



November 2023  
*the VINE*

Dear Grand Avenue Church Family and Friends,

Here we are in November, man how time flies. I think that the month of Thanksgiving is a great time in our Christian year to turn our attention toward being thankful. To not focus on our troubles which often dominate our thoughts but to recognize and appreciate our blessings.

For me, I am so thankful for having seven wonderful children, an unbelievably gifted and caring wife, my church family here at Grand Avenue, and most importantly a God who personally loves and cares for me. This, of course, constitutes a rudimentary list for me. I could literally write an entire book of the blessings God has provided me in my life. I believe that each of us could write that same book if we chose to look at our lives through the lens of gratitude for the love our Lord has given us.

This then is how I think we should view this time of year. November, the month of Thanksgiving, should be a time in which we mindfully examine our lives and identify the many ways in which God's presence has and continues to demonstrate His love and purpose for us.

**Jeremiah 29:11**

**“ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”**

Your Brother in Christ,

*Pastor Vince*

**GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 [www.portumc.com](http://www.portumc.com)

Pastor:	Vince Pepin	<a href="mailto:pastor@portumc.org">pastor@portumc.org</a>
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Council Chairperson:	Mark Grams	<a href="mailto:mgrams@wi.rr.com">mgrams@wi.rr.com</a>
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Bishop: Rev. Hee-Soo Jung / District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Insor		

# CELEBRATE

## *Birthdays*

Barbara Aagerup	11/1
Sue Killey	11/1
George Pacher	11/3
Dan Weltin	11/9
Rebecca Derk	11/12
Lena Sepulveda	11/13
Marilyn Nelson	11/15
Ross Reichardt	11/15
Gordon Dionne	11/19
JoAnn Swanke	11/26
★ Nolan Draeger	11/28

## *Anniversaries*

Jon & Vickie Meins	11/11
Peter & Ann Schmidt	11/20

# VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
11/5	TBD	Sherri Pepin	Needed*	Judy, Debbie, & Vickie	Scott Penkivech
11/12	TBD	Mark Grams	n/a	Charge Conf. Potluck	Scott Penkivech
11/19	TBD	Nancy Haacke	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
11/26	TBD	Kay Hamann	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech

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

## A THOUGHT

*“As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it’s important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can’t serve from your sofa. You can’t have a community of faith on your sofa. You can’t experience the power of a room full of worshipers on your sofa. Christians aren’t consumers. We are contributors. We don’t watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.*

*The church needs you. And you need the church.” - Michael Carl*

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



## Non-Perishable Donations

Thank you for your continued support of The Food Pantry! The most pressing current needs include:

Hash Browns  
Pasta & Rice Sides  
Canned Chicken  
Mac n Cheese

Soup  
Vegetable Oil  
Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels



## Upcoming Meal Schedule

Our next opportunity to serve meals at Portlight Shelter will be **November 13-17<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider helping with this mission by volunteering to provide a side dish, salad, fruit, and/or dessert; serving a meal; or serving as the Meal Leader who organizes the menu and volunteers, serves, and provides for or arranges for the main entree.

Signing up is easy using this SignUpGenius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CAA82EA6FB6-45312102-family> Simply choose a date, role and follow the prompts for information. You don't have to log in or set up an account to sign up. You can also call Stacy at Grand Ave (262-284-9478) to sign up.

You may sign up to be the Meal Leader or a volunteer any night that works for you. If you have a group you prefer to work with, you can sign up as a group - just fill in all the slots for that date.

Please give one of us a call with any questions you might have. Thanks for considering being a part of this mission!

Yours in service, Sandy 262-490-4856 and Cheryl 414-477-3411

## Immediate Shelter Needs

Items needed can be found and purchased on the Family Promise Amazon wish list and placed in the bin in the church hallway: <https://a.co/74ONt19>.

# FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES



## November Events

### Sunday, November 12th from 7:00-8:00 pm - Bonfire

Come enjoy a fall evening under the stars with a Lighthouse bonfire. Games, s'mores, and other snacks will be provided. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.



### Sunday, November 26th from 6:00-7:00 pm - Friendsgiving Celebration

In the season of giving thanks, we are so thankful for all of the amazing students that make up Lighthouse! Join us for a night of celebrating one another as we gather for a meal together. **Everyone is asked to bring a favorite breakfast meal/item** to share for a wacky and delicious potluck.

### Tuesday, November 28th from 5:00-7:30 pm – Giving Tuesday Spaghetti Supper

Come enjoy a delicious dinner at Grand Avenue Church, while listening to Christmas music by Bella Musik, to support Lighthouse. Dinner is \$15 for dine in or carry out (10 and under free). There will also be a Silent Auction fundraiser taking place to support Lighthouse.

*Lighthouse events are open to all students in grades 5-12 and, unless otherwise noted, and 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](mailto:christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org)*

## Silent Auction Baskets Needed

Our congregation has been asked to pull together a few baskets for the Lighthouse Spaghetti Dinner silent auction on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for donations to the following:

**Warm & Cozy basket:** Can include items like socks, blanket, book ( or e-book credit), scented candle, mug, tea/coffee/hot chocolate packets, bathrobe, chocolates or snacks, sweater or fleece, or other ideas.

**Hot Beverages basket:** Can contain items such as different types of coffee, tea, hot chocolate, tea pot, coffee maker, k-cups, travel mugs, hot-cocoa bombs, flavored creamers, mocha , cookies, or snacks.

**Foods Around the World Basket:** Items such as Italian Pasta, German chocolate, Scottish shortbread cookies, etc.

All donations are needed by Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and can be placed in the plastic bins in the church hallway. Monetary donations are also welcome and will go towards purchasing gift cards for baskets.



**FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.**

NOVEMBER 28

Serving from  
5pm - 7:30pm

GIVING TUESDAY  
**Spaghetti Supper**

At Grand Ave UMC 505 W. Grand Ave, Port Washington

Music by Bella Musik

Dine In or Carry Out

Silent Auction

**\$15 Tickets**

10 and under free



**LIGHTHOUSE**

YOUTH MINISTRY

## FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



### **Awesome Women Christmas Dinner**

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

**Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**at Plier's Full Circle Restaurant**

3704 Highland Drive, Port Washington

6 P.M. Social Time, 6:30 P.M. Dinner

The price of your meal includes entrée, coffee or iced tea, tax, and tip. All money and orders must be to Kay Hamann by Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. The Port Washington High School choir will entertain us again and we will have a basket out for a free will offering.

The order form will be in the weekly bulletin as the menu has not been approved at this time by the restaurant. Sorry about that but you still have all of November to decide. Just mark your calendars now to save the date. Thanks, Kay

### **Old World Christmas Market in Elkhart Lake**

Please join the women of the church at the Old-World Christmas Market at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake on **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**.

A first-class coach bus will leave the Grand Ave parking lot at 10am on December 6<sup>th</sup> and stay until around 3pm. The cost of the day, which includes coach, admission fee to the market, and lunch is FREE. The market is a one-stop shop for locally handmade gifts for the holidays and features over 50 different vendors, crafts, horse-drawn carriage rides, a picture with Santa, and the availability of food and beverage.

Sign up on the bulletin board or call Stacy in the church office (262-284-9478) to reserve your spot as the coach only holds 14 people. Please contact Mary Downing with any questions.





## THANK YOU NOTES

Family Promise would like to thank you for your generous donation of 5 large bottles of juice, and various household, personal care, and hygiene items. Thanks to your generosity and support of our mission, we are able to continue making a difference in the lives of families and individuals in the community.

With Sincere Appreciation,  
Family Promise of Ozaukee County

To my church family,  
Thank you for the get well  
and sympathy cards. Your  
kindness and concern meant so  
much to me.

Blessings, Barbara Jones

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the urgent needs of the Family Promise Portlight Shelter! In addition to the generous donations in the Family Promise barrel, we recently purchased 5 large jugs of juice, 112 rolls of toilet paper, 34 magic eraser cleaners, and 316 laundry detergent pods with money from the donation jar.

- Cheryl Wozniak and Sandy Grams

Thank you to everyone that brought side dishes, desserts, or assisted in making our Pledge Sunday Potluck a big success.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

It is a great blessing to welcome Jean Butler & Valerie Nichols into our Grand Avenue Church family!



Jean Butler



Valerie Nichols



## United Methodist Corner

Means of Grace is a term unique to Methodism. For John Wesley, means of grace were spiritual practices, such as prayer, that opened up spiritual channels for God's inner and transforming grace and love to work within us. He and Charles experienced these means of grace when they participated in a Holy Club while attending Oxford. Together, they had studied scripture, prayed, received the Lord's supper regularly, supported each other in holy living. They also reached out in acts of mercy to the hungry and destitute. They were committed to be a group of vibrant and disciplined Christians. It was through this experience and other encounters that led Wesley to the conclusion that there is no such thing as a solitary Christian. We can grow personally in the faith, but our faith is never isolated from others. We are a part of the Body of Christ.

The importance of Christian fellowship led Wesley to add what he termed Christian Conferencing to the list of means of grace. Within the Methodist societies that Wesley initiated, he also established classes and bands. Classes consisted of up to twelve persons met regularly to pray, read scripture, and watch over one another in Christian love. Wesley believed that in these smaller groups that members would experience the presence and love of Christ through one another. As it says in the Gospel according to Matthew, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them (18:20). The word "fellowship" sometimes is used to mean any kind of gathering. The word "fellowship" is translated from the Greek word, "koinonia" which actually means a deeper sense of connection and bonding. It's reality is more like the Apostle Paul's call "to rejoice when others rejoice and to weep when others weep" (Romans 12:15).

Sometimes we don't know the significance of what we got until it's gone. We experienced this "lack of fellowship" during the pandemic. What a joy it was to be able to return to worship and be in the presence of fellow Christians again. But unfortunately, we are finding that less people are coming back to worship in the sanctuary choosing either to go their own way or to watch online services. One thing is clear to me. If we are to have a renewal in Methodism, we will have to return to our roots and our strength as a movement. That strength is finding opportunities to meet together in small groups in Christ seeking to grow in his grace and in our commitment to partnering with him "to make disciples for him for the transformation of the world".

One of my responsibilities as staff assistant to oversee our small group ministries. If you have any thoughts or ideas about new groups that can be initiated at Grand Avenue, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings, Dave.



# CHURCH NEWS

## New Pastoral Assistant – Dave Guse

In September Ad Council voted to add a new position to Grand Ave. This new staff person will be a Pastoral Assistant, having a variety of duties to complement Pastor Vince. We are pleased to announce **Dave Guse** has taken on this role of Pastoral Assistant. His duties are as follows:

### Visitation

- Hospital and nursing home visitations
- Visiting and offering communion to shut ins
- Visiting new prospective members
- Leading a monthly worship service at Harbor Retirement Home

### Christian Education

- Monthly articles in the Newsletter on United Methodism
- Lead small groups
- Lead new member classes
- Lead baptismal preparation class
- Assist in Christian Education events for children
- On occasion connect with Lighthouse Ministry

### Outreach – Evangelism

- Connect with the wider community. Use our congregational values as a guide to train us how to do effective outreach.
- Work to enhance and expand our presence in the area at various events and activities, as well as on social media.
- Develop marketing materials, with Stacy's help, to invite individuals and families into our congregation.

Please join SPRC in welcoming Dave to this new role and celebrating the ways he will be supporting our church.

## SPRC

Many have asked recently "What is **SPRC**?" It stands for Staff Parish Relations Committee - it's the former "Pastor-Parish" of several years ago. Three of the most important responsibilities are to:

- Be the liaison between the pastor and the congregation to promote an effective ministry.
- Develop job descriptions, interview, hire, and evaluate all staff positions. That includes, minister, secretary, pastoral assistant, music person, cleaning person.
- Support, strengthen, nurture, and encourage the pastor and the staff.

In the past few years our major accomplishments have been to hire Pastor Vince, Organist Drew Rutz, Stacy as Administrative Assistant, Dave Guse as Pastoral Assistant, and now Abigail as our new Organist.

Committee members for 2024 are: Barbara Frank, Sue Merrill, Ed Schmidt, Sandy Grams, Bob Griesmeyer, Margaret Lueptow, Mary Kae Geittmann (chair), and Dan Benning, Lay Leader.

# CHURCH NEWS, cont.

## November 12<sup>th</sup> is our Charge Conference

We will welcome our Circuit Leader, Rev. Clarissa Martinelli from 5<sup>th</sup> Ave UMC West Bend, to preside over our 2023 Charge Conference at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the Charge Conference is to review and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt goals that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist Church. We will celebrate our Charge Conference with a potluck. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

## New Organist – Sevita (Abigail) Grosnick



It is with great joy that we announce we have a new organist, Abigail Grosnick! Abigail is a senior at Concordia University where she studies theology and counseling with the goal to serve a parish as director of women's ministry and mental health awareness.

Abigail grew up in Watertown with her 6 brothers and parents. She was homeschooled through high school and started playing organ in eighth grade. She has served countless congregations and parishes as organist and music minister and is excited for this new opportunity to serve Grand Avenue starting in November.

Abigail will hold choir practices on Wednesdays at 6:30pm starting November 1<sup>st</sup> and is looking forward to meeting all who are interested in singing. Please join SPRC in welcoming Abigail to our church family!

## 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
All Saints' Sunday	Sunday Nov. 5 at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
Trustees Meeting	Sunday Nov. 5 at 11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Finance & Admin Council	Thursday Nov. 9 at 6:30 pm	via Zoom
Charge Conference/Potluck	Sunday Nov. 12 at 11:30 am	Fellowship Hall
Social Principles Group	Tuesday Nov. 14 at 1:00 pm	Gathering Area
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday Nov. 21 at 10:00 am	FAC & Parking Lot
Lighthouse Dinner/Auction	Tuesday Nov. 28 5:00 – 7:30 pm	Fellowship Hall

**Newsletter Article Deadline is November 22.**

Orders are due in the church office on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. Please remember to include your payment. You can also order on-line at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) Your order of gift cards will be ready for pick-up at church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Questions? Contact the Kay Hamann at 262-284-3168 or [khamann530@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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*