

March 2024

# the VINE



Open Hearts.  
Open Minds.  
Open Doors.

The people  
of The United  
Methodist  
Church®

Hello Grand Avenue Family,

We enter March and another Lenten Season. As the weather warms and we become more active let us reflect and reconnect with our faith. Lent is a great mechanism and opportunity to reinvigorate our faith and avoid the danger of spiritual complacency.

It was spiritual complacency that was one of the greatest fears John Wesley had for the future of the Methodist Church. He feared that the Holy flame of God's Spirit would be extinguished by institutional religiosity. We see this concern expressed in Wesley's Sermon 116, "Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity" which he gave in Dublin in 1789.

Why then are not these altogether Christians, who have both Christian doctrine and Christian discipline, why is not the spiritual health of the people called Methodists recovered? Why is not all that "mind in us which was also in Christ Jesus?" Why have we not learned of him our very first lesson, to be meek and lowly of heart, to say with him, in all circumstances of life, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt. I come not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me?" Why are we not "crucified to the world, and the world crucified to us," – dead to the "desire of the flesh, the desire of the eye, and the pride of life?" Why do not all of us live "the life that is hid with Christ in God?"

This Lenten season let us refocus on what it means to be a Methodist. For John Wesley, the founder of our denomination, this meant having a practical faith that was lived out in our daily lives from the love of God that fills our hearts. A love that is evident in our joy, our gratitude, and in our service in caring for others. This Lent let us embrace the principles of our faith in our commitment to prayer, scripture, worship, and service. Let our Lenten commitment be to turn from complacency and actively seek to re-ignite the Wesleyan flame of faith in our hearts.

Your Brother in Christ,

*Pastor Vince*

# CELEBRATE

## Happy Birthday

Brian Mc Garry	March 2	Edna Koskamp	March 14
Erica Lentz	March 3	Cathy Smith	March 16
Tim Paulson	March 3	Mark Flack	March 23
Grace Prom	March 4	Ava Johnson	March 26
Madison Zwicker	March 5	Valerie Nichols	March 28
Jan Griesmeyer	March 10	Floyd Swanke	March 29
Jennifer Davis	March 14	Mary Young	March 31

# VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
3/3	Larry Maechtle	Cathy Guse	Rama & Cathy G	Netta, Gwen, & Eddie	Scott Penkivech
3/6	Larry Maechtle	<i>Needed*</i>	n/a	n/a - Soup Supper	Scott Penkivech
3/10	Larry Maechtle	Kay Hamann	n/a	Nancy Haacke	Scott Penkivech
3/17	Larry Maechtle	Mary Downing	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
3/24	Larry Maechtle	Lin Lohr	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
3/28	Larry Maechtle	<i>Needed*</i>	n/a	n/a – Maundy Thurs.	Scott Penkivech
3/31	Larry Maechtle	Marc Eernisse	n/a	n/a - Easter Breakfast	Scott Penkivech

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

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



## Non-Perishable Donations

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

Jell-O	Crackers
Pudding	Soup
Cereal	Vegetable Oil
Canned Fruit	Toilet Paper

## MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the February Family Promise meals donating dishes, organizing meals, and serving. Thanks also to those who have donated funds to this mission. With these funds, we were able to purchase milk and juice for our meal week and provide an additional meal needed during the Community Meals week. Our next opportunity to serve will be the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Current Needs

The Family Promise Amazon Wish List can be viewed [here](#). Items are listed in order of the greatest need.

## FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

### Midweek Soup Supper and Ecumenical Worship

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Worship at GAUMC**

Please join us for an evening of fellowship and worship with our friends in our community when we host the March 6th ecumenical soup supper and worship service.

### Social Principles

**Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm**

**Gathering Area at GAUMC**

Come prepared to discuss the handout on **Plastic Chemicals in our food**. Sue Merrill will also present an interesting idea on recycling at its best! Be on the lookout for articles or any ideas you want to share.

### Sister Circle

**Thursday, March 21st, 7:00 pm**

**Christ the King Church, 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 continuing to read and discuss the book we began in January, *Praying Women* by Shelia Walsh. Please read Chapters 4, 5 & 6 for the March meeting.

Please contact Mary at 414-828-4675 or [mariwags@gmail.com](mailto:mariwags@gmail.com) with any questions.

## FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



### March Events

#### March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm – “Chopped” Style Food Competition

Your teamwork and culinary creativity will be put to the test in this fun and fast-paced competition based off of the hit cooking show “Chopped”. Students will be divided into teams and given a “mystery basket” of ingredients. You will then have to work together to create the best dish you can using those items in a designated amount of time before presenting your culinary creations to a panel of judges. This will be a fun evening you won’t want to miss!



#### March 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 pm – Easter Basket Service Project

We will once again be assembling Easter baskets for children served by Family Promise of Ozaukee County. Join us as we put them together as a way to share God’s love with our neighbors this Easter!

#### LIGHTHOUSE WILL BE HOSTING OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> “EGG MY YARD” FUNDRAISER

This is where people can sign up to have Lighthouse youth hide plastic Easter eggs filled with candy and toys in their yards the night before Easter and then wake up to an at-home Easter egg hunt on Easter morning!

#### “Egg My Yard” Part 1 – Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm

Meet at Lighthouse to fill the dozens of eggs that were ordered. All supplies will be provided.

#### “Egg My Yard” Part 2 – Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 pm

Meet at Lighthouse and divide up into teams to deliver all the egg orders to peoples’ homes.

***Note to congregation members:** We are not requesting item donations for the Easter projects this year, but if you feel called to make a monetary donation to help offset our costs, please talk to the Lighthouse board representative(s) for your congregation. We also do NOT need any more plastic Easter eggs donated for “Egg My Yard” this year as we have an over-abundance from your generosity last year. Thank you for your support with both projects in the past!*



## It's back!

Let us help you create a fun at-home egg hunt by spreading plastic eggs filled with candy and toys throughout your yard. You can also order this as a fun surprise to be sent to a friend or family member to help brighten their Easter! Delivery by Lighthouse youth is available for any home within Port Washington or Saukville, or you can arrange to pick up a collection of pre-filled eggs and hide them yourself if you live in other areas.

For more info or to sign up please visit [www.lighthouseyouth.org/eggs](http://www.lighthouseyouth.org/eggs) or call Christin Flucke at 262-483-9582. The deadline to order is **Sunday, March 17th**

and all deliveries will be made the night of Saturday, March 30th - just in time for Easter morning!

**EGG MY YARD!**  
LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

SIGN UP TO HAVE CANDY AND TOY FILLED EGGS DELIVERED IN YOUR YARD AND WAKE UP TO A FUN AT HOME EGG HUNT ON EASTER MORNING!	2 DOZEN - \$20
	4 DOZEN - \$35
	8 DOZEN - \$60

SIGN UP AT  
[WWW.LIGHTHOUSEYOUTH.ORG/EGGS](http://WWW.LIGHTHOUSEYOUTH.ORG/EGGS)

The graphic features a QR code and several colorful plastic eggs (pink, yellow, blue) in a grassy field.

## Lighthouse Summer Service Trip to Madison July 14-17

All youth who have completed grades 5-12 are welcome to join us for an exciting half week of service, learning, and fun! We will be partnering with Serve Boldly, a non-profit organization that helps organize trips for youth groups which focus on answering Christ's call to "love your neighbor". Together, we will have the opportunity to learn about challenges such as poverty and homelessness that many in our state's capital city face, and partner with some incredible service organizations working to fight those challenges and serve the community. The out-of-pocket cost to participate in the trip will be \$175 per person, with Lighthouse covering the other half of the expenses. This cost includes housing, transportation, all of your meals, service projects, and some fun activities throughout the week.



**Interested in participating or learning more? Please talk to Christin by Friday, March 15th.**

**Lighthouse events are open to all students in grades 5-12** and, unless otherwise noted, 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)



## United Methodist Corner

A Scripture passage that is often read or preached on during Lent is Jesus' command, "All who seek to follow me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me."

(Mark 8:34). The popular understanding of Lent is that it is the season that is marked by what we are willing to give up. As Pastor Vince mentioned in a recent sermon, this often consists of giving up sweets and other superficial things. But this practice does not get at the heart of what Jesus is referring to when he speaks about the need to deny ourselves.

John Wesley preached a sermon on "Self-Denial." Wesley taught that Jesus' command means both a giving up or letting go of something (sacrifice) and a taking up of something. Self-denial is not about denying our self-worth. Each one of us have been created in the image of God and are precious to God. We have been created with the capacity to love and to be loved. God has given us many gifts for us to enjoy; the family and relationships, the fruits of the earth, talents and gifts and so on. We are to use these gifts we have been given for God's glory. When these gifts and our accomplishments and our pursuit of the good life becomes our central concern instead of God, we soon find ourselves lost and alone.

Our human tendency and is to be egocentric. We learn at a very young age about the importance of the words I and my and mine. We can't help this tendency because we are looking at the world through our own limited perspective. Sin and temptation also keep us centered upon ourselves and our own concerns. Self-denial is about turning from our self-centeredness towards the light and mercy of God. During Lent, we emphasize the importance of prayer and the reading of scripture so that we can listen and discern where God is leading us and guiding us in Christ. When we are faced with challenging decisions, we are called to respond as Christ did in his struggle in the Garden, "Not my will, but thine be done."

Our self-centeredness keeps us from looking outward at the needs of others. Taking up our cross does not literally have to mean our facing physical death. Taking up our cross is reaching out and seeking the well-being of others. This may involve the risk of being rejected by others or the possibility of facing physical harm. Ultimately, we are seeking to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. During Lent, we also take up something on behalf of others. We are willing, out of love, to bear one another's burdens for the sake of Christ.

Our living for God is a life-long commitment and journey of faith. We will stumble and fall many times. In the end, it is not about us; it is about seeking to love God and to love another as Christ loves us in this time and place.

May you have a holy Lent!

Dave

## CHURCH NEWS

# FREE CPR CLASS

**Learn how to save a life while waiting  
for the ambulance to arrive**

**Learn how to use an AED**

**No medical training or skill required**

**Sponsored by the Port Washington Fire  
Department and Grand Avenue Church**

**7PM to 8:30 PM, March 19, 2024  
Grand Ave Church  
505 W Grand Avenue  
Port Washington WI 53074**

**Free Parking - Free Admission BUT  
Space is limited - Reserve now!  
Call 262-284-9478 during office hours**

## CHURCH NEWS, cont.

### Community Parking Lot Party – A Time to Celebrate! Mark your calendars for **June 8, 2024**, from 4 PM to 7 PM

#### Why?

- We want to share our thanks for God's gifts we receive every day
- We want to reach out to our community
- We want to share our Faith and Fellowship
- We want to share information about the many ministries in our community
- **We will have a really good time together as a community of faith!**

#### Who?

- Our GAUMC Congregation
- The community – send out invites to every residence within blocks of the church
- Partner Congregations – CTK, First Congregational, Parkside, Living Hope, etc.
- Lighthouse Youth & Families
- Family Promise Team and Clients
- ADRC & Stock Box Teams and Clients
- **Anyone else that wants to party with us!**

#### What?

##### **4 PM – Games, Information, Fellowship**

- Information tables – ADRC, Lighthouse, Stock Box, Family Promise, Food Pantry, Social Principles, etc.
- Fill the barrel(s) for the Food Pantry
- Games – Basketball, Yard Games, treasure hunt, contests

##### **5 PM – Sharing a Meal**

- Hotdogs & Hamburgers with all the fixings
- Ice Cream with all the fixings for sundaes
- Celebration Cake

##### **6 PM – Bonfire**

- Ceremonial burning of the mortgage to start the campfire
- Roasting marshmallows with all the fixings for smores

#### How?

- We will figure it out. We always do
- **I'm in, are you?** Contact Dan Benning or the Church Office and let us know how you will help.

**This event is NOT a FUNDRAISER but a FUN raiser!**

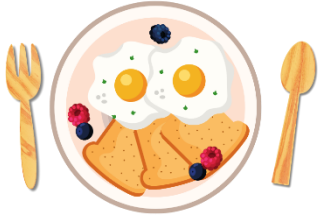


## CHURCH NEWS, cont.

### Coffee Orders

Those interested in ordering coffee can sign up on the order sheet located on the bulletin board. Coffee selections available for purchase include Breakfast Blend, French Roast, and Decaffeinated. You can also order Hot Cocoa. Equal Exchange ships in multiples of six. Dave will place the order when enough orders have been made. You will need to pay in advance for your order. Thanks!

### Easter Breakfast March 31<sup>st</sup>



We will be serving an Easter Breakfast once again from 8:30 to 9:30 am, before our Sunday Easter Service on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at church if you are interested in donating food items or helping in the kitchen. Please contact Marc Eernisse with any questions.

## THANK YOU NOTES



Dear Grand Avenue UMC,  
Thank you for your generous donation of laundry and dishwasher tabs. Thanks to your generosity and support, we are able to continue making a difference in the lives of homeless families and individuals in the community.  
With Sincere Appreciation,  
Cori Guerin, Chief Executive Officer



Please accept my sincere gratitude for your dedicated service to the Milwaukee County and state-wide community. Hunger Task Force is proud to work with your organization as a Free & Local partner in the fight against hunger. Through Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, the Hunger Task Force was able to supply \$19,518.06 of free food for the hungry in 2023. We value your partnership.  
Sincerely, Sherrie Tussler (Exec. Director)

*Dear Grand Avenue Church Family,  
Cathy and I want to thank you for your very generous monetary gift. We really appreciate it. We will use part of it on our fun trip to Sedona. I feel very honored and privileged to be able to continue to serve and be a part of God's glorious mission.-- Dave*

# CALENDAR

## March Events

Worship Service	Weekly Sunday at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
Choir Practice	Weekly Sunday at 11:20 am	Balcony
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
Lenton Study Group – Ch. 3	Friday Mar. 1, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Trustees Meeting	Sunday Mar. 3 at 11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Midweek Lent Soup Supper	Wednesday Mar. 6, 6:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Midweek Lent Worship	Wednesday Mar. 6, 7:00 pm	Sanctuary
Lenton Study Group – Ch. 4	Friday Mar. 8, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Port Wash. Woman's Club	Monday Mar 11, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Social Principles Group	Tuesday Mar. 12 at 1:00 pm	Gathering Area
Midweek Lent Soup & Worship	Wednesday Mar. 13, 6:00 pm / 7:00 pm	Christ the King via Zoom
Finance & Admin Council	Thursday Mar. 14 at 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Lenton Study Group – Ch. 5	Friday Mar. 15, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday Mar. 19 at 10:00 am	FAC & Parking Lot
CPR Training Class	Tuesday Mar. 19 at 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Midweek Lent Soup & Worship	Wednesday Mar. 20, 6:00 pm / 7:00 pm	First Cong. UCC
Lenton Study Group – Ch. 6	Friday Mar. 22, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Newsletter Article Deadline	Thursday Mar. 22	Office
Palm Sunday Worship	Sunday Mar. 24 at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
Maundy Thursday Worship	Thursday Mar. 28 at 7:00 pm	Sanctuary
Easter Breakfast	Sunday Mar. 31 at 8:30 – 9:30 am	Fellowship Hall
Easter Sunday Worship	Sunday Mar. 31 at 10:00 am	Sanctuary

## 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>
Pastoral Assistant:	Dave Guse	<a href="mailto:senegaldave1@gmail.com">senegaldave1@gmail.com</a>
Administrative Assistant:	Stacy Peters	<a href="mailto:office@portumc.org">office@portumc.org</a>
Lay Leader:	Dan Benning	<a href="mailto:bennida01@att.net">bennida01@att.net</a>
Council Chairperson:	Mark Grams	<a href="mailto:mgrams@wi.rr.com">mgrams@wi.rr.com</a>
SPRC Chairperson:	Mary Kae Geittmann	<a href="mailto:mkaeg214@gmail.com">mkaeg214@gmail.com</a>
Bishop: Rev. Hee-Soo Jung / District Superintendent:	Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Insor	



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church™**

# Ecumenical Midweek Lent

LIGHT SUPPER at 6PM  
SERVICE at 7PM



## *Created for Community*

The season of Lent invites us to grow spiritually as individuals and as God's people together. Join us this year in reflecting on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

Wednesday, February 21

LIVING HOPE ELCA  
(SAUKVILLE)

Wednesday, February 28

PARKSIDE COMMUNITY UCC  
(SAUKVILLE)

Wednesday, March 6

GRAND AVENUE UMC  
(PORT WASHINGTON)

Wednesday, March 13

CHRIST THE KING ELCA  
(PORT WASHINGTON)

Wednesday, March 20

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
(PORT WASHINGTON)

# RaiseRight formerly ShopWithScrip

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*