

Hello Grand Avenue Family and Friends,

Spring appears to have sprung, though its arrival in Wisconsin is a little slower; I feel it is finally here. What I love about spring is watching the world come back to life from the dark, cold days of winter. The longer, warmer days are such a refreshing change from the darkness of winter. Spring is a season that creates a resurgence of energy with more people walking, biking, and working outside. The birds are singing, the world is reinfused with color, and the air smells and feels different. Spring is certainly a special time of year. This rebirth of nature is a great physical representation of the spiritual rebirth that this season celebrates! That, of course, being Easter and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This spring, let us be mindful that the seasonal rejuvenation from the cold, dark days of winter is analogous to the spiritual rejuvenation our Lord provided a cold, dark world. So, this year, as we experience the rebirth of nature, let us also seek to experience a spiritual rebirth of faith. As our physical activities increase with the physical rebirth of nature, let us seek to increase our spiritual activities in recognition of the spiritual rebirth our Lord has provided us.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!"

Titus 3:5, "He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

John 3:5, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Vince

# CELEBRATE

Cody Graff			
Valerie Johnson			
Mary Downing			
McKenna Zwicker			
Vicky Schafman			
Kaylee Meins			
Jean Butler			
Erica Bastianello			

Нарру	Birthday
April 1	Kelly N
April 2	Lynn E
April 4	Scott Z
April 8	Marga
April 12	Jonath
April 14	
April 16	Mary J
April 18	Beth B

Kelly Mc Garry Lynn Benning Scott Zwicker Margaret Lueptow Jonathan Meins Mary Jo Lueptow Beth Breuer

April 21 April 25 April 25 April 26 April 28 April 29 April 30

*Happy Anniversary* Rick & Ermine DeYarman April 13

# VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
4/6	Larry Maechtle	Rama Bharadwaj	Rama B.	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
4/13	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	n/a	Needed*	Scott Penkivech
4/20	Larry Maechtle	Lin Lohr	n/a	Easter Breakfast	Scott Penkivech
4/27	Larry Maechtle	Ardelle Dionne	n/a	Dave & Cathy Guse	Scott Penkivech

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

# **MISSIONS & OUTREACH**



### Fair Trade Coffee

We are collecting orders again for fair trade coffee and cocoa. Equal Exchange is a fair trade organization that eliminates the middle-man, offering farmers a fairer price for their product and labor. Equal Exchange makes it simple to buy coffee that supports our social justice values.

Organic Breakfast Blend	\$8.20 per 12oz. bag
Organic French Roast	\$8.70 per 10oz. bag
Organic Decaf	\$9.70 per 12oz. bag
Hot Cocoa Mix	\$6.50 per 12oz can

Please see the order form on the counter in the narthex.

# **MISSIONS & OUTREACH**, cont.



### **Current Shelter Needs**

Gas Gift Cards. We have shelter guests and Family Promise clients who are struggling to pay for gas to get to work and for daily driving. Nearby BP, Exxon, and KwikTrip gift cards would be greatly appreciated!

Zippered Pillow Protectors, Pillows, Twin Size Blankets, Ziploc Bags (gallon, quart, & sandwich), Hot Pads/Oven Mitts, Measuring Cups/Spoons, and Disinfecting Wipes.

Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List



### **Non-Perishable Donation Needs**

Cereal, Soup, Canned Chicken, Granola Bars, Oatmeal packets, Peanut Butter, Spam, Beef Stew, Pudding, and Canned fruit.



### Plant & Outdoor Sale Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 4 pm

We will again be participating in the Port Washington city-wide rummage sale with a plant and outdoor sale on the church grounds. Look around your garage, potting shed, or cottage for plants and outdoor items you no longer want (but don't bring to church just yet). Think about perennials you can divide and donate to the sale.

We hope to offer a variety of indoor plants, outdoor perennials, and anything having to do with the outdoors, including bikes, furniture, tools, children's toys, and garden items. Contact Gwen Freier or Mary Kae Geittmann with any questions.

# **FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES**



### **April Events**

### April 6th from 7:00-8:00 pm - Easter Baskets for Family Promise

Lighthouse will once again be partnering with Family Promise to assemble Easter baskets for the children they are currently serving. Come help us put together 22 baskets filled with fun treats and toys as a way to share God's love with our neighbors this Easter.

Note: We do not need any donations for the baskets this year as the supplies are being purchased with the help of a Thrivent Action Team grant.



April 13th from 7:00-8:00 pm - Lighthouse Life Night Come hang out at Lighthouse HQ for a casual gathering of games, snacks, and conversation. New faces are always welcome!

April 27th from 6:00-8:30 - Visit to Synagogue in Mequon Join us for a fun and educational evening as we spend time learning from our Jewish neighbors at the Peltz Center for Jewish Life in Mequon. We'll have a chance to tour their facility, speak with one of the rabbis, and learn about the similarities and differences between our two religious traditions. Meet at Lighthouse at 6:00 and carpool together.



Note: Parents and congregation members who are interested in this experience are welcome to join us, but please RSVP to Christin by April 13th so that I can give our hosts a count of how many people to expect.

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 <u>christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org</u>



### GAUMC EASTER BREAKFAST APRIL 20th

We are serving Easter Breakfast again this year from 8:30 to 9:30 am, before our Easter Sunday Worship Service. Please see the sign-up sheet on the hall bulletin board if you are interested in donating food items or helping in the kitchen. Contact Marc Eernisse with any questions.

# THANK YOU NOTES

Thanks to everyone who donated soup, food items, or helped out at our **March ecumenical soup supper and service**. Your generous spirit and friendly welcome to all that joined us was very much appreciated.

Thank you!



Dear Church Family,

I sincerely want to THANK YOU for the beautiful cards, hugs, warm wishes, and LOVE you have shown me on the loss of Gordon. What a joy to worship with you all. Thank you for the memorials to the Church. Thank you to the Kitchen Crew for the donations of food for the celebrations of his Life - You always do such a great job. Everyone has been so fantastic and supportive. God Bless you all,

Ardelle Dionne

Thank you to everyone that attended our coffee hour on March 9<sup>th</sup> to wish Margaret Lueptow well on her move to North Carolina.



# **United Methodist Corner**

This is the last of three columns on John Wesley's understanding of God's grace as it relates to our salvation in Christ. Today, we are taking a closer look at Wesley's understanding of sanctifying grace. Using Wesley's model of a house representing God's presence, God's gracious love (prevenient grace) draws us to the porch of the house. Christ represents the door of justifying grace. We cannot do anything to earn our eternal salvation in Christ. It is a gift from God. As we're told in scripture, "it was while we were yet sinners that Christ died for us, which proves God's love for us. Through that door we are reconciled to God and brought into the fulness of His presence.

Sanctifying grace is one of Wesley's most important teachings in Methodism. Sanctify has a two-fold meaning. To sanctify means to purify and to make holy. To sanctify also means to consecrate and set apart for a task. We are set apart as Christ's disciples be his loving servants and ambassadors in the world. Sanctifying grace means to grow in God's steadfast love and to become more like Christ in our daily living. We are brought into the fullness of God's presence. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:15-16, "but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

What makes sanctifying grace distinctive from justifying grace is that it requires our cooperation and participation. He explains this distinction in his sermon based on Paul's words in Philippians 4:12, "Work on your own salvation with fear and trembling." In the sermon Wesley lays out the importance of striving for what he called inward and outward holiness. The inward holiness are those practices of personal piety of prayer, Bible reading and meditation and worship that is meant to draw us closer into God's love. Outward holiness is what he referred to as social holiness which was reaching in love to those in need (feeding hungry, visiting the prisoner, welcoming the stranger). These are practices that would help us to grow in love for our neighbor. Inward and Outward holiness according to Wesley cannot be separated. He reminded Methodists that just as you cannot be strengthened in body unless you eat, you cannot grow in God's Spirit unless you are feeding upon God's Word. He acknowledged that the words of Paul about working on your own salvation sounds a lot like works righteousness; trying to earn your salvation. But the words that follow dispel this notion, "for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." In all things, we give thanks to God for helping us to become the people we have been created to be and to become.

In Christ's Love, Dave

# **CHURCH NEWS**

# GRAND AVENUE CHURCH HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Join us for a meaningful journey through Holy Week as we reflect on the profound events leading up to the crucifixion, share a special Last Supper service, and come together to meditate on the sacrifice of Christ. We then celebrate the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, starting with a warm, fellowship-filled breakfast, followed by a powerful worship service to rejoice in the victory of life over death. Plan to experience this sacred week with us!



Grab a postcard from the Narthex to invite a friend to join us!

# **CHURCH NEWS, cont.**

## YOU'RE INVITED TO A SUICIDE PREVENTION SERIES

Please put these dates on your calendar now: April 10, May 8, June 12 --- note they are the second Thursday of each month. Our three-part suicide series is soon to begin. We have spent months in planning this and have found outstanding speakers to present information. Yes, this was initially planned to honor my grandson, Mathias, who died by suicide last June. But this program is also to honor all loved ones who have died by suicide and for anyone who has been touched by suicide in any way.

Please see below to learn about each part of the series and share our postcards to invite others. This program will be very informative and well worth your time. Plan to be with us!

See Sandy Grams, David Guse, or Mary Kae Geittmann if you have questions.

THURSDAY April 10 6:30 pm		<b>"Talk Saves Lives"</b> Dr. Sara Kohlbeck, Director of Division of Suicide Prevention and Healing at the Medical College of Wisconsin, will provide an overview of suicide, addressing the stigma and the myths. You will gain a deeper understanding of suicide.	
	THURSD May 8 6:30 Pi	<ul> <li>Emma's Story</li> <li>The Documentary Film, "My Ascension", provided by the Charles E. Kubly Foundation will be shown. My Ascension is the story of the day that changed Emma's life and everything that's happened since.</li> </ul>	
	THURSDA JUNE 12 6:30 PI	<ul> <li>Iricia Monroe, Program Manager from Milwaukee's Local</li> </ul>	
LET'S BREAK THE THE STIGMA! All are welcome to attend, especially High School and Middle School students. RSVP at www.portumc.com/events or call 262-284-9478 for more information.			

Anyone willing to make cookies for the April 10<sup>th</sup> suicide program OR willing to set up the coffee and cookies, please see Mary Kae.

# **CHURCH NEWS, cont.**

# **CRAFT BOOTH AT THE ARTISAN MARKET**

Three people are now tending the craft booth that Margaret Lueptow kept running for years. We are accepting your donations; please put them in the Library Resource room. If you have anything bigger, please contact one of us before bringing it in.

### Currently, Easter or Spring items would be a great donation!

If you are donating a craft item, please help us by putting a "guesstimate price" on it, thinking about the amount of time and money you put into what you made. We are learning!

- Lin Lohr, Sue Merrill, Mary Kae Geittmann

Did you know that 100% of the sales from the craft booth are donated to our church and it is our largest fundraiser, bringing in over \$8,000 last year?

## CALENDAR

### **April Events**

Weekly Sunday at 10:00 am Worship Service 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 Spring Election Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm Fellowship Hall Lenten Supper/Service Wednesday, April 2, 6:00 pm/7:00 pm Christ the King Admin Council Thursday, April 3, 7:00 pm Zoom Lenten Study Group Friday, April 4, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Fellowship Hall Social Principles Group Tuesday, April 8 at 1:00 pm Gathering Area Lenten Supper/Service Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 pm/7:00 pm First UCC Friendship Club Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall Suicide Prevention Program Thursday, April 10 at 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall Lenten Study Group Friday, April 11, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Fellowship Hall Passion/Palm Sunday Sunday, April 13 at 10:00 am Sanctuary Port Wash, Woman's Club Monday April 14, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Fellowship Hall Stockbox Distribution Tuesday April 15 at 10:00 am FAC & Parking Lot Maundy Thursday Service Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall Good Friday Prayer Vigil Friday, April 18, 12:00 – 6:00 pm Sanctuary Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 10 at 8:30 am Fellowship Hall **Easter Service** Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 am Sanctuary Tuesday, April 22 - Remember to Reduce | Reuse | Recycle Earth Day Newsletter Article Deadline Tuesday, April 22 Office Sunday, April 27 after worship FAC **Trustees Meeting** 

#### **GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 www.portumc.com Pastor<sup>.</sup> Vince Pepin pastor@portumc.org Pastoral Assistant: Dave Guse senegaldave1@gmail.com Stacy Peters office@portumc.org Administrative Assistant: bennida01@att.net Lay Leader: Dan Benning Admin Council Chair: Mark Grams mgrams@wi.rr.com Bishop: Dan Schwerin / District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Insor

#### **Remember Our Endowment Fund**



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

#### formerly ShopWithScrip RaiseRight

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 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

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:

Make checks payable to Grand Ave Church

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_