd, Port Washington**

Sister Circle is an ecumenical women's group that meets monthly and offers women an opportunity to share their faith and support one another. We hope you will join us!

We are reading the book, "JESUS THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN: How the First Female Disciples Help Us Know and Love the Lord" by Rebecca McLaughlin. For the October meeting, please read Chapter 2.

Questions or to receive a Sister Circle newsletter, please contact Mary at 414-828-4675 or mariwags@gmail.com.

Advent Study **11 am - Wednesdays** **November 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th**



Dave will be leading a four-week Advent study during the month of November. The reason for the earlier starting time is that he will be having hip replacement surgery on December 3rd. The study resource is entitled **Advent Can Still Change the World by Josh Scott**. The study will be held on Wednesday mornings from 11:00 a.m. to noon beginning on November 4th.

"This four-week Advent study invites you into the historical and cultural world of the nativity narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Explore how the birth of Jesus fulfills Old Testament hopes, revealing God entering human history as the Word made flesh. Guided by Josh Scott, you'll discover how reading these texts in their original context opens fresh meaning for contemporary faith, illuminating the gifts and challenges of Christmas for our lives today."

Books are \$16 and available on the counter in the narthex next to the sign-up sheet.

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



October Calendar

**Unless otherwise noted, all events will take place at Lighthouse HQ
(513 W. Grand Ave. in Port Washington)*

October 4th 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 year, we will be highlighting different topics of spiritual growth including prayer, worship, and how faith impacts our daily life.



October 11th from 3:00-6:30 pm – Corn Maze and Pumpkin Carving

Looking for an afternoon of fall fun with some friends? Then join us as we travel to Spieker's Pumpkin Farm where we'll try and navigate our way through their giant corn maze. Afterwards, we'll head back to Lighthouse for dinner and end with a pumpkin carving/painting contest. Lighthouse will cover the cost of the activities and dinner, but students may bring along a little money if they wish to purchase additional goodies at the farm. Please RSVP by October 4th.



October 25th from 6:30-8:00 pm – Stone Soup Service Project

Join us as we partner with Stone Soup, a ministry of Christ the King Lutheran Church, to create some delicious homemade soup to share with those in need. No cooking experience necessary and all supplies will be provided.

*Drop off/pick up from Grand Avenue UMC (505 W. Grand Ave.) next to Lighthouse.



Also, save the date for our 2027 Summer Service Trip!

We will be heading to Duluth from June 20-25 for an amazing week of service, learning, and fun! This trip is open to any students who will have completed grades 8-12 by that time. Please talk to Christin by November 1st if you are interested in participating or learning more.



Lighthouse events are open to all students in grades 5-12

Have questions about Lighthouse or want to get involved?

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

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.

LET'S TALK ABOUT AFFORDABILITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST - 6:00 – 7:45 PM Port Washington's Niederkorn Library Community Room



*We want to hear from
you about increasing
Economic Insecurities*

Please join us to learn of the challenges faced and the supports we have in Ozaukee County regarding Housing, Child Care, Food, Transportation, Health Care, Medicaid, Homelessness, Energy, and Education

Joining us will be:

- Jodi Habush Sinykin, Wisconsin State Senator
- Joana Hemschemeyer, Family Promise of Ozaukee County, Director of Housing Programs
- Sarah LaDuke – Community Services Navigator for Ozaukee County
- Brian Sutton, Student Services Director - Port Washington/Saukville Public Schools
- Monis Khan – Ozaukee County Supervisor, Member of the Health and Human Services Committee
- Michael Beaster, Port Washington Alderman
- Monica Zela-Koort, Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul in Port Washington
- Andrea Acosta, Executive Director of Food Alliance, Saukville
- Marcia Nosko, Executive Director of The Food Pantry, Inc., Port Washington and Ozaukee County Supervisor
- Pastor Daniel Flucke, Pastor at Christ the King and Living Hope Lutheran Churches in Port and Saukville
- Pastor John Norquist, Faith Lutheran Church, Cedarburg
- Pastor Patti Plough, faith-based speaker, and Wisconsin-based entrepreneur

**Please consider bringing a non-perishable item for one of our community organizations. Needed items are laundry detergent, razors, Lysol products, paper products, shampoo, bath soap, deodorant, dental products.*

SPONSORED BY: *Forward with Hope* - We are a group of nonpartisans, grassroots individuals from Ozaukee County, WI, who are committed to protecting our democracy. We gather around issues facing our communities. Through educational forums, we empower residents and mobilize voters.





OKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 17, 2026

Join us!



**4PM POLKA WORSHIP SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY A GERMAN SUPPER**

Christ the King Lutheran Church
420 W. Whitefish Rd
Port Washington, WI
ctkport.org



*No tickets or registration necessary.
All are welcome, bring a friend!*





United Methodist Corner

I have learned through the years that the opposite of faith is not doubt. The opposite of faith is cynicism. Cynicism leads to hopelessness because we end up doubting that God is capable of helping us in our need. A Biblical example of cynicism is the complaints of the Hebrews to Moses in the desert as they journeyed to the land of milk and honey. They said to Moses, "Have you brought us out to the desert so you could kill us of thirst." They had already forgotten how the Lord had brought them out of Egypt and across the Red Sea.

The relationship of faith and doubt to me is more of a dance than of opposite forces. I have always liked the definition of doubt by the late author and theologian Frederick Buechner. Buechner wrote, "Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don't have any doubts, you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving." The reason why doubt is healthy for our faith is that we worship a God who is a God of Holy Mystery. God's ways are inscrutable. God's understanding and vision far exceeds our own. We don't have life all figured out. There's so much that happens to us that is far greater than we can comprehend. Faith is about knowing and trusting that God is inherent in all things and that God is leading us in a certain direction and that direction is good. But that doesn't mean we aren't still going to have questions and struggles when we consider our lives and the world about us. We still struggle and wrestle with the question of evil in light of God's love for the world. There are things that happen in this world that still causes me to wonder about where God is in the midst of all the craziness about us.

Jesus says, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto you." Don't be afraid to continue to ask God questions regarding those things in which you struggle. I sense that as we bring these matters to God, God will bless us, strengthen us and bring us ever closer into His compassionate and merciful presence.

In Christ's love,
Dave

CHURCH NEWS

October 4th is Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Please plan on joining us in Fellowship Hall after worship Sunday, October 4th as we celebrate Pastor Jerry and our Pastoral Assistant Dave Guse to honor the hard work and spiritual guidance they give our church.

Adjusted Office Hours October 12th – 23rd

Stacy will be on vacation October 15-20, so the office will be open Mon. 10/12 – Wed. 10/14 10am – 3pm, closed 10/15 – 10/20, and open Wed. 10/21 – Fri 10/23 10am – 3pm.



Pastor Meetings

There is a great opportunity for you to get to know Pastor Jerry and Cindy Cho on a more personal level. You can sign up on the bulletin board at church for one of the following casual small gatherings:

- **Tuesday, October 6 at 1:00 pm**, hosted by Mary Kae Geitman at her home on 214 W. Walters in Port Washington.
- **Thursday, October 15 at 10:00 am**, hosted by Grace & Marc Eernisse at their home on 2053 Upper Ridge Rd in Port Washington.
- **Sunday, October 18 at 11:30 pm**, hosted by Sandy & Mark Grams in the narthex at Grand Avenue Church.

CHURCH NEWS, cont.

October 18th is Pledge Sunday

Pledge Sunday will take place on Sunday October 18th. We'll hear an inspiring message from Pastor Jerry and turn in our 2027 pledge cards. Please plan on attending.

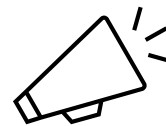
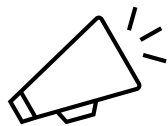
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### November 1<sup>st</sup>

All Saints Sunday is when we celebrate and remember those who have made the journey and taken the next step. We will read the names and light a candle in remembrance of those who have passed at our Nov 1<sup>st</sup> worship service. If you have a loved one who has joined the union of Saints since All Saints Day last year, please call or email the church office at [office@portumc.org](mailto:office@portumc.org) with their name and relationship so that they can be remembered.

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Save the Date

Annual Charge Conference – November 8th

Our Annual Charge Conference will be on Sunday, November 8th in Fellowship Hall after worship. The purpose of the Charge Conference is to review and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt goals recommended by the church council. Pastor Dave Guse will preside as our elder for the Conference and we will celebrate our Conference with a potluck. The Packers don't play until 3:25pm that Sunday, so please plan to join the celebration!



CALENDAR

October 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, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Kitchen
World Communion Day	Sunday, October 4 at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
Community Prayer Group	Wednesday, October 7 at 9:30 am	Christ the King
Administrative Council	Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 pm	Zoom
Office Hours	Mon Oct 12 – Wed Oct 14 10am – 3pm, closed Thu & Fri	
Social Principles/Church & Soc	Tuesday, October 13 at 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Friendship Club	Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Sister Circle	Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 pm	Christ the King
Pledge Sunday	Sunday, October 18 at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday, October 20 at 10:00 am	FAC
Office Hours	Closed Mon & Tue, Wed Oct 21 – Fri Oct 23 10am – 3pm	
Newsletter Article Deadline	Thursday, October 23	Office
Book Club	Wednesday, October 28 at 1pm	Fellowship Hall

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Pastor:	Jerry Cho	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™