

# February 2025

## the VINE



Hello Grand Avenue Family and Friends,

We enter February 2025 with a great deal of uncertainty. New governmental leadership and the prospect of profound change can cause both optimism and anxiety. As we navigate this new changing landscape let us not lose sight of what doesn't change. As redeemed Children of God, we can take comfort in the assurance that God is in control. Though the world around us may be battling a storm of anxiety and uncertainty we remain safe and secure on the rock of our faith. The winds and rain may be beat against us but we are secure in our Truth that God is in control of our lives. A life built on rock and not sand.

This rock of certainty is essential to survive in a world of constant storms. The storms of political change, upheaval, and uncertainty have always been the common state of the world we live in. As we look back in history mankind has endured constant trials associated with changing political landscapes. The rise and fall of the Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires, the Dark Ages of Feudal Europe, the French, Russian, and American Revolutions, regional and global wars, and ever-changing political boundaries, alliances, and ideologies demonstrate the condition of unrest that is our world. Through this perspective, we can conclude that our days are no different than those that have existed throughout history.

However, we are different. We stand on a truth and certainty the world is unable to provide. A truth that never changes. God is in control and He will guide, care for, and protect us. So even if it seems as though the world is being turned upside down always remember that our faith enables us to overcome the world. The world will continue to change with the designs and intrigues of people but our light will continue to shine with the same brightness because our focus is not on the kingdoms of the world but the Kingdom of God.

***Deuteronomy 31:8, "It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."***

***1 John 5:4, "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."***

***John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."***

Your brother in Christ,

*Pastor Vince*

## CELEBRATE

### *Happy Birthday*

Jake Freeland	2/3
Nelson Benning	2/9
Melissa Strand	2/11
Nancy Haacke	2/14
Bob Graff	2/17
Chris Killey	2/19
Will Kissinger	2/20
Renee Keller	2/22
Laura Didier	2/27

### *Happy Anniversary*

Larry & June Caro	2/19
Gregg & Erica Lentz	2/26

## VOLUNTEERS

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Cupbearer</b>	<b>Coffee Host</b>	<b>AV</b>
2/2	Larry Maechtle	Lin Lohr	<i>Needed*</i>	Ardelle Dionne	Scott Penkivech
2/9	Larry Maechtle	Ardelle Dionne	n/a	Judy, Deb, & Vickie	Scott Penkivech
2/16	Larry Maechtle	Mark Grams	n/a	Bonnie Pachner	Scott Penkivech
2/23	Larry Maechtle	Sandy Grams	n/a	Mary D. & Sandy G.	Scott Penkivech

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

### Audio / Visual Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping run our projector and recording our worship service for those that can't attend in person? Audio/video help is needed on a regular basis and training is provided. Please call or text Dan Benning at 414-207-3487 or contact the at [office@portumc.org](mailto:office@portumc.org) or 262-284-9478 if interested.

## MISSIONS & OUTREACH

### Suicide Awareness and Prevention

A small group of us have been planning a three-part program on suicide. Our goal is to raise awareness about the importance of reducing stigma, guilt, blame and shame of suicide and encourage open conversation.

We are presenting our program on these dates: April 10, May 8, and June 12. This is the second Thursday of each month, and each deals with a different aspect of suicide. We are inviting YOU, the congregation, along with our area churches, and the Lighthouse Youth.

We already have speakers coming, as well as a powerful video to show. We are now in the process of finalizing our plans, but if anyone wants to join us to help with final details, we welcome your input. Watch the bulletin for dates and times of future meetings.

## MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



### Upcoming Meal Week

Our next opportunity to serve meals at the Portlight Shelter with Christ the King Church is **February 24-28**. Funds are available for reimbursement of your meal costs.

Please consider helping with this mission by providing a side dish, helping serve a meal, or being a meal leader. Sign up using [this link](#) or call the GAUMC office at 262-284-9478. Thanks for considering being a part of this important ministry!

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

### Current Shelter Needs

9x13 Nonstick Baking Sheets

Pillows

Paper Towels

Baby Wipes

Disinfecting Wipes

Washcloths

Dish Cloths

Rubber Spatulas (See Amazon list)

Plastic Dish Sets (See Amazon list)

[Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)

### Thank You!

Thanks to recent generous donations to the Family Promise Urgent Needs fund, we were able to purchase and deliver the following in January:

36 rolls of paper toweling

360 rolls of toilet paper

180 boxes of facial tissue

15 containers of disinfecting wipes

120 washcloths

12 gallons of bleach

12 sticks each of women's and men's deodorant

12 sticks each of men's and women's shaving cream

3,500 Q-tips

## MISSIONS & OUTREACH, cont.



### Non-Perishable Donation Needs

Cake Mix  
Frosting  
Birthday Candles  
Canned Veggies  
Canned Soup

Cream of ..... Soups  
Canned Chicken  
Cereal  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Canned fruit

## FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

From Dave Guse:

### The Work of Christmas

By the great theologian and philosopher Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.



## FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES, cont.



### February Events



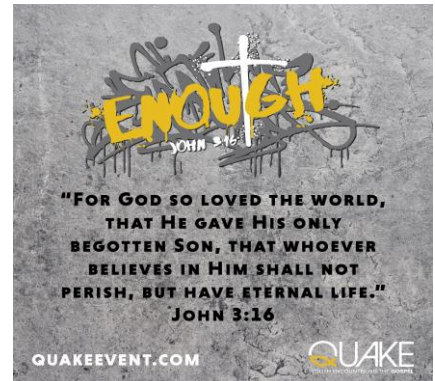
#### February 2nd from 6:30-8:00 pm Birthday Kits and Video Games

Grab a friend and come help us assemble 150 birthday kits to donate to our local food pantries! Then, show off your skills and enjoy

some friendly competition with a variety of group-friendly video games such as Mario Kart or JackBox games.

6 youth and 4 adults from Lighthouse will be attending the Quake Retreat in Wisconsin Dells from February 14-16.

This will be an awesome weekend of worship, speakers, workshops, a service project, and of course, some waterpark fun! Please keep this group in your prayers as they travel, learn, play, and grow in faith together!



#### February 23rd from 7:00-8:00 pm - Night Games at CTK

Join us for an evening of fun with some classic night games like ghosts in the graveyard - always a hit with our students! Please drop off/pick up students from Christ the King Lutheran Church (420 W. Whitefish Rd. in Port).

**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](mailto:christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org)

## THANK YOU NOTES

*Dear Grand Avenue Church Family,*

*Thank you very much for the kind Christmas card and generous year end gift. I truly enjoy working in the office and helping everyone carry out God's work. Thanks again for thinking of me!*

*Blessings, Stacy Peters*



Please accept my sincere gratitude for your dedicated service to families, children, and seniors in our community. We are proud to work with your organization as a Free & Local partner. Through Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, we were able to supply \$19,006.20 of free food in 2024. We value your partnership.

Sincerely, Matt King (Chief Executive Officer)

***Special Thanks*** to all of our church family who so willingly ***support our church craft booth*** at Port's Artisan Market.

*Your prayers, your crafts, and other donations are greatly appreciated. 100% of the sales from the craft booth are donated to our church. **2024 was another great year with total sales of \$8,006.***

*But the church craft booth is so much more than just a monetary benefit to Grand Ave Church. Through our presence at the market, we're able to be a witness to our faith and share about our church.*

*If you have any questions regarding our booth, please call me at 262-284-5316.*

*Thanks ya'!!! - Margaret Lueptow*

## CHURCH NEWS

### Fundraising Ideas Wanted!

As we step into a new year filled with exciting possibilities, we are looking to explore fresh and creative ways to raise funds for our church.

Fellowship Hall provides us with a large space that can be used and we want to hear your suggestions. Whether it's an event, an activity, or something else, we'd love to hear your thoughts. Perhaps you've seen a successful fundraiser elsewhere, or maybe you have a vision for something entirely new—either way, we're eager to listen.

Please email the office at [office@portumc.org](mailto:office@portumc.org) to share your thoughts and ideas.



# United Methodist Corner

One of the key teachings of John Wesley to Methodists is that of grace. Grace is often defined as the unmerited love, mercy and compassion of God that has blessed creation since the beginning of time. John Wesley defined grace as the sum total of all God's gifts and blessings upon humanity from the moment of creation on onward. Unlike many of his contemporaries who believed that God's undeserved love is only given to a select few or God's elect, Wesley maintained that God's grace is available to all. We hear that message echoed in the song, "Come sinners to the Gospel feast, let every soul be Jesus' guest. No need to be left behind, for God hath bid all humankind (UMH #339).

A significant part of our understanding of God's grace is Wesley's teaching on prevenient grace. The word prevenient means the grace that goes before human action. In other words, the presence of the Holy Spirit is working in us long before we ever acknowledge God or receive Christ in our lives. There is great freedom in knowing that we don't have to try to prove our worth or work our way to be accepted. God has accepted us and reconciled us in Christ. All we need to do is to turn towards God's light and live! Those are unaware of God's presence can do good things because God's grace has led them in this way.

One of the Wesley's favorite scriptures that illustrates God's prevenient grace is Psalm 139. We find in verses 7-12 that God is intimately knowledgeable and active in our lives long before we are aware of it. "If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."

I believe that living in the knowledge and reality of this grace is a great support in our witness and service to others. I remember when I was leading Bible study with the prisoners at the Ozaukee County Jail, I would often witness to them about how God comes to us in love and kindness and not judgement and retribution. I never asked them why they were there. They had broken the law in some way. But we would talk about the future and what future plans may God have for them. Always a key in that future is knowing that God always seeks to reconcile us back to him through the love of Christ in the Spirit. In the words of our communion liturgy, May God lead us to become one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry to all the world until Christ's comes in final victory and that all of God's people might feast at His heavenly banquet table

In Christ's Love, Dave

# CALENDAR

## February 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
Worship Team Meeting	Sunday, February 2 at 11 am	Gathering Area
PW Woman's Club	Monday, February 10 at 11 am	Fellowship Hall
Social Principles	Tuesday, February 11, 1 pm	Gathering Area
Friendship Club	Wednesday, February 12, 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Administrative Council	Thursday, February 13 at 7 pm	Zoom
Valentine's Day	Friday, February 14	
President's Day	Monday, February 17	
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday, February 18 at 10:00 am	FAC & Parking Lot
Sister Circle	Thursday, February 20 at 7 pm	Christ the King
Newsletter Articles Due	Friday, February 21	Office
Family Promise Meal Week	February 24 – 28	Portlight Shelter

### 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 [pastor@portumc.org](mailto:pastor@portumc.org)  
Pastoral Assistant: Dave Guse [senegaldave1@gmail.com](mailto:senegaldave1@gmail.com)  
Administrative Assistant: Stacy Peters [office@portumc.org](mailto:office@portumc.org)  
Lay Leader: Dan Benning [bennida01@att.net](mailto:bennida01@att.net)  
Admin Council Chair: Mark Grams [mgrams@wi.rr.com](mailto:mgrams@wi.rr.com)  
Bishop: Dan Schwerin / District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Inzor

### Remember Our Endowment Fund

Did you know 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 you.
- **Craft booth at Port's Artisan Market** – You can donate crafts, books, puzzles, or gently used quality items for us to sell at our church craft booth in downtown Port.
- **RaiseRight Scrip (Gift Card) Program** – You can order gift cards for stores you already shop at and the church gets a donation. Forms are on the counter in the narthex or go to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) and use our enrollment code of 45F776D958L66.



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





# RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

**Did you know our RaiseRight program earned over \$700 in donations to our church last year?** RaiseRight allows you to support our church simply by using pre-paid gift cards to do your shopping. Each business offers a percentage rebate ranging from 2.5% to 9%, with specials throughout the year that can exceed 15%. Participants purchase the gift cards for their full value, and the rebate goes right to Grand Avenue Church.

You can purchase your gift cards using the attached RaiseRight form or you can purchase cards [online](#). Note: Online purchases via a credit card are charged at 2.65% of the purchase, a debit card at 1% of the purchase, and direct pay from your bank is \$0.29 per transaction regardless of your purchase size.

If you prefer not to use the RaiseRight website or app, you can use the form on the counter in the Narthex to get physical cards on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

**Go to [raiseright.com](https://raiseright.com) and use our enrollment code 45F776D958L66 to begin shopping with RaiseRight and earning money for our church.**

## Buy Your Valentine a Gift They Love with RaiseRight

If you're looking for Valentine's Day gifts that are unique and memorable, consider giving a RaiseRight gift card. For instance:

- A gift card to their [favorite restaurant](#)
- A gift card to help them [get started with a home improvement project](#)
- A gift card for a delivery service like [DoorDash](#), [Uber Eats](#), or [Instacart](#).

Perhaps your valentine loves to indulge in luxury experiences. Consider picking up a gift card that will help keep them pampered, like a [gift card for a spa treatment or makeup](#). You can also give gift cards to brands that are meaningful to the two of you, like a [Starbucks gift card](#) to commemorate your weekly coffee dates.

### **Pro-tip:**

Always [shop online or buy gift cards via RaiseRight](#) to fundraise for our church.

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*

## 28 Ways to Love One Another in the Month of February

### Do:

- 1) Seek peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
- 2) Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- 3) Honor one another (Romans 12:10)
- 4) Live harmoniously with one another (Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8)
- 5) Accept one another as Christ accepted you (Romans 15:7)
- 6) Teach and instruct one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
- 7) Have equal care for one another without division (I Cor. 12:25)
- 8) Show warm and visible affection for one another (I Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12; Romans 16:16; 1 Peter 5:14)
- 9) Serve one another (John 13:14; Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10)
- 10) Carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- 11) Be patient, forbearing with one another. (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13)
- 12) Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- 13) Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)
- 14) Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19)
- 15) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21)
- 16) Humbly consider one another above yourself (Phil. 2:3; 1 Peter 5:5)
- 17) Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
- 18) Encourage one another (I Thes. 4:18; 1 Thes. 5:11; Hebrews 10:25, 3:13)
- 19) Spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)
- 20) Confess sins to one another (James 5:16)
- 21) Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- 22) Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. (I Peter 4:9)

### Don't:

- 23) Destroy one another (Galatians 5:15)
- 24) Be conceited, provoking and envying one another (Galatians 5:26)
- 25) Lie to one another (Colossians 3:9)
- 26) Slander one another (James 4:11)
- 27) Grumble against one another (James 5:9)
- 28) Judge one another (Romans 14:13)

