

## Sundays

**In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship** begins at 9:00am, in-person in the Great Room and livestreamed on People's UMC YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi>).

**Sunday School for grades 4K–5th grade** meets at 9:15 in the lower level. Adult Sunday School ("Sunday Second Cup") meets in the Fireside Room 15 minutes after worship ends.

**Nursery Care** is available for children age 4 and under every Sunday. You are welcome to check your child in prior to the start of the service in our nursery on the lower level.

## Launch Sequence: A Journey of Transformation

As we begin a new year together, we're launching a new sermon series: Launch Sequence: A Journey of Transformation. Over five Sundays, we'll explore the spiritual postures at the heart of our five-year ministry plan—Listen, Learn, Love, Lead, and Launch. This series will guide us in reflecting on where God is calling us next, both personally and as a church.

Starting February 4, each Sunday as we listen for God's voice, grow in grace, and prepare to launch into the future with generosity and hope!



January 4 Holy Communion Epiphany Sunday	1 Samuel 3:1-10	<b>Learning to Listen</b> Transformation begins by paying attention to God—and to one another.
January 11	Psalm 119:33-40	<b>Teach Me Your Ways</b> Learning is not about collecting information—it is about opening our hearts and lives to be shaped by God.
January 18 Holy Communion	Luke 10:25-37	<b>Love that Costs Something</b> Real love is not just felt or believed—it is chosen, practiced, and often costly.
January 25	Exodus 18:13-27	<b>You Can't Do This Alone</b> God invites us to grow spiritually by sharing responsibility for Christ's mission, including how we give in response to God's grace.

## RevVibes: What the Church Is Really For

by Pastor Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)

Every so often, someone will say to me, "Pastor Vicki, I'm worried. Worship attendance isn't what it used to be." And I understand that concern. Many of us remember seasons when the sanctuary felt fuller, when the pews held familiar faces who are no longer with us—some because they have moved or passed away, some because of the cultural change the church went through when we became a Reconciling congregation, and still others who never grasped the importance of becoming deeply engaged in the life of discipleship.

But here is the truth I want us to hold gently and clearly: a church's health is not measured by how many people sit in the pews on a Sunday morning. It is measured by its faithfulness to Christ's call to love, serve, welcome, and transform its community...By that measure, People's UMC is doing extraordinarily well.

Look around. We have a thriving Preschool and 4K program nurturing young minds and supporting families who depend on us. We host a Wednesday Night Community Supper that welcomes not just our congregation but our neighbors—people who need a meal, companionship, or simply a place to belong. We open our building to groups, ministries, and community needs because we believe our space is not meant to be guarded—it is meant to be shared.



John 13:15b

...you also should do as I have done to you.

This is the work Jesus asked of the Church. As Jesus said, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve" (Mark 10:45). Not to count heads, but to wash feet. Not to cling to the past, but to meet the needs of the present. Not to fear scarcity, but to live generously out of God's abundance.



Attendance numbers may tell us something, but they do not tell the whole story. They do not reveal the kindness offered in the Gathering Space, the prayers whispered for hurting neighbors, the children learning in our classrooms—whether during the week or on Sunday mornings—the meals served with dignity, or the ministries that quietly change lives. I want us to be a people who look not at what we fear losing but at what God is creating among us.

A people who recognize that the church does not exist for us alone, but for the world God loves.

And as we remember that calling, may we hold this truth close: the greater community does not exist for the church—rather, the church exists for the greater community.

So as we enter this new year, I invite us to trust the path we are on. To celebrate the ways People's UMC is alive, vibrant, and serving with purpose. And to remember that the truest measure of a church is not its numbers—it is its heart.

## Wednesday Night Support

by Barb Feeney

Come in from the cold for a hot, home-style meal at Wednesday Night Supper!



The meal is served from 5:00-6:30pm. All are welcome!

Note - dinner is cancelled if the Oregon schools are closed for the day.



### January Menu:

1/7: Turkey and gravy over biscuits

1/14: Howard's Killer Chili

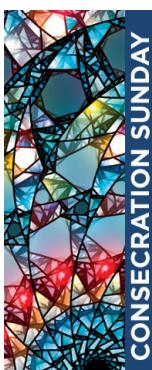
1/21: Roasted pork sliders and soup  
- lead cook still needed

1/28: Chicken fajita casserole

We are continuing to look for volunteers to help the Wednesday Night Supper ministry continue through May. Lead cooks are now being scheduled for a few dates between January and March. Volunteers can serve a meal that is ready to heat and serve, or can make a meal of their choice. All expenses are reimbursed. Also needed are people willing to help in the kitchen for an hour or two on an occasional basis. Sign up sheets are available for the upcoming weeks. To learn more contact Karen Baker: [karenabaker725@gmail.com](mailto:karenabaker725@gmail.com)



You can find the sign-up sheets in the gathering space at church!



**IT'S  
COMING**  
**February 1, 2026**

**Upcoming Blood Drive**  
Make an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

**Saturday Jan. 24**  
**8:00-12:00**  
**St. John's Lutheran**  
**Church in Oregon**



## News from Little Angels Early Learning Center

by Katie Grady, director

Ms. Kelly from the public library came to read to our students again this month. Ms. Katie, our center director, read to each class this month to match their class's theme.

- 4K AM/PM was learning about arctic animals, so she read a book called *Arctic Animals* by Jill McDonald
- 4K AM2 was learning about books that can be sung, so she read *Pete the Cat, Rocking my School Shoes*
- Preschool was learning about dinosaurs, so she read a book about Stegosaurus to the MWF class and Triceratops to the T/TH class.
- Childcare was learning about Christmas, so she read *Dream Snow* by Eric Carle

The LAELC staff and support staff from OSD participated in a week of "underground" dress up days the week prior to winter break, to see if parents and students would notice the similarities in how the staff dressed.

- Monday: visibly wear your holiday socks
- Tuesday: Wear green
- Wednesday: wear a holiday/festive shirt
- Thursday: Wear red
- Friday: Wear a holiday hat or headband.



We have a team of 11 people committed to doing the:



a fundraiser for Special Olympics, on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 time to be determined.

**Please consider donating to our plungers.**

**To donate online:**

<https://www.classy.org/team/793761>  
or use the QR code and use the drop down menu to have your donation go to a specific team member



Scan to support  
2026 Madison Polar Plunge



**TEAM MEMBERS:**

Ms. Myla	Ms. Brittany	Ms. Susie	Ms. Ali
Ms. Ella	Ms. Katie	Ms. Holly	Ms. Sally
Ms. Arathi	Ms. Cindy B.	Ms. Karen	

Ms. Myla  
Ms. Ella  
Ms. Arathi

Ms. Brittany  
Ms. Katie  
Ms. Cindy B.

Ms. Susie  
Ms. Holly  
Ms. Karen

Ms. Ali  
Ms. Sally



**Donations can be left in the LAELC office, please note which team member you would like your donation to be credited to.**

**THANKS for supporting our team!**

## From People's UMC Financial Secretary



I will be out of the office until mid-January, so the 2025 year-end financial giving statements will not be sent out until January 25, 2026. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please send a message to [diane@peoplesumc.org](mailto:diane@peoplesumc.org) or call Diane Strohmenger at church and leave a message.

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming

by Laurie Kelly, Servant Leadership Council Chairperson

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.



*Stewardship*  
a way of life

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues,



we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

## January Mission of the Month: Shelter from the Storm Ministries

by Barb Feeney

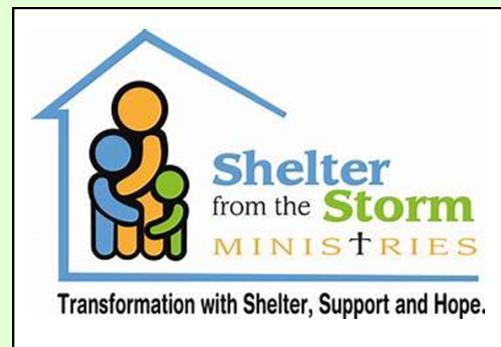
The Missions Committee has selected Shelter from the Storm Ministries (SFTSM) to be the Mission of the Month during January 2026. SFTSM is a Transitional Living Program for homeless, single mothers and their minor children.

Residents are offered a safe, stable environment where families can take a breath and regain confidence to grow and thrive. Support includes physical resources, individualized case-management, a faith-based environment, prayer, and community. Volunteers help the organization carry out its mission.

The ministry was founded by a group of believers from local churches who were moved by the alarming number of homeless students in the Sun Prairie area, with a mission of walking alongside single mothers as they break the cycle of poverty—empowering them to build a stable, hope-filled future for themselves and their children.

The wholistic approach centers around:

- Education and employment
- Health and wellness
- Spiritual growth
- Legal support
- Parenting and relationships
- Financial literacy
- Life skills



A plan is created for each family to help them meet their goals and be ready to transition to independence in 12 months. Mothers must be committed to making change and adhering to program requirements.

To learn more about SFTSM, visit <https://sftsm.org/>

Mission of the Month donations can be made by cash, check (write Mission of the Month: Shelter from the Storm in the memo line) or online on the GIVE tab at [www.peoplesumc.org](http://www.peoplesumc.org).



**SHOWING UP FOR  
MIGRANTS IN WISCONSIN:**  
Solidarity & Mutual Aid in Action



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 10 AM - NOON**



103 N. Alpine Parkway, Oregon, WI 53575



**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Scan QR code to register

Or visit <https://secure.ngpvan.com/jVL5la!SkUGwYXul4Hoeeg2>

## Music Ministry at People's UMC

by Kate Rush, Director of Music

### Hand Bells

Bell practice is on Sunday mornings following worship (about 10:15). The bells are directed by Faith Portier, and we play at worship services monthly. Everyone is invited to give it a try.



### Vocal Choir

Vocal Choir rehearses Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Great Room. We sing great music and have lots of fun together. Come and join us!

### Solos and Small Ensembles

Our church is blessed with musicians who contribute special music to our services. If you would like to share your favorite song with the congregation, please volunteer for Special Music!



Questions or suggestions about music ministry? Please feel free to contact me at [kate@peoplesumc.org](mailto:kate@peoplesumc.org) or chat with me on a Sunday!

## Book Club

by Lois Flee

Book club is on winter break, staying home reading books to recommend for the club to read next year. This year we have decided to read a classic book over our break. *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald.



We will start up again March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, when it starts to be warmer and stays light longer, and the roads have less snow (we hope.)

The meeting will be held at Lois Flee's house at 324 Concord Dr. If you have questions give Lois a call at 608-291-2328. Plan to come even if you have not read the book. We would love to have you join us.

## Growing in trust and transparency...



**Line of Credit total:  
\$94,805.18**



## Active Safety Training – January 11

Following worship on Sunday, January 11, we will host an Active Safety Training led by our local police department.

This session is designed to help us think calmly and clearly about how to respond in the unlikely event of an emergency in a public space.

Our goal is not to create fear, but to be prepared—to care for one another well, to understand best practices, and strengthen our ability to respond thoughtfully and responsibly if needed. The training will be informative, practical, and appropriate for a church setting.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The session will begin shortly after worship.

### Green Action Collective

by Steve Staton

Have you seen a FROG lately? Probably not, it's winter! Plus, frogs are declining in numbers. But you have a chance to do your part to help frogs increase their environmental presence. See below.

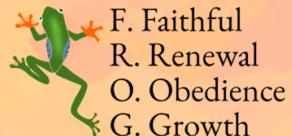
The Green Action Team conscientiously provided leadership for our mission for a number of years. It needed some respite and took a break. It's being rebooted as Green Action Collective. The Mascot of Hope is a FROG. Increasing awareness of climate change and doing our part as Christians to slow its advance is important in caring for God's creation. And that will benefit frogs and lots of other plants and animals.

Please join us on February 1 at 6:00 PM in the Fireside Room to find out about the reboot of our environmental commitment and action. Leadership is committed to productive use of meeting time, developing meaningful plans, and not creating burdensome tasks. We will have fun while we work together.

Please join us on February 1 to see what the reboot is all about.

Green Action Team is now...

### Green Action Collective



F. Faithful  
R. Renewal  
O. Obedience  
G. Growth



Come be part of the reboot **February 1** @ 6:00 pm

All ages are welcome!

### LISTEN

In a world full of noise,  
listening is a holy act.

This month, take a few moments  
each day to pause and pray,  
"Speak, Lord, for your servant is  
listening."

You may be surprised by where  
God's voice meets you.



### Volunteer Wanted in the Sound Booth

We are looking for at least one more person who can run the sound booth during Sunday services. If you are interested in sound technology, this may be a position for you! The volunteer will start by shadowing our existing tech team to learn how the system works, and will eventually be assigned one or two Sundays per month to run the booth.

If you'd like to know more, please see Kate Rush or email [kate@peoplesumc.org](mailto:kate@peoplesumc.org).

## Calendar & Community Notes

Sunday	9:00am	In-person Worship (Great Room) Livestreamed ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi">https://www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi</a> )
	9:15am	Sunday School (4K-5th) and Nursery Care (through age 4)
	10:15am	Handbells Rehearsal
	10:15am	Sunday Second Cup Adult Sunday School (Fireside Room)
Monday	7:30am	Ball Exercise
Tuesday	10:30am	Hugs & Stitches (Fireside Room)
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Great Room)
	7:00pm	AA-Room to Grow (Adult Meeting Rm. LL)
	7:30pm	Aspire Rehearsal (Great Room)
Wednesday	8:30am	Line Dancing (Great Room)
	5:00-6:30	Wednesday Night Supper
	6:30pm	Youth Group
	6:53pm	Creative ConnXions for the Not-So-Creative (Great Room)
Thursday	7:30am	Ball Exercise

Visit [peoplesumc.org/calendar](http://peoplesumc.org/calendar) to see all events, meetings, and links to virtual groups.

## Community Resources for Mental Health

### Hotlines

Journey Mental Health	608-280-2700
Briarpatch 24 Hour Line for Youth	608-251-1126
Rape Crisis Center	608-251-7273
Dane County Housing Resource Line	855-510-2323
Domestic Abuse Intervention Services	800-747-4045
Oregon Police Department	608-835-3111

### Suicide Crisis Response Resources

Suicide Prevention Lifeline	800-273-8255
OR Text "HOPELINE" to 741741	
Trevor Project Lifeline	866-488-7386
OR Text "START" to 678678	

## Contact Information

Have Questions? Want to get involved? Staff check their email regularly on weekdays. If you are not sure who to contact about a specific ministry, email [office@peoplesumc.org](mailto:office@peoplesumc.org).

### **Lead Pastor**

Vicki Brantmeyer, [vicki@peoplesumc.org](mailto:vicki@peoplesumc.org)

### **Little Angels Early Learning Center Director**

Katie Grady, [laelc.director@gmail.com](mailto:laelc.director@gmail.com)

### **Associate Pastor and**

### **Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator**

Justin Beatty, [justin@peoplesumc.org](mailto:justin@peoplesumc.org)

### **Director of Music and**

### **Worship & Communications Coordinator**

Kate Rush, [kate@peoplesumc.org](mailto:kate@peoplesumc.org)

### **Administrative Assistant/Office Manager**

Amanda Kuntzelman, [amanda@peoplesumc.org](mailto:amanda@peoplesumc.org)

### **Financial Secretary**

Diane Strohmenger, [diane@peoplesumc.org](mailto:diane@peoplesumc.org)

### **Church Treasurer**

Karen Binger, [karen@peoplesumc.org](mailto:karen@peoplesumc.org)

### **Lay Leader/Servant Leadership Council Chair**

Laurie Kelly, [tlmckelly@tds.net](mailto:tlmckelly@tds.net)