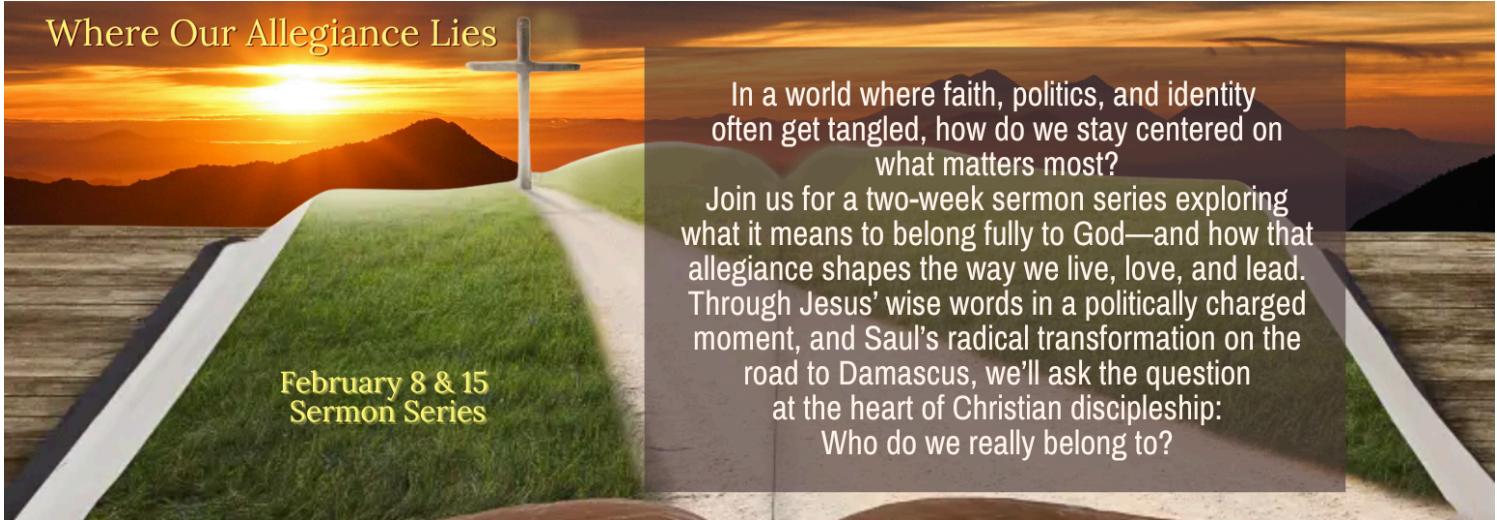


Sundays

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.



Where Our Allegiance Lies

February 8 & 15 Sermon Series

In a world where faith, politics, and identity often get tangled, how do we stay centered on what matters most? Join us for a two-week sermon series exploring what it means to belong fully to God—and how that allegiance shapes the way we live, love, and lead. Through Jesus' wise words in a politically charged moment, and Saul's radical transformation on the road to Damascus, we'll ask the question at the heart of Christian discipleship: Who do we really belong to?

February 1 Consecration Sunday	Matthew 10:6-8	It Is More Blessed to Give Guest speaker Jim Wells; our service concludes with a celebration brunch.
February 8	Mark 12:13-17	Who Do We Belong To? Christian nationalism isn't about loving your country—it's about confusing our national identity with our kingdom identity. Jesus shows us a better way.
February 15 Holy Communion	Acts 9:1-19	Allegiance Reoriented God doesn't just invite us to shift our opinions—God calls us to transform our allegiance.
February 22	Matthew 4:1-11	Into the Wilderness Following Jesus brings us to turning points where we must decide whether we will cling to familiar ways or follow Christ into a transformed way of life.

Crossing the Threshold: To New Life

This Lent, beginning February 22, we are invited to stand at the threshold between who we have been and who God is calling us to become. In this sermon series, we journey with Jesus through struggle, healing, and hope—trusting that even through the cross, God is leading us toward new life. Join us as we walk together through Lent toward the light of Easter.

Revvibes: Naming the Challenge of Christian Nationalism

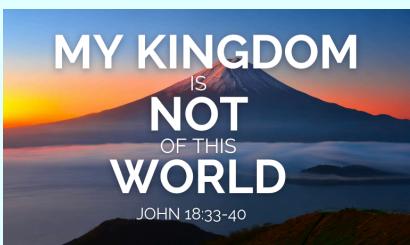
by Pastor Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)

Loving one's country is not the same thing as Christian nationalism—and the church must be clear about the difference.

Christian nationalism is the belief that the United States is, or should be, a distinctly Christian nation and that Christianity should be closely tied to national identity and political power. While it often uses religious language, Christian nationalism is not the same as the Christian faith. In fact, it risks distorting the gospel.

Jesus was explicit: "My kingdom is not from this world" (John 18:36). He refused to align God's reign with political authority. He did not seek control, demand loyalty to a nation, or privilege one group over another. Instead, he called his followers to love their neighbors, welcome the stranger, care for the vulnerable, and practice humility and mercy.

History warns us about what happens when faith and nationalism become fused. During World War II, the U.S. War Department cautioned Americans that movements combining nationalism with moral or religious certainty often gain power by dividing people, appealing to fear, and wrapping themselves in patriotic language while undermining democratic values. These warnings were not about one party or one moment in time—they described patterns that repeat whenever power is confused with righteousness.



Christian nationalism follows those patterns when:

- Christianity is used to draw lines of belonging rather than extend grace
- Disagreement is treated as disloyalty
- God's name is invoked to justify exclusion, fear, or domination
- National identity is elevated above love of neighbor

The danger of Christian nationalism is not only political. It is deeply spiritual. When Christianity is tied to nationalism, the cross is overshadowed by the flag. Jesus' call to love enemies is softened. The command to welcome the stranger becomes conditional. Faith shifts from following Christ to defending a way of life.

Scripture reminds us that "our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20). That does not remove us from civic responsibility, but it does shape how we engage it. Our ultimate allegiance is to Christ—not to any nation, ideology, or political movement.

At People's Church, we will not all agree on politics—and that is not our goal. Our calling is to remain rooted in Jesus, to resist fear, to reject hatred, and to practice a faith marked by love, humility, and courage. The church is at its best not when it claims power, but when it bears witness.



Wednesday Night Supper in February

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.



February Menu:

- 2/4: Sloppy Joes
- 2/11: Authentic Mexican
- 2/18: Soups and Sliders
- 2/25: Tater Tot Casserole

menus are subject to change



We are always looking for volunteers to keep this ministry going! If you have a free hour or two on an upcoming Wednesday afternoon, please write your name on our sign-up sheet. To learn more contact Karen Baker:

karenabaker725@gmail.com

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



Just Bakery Visiting February 8



Sunday, February 8th, will be Just Bakery's first visit to People's Church in 2026.

Be sure to shop after worship to get some of their fresh-baked breads, rolls, and other sweet treats. Our enjoyment of these yummy treats helps support this Just Dane program for individuals with significant barriers to employment. Thank you in advance for your purchases.

Upcoming Blood Drive

Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org

**Tuesday Feb. 17
10:00-3:00**

**Gorman and Company
200 N. Main St., Oregon**



Musical Notes

by Kate Rush, Director of Music



Did you know that in many Christian traditions, the word "Alleluia" is intentionally omitted from worship services during the season of Lent? This ancient custom reflects the enduring significance of Lent as a period of spiritual preparation and penitential reflection leading up to Easter. By refraining from the joyful exclamation of "Alleluia," (and also "Hallelujah,") believers enter into a season of solemn reflection, acknowledging the brokenness of the human condition and the need for spiritual renewal.

Think of every Easter Sunday service you have attended in your life. Perhaps you remember lilies or Easter bonnets - but you probably also remember this:

Three staves of musical notation in G clef. The first stanza, 'Christ the Lord is risen to day,' has lyrics below the notes. The second stanza, 'Hail the day that sees him rise!', and the third stanza, 'He a - rose!', also have lyrics below the notes. The notation includes various note values and rests.

After a Lenten season has taken us through the darker parts of the Christian experience, with its focus on contrition and sacrifice, we burst into the light with a celebration of Christ's triumph over death. *Alleluia*, indeed!

New Members Joining February 22



formally joining People's UMC,
please talk with Pastor Vicki!

We will be welcoming new members into the body of the church during our worship service on February 22. If anyone is interested in

LISTEN

Listening isn't always about words. Sometimes it's noticing what stirs in your heart when you're quiet.

Try this: As you wash dishes, walk the dog, or sit in traffic, ask: "God, what are you showing me today?"

You don't need perfect silence—just a willing spirit.



Children & Youth Ministries



Sunday School

4K-5th grade

9:15am on lower level

Youth Group

6th-12th grade

Wednesdays 6:30-8:00

Sunday School in February

by Pastor Justin Beatty



All children from 4K through 5th grade are welcome at Sunday School! Children attend the first part of our worship service on Sundays before heading downstairs to learn in age-appropriate lessons.

Here is the Sunday School schedule for February:

Feb. 1—Family Worship, No Sunday School

Feb. 8—Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)

Feb. 15—The Parable of the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)

Feb. 22—Jesus Turns Water to Wine (John 2:1-11)

Book Club

by Lois Flee



February is the last month of Book Club's winter break.

With the weather we have been having, I hope all are as happy as me that we didn't have to leave our house to meet..

We will return on March 10, 2026, to discuss the classic book *The Great Gatsby*.

Start making a list of the books you would like to put on the reading list for 2026. We will be choosing some in March.

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. Come even if you have not read the book. We would love to have you join us and bring a friend; we hope to see you then.

News from Little Angels Early Learning Center

by Katie Grady, director



Open House/Open Enrollment

Sunday, February 1st, from 12-2 is our annual Open House. This marks the opening of enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. Here are the programs we have available:

Preschool

Meets Tues/Thurs 8:30-11:00

OR

Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-11:00

Children must be 3 years old
on or before Sept. 30

Oregon School District 4K

Meets Tues-Fri (no Mon) 8:00-11:15

OR

Tues-Fri (no Mon) 12:00-3:15

Children must be 4 years old
on or before Sept. 1



Childcare

Hours of operation 7:00-5:00, full or
part time available

Minimum 4 hours/day and 2 days/week

Ages: 3 until they start kindergarten

Lunches provided by parents, we supply
breakfast and morning/afternoon snacks

Monthly Reading

Ms. Kelly, from the public library, was unable to read to our center this month, and will be unavailable in February as well. Ms. Katie read in all the classes again this month. The books read were based on the theme that the classes were learning about.

4K AM/PM: *On the Seashore*

4K AM2: *Sadie and the Snowman*

M/W/F Preschool: *Snowmen at Work*

T/TH Preschool: *Snowmen as Night*

Childcare: *There Was an Old Lady that Swallowed Some Snow*

Polar Plunge

Some of the Little Angels and OSD Support staff are taking on the Polar Plunge, Saturday, February 14th at the Henry Vilas Zoo Beach. We hope to be jumping around noon. Please come to watch/support if you are able to. We will be the team in halos and angels wings!



Donate now!



Scan to support
2026 Madison Polar Plunge

February Mission of the Month: Centro Hispano of Dane County

by Anne Staton, Mission Team

Centro Hispano of Dane County is our February mission of the month. This organization works to empower youth, strengthen families, and engage the Latino community of Dane County. It offers many services including understanding and managing immigration requirements, language and cultural barriers, health care coverage options, and family and youth concerns. Through the Peer Support Program, one of their most important programs, members of the Latinx community share experiences and knowledge with each other to create supportive relationships and opportunities for growth and success.



During this time of unease in our country and concern for respectful and fair treatment of all people, Centro's immigration team is experiencing a growing demand for consultation and assistance. Some members of the mission team will be talking with some Centro staff to get an update on their most urgent needs and how we might support them. Please watch for that information coming in the next week or so. The mission team thanks you in advance for your support of the February Mission of the Month.

Mission of the Month donations can be made by cash, check (write Mission of the Month: Centro Hispano in the memo line) or online on the GIVE tab at www.peoplesumc.org.



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.

Growing in trust and transparency...



**Line of Credit total:
\$82,996.18**





**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministers Available

by Pastor Justin Beatty

People's Church has a group of trained, dedicated Stephen Ministers available for anyone in our church community who would like a sympathetic ear as they go through a difficult or complicated time. Reasons for wanting a Stephen Minister include (but are not limited to) illness, death in the family, rift in the family, divorce, losing a job and/or starting a new one, pregnancy and becoming a new parent, or any combination of things that add up to feel overwhelming. If you would like somebody to talk with as you go through any difficult thing, please reach out to Pastor Justin at justin@peoplesumc.org, or (206) 769-1390.

Adventures in E-Payments

by Cheryl Johnson, finance committee

While I'm old enough to remember paying all my bills with checks, now I pay those bills electronically. The one monthly payment I still make by check has been my monthly giving to People's United Methodist Church. I've seen the "GIVING" button on the church's website but, I guess, because this is a payment I make because I want to instead of because I have to, I have not considered that I could make this payment electronically.

I know that electronic payments are more convenient, secure and generally simple to set up. When I was reminded recently about this option I decided to see if I could successfully set up my monthly monetary gifts to Peoples Church. It was easy and intuitive. I simply went to the website, selected "GIVING" and the system prompted me through the process. In under 15 minutes I was able to set up my giving to General Giving, Paving the Way and Building Maintenance.



People's United Methodist Church
Oregon, WI

How much would you like to give?

Amount	0.00
Fund	General Fund 2025
+ Another Fund	
GIVE ONCE GIVE MULTIPLE TIMES	
Gift date	
<input type="button" value="Today"/>	

It was possible to give via debit or credit card or directly from bank account. As with my other electronic payments, I chose to pay via credit card. The information I needed to provide, along with the normal credit card information was whether I wanted to make a one-time payment or pay periodically. I chose periodically and was given a number of choices, including my choice of monthly. I had to specify the amount and the category to which I wanted by gift to go. I chose the start date and was able to specify an end date.

Easy-peasy, and now when I am up at the cabin watching the snow fly or watching the neighbors go by on their 4-wheelers, I don't need to figure out whether to hang on to the check until I get back home or send it US mail. The payment to People's Church is secure and will happen on the day I specified. And perhaps a little less work for all involved as there is no writing, sending, deciphering how to apply, endorsing or depositing of checks.

News from our Social Justice Committee

by Val Brickner

Assisting Immigrants Initiative: People's UMC hosted a training program for anyone in the community or general public to learn about how to assist immigrants in different volunteering ways. Training Date was January 17, 2026 from 10-Noon, sponsored by the Oregon Area Immigrant Support Network. 85 people attended and People's provided beverages.

Active Shooter Training was presented on January 11, after worship here at People's, for anyone interested in attending. The audience learned how to protect themselves and others in a shooting incident.



February: Parents/Kids input on what we can do to help Oregon schools. Planning will begin in February.

Pulse of our Church Community (Post it Notes that we all participated in). The Committee reviewed what was written on each of the Sundays that Pastor Vicki asked questions and our community wrote post-it note answers and put them up in the Gathering Area. The committee looked at the themes that became apparent and will be developing actions to address those themes. The results and actions will be presented to the Congregation on February 15th, along with a quick survey of the congregation.

Voting Our Values

by Mary Malone

Upcoming spring elections:

February 17: Spring primary

May 7: Spring election



As we move into this 2026 voting cycle, protecting voting integrity and our right to vote has never been more important.

Here are some steps to take:

- Check your municipal website for local voting information. Most will also have links to the organizations listed below.
- Check your registration status, photo ID requirements, how to register and more at [League of Women Voters Dane County](#).
- Find what's on your ballot and absentee voting information: [Myvote.wis.gov](#) and [absentee voting](#).
- Know your voting rights and information at [Vote411](#)

Calendar & Community Notes

Sunday	9:00am	In-person Worship (Great Room) Livestreamed (https://www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi)
	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 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.

Lead Pastor

Vicki Brantmeyer, vicki@peoplesumc.org

Little Angels Early Learning Center Director

Katie Grady, laelc.director@gmail.com

Associate Pastor and

Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

Justin Beatty, justin@peoplesumc.org

Director of Music and

Worship & Communications Coordinator

Kate Rush, kate@peoplesumc.org

Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

Amanda Kuntzelman, amanda@peoplesumc.org

Financial Secretary

Diane Strohmenger, diane@peoplesumc.org

Church Treasurer

Karen Binger, karen@peoplesumc.org

Lay Leader/Servant Leadership Council Chair

Laurie Kelly, tlmckelly@tds.net