



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

September 2021

Greetings from the Family Ministry at GAUMC!

Fall is a time of anticipation for many of us at Grand Ave as it is also for families and kids who are heading back to school, sports, friendships, and weekly patterns. We've all taken our summer break and we're ready to jump into something new and exciting.

With this in mind I'm excited to share with you a new neighborhood opportunity for each of us at Grand Ave! Beginning on Wednesday, September 15 and continuing each Wednesday night through November 3, we will be intentionally connecting with friends and acquaintances in a fresh way with hopes to make real connections with people we invite to be a part of what we're doing at GAUMC. We will do this in a couple of different ways.

First, we are going to be building a campfire pit in the front lawn at Grand Ave. Gathering around a campfire is a great way for us to have a space where we can connect with people who are not yet a part of our congregation. The outdoor location gives a sense of comfort to those who are not familiar with us, but still brings us together on Grand Ave's property.

Each of us will be asked to invite someone we know who otherwise would not have any reason to be with us. We are inviting them to a weekly campfire on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:00pm where we will provide pizza, drinks, and s'mores. This makes the invitation easy for families with kids to come because it takes care of dinner for them, and it also ends early enough for people to be able to come and enjoy themselves and still leave in time to put the kids down for bed.

Tied into this invitation will be an invitation for those we invite to watch the TV show "The Chosen" at home during the week prior to our meeting. The Chosen is a new and incredibly well done series based around the life of Jesus. It is not a word-for-word portrayal from the Gospels, but is a creative interpretation of what life might have been like for Jesus and his followers. It is an awesome show that Christians or non-Christians would both find compelling. Likewise, people and kids of all ages can engage with the show. For those of you interested in participating, we will provide small handouts that you can share with those you invite which will clearly explain how they can watch the show at home. At our weekly campfire and dinner meetings, we will spend most of the time eating, casually chatting, some time playing a few ice-breakers, some time eating s'mores, and then we will finish our time together with about

ten minutes of discussing “The Chosen” before we leave for the evening. I hope this helps paint a picture of how these events will go, and I ultimately hope it is inspiring for you to think about – inspiring enough that you would consider coming and inviting a neighbor, or acquaintance to come along too.

So – can you imagine it? A group of 15, 25, or maybe even 30 of us gathered around a fire this fall? Can you imagine all of the passerby’s who will see the fire and the laughter, the food and the fellowship and will ask themselves “What’s going on there?!” Can you imagine how after eight weeks of connection, how many of these families and new friends might start seeing our community as their community? It’s exciting to think about, isn’t it? But it all comes down to each of us. It’s ultimately up to us to invite, to communicate, and to be excited about what God will do in our midst if we step out in faith for this fun season of connection with our neighbors.

You will hear more about this new endeavor in the weeks to come and you’ll receive handouts that you can share with your friends that will make inviting them a breeze. But for now, would you mind taking just a moment and praying for this new opportunity? I truly believe we have a chance to naturally connect with some new people and I’m praying that God would do His work in and through our efforts. And lastly, if you’re planning to come why not send me an email simply to say “I want to be a part of this!” I’d love to hear from each of you.

Blessings,
Nate Gruber
Director of Family Ministries & Discipleship
nateg@cedarburgcumc.org

It's here... our annual Rummage Sale!

Sept 16, 17, 18 and ½ price sale days: Sept 23, 24, 25

Continue bringing your gently used, clean items for the sale to the fellowship hall until September 12.

*Sorry, **no** TVs, dehumidifiers, computers, monitors, printers, microwaves, china cabinets, or entertainment centers.*

Help is always needed and appreciated for set-up and sale days, please sign up at the information counter.

This is the last year that Gwen Freier, Netta Freeland, and Mary Kae Geittmann will be the rummage sale coordinators. They would love to mentor someone(s) this year to help prepare new coordinators for next year. If you're interested, please contact Gwen 262-692-6408, Netta 262-284-9315 or Mary Kae 262-284-5924.

“What I did on my summer vacation.”

I remember this essay theme from elementary school as one of the first writing assignments of the school year. But now, having taken my last “summer vacation” before my retirement on the first of November, I offer the following:

My summer vacation was a time for doing something undone from last year, and preparing for the next chapter in my life in the coming year. It was all about family. It was about family on both ends, the generation before me and the generation after me.

As some of you know, I was supposed to baptize my new grandson, Shiloh, last summer. My daughter and her husband were intending to visit us in Wisconsin, and Shiloh was going to be baptized in the CUMC sanctuary on a Sunday morning. The pandemic stopped it. Grandpa (me) and Shiloh had to wait. Earlier this year I booked a flight to California from Omaha to visit my now 2-year-old grandson, but at the last-minute American Airlines cancelled our flight, as they have done for so many. Fortunately, I was able to book a second flight for the next day using a different departure city, so we flew out from Kansas City on his 2nd birthday. And on Sunday morning, on the seashore, at Avila Beach, God smiled on us, and the water and the word touched his brow, and my daughter and son-in-law claimed their faith with some promises for Shiloh. My wiggly, busy, and constantly in motion grandson sat on his mother’s shoulders for long enough to let grandpa say the sacred words and pray for him. We cried, didn’t see that coming, but it was deeply meaningful for us.

Week two of my summer vacation was about my mother, my brother, and my mother-in-law. As some of you know, Eldene spent the entire month of July in Nebraska providing necessary support services for my mother who was then in the nursing home, her mother who is needing more help living in her home, and my disabled brother who is in need of daily support in many ways. For her this was not a vacation. After arranging for in-home support services for my mother, her mother, and setting up things for my brother to be on his own for a week at a time, she made it possible for us to go to California that week. When we got back to Nebraska, we took on major clearing and sorting and purging projects to make room for us to move in with my mother in November. It was a time for preparation of space, and frankly preparation of inner space and emotional space, for this next chapter in our lives. There is much more to do. Fortunately, my mother is slowly improving, and the in-home support services are working well enough that we both can be here (home in Wisconsin) for the next two months with only occasional trips to rerack the support services, manage the finances, and work on the house. These trips (mid-month in September and October) will be done mid-week so I will not have to miss worship services and the start-up of our fall activities at GAUMC.

That’s what I did on my summer vacation.

Pastor Don



Dear Friends at Grand Ave UMC,
Thank you for your very generous donation to the Summerfield UMC meal program. We have missed your usual visits with us during the Saturday evening meals. We look forward to seeing you in 2022.

With love and blessings,
Marcia Tremaine, volunteer



From the
Green Corner

This September Take the Plastic-Free Challenge

- Step 1: Be aware of your use of single-use plastic bottles.
- Step 2: REFUSE to use single-use plastic bottles.
- Step 3: Instead Use our recently distributed blue or green reusable bottles.
- Step 4: Didn't get one? See Sue Merrill, Mary Kae Geittmann, or Barbara Jones.
- Step 5: Tell us when and how you used them! 😊

WELCOME BACK TO LIGHTHOUSE

LIGHTHOUSE FIESTA!

THE WHOLE FAMILY IS INVITED TO
THIS FUN-FILLED PARTY!

Sunday, September 12 | 6 - 8 PM
505 W Grand Ave
Port Washington, WI 53012

Information/registration for 2021-2022 School year will be available.

Erica Brooks, Lighthouse Youth Director
erica.brooks@lighthouseyouth.org

Initiative

By Stevie Stibor

For many of us, asking for help or even acknowledging that we need help is hard. We either feel like we are putting a burden on others or that we should be able to do it all on our own. So, wouldn't it be nice if someone just offered the help or, better yet, just saw the need and did what they could to lend a hand? That is the beauty of fellowship. That is what is great about having a community around you that supports you. And that is what God wants all of us to do for others.

Taking initiative means that we're always on the lookout for things that need to be done. When we see a way that we can help, we launch into action without having to be asked. This is the theme for Children's Ministry during the month of September. During this four-week series, we will learn to watch for ways in which we can help and then take the initiative to move forward with that help. Throughout this virtual Sunday school series, we will be taking a close look at the life of Nehemiah.

During our first week we will learn that it's not always necessary to wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. In the book of Nehemiah, we learn many qualities of service and leadership. Nehemiah was a great leader who longed to be used by God. We will hear about how he implored God to help rebuild the walls in the city of Jerusalem and how God responded by doing it - *through Nehemiah*. The person God uses has a burden for His people, a vision for His purpose, and a commitment to His people.

In week two we will learn to look for ways to make things right. There was disparity in Jerusalem among the poor and the wealthy so much so that the wealthy had no regard for how the poor were treated. Nehemiah saw these problems as serious enough to stop the work on the wall long enough to get them resolved. He demonstrated that, to do the Lord's work, we must resolve conflicts.

Week three will show us that Nehemiah is still encountering issues in the work he is being used by God to do. Still, instead of giving up, Nehemiah remains focused on what needs to be done. The wall is almost done. The breaches have been repaired, and the wall is complete except for the doors in the gates. In the sixth chapter of Nehemiah, we see him hit again with obstacles: intrigue, innuendo, intimidation, and infiltration. The lesson in this story is that, to complete the work God has given us to do, we must overcome any hurdles in our path.

In the final week of our initiative series, we learn not only that the wall was rebuilt successfully but, perhaps more importantly, the importance of looking for ways to celebrate what God has done. In chapter 8, we hear about Ezra reading and preaching to the people from morning until midday. This was a remarkable time of spiritual renewal. What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?

Taking the initiative to do what needs to be done, to do what is right, is not always easy. Turning a blind eye certainly does simplify things, but God does expect more from us. God does expect us to love and care for His world and His people and that may sometimes mean that we must stretch ourselves. Remember the words from Colossians 3:23a "Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord."

God bless.

Stevie Stibor

Director of Children's Ministries



NOISY COLLECTION - 3rd Sunday each month

September 19 Noisy Collection will help support UMCOR relief efforts in Haiti.

We are deeply saddened by the news of the tragic events that have recently occurred in Haiti. On Saturday, August 14, Haiti experienced a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that produced widespread destruction in the country's western region. The current death toll stands over 2,200 as of August 24 and left at least 12,000 people injured in the Caribbean nation.



People left homeless by the quake have been living in squalid camps in the mountains, north of the hard-hit city of Les Cayes, Haiti.



While struggling with the effects of the earthquake, Tropical Storm Grace lashed up to 10 inches of rain

We invite you to make a noisy donation to UMCOR to aid in the response efforts in Haiti. We ask you to pray for the families of those who have died or are missing. We also pray for the communities experiencing upheaval and uncertainty. UMCOR stands in solidarity and communicates with partners in Haiti as the full scale of this disaster unfolds.

Bring your coins & let's make a lot of noise to help support UMCOR relief efforts in Haiti on Sunday, September 19 (of course, quiet contributions gladly accepted too).



September needs include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Toilet paper | Manwich |
| Hamburger Helper | Mashed potatoes |
| Pears | Fruit cocktail |
| Applesauce | Canned potatoes |
| Stuffing | Oatmeal |
| Crackers | Laundry Soap |
| Cooking oil | Bath towels |
| Gently used pots and pans | |
| Queen & King sheet sets | |

Going back to “normal” has been put on hold due to the increased cases of COVID-19/variants.

As a substitute for our Sunday morning *coffee & fellowship time*, we encourage people to come to church Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for an informal social time. Masks are encouraged. If you would like coffee, please bring your own. This is a perfect opportunity to use your insulated travel mug that the Social Principles Group handed out earlier this summer. If you didn't receive one, see Mary Kae G., Sue Merrill, or anyone in the Social Principles group.



September

Larry Lueptow	1	Hope Foster	15
Avery Draeger	4	Gailya Geib	16
Michael Killey	5	Jeff Killey	16
Joanne Koskamp	5	Scott Penkivech	16
Linda Klotz	6	Marc Eernisse	18
Eddie Freier	7	Jayme Johnson	20
Robyn Straughn	7	Mike Draeger	21
Ermine DeYarman	9	Nicole Didier	24
Rob Schafman	9	Charles Lohr	24
Grahm Weltin	9	Joshua Meins	24
Phill Bruno	12	Marty Straughn	25



September

Bob & Jan Griesmeyer	13
Floyd & JoAnn Swanke	20

September Volunteers

Thank you for serving in our ministry

<u>September</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>A/V</u>
5	Larry Maechtle	Rama Bharadwaj	Dan Benning
12	Larry Maechtle	Kay Hamann	Scott Penkivech
19	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	Vicky Schafman
26	Larry Maechtle	Mary Downing	Dan Benning



The following was received from Bishop Hee-Soo Jung on August 17, 2021

My Beloved Wisconsin Siblings in Christ,

I greet you in the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, and I would begin with gratitude for the faithfulness and witness of your discipleship during the pandemic. I write today concerned about grounding our Christian practice as the Delta Variant has become the predominant strain in Wisconsin.

We cannot eliminate risk in our life together, but we can be wise and bear witness to Jesus by what we place in the center. Psalm 84 begins, “how lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!”. The temple is considered lovely in verse three because, “even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young.” The temple and temple community are lovely because they have made room for the sparrow who looks for protection.

Consider, dear Siblings, that with the Delta Variant we are seeing increased transmissibility and impact on the unvaccinated, as well as breakthrough cases for the vaccinated. We are experiencing turnover in clergy leadership from stress...

Many have compromised immune systems and our health care professionals are under great strain. In such a time as this, might we train our eyes on ways we make room for the vulnerable? How might we be children of a God whose eye is on the sparrow?

In January of this year, I asked you to consider the accountability and practice of three simple rules for United Methodists in Wisconsin: be cautious, be gracious, and be flexible.

.. Thank you for every way you walk the moral high ground, and every time you humbly surrender your personal preferences to benefit the mission of Jesus. How lovely is the temple where the sparrow finds a home.

Know that I am praying for you.

In Christ's love,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Excerpts from Wisconsin Conference Covid Task Force Update August 16, 2021

Currently, most of Wisconsin is in the High transmission category. Therefore, the Conference strongly urges people to wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status.

For churches having In-Person Worship, we encourage:

- People to get vaccinated
- Enjoy virtual worship if not fully vaccinated
- Avoid self-service for food, snacks, and beverages
- Sing following the mask guidance
- Not passing the offering plate among the congregation. Offerings can be given online, by mail, or by leaving an offering plate(s) at the rear of the sanctuary for people as they leave the service.



Scrip orders are due by the 1st 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 2nd 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



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	_____	\$_____
_____	\$_____	_____	\$_____
_____	\$_____	_____	\$_____
_____	\$_____	_____	\$_____
ORDER TOTAL			\$_____

Your Name _____ **Check #** _____ **Order Date** _____

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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