the VINE

I am the vine, you are the branches... John 15:5

March 2020

Sunday Worship Services in Lent
10:00 am

Pastor Janet's Sermon Series: "Facing Fear With Faith"

Suggestion: read and reflect on the weekly scriptures as a spiritual discipline in Lent.

March 1	1st Sunday in Lent *Fear of Following* – Luke 9:51-62 Communion
March 8	2nd Sunday in Lent *Hello Darkness, My Old Friend* Rev. Andy Oren*
March 15	3rd Sunday in Lent *Fear of Being a Victim* – Luke 10:25-42
March 22	4th Sunday in Lent *Fear of Not Meeting Expectations* – Luke 13:6-9
March 29	5th Sunday in Lent *Fear of Being Lost* – Luke 15:11-32 (Hymn sing at 9:50 am)

*Pastor Janet will be in Georgia on March 8, so her friend Andy Oren, who preached at Grand Avenue in January, will provide the day's message.

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074
262-284-9478 www.portumc.com

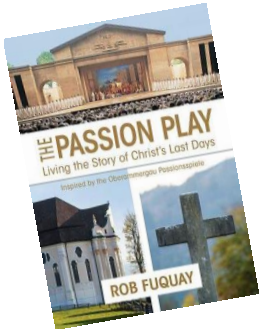
Pastor Janet L. Hartzell
pwumc@wi.twcbc.com

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Music Coordinator	Joshua Wicinski joshuawicinski@gmail.com
Pianist/Organist	Brenda Stallbaum
Admin/Prgm Asst	Vicky Schafman office-gaumc@wi.twcbc.com
Bishop	Rev. Hee-Soo Jung
District Superintendent	Rev. Forrest Wells

Visit us on at Grand Avenue United Methodist Church and at www.portumc.com

Make STUDY one of your Lenten disciplines

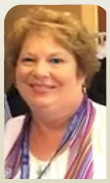


The Passion Play by Rev. Rob Fuquay
(Sr. Pastor: St Luke's UMC, Indianapolis)

Brown-Bag Lunch and Video Book Study
12:30-2:00 pm Wednesdays
February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1
(On March 4, Pastor Kelly Nieman-Anderson will facilitate the discussion.)

Book: $13 (optional)

FROM THE PASTOR



It seems like we were just celebrating Christmas, but already Lent has begun. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection. I always look forward to Lent, for it brings me back to what is most important to me. It causes me to prioritize my time differently, to pull away from distracting outside forces, and to look inward to reflect on my own faith journey, which changes all the time. Sometimes I feel confident about where I'm going, and sometimes I am find myself in places I never planned to go. But if I remind myself who is traveling with me -- who is taking me to these places - I feel a sense of peace … and that is what I want for each of you during this holy season as well.

Yes, Lent is a serious, reflective time, but it can give us peace because we know what comes at the end of it. We have seen Jesus transfigured in the clouds, and know that is a preview of the Resurrection. We know something that Peter, James and John did not know: that the suffering Jesus foretold will not be the end ... not his own suffering and not any of our own. On Resurrection Day, the glory of the Lord will shine again. When we hold that promise ever before us, we can have a happiness and contentment in life that is better than anything the world gives.

Some time ago, during the period of the great Christian missionary effort in China, an official was sent to investigate the problem of conversions to Christianity. He asked a leader of one of the provinces about the problem. "Do you have Christians in your village?"

> "Oh yes, sir; there are Christians here."
>
> Looking into the street the official asked, "Are there any out there now?"
>
> "Yes, sir, there are."
>
> "How can you be so certain? I see no special dress, nothing that tells me they are Christians. How do you know who are Christians and who are not?"
>
> "O, sir, that is easy. **The Christians are the happy ones."**

Friends, we can be the happy ones today, too, and we can share our hope with others.

I hope you will take this Lenten season to consider who you are in relation to God. It takes intention to make time for disciplines of discipleship, but it is worth making that time. Many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline**.** Perhaps completing the "Preparation for Easter" sheet included in this newsletter will help you keep your commitment.

Blessings to you as Lent begins. I'll see you in church!

A PRAYER FOR LENT
Righteous God,
in humility and repentance
we bring our failures in caring, helping, and loving,
we bring the pain we have caused other,
we bring the injustice in society of which we are a part,
to the transforming power of your grace.
Grant us the courage to accept the healing you offer
and to turn again toward the sunrise of your reign,
that we may walk with you in the promise of peace
you have willed for all the children of the earth,
and have made known to us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

(Found on the Revised Common Lectionary website)

LENTEN GOSPEL PASSAGES FROM THE LECTIONARY

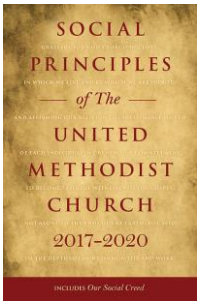
Pastor Janet's sermons are not based on the lectionary this year, but you are encouraged to read the gospels leading up to Easter on your own. Speak to the pastor if you need a Bible. There are resources for study in the church library.

Ash Wednesday: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
First Sunday: Matthew 4:1-11
Second Sunday: John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9
Third Sunday: John 4:5-42
Fourth Sunday: John 9:1-41
Fifth Sunday: John 11:1-45
Palm/Passion Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11 (Palms), Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
Maundy Thursday: John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday: John 18:19:42
Holy Saturday: Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42
Easter: John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

The "Revised Common Lectionary" is a three-year listing of scripture readings appointed for Christian worship on a given day or occasion. It is widely used among both Protestant and Catholic churches, and is periodically used in worship at Grand Ave UMC. The full lectionary can be found online at https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/.

TRANSITIONS

David Olson, a member of Grand Avenue UMC since 1999, passed away on February 15, 2020. A service to honor his life was held in our sanctuary on February 21. Please remember David's family in your prayers.



SOCIAL PRINCIPLES GROUP will meet on March 10, 7:00 pm, at Merton & Margaret Lueptow's home (955 W Whitefish Rd, PW). If you plan to attend, please call Margaret or Merton to let them know (284-5316).

Everyone is welcome whether you've previously attended a meeting or not.

MISSION EVENT - A morning of volunteer service to help **UM Children's Services** is planned for Friday, March 27 from 9:15 am - 1 pm. UMCS is looking for various types of work; sorting, cleaning, and organizing the food pantry and clothing room. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Meet at church at 8:15 am. Drivers for carpooling are also needed. Any questions, contact Jon Meins at 262-483-9467.

"BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH"

A free workshop on the basics of the reconciling process will be held Saturday, March 28 from 10 am-4 pm at Trinity UMC in Madison. The leader will be the Rev. Dr. Israel I. Alvaran, who works with the national Reconciling Ministries Network. This is a great chance to learn the basics of building an LGBTQ-inclusive community. Pastor Janet and others from church are planning to attend. Register at tinyurl.com/MadisonBIC and watch for information about carpooling.

UMC General Conference 2020
Information Session

The Wisconsin delegations to the upcoming General and Jurisdictional Conferences have scheduled informational sessions throughout the state in the coming months. Attendees will learn about what business will be coming before these quadrennial conferences (*General* in May and *Jurisdictional* in July). You are surely aware that there are critical issues about the future of the denomination that will be discussed at the General Conference, in Minneapolis, and decisions made there will influence the election of Bishops which takes place at the Jurisdictional Conference. One of the nominees for Bishop is the Rev. Dan Schwerin of Waukesha UMC. He is former pastor at Crossroads UMC in Jackson, and was previously District Superintendent of the southeast district of our conference.

The two Q&A sessions closest to Port Washington are:

Tuesday, March 10 – 7 pm	Fifth Avenue UMC, 323 S. Fifth Avenue, West Bend (this date was just added and is especially for our circuit churches)
Saturday, April 4 – 1 pm	Central UMC, 639 N. 25th Street

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Carpooling may be available upon request.

Thank you one and all for your very generous donations of warm outerwear: hats, jackets, gloves, and scarves. Every item was gratefully received by the PW Food Pantry on Tuesday, February 4th.

Mary Downing, Social Principles Group

Hi Everyone,
Finally on the road to recovery, I would like to thank everyone of you for your prayers and your cards. It's so nice to have a wonderful church family. Hope to see you all soon.

Love,
Wanda Keller

To Grand Avenue Church,
Thank you all for your generous cash donation. We serve an average of 75 families each week, so your gift enables us to continue to assist the less fortunate in our community.

We truly are grateful for your support and appreciate your concern for all of the clients we serve. May the Lord continue to bless all of you.

Sincerely,
Kathy Wendt, PW Food Pantry Volunteer

Noisy collection

March 15

Working our way to our second million!

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Minnesota-based organization whose mission is to "Feed God's Starving Children, Hungry in Body and Spirit" by packing and shipping nutritious yet inexpensive meal packets for starving children around the world.

Since 2010, alternating years between coordinators St. John XXII Catholic Church and Whitefish Bay UMC, over 1,200,000 meals have been packed at Portal, Inc. in Grafton.

This year, our goal is to have hundreds of volunteers pack 108,000 meals. This will feed over 300 children one meal a day for a year. With your help, we will show how God works through this event.

One meal costs only 24 cents.
$3 Starbucks coffee is 12 meals
$4 Happy Meal is 16 meals
$88 feeds a child for a year

Let's make a lot of noise for Feed My Starving Children **Noisy Collection on March 15**. As always, quiet donations are very much appreciated too.

Another way to help: Sign up on the bulletin board to help pack meals on April 17 or 18.

Any questions, contact Margaret Lueptow 262-284-5316.

Easter Breakfast Coordinator Needed

If you would like to coordinate this year's Easter Breakfast or Continental Breakfast (the choice is yours), please contact Vicky Schafman in the church office.

April 5	**Palm Sunday**	10:00 am	
April 9	**Maundy Thursday**	7:00 pm	
April 10	**Good Friday**	1:00 pm	
		7:00 pm	Ecumenical Service at Parkside UCC, Saukville
April 11	**Easter Vigil**	(tentative; time TBA)	
April 12	**Easter Sunday**	7:30 am	Service at Coal Dock Park
		8:00 am	Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
		10:00 am	Worship in the Sanctuary

If you would like to participate in one or more of these services, please speak to Pastor Janet.

July 19-24, 2020

WHO IS IT FOR? Youth entering grades 7-12 (grade they are entering in the fall).

WHAT IS THE COST? The fee is **$150 per student or adult participant.** This fee covers all onsite trip expenses including meals. We will be doing some fundraising to cover our transportation costs. Scholarships may be available if needed.

REGISTRATION: Complete & return the Wildfire Registration Form with registration fee by ***April 1***

CONTACT: Dan Benning at 414 207 3487 or bennida01@att.net

Wildfire! is Mission and Community Minded - Wildfire! is a week of mission work. Each day the group will begin with worship. Then, it will break into small groups to do mission work throughout the Superior, Wisconsin area. Each evening the groups will go out to have a fun outing. All this gives time for youth to bond, work, and create friendships together – all while growing deeper spiritually.

Possible Mission Centers
Harbor House Crisis Shelters
Transitional Living Center
Community Food Pantry
Noah's Ark Day Care Center
Salvation Army Thrift Store / Food Pantry
YMCA camp

Rec Activities
Welcome cook-out
Duluth's "Canal Park" and Aerial lift bridge
Swimming at State Park
Touring Enger Lookout Tower and Gardens

LIGHTHOUSE
YOUTH MINISTRY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

Brian McGarry	2
Erica Lentz	3
Tim Paulson	3
Grace Prom	4
Madison Zwicker	5
Jan Griesmeyer	10
Jennifer Davis	14
Edna Koskamp	14
Cathy Smith	16
Dick Maher	21
Mark Flack	23
Ava Johnson	26
Floyd Swanke	29
Mary Young	31

IS THE WEATHER OUTSIDE FRIGHTFUL?

Our church very rarely closes due to the weather. However, if it is absolutely necessary, our closing will be listed with the following:

TV Station: Fox 6 and fox6now.com
Radio Stations: 97.3 The Game, 95.7 Big FM, FM 106 Country, AM 920

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY …

Pastor Janet will be leaving for Atlanta after worship on March 1 and return on March 10. During that period, Pastor Don Greer of Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church will be on-call should anyone need pastoral assistance. You can call Vicky in the Grand Avenue office, at 262-284-9478 or try to reach Pastor Don Greer at his church: (262) 377-3832.

EASTER FLOWERS

Think spring to help decorate our church for Easter morning.

Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate. You are welcome to use a love offering envelope from the pews for this order form and cash or check made to Grand Ave UM Church. Please indicate Easter flowers on the memo line.

Orders due Sunday, March 22

	Qty		Total
Lilies	_____	@$7.00/plant	$_____
Tulips	_____	@$8.00/plant	$_____
Daffodils	_____	@$8.00/plant	$_____
Hyacinths	_____	@$8.00/plant	$_____
		Total enclosed	$_____

Name _____

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12

Please take your flowers home after the service.

Questions: contact Larry Maechtle 262-692-2390

MARCH SUNDAY MINISTRIES

Mar 2020	GREETERS	USHERS	LITURGIST	COMMUNION SERVERS	PROJECTOR	SOUNDBOARD	COFFEE HOUR
1	Jon & Vickie Meins	Team 3	Sandy Grams	Kay Hamann Dan Benning Sandy Grams In Pews: Larry M.	Dan Benning	Peter Schmidt	Gailya Geib & Nancy Haacke
8	Judy Maechtle	Team 4 Todd Bloedow	Kay Hamann		Scott Penkivech	Vicky Schafman	Mark & Sandy Grams
15	Peter & Vicki Szpara	Team 1 Mark Grams	Dan Weltin		Vicky Schafman	Scott Penkivech	Vickie Meins & Judy Maechtle
22	Weltin Family	Team 2 Larry Maechtle	Mark Grams		Steve Walters	Dan Benning	Valerie Johnson
29	Steve & Cathy Walters	Team 3	Rama Bharadwaj		John Wozniak	Vicky Schafman	Cathy Smith & Grace Prom

Liturgist on the 1st Sunday also helps serve communion.

My Preparation for Easter - 2020

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – February 26

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. Easter will come whether or not I prepare for it. However, without my heart and life being ready, I may not experience the depth and power of Christ's death and Resurrection. So with my brothers and sisters, I commit myself to disciplines for conversion from sin and death to love and life in Jesus Christ, and make the following commitments to discipline and growth throughout this Lenten season. I will strive to:

(Go through this list and check the ones you desire or feel prompted to do; then go through a second time and circle the ones you decide to do.)

Inward and Personal Disciplines

___ Participate in worship regularly.
___ Read a book for inner growth.
___ Read the Gospel of John.
___ Keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.
___ Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
___ Give myself a gift of three hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.
___ Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.
___ Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
___ Take control of my life by _____.
___ Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.
___ Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event.
___ Forgive someone who has hurt me.
___ Other promptings: _____

Outward and Social Disciplines

___ Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.
___ Say "No" to something that is a waste of money and time.
___ Pray to God to help resist racial prejudice and ask for courage in opposing it.
___ Other outward and social promptings:_____

As a way of being accountable, I will:

___ Share my plan with at least one other person and periodically talk to that person(s) about the experience.

Signature _____ Date _____

Keep this for reference during the coming weeks.