

October 2025
the VINE

Hello Grand Avenue Family,

We enter October and everything is undeniably more autumnal. The air keeps cooling, the days are noticeable shorter and the trees are changing colors. Autumn is my favorite time of year and I welcome the cooler temperatures and the rich fragrances of the season. My fondness for the season is undoubtedly tied to the autumnal memories I have from my childhood and the many great fall experiences I had with my children in the UP.

Fall in the UP was a time when my young children and I would spend a great deal of time at our hunting camp, enjoying the quiet solitude the wilderness provided. This time was special, away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. A time to really connect with one another. This is why I view the fall as a season of reminiscence. As I sat contemplating the significance the memories had on my spirit, I realized that this same spiritual reminiscence could be applied to examining my walk of faith.

In examining the hopelessly non-linear and unpredictable course of my life, I was struck by the realization that God was always there. These memories, like those with my children, provided me with an immense sense of joy and comfort. Examining my life with God filled me with a profound sense of love and gratitude for the constant, unfailing love He has provided me. I see His loving hand guiding me in the many unpredictable circumstances of my life. I see Him comforting me in times of hardship, strengthening me in times of trial, sustaining me in times of trouble and stabilizing me in times of uncertainty. In short, I see God as always being there in good times and bad.

I understand that fall may not, as it did me, bring you to contemplate your spiritual walk with God. However, I would encourage everyone to examine their lives and see how God has been present, personal and caring in all their circumstances. Recognizing and appreciating this is a wonderful way to strengthen your faith and provide you comfort and confidence for the unknown road ahead.

Romans 8:28, “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Vince

CELEBRATE

October Birthdays

Sue Penkivech	7	June Caro	19
Grace Eernisse	8	Bryan Olson	19
Judy Maechtle	8	Claire Olson	19
Jan Young	11	Sandy Grams	24
Bob Griesmeyer	13	Amanda Kissinger	24
David Didier	16	Jack Lentz	25
Jeff Wozniak	16	Eva Gates	26
Kyle Ott II	17	Mallory Zwicker	29
Dave Guse	18	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
10/5	Larry Maechtle	Mark Grams	<i>Needed*</i>	World Communion	Scott Penkivech
10/12	Larry Maechtle	Sandy Grams	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
10/19	Larry Maechtle	Kathy Guse	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
10/26	Larry Maechtle	Mary Downing	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech

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

THANK YOU

Thank you for the continued donations to our Craft Booth! We are now looking for new or gently used, high quality Christmas items. Now is a great time pass along unwanted ornaments, Christmas decorations, or other holiday related items. Thank you for your help in supporting this church fundraiser! -The Craft Booth Team (Sue, Mary Kae, & Lin)

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Non-Perishable Donation Needs

Muffin Mixes, Hash Browns, Manwich, Chili, Canned Chicken, Canned Tomatoes, Spaghetti Sauce, Hamburger Helper, and Paper Towels.



Current Shelter Needs

Gift Cards, full size blankets, full size mattress pads, kitchen dish rags, kitchen forks, laundry dryer sheets, and gallon Ziploc bags - [Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)

Upcoming Meal Week

Our next opportunity to serve meals at the Portlight Shelter with Christ the King Church is **October 20th- 24th**. Please consider helping with this mission by providing a side dish, helping serve a meal, or being a meal leader. Funds are available for reimbursement of your meal costs. Sign up using [this link](#) or call the church office at 262-284-9478. Thanks for considering being a part of this important ministry!

Giving Tree



It's not too early to think about new winter hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves for our Giving Tree. Our tree will be going up soon to collect these items for Family Promise and Ozaukee County Foster Care through the month of October. Please consider helping those in need!



MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.

October 5th 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 Sunday offering that will help students from around the world reach their full potential through scholarships, training, and mentoring. We observe World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October.

You can support World Communion Sunday by making a **special offering and indicating “World Communion Sunday”** in the memo line.



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®

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Eernisse Funeral Home

Writing Your “Final Resume”

We invite you to join us for light conversation and delicious pie while we learn about the vital information that is needed when someone passes away. Easy to collect now, often a night of homework for next of kin if left undone.

Location:

Fellowship Hall
Grand Avenue United Methodist Church
505 West Grand Ave
Port Washington, WI 53074

Date and Time:

Thursday, Oct. 16th at 7:00 PM

Advance Funeral Planner:
Tami Klauck



**Please RSVP to the
office at 262-284-9478
or sign up on the
bulletin board.**

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

Thank You Show at Memories Ballroom

Once again this holiday season, Bob and Jan Griesmeyer would like to provide a thank you entertainment event for the men and women of the church who host the delicious coffee hours that are enjoyed each week following the worship service..

This year they have reserved 25 tickets for the **Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton Real Love Christmas Show (Sunday Matinee) at Memories Dinner Theater** located at 1077 Lake Dr. in Port Washinton. This is a free gift from Bob and Jan Griesmeyer. There are only 25 seats available on a first come, first serve basis, so please sign up as early as you can on the sheet located on bulletin board in the church hallway.

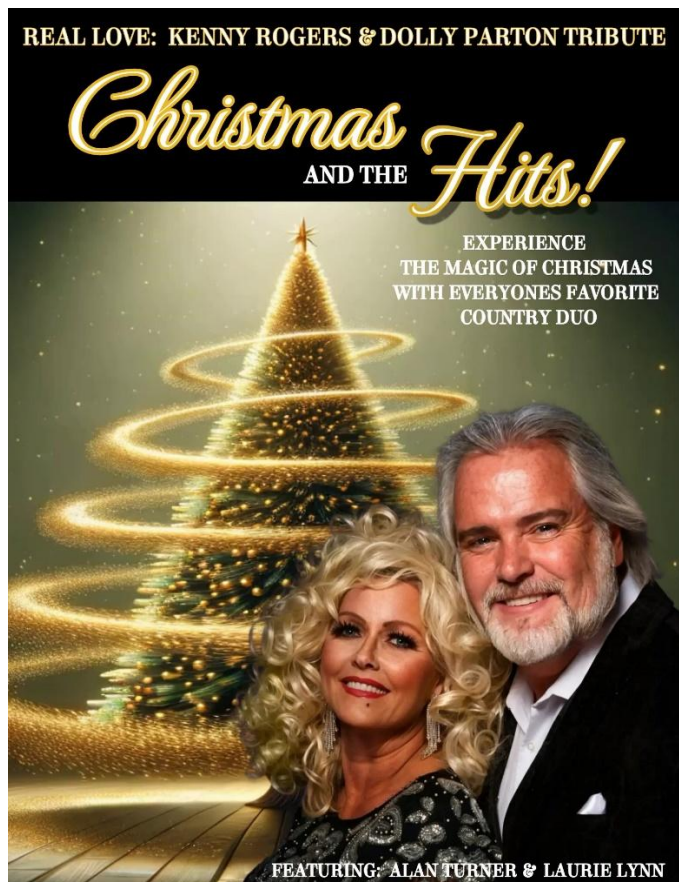
Date: Sunday, November 23, 2025

Time: 11:45 doors open
12:30 Lunch (plated dinner, not a buffet)
2:00 Show begins

Transportation: Carpools from the church

Menu: Chicken Parmesan, Penne Pasta, Marinara Sauce, Roasted Vegetables, Dinner Salad, Garlic Breadsticks, Memories Famous Fluff, and New York Cheesecake for dessert.

Please sign up by October 31st. See Mary Downing, 262-707-4039, with any questions.



Award-winning country artists, Alan Turner and Laurie Lynn take you on a musical journey through decades of Christmas HITS! Just the way Kenny and Dolly did it!

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



October Events

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

October 12th 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 walking through the Bible together and highlighting major stories and themes as we explore God's story of love and redemption for the world.

October 19th from 7:00-8:00 pm - Bonfire and Night Games

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.



Saturday, October 25th from 4:00-7:00 pm - Halloween Food Drive and Fun



Help the hungry in our community while enjoying Halloween at the same time! In this "Trick-or-Treat so Others Can Eat" event, students will be sent out in groups during Saukville's trick-or-treating time to collect donations for the Ozaukee Food Alliance. Then we'll meet back up to sort the donations, eat dinner, and have some Halloween fun together. Everyone is encouraged to dress up and we'll have a costume contest as well.

*Drop off/pick up from Ozaukee Food Alliance (100 E. Green Bay St. in Saukville)

Also, save the date for our 2026 Summer Service Trip!

We will be heading to Nashville from June 20-27 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

A colorful illustration for an Oktoberfest event. At the top, a row of musical notes in red, yellow, and blue is interspersed with small gold stars. Below this, the word "OKTOBERFEST" is written in large, white, block letters with a green outline. Underneath, the date "OCTOBER 4, 2025" is in black, bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the date, the phrase "Join us!" is written in a red, cursive script. The central illustration depicts a man in a green cardigan, purple shirt, brown pants, and a black hat with a pink band, dancing with a woman in a purple dress and a pink headscarf. They are holding hands and smiling. To their right is a large, red and yellow accordion. In front of the accordion are two large, golden-brown pretzels and a green cabbage. The background shows rolling green hills under a light blue sky. At the bottom, a brown banner contains the event details in white text. In the bottom left corner of the banner, there are more musical notes and stars. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular QR code.

OKTOBERFEST
OCTOBER 4, 2025
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

A trusted friend shared the following story about a sermon he heard on the Parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15:1-8. Many of us are quite familiar with the parable. A shepherd leaves his flock of 99 sheep in the wilderness to search for a sheep that was lost. After he finds the sheep, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. He is so filled with joy that he calls his friends and neighbors to join in celebrating the return of his lost sheep. This is how the parable ends, but there's more. According to this preacher, when the shepherd is alone with his sheep in a quiet place, he reaches out and takes the sheep's leg and breaks it. He then says, "Next time you will think twice about wandering away on your own."

If your jaw just dropped after reading this strange interpretation, you are not alone. What makes this interpretation even more disturbing to me is that it was preached in a United Methodist Church.

While I don't claim to be an experience in Wesleyan theology, I can say with certainty that the Wesleys did not view God as a God of retribution and punishment. God is not a God who seeks to keep us in line out of fear of being punished. God's nature according to the Wesley brothers was that of infinite mercy, compassion and love. God's grace is revealed the beginning of Genesis to the end of the book of Revelation. God is always seeking to draw people into His Divine Love. A key scripture in Wesley's view of God is found in Psalm 103:11-12, "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us."

The shepherd in the parable does not seek to punish or shame the lost sheep. He calls us his friends to celebrate with him over the sheep's return. We are called like the shepherd to search for those who are hurting and alone and connect them with the love and tenderness of our Lord Jesus Christ and the church which Jesus has created and leads. We search for the lost because we remember well that God found us when we were spiritually lost. Like those familiar words in Isaiah 53, "All we like sheep have gone astray." We are not children of God because of our perfect obedience but because of God's great mercy and forgiveness in Christ. Knowing that God's love will never let us go, we can go forth with joy and thanksgiving in reaching out to others with compassion and peace as God's beloved community.

In Christ's Love,

Dave

CHURCH NEWS

October 26th is Pledge Sunday

Pledge Sunday will take place on Sunday October 26th. We'll hear an inspiring message from Pastor Vince and turn in our 2026 pledge cards. Please plan on attending.



All Saints' Sunday – November 2nd

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 2nd 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 with their name and relationship so that they can be remembered.



Save the Date



Annual Charge Conference – November 9th

Our Annual Charge Conference will be on Sunday, November 9th 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. We will celebrate our Conference with a potluck. Please plan to join the celebration!

Craft Booth

Thank you for your continued donations to our Craft Booth! We are now looking for quality Christmas items! Remember to shop at our Craft Booth downtown at the Artisan Market, 123 N Franklin St. in Port Washington. We have plenty of great Fall items available.



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 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Kitchen
Fall Book Study	Friday, October 3 at 11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
World Communion Sunday	Sunday, October 5	
Admin Council	Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 pm	Zoom
Fall Book Study	Friday, October 10 at 11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Social Principles	Tuesday, October 14 at 1:00 pm	Gathering Area
Obituary Writing Class	Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Sister Circle	Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 pm	Christ the King
Fall Book Study	Friday, October 17 at 11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Family Promise Meal Week	October 20 – 24	Portlight Shelter
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday, October 21 at 10:00 am	FAC
Newsletter Article Deadline	Friday, October 24	Office
Fall Book Study	Friday, October 24 at 11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Pledge Sunday	Sunday, October 26	
Fall Book Study	Friday, October 31 at 11:00 am	Fellowship Hall



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

Remember Our Endowment Fund



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 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