

June 2026

the VINE



Dear Grand Avenue Family and Friends,

As I enter my last month as your Pastor, I wanted to express my deep gratitude for all the kindness you have shown my family and me over the past four years. For me it has been four years of growing in Christian fellowship, strengthening my faith in God's personal love and overcoming hardship and trials, the greatest of which was the death of my son.

For better or worse Grand Avenue UMC will be inexorably welded to that fateful day. The day when I experienced the greatest tragedy of my life, I was preaching the Word completely unaware that I had lost my son. The events of that Sunday are seared into my consciousness, the death of my child, a person that I so dearly loved and so dearly miss.

However, what is also indelibly etched into my consciousness is the love and comfort the people of this church gave to my family and me after that unimaginable tragedy. Thank you, for sharing your love and support all these many days following December 3rd, 2023. I will carry the memory of your compassion as I seek to continue to reconstruct my life in the wake of Nick's absence.

I will continue to keep you in my prayers as you welcome a new pastor and a new chapter in the long story of Grand Avenue United Methodist Church. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you and may God bless you and this church abundantly in the days and years to come.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Vince



CELEBRATE

June Birthdays

Vickie Meins	1
Jill Eernisse	6
Bill Foster	8
Sue Hamann	15
Kayla Killey	15
Netta Freeland	17
Rachal Guse	17
Jason Kissinger	20
Pat Craig	28
Frank Schroeter	29
Natalie Benning	30

June Anniversaries

Jake & Netta Freeland	3
Dan & Kelly Weltin	11
Scott & Stacy Zwicker	12
Keith & Emily Betker	14
Rob & Vicky Schafman	20
Dave & Cathy Guse	22
Jan & Mary Young	24
David & Laura Didier	30

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, Volunteers, for serving in our ministry!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Cupbearer</u>	<u>Coffee Host</u>	<u>AV</u>
6/7	Larry Maechtle	Marc Eernisse	<i>Needed*</i>	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
6/14	Larry Maechtle	Nancy Haacke	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
6/21	Larry Maechtle	Rama Bharadwaj	n/a	Bonnie Pachner & Maple	Scott Penkivech
6/28	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	n/a	Mark & Sandy Grams	Scott Penkivech

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

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Current Needs

Garbanzo beans, pinto beans, large soup, canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, assorted pastas, condiments, and salad dressing. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission to help our neighbors in need!

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



With rising gas prices, many of the families we serve are struggling to get to work, school, childcare, appointments, and housing opportunities. Family Promise is currently in need of gas card donations. Every gift, big or small, makes a difference in helping families stay on the road toward stability.

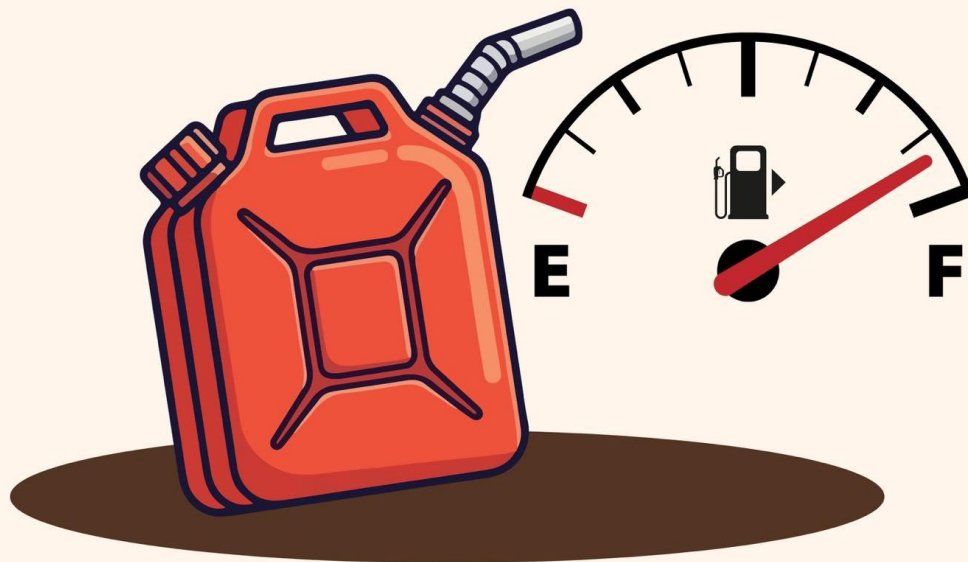
Let's Help



HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED

What We Need:

GASOLINE GIFT CARDS



**DROP OFF/MAIL IN TO : 136 w Grand Avenue, Port
Washington, WI 53074**

 **(262) 268-2723**

 **www.familypromiseoz.org**

MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



Meal Week Thank You

Thank you to Gwen & Ed Freier, Sandy & Mark Grams, Dave & Cathy Guse, Barb Jones, and John & Cheryl Wozniak for providing meals for the Portlight Shelter guests in May. Our next opportunity to serve meals will be the week of August 24th. We welcome you to join us in this mission.

Current Shelter Needs

Gas Gift Cards, full-size mattress pads, toothpaste, 13-gallon garbage bags, Lysol Disinfectant Spray, toilet bowl cleaner, paper towels, and toilet paper.

[Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)



Please accept my sincere gratitude for your dedicated service to families, children, and seniors in Milwaukee and across Wisconsin. Hunger Task Force is proud to work with your organization as a Free & Local partner. Grand Avenue United Methodist Church is a member of a network of over 200 organizations working together to end hunger in our communities. We value your partnership.

The Hunger Task Force was able to supply \$18,508.96 of free food to the community from October 2024 – September 2025 through our partnership with Grand Avenue United Methodist Church.

Sincerely, Matt King

Chief Executive Officer

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES



Summer Event Calendar

Saturday, June 20th - Friday, June 26th: Youth Service Trip to Nashville

We have an awesome team of 6 youth and 3 adults heading to Nashville with Serve Boldly for full week of service, learning, and lots of fun! Please keep this group in your prayers throughout this week that we may have safe travels, open hearts and minds, and that God would be at work in and through us as we serve our neighbors in Nashville!



Friday, July 31st - Saturday, August 1st: Mini Service Trip to Milwaukee

Join us for a 24-hour service trip focused on housing concerns and those experiencing homelessness. On Friday, we will be serving a meal at Pathways youth shelter and spend the night at a church in the area. Saturday morning we'll help out with Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge, serve lunch, and then head back home to end with hosting an ice cream social for the guests at the Portlight shelter. This will be a great opportunity to learn and share God's love, and is especially designed for our middle school students (but high schoolers are also welcome!) The cost is \$40. **Please RSVP by July 1st if you plan to attend.**



Sunday, August 2nd - Tuesday, August 4th: Adult Service Trip to Chicago

We are very excited to host our first ever adult service trip this year and have a great team of 11 adults from 4 of the 5 Lighthouse congregations ready for a fun adventure! We will travel down to Chicago and partner with Jesus People USA for a couple days of partnering with local service organizations and meeting the needs of our neighbors. Please keep this group in your prayers, AND there is still room to join us if you would like! Talk to Christin for more information.



Plus, keep an eye out for even more local opportunities to use your gifts and serve our neighbors as we come together to "Do Something" this summer!

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

United Methodist Corner

We celebrated the Day of Pentecost recently. The history of Methodism is very much about the movement of the Holy Spirit. John Wesley wrote many sermons and letters on the work of the Holy Spirit. He wrote about our need to experience new birth from the Spirit. The Holy Spirit plays a major role in the process of sanctification whereby we grow in the love and knowledge of God and in maturity in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit is no mere concept or idea that we follow as United Methodist. The presence of the Spirit is something we can experience personally and as a community. John Wesley journaled about his own experience of being touched and filled with the Spirit. It has become known as Wesley's Aldersgate experience. His experience happened on May 24, 1738 which coincidentally is the Day of Pentecost this year. He had attended a Moravian service at Aldersgate Chapel. He was listening to someone reading Martin Luther's preface to the Romans when something happened in Wesley's heart and soul. He wrote in his journal, "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." He had been preaching to others about Christ's forgiveness, but here he had personally experienced the presence of the Spirit entering his heart. For Wesley, the presence of the Spirit meant an assurance that he was forgiven and that he too was a child of God.

One of Wesley's favorite scriptures that is a lectionary text on Pentecost Sunday for Year C is Romans 8:14-17, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

Just three years before this death, Wesley issue this warning to Methodists, "My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great." Wesley's words serve as a clarion call to the United Methodist Church today. Our mission, our work for Christ, falls flat without our openness to the movement and power of the Holy Spirit. It will be that power that will enable us to fulfill our United Methodist mission, "To love boldly, to serve joyfully and to lead courageously." Let us continue to pray for a renewal movement within United Methodism and the courage to follow wherever the Spirit leads us..

In Christ's Love, Dave

CHURCH NEWS

*Congratulations and blessings
to all the new graduates!*

Natalie Benning, Biomedical Sciences, Bachelor of Science,
Alverno college

Daughter of Dan and Lynn Benning

Nelson Benning, Building Automated Systems, Technical Diploma,
Milwaukee Area Technical College

Son of Dan and Lynn Benning

Katherine Haacke Golden, International Service, American
University in Washington DC (a Methodist University)

Granddaughter of Nancy Haacke

Julia Noelle Downing, Totino Grace Catholic High School, Brooklyn
Park, MN., on to Heider College of Business at Creighton
University in Omaha, Nebraska

Daughter of Jon & Angela Dowening

Beloved granddaughter of Mary Downing

CHURCH NEWS, cont.

Let's be thankful together

Farewell Luncheon

Dear Church Family,

With grateful hearts, we invite you to join us in honoring and bidding a fond farewell to Pastor Vince, as he prepares for his next chapter. Over the past 4 years, Pastor Vince has been sharing his message of keeping God first in our lives.

Please join us for a special farewell luncheon to share memories, extend our well-wishes, and express our deep appreciation in person.

When: Sunday, June 28th, following our worship service

Food will be provided, but please bring your favorite memories or a short, written note of thanks to place in our farewell basket!

OBITUARY WRITING WORKSHOP PART TWO

In Part Two of our workshop, we will be sharing how our writing went and getting peer input on our drafts. If you missed Part One, but want to join us for Part Two, contact the office for writing templates and examples, and bring your best draft to the session.


WEDNESDAY JUNE 3RD

at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

CALENDAR

June 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
Community Prayer Group	Wednesday, June 3 at 9:30 am	Christ the King
Obituary Writing Workshop	Wednesday, June 3 at 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Friendship Club	Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Admin Council	Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 pm	Zoom
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday June 16 at 10:00 am	FAC
Father's Day	Sunday, June 21	
Office Closed	June 23 – 26 (Stacy on vacation)	
Newsletter Article Deadline	Friday, June 26	Office

Did you know GAUMC has a  Facebook page?
You can follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/GrandAveChurch>

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

You can help support our church through the fundraisers below:

- **Aluminum Can Collection** – Put your aluminum cans in the barrels at the back entrance into church and we'll recycle them for cash.
- **RaiseRight Scrip (Gift Card) Program** – You can order gift cards for businesses you already shop at and the church gets a donation. Forms are on the counter in the narthex or go to www.raiseright.com and use our enrollment code of 45F776D958L66.



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*