

### 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–5 begins at 9:15 on the lower level. **Sunday school will not be offered on Family Worship Sunday (March 17) or Easter Sunday (March 31).**

**Deep Dive** (Adult Sunday School) begins 15 minutes following worship in the Fireside Room.

**Nursery Care** is available for children age 4 and under every Sunday. Check your child in downstairs in the nursery prior to the start of the service.

March 3 3rd Sunday in Lent Holy Communion	"Thou Shalt Not"	Exodus 20:1-17	Taking from another is disobedience to God
March 10 4th Sunday in Lent	"Disgraceful Christians"	John 3:14-21	Poor translations, misunderstandings lead us to deny God's grace to others
March 17 5th Sunday in Lent Holy Communion Family Sunday	"No Excuses"	Jeremiah 31:31-34	God removed our excuses centuries before Jesus
March 24 Palm Sunday Peacemaker Vow 4	"Lip Service of Worship"	Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Words without actions displaces God and harms others
March 31 Easter Sunday: 6:30am Parking Lot 9:00am Great Room	Christ Is Risen!	John 20:1-18, 24-29	"He is not here."

### Wednesday Night Light Service at 6:30pm

March 6	Making God	John 2:13-22;	Stewards of God's reputation
March 13	Shooting Faith in the Foot	Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Expectation of intentionality in our faith
March 20	Winning Losers	John 12:20-33; Psalm 51:1-12	Self-centeredness undermines God's work in us
March 28	See page 2 for Holy Week Services		

### From Darkness to Light: Celebrating Holy Week Together

This year, we will do something a little different for Holy Week. Drawing from Marcus Borg's and John Dominic Crossan's ***The Last Week***, we will hold a service every evening, March 25–30 at 6:30 pm to journey with Jesus through his last week as laid out in the gospel of Mark. Each service will be a bit different, but each will give insight into the path from Palm Sunday to Golgotha. You are invited to come to as many or as few of the services as you would like.

## *From Darkness to Light: Jesus' Last Week in the Gospel of Mark*

2024 Holy Week

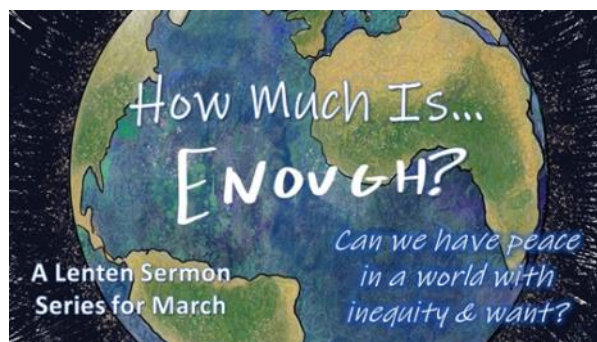
Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

6:30 p.m. in the Great Room

Monday	Temple Tantrum Monday	Thursday	Maundy Thursday
Tuesday	Testing Tuesday	Friday	Good Friday
Wednesday	Wicked Wednesday	Saturday	The Darkest Day

### March Sermon Series: How Much Is Enough? Sunday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings

Pastor Justin will kick off our next Sermon Series, "How Much Is Enough?" on March 3. This Lenten focus in our year-long quest for peace, asks if we can ever know peace in a world of inequity and want? From both Hebrew and Christian scriptures, we will gain a greater insight into God's vision of peace for God's own people. Oh, yes, and what we're supposed to do about it!



## Connect



### Receiving New Members: March 24

If you would like to take vows of commitment to People's United Methodist Church, now is the time. We will be receiving new members on Sunday, March 24, during our Palm Sunday celebration. On Sunday, March 17, we will have a new member orientation session (4:00–5:30 pm in the Fireside Room). If you are not ready to become a member but would just like to

know more about The United Methodist Church in general, and People's UMC in particular, you are welcome to attend as well.

## Dan's Musings: Eastering

Can you believe it is almost Easter already? This year is flying by; mild winter temps and an early Easter make it feel later than we think. Easter is one of the most important Christian observances in the Christian year, celebrated from the years immediately following Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension (longer than Christmas and Pentecost have been celebrated). We view Easter as an event and generally celebrate it on one special day each year, yet the early church viewed Easter more as an adjective than a noun, something we might term today Eastering.



One apt analogy for Eastering would be finding out you're going to have a baby. The news is so exciting and epic that you are bursting to share the good news. You might start slowly, but before you know it, you are telling everyone, even perfect strangers, yet everyone joins you in your joy and excitement. You bask in the good will as well as the good news.

Eastering was one of the very earliest forms of evangelism, even predating the term gospel and the emphasis on the birth of Christ. Paul was a primary Easterer (it is really fun playing with the word Easter), sharing the story of Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection—especially his own encounter with the risen Jesus—with everyone he met, whether they wanted to hear it or not. It was as if Paul could not control himself. The news was so fantastic he simply couldn't keep it to himself.



What would an Eastering orientation look like today? Many modern Christians are somewhat embarrassed and uncomfortable talking about their faith. Evangelism has gained a bad name through the efforts of some Christians who try to force their views, who operate from a judgmental and exclusionary base, and who present a very immature and simplistic vision of the Christian life. Rational skepticism has grown huge, and many do not feel adequately equipped to get into deep reli-

gious conversations. But that isn't Eastering. Eastering isn't selling anything; it is merely sharing. Easter people today don't need to tell anyone else how they ought to live. We should develop comfort with sharing what we believe and why it is important to us. We need to find a way to tell our own faith story, to let others know that we draw from a well of faith and tradition of spirituality.

We can also engage in Eastering by working to be effective peacemakers. The gift of Easter, the assurance through resurrection that we worship the Son of God who grants us forgiveness and gives us life, makes it unnecessary to argue, debate, fight, or attack. We can stand in the confidence of a life-shaping, life-affirming belief system that we can offer as a gift rather than an ultimatum. Moving beyond noun and adjective, we can become a verb. We can Easter others through our values, behaviors, and beliefs. Patience, acts of kindness, generous giving, loving gestures, forgiveness, and nonviolent protest can be ways we Easter others.

So, as we move into spring, let's go out and Easter some people. You might enjoy it a lot!

Copies of the March/April **Upper Room** devotional magazine are now available in the office. Please email the church office [office@peoplesumc.org](mailto:office@peoplesumc.org) to request one by mail.





**Prayer Requests:** Prayers of joys and concerns can be shared several ways: **1)** You may complete the [prayer request form](#) on our website. **2)** You may call (or text) Pastor Dan with your prayer requests at 615-491-6319. **3)** You can email them to Pastor [Dan](#) or Pastor [Justin](#). **4)** You can write them down on a prayer card or your attendance slip during worship.



**Connect in Prayer:** One of the things that is so valuable about coming together as a community in Christ is the opportunity to join one another in prayer. One of the ways that People's UMC lives out that part of our calling is through the Prayer Team. A group of people in our community receive e-mails whenever someone needs prayer, and they commit to lifting that person or situation up to God. It's an invaluable and relatively simple way to connect with your church community. If you're interested in joining our Prayer Team, please let us know at [office@peoplesumc.org](mailto:office@peoplesumc.org).

**Connect with God and each other.** Use your **Blessing Prayer Card** every day!

### Wednesday Night Supper! Serving 4:30–6:00pm

Wednesday Night Supper, a ministry of People's United Methodist Church, is open to the community.



#### MARCH MENU:

March 6: Hot Ham and Cheese Sandwiches

March 13: Reuben Casserole

March 20: Meatloaf Mania

March 27: Spring Break, No Dinner Served

### Thank You for Your Incredible Generosity!

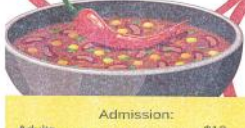


Our December gift wall special offering was a big success. We received over \$7,000 in gifts for the ministry of People's United Methodist Church and our outreach and service to the Oregon community. This congregation is so generous in so many ways, and whenever there is a special need, there seems to be no limit to what you all are willing to do. Thank you and bless you.

Supporting Local Scout Troops 50 & 750

## CHILI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Dine in or Carry Out



**Sunday March 3, 2024**  
**11AM - 2PM**  
Location:  
People's United Methodist Church  
103 N. Alpine Parkway,  
Oregon, WI 53575

**Admission:**  
Adults .....\$12  
Children (Ages 3-10).....\$8  
Children under 3 are FREE  
1 Gallon of Chili to Go.....\$30

**Admission includes:**  
Hot dogs  
Crackers  
Beverages  
Homemade Cookies & Bars

**Chili variations:**  
Mild  
Hot  
No Bean  
Vegetarian

For questions contact: OregonBSATroop50@gmail.com



### Ch, Ch, Ch, Ch, Changes!

Beginning March 1, a new, yet very familiar face joins the People's UMC staff. **Kate Rush** will assume the tasks of communication through our website and newsletter, and our worship coordination for Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. It is a joy to welcome Kate into this different relationship and new role in her church leadership.

On the other hand, we sadly say goodbye to **Barbara Dick** who has been our communications and worship coordinator for two terms over the past few years. However, Barbara is not likely to disappear just because she isn't hired by the church. So it is a win/win. Deep appreciation to Barbara for the amazing job she has done, and great excitement as Kate joins our staff leadership table.

## Book Club Is Back!



Winter Break is over, and we will once again meet in person for book club. The first book we will discuss is *Sweetness of Forgetting* by Kristine Harmel. The meeting will be held on March 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm, at the home of Lois Flee (324 Concord Drive in Oregon). All are welcome, even if you have not read the book. We also invite you to bring your list of good book suggestions that you would like to discuss in 2024.

Please mark your calendar and join the fun! If you have questions, call Lois at 608-291-2328.

## People's Peace Talks Podcast



Poking the purple [People's Peace Talks](#) button on our church's website homepage will take you to the weekly podcast, hosted by Pastor Dan and Barbara. Listen to interviews with Walter Brueggemann, Dr. Liina-Ly Roos, and coming later this month, Peter Block. Enjoy Peaceful Thoughts on Scripture passages related to peace. Learn practical peacemaking skills in Bits and Pieces episodes. Find nourishment in Peace Meal resource reviews.

## Grow

### Deep Dive March/April/May: Peacemaker's Toolkit—Practice, Practice, Practice

Sunday morning's 15 minutes following morning worship, Deep Dive Adult Spiritual Formation Group meets in the Fireside Room for learning and fellowship. In February, the Deep Dive group was introduced to the tools in the Peacemaker's Toolkit: the Power of Composure, the Power of Questions, and the Power of Listening. In March, April, and May, we will give a month to each of the three power tools, learning how to use them, how to improve their use, and how to apply them in different settings.



On March 10 (no Deep Dive on March 3), we will have tools training on the Power of Composure. We will learn and practice a number of calming, focusing, balancing, adapting techniques, as well as engage in some fun role play, scenario discussions, "what if...?" sessions. It doesn't matter if you didn't attend in February; it doesn't matter if you can't come every week. This year we are focusing on peace, peacemaking, and the vision for peace in our world. In April, we will deal with the Power of Questions, and in May, the Power of Listening.

### Children's Sunday School Schedule for March

Children's Sunday School for children 4K–5th grade meets on the lower level each week at 9:15 am. On Family Sundays, we do not meet, allowing the children the opportunity to experience worship with their families. So, **no Sunday school on March 17.**

Also, Easter comes early this year, on **March 31. We will not have classes** on that Sunday to allow the entire congregation to celebrate the risen Christ together!





## March Mission of the Month: Anderson Park Friends, Inc.

Anderson Park Friends, Inc. is an award-winning nonprofit organization working with the Dane County Parks Division to develop, protect, preserve, and enhance beautiful Anderson Farm County Park. This 300-acre park is located at 914 Union Road within the Town of Oregon and on the southern boundary of the Village of Oregon. The organization's more than 210 members live in Oregon, Brooklyn, and surrounding townships (Town of Oregon, Rutland, and Dunn).

There are so many ways to get involved in this park project! Volunteers meet the second Saturday of each month at 8:00am; see more details on their [website](#). Projects include a Community Garden and an Oregon Area Food Pantry Garden. The organization entered its Phase 2 in December 2023. Planned projects include: expansion of the Anderson Farm Center, restoration of the 45-acre west wood, and much more!

Mission of the Month donations can be made by check, cash, or online, Make checks payable to People's UMC and note "Mission of the Month: "Anderson Park Friends" on the memo line of your check or online on the GIVE tab at [www.peoplesumc.org](http://www.peoplesumc.org)

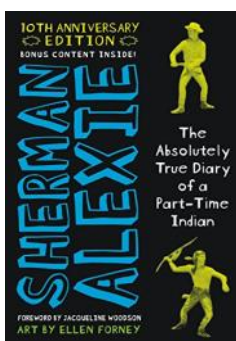


## Civil Conversations Facilitator Training: Saturday, April 6, 9:00–2:00

As part of our focus on peacemaking, People's UMC plans to host some community conversations in partnership with some other area organizations, to talk about the things that currently divide us. To host these conversations well, we need good facilitators to move things along. On April 6, we will hold a facilitator training at the church. This training is provided by the Social Justice Team and is open to everyone who might be interested from the congregation. These tools are good for leading workshops, but also for talking with friends and family!



## Banned Books Club: March & April



Our Thursday morning Zoom Banned Books Club is growing in participants and enthusiasm. We will meet **March 7** to discuss Sherman Alexie's book, ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***.

On April 4, we will explore Mike Curato's book, ***Flamer***, the most banned book in the state of Wisconsin.

The pattern of the discussion is to begin sharing personal thoughts on what we found valuable or worthwhile about the book, any discomfort or struggles we had with what we read, why or why not we think the book is problematic, reasons people have given to ban the book, and to talk about the impact censorship has on learning and development. Copies of both books are available in the People's UMC library for borrowing or purchase. Click on the link to join the conversation: [People's Banned Book Club](#), 7:00 am, Thursday, March 7, and April 4.



## Oregon Area Food Pantry

Located adjacent to the People's Church parking lot, the OAFP serves neighbors struggling to meet basic needs and facing hunger daily. Food donations can be dropped off anytime in a dropbox in front of the OAFP building; on Saturdays (10:00–11:00am); and during distribution times: every Tuesday (9:00–11:00am), the second and last Thursdays of the month (4:00–6:00pm), and the first Saturday of the month (9:00–11:00am).



**NEEDED NOW: Cereal, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna**



## Are You a People's PODS People Yet?

Our PODS (People's Outreach Development Studies) are designed to help us raise awareness and increase understanding of racial justice issues, relationships with our LGBTQIA+ siblings, interfaith connections, and full inclusion of those with cognitive, emotional, developmental, and physical disabilities and challenges, throughout the whole community of faith. We're becoming a learning community, engaging more in small

groups for both personal development as well as a more significant outreach to the Oregon area. If you haven't signed up yet, but are interested, please let us know so we can launch our second wave.

## Prayer Beads and Social Justice

Social Justice is a complicated, bigger-than-life topic. It can be exhausting, spiraling our emotions from anger to hope to despair. We may be involved in letter-writing campaigns, protesting, marching, knocking on doors, and confronting. Even with all that effort, we may find ourselves feeling helpless and defeated. This is when we need to stop, take a breath, and pray.

During a recent Sunday morning children's time, Pam McIntyre reminded us of the power of prayer. She showed us her circle of prayer beads and explained how keeping them in her pocket reminds her to pray for others and to pray for peace. She gave the children circles with just 3 beads because, really, we only need to say three things when we talk to God.

- The first bead: We always need to thank God for loving us.
- The second bead: Thank God for always being with us.
- The third bead: Ask God to help us be kind to everyone.

You might ask what prayer beads have to do with social justice. As we journey through the year with our theme of peacemaking, this may be the time to begin a spiritual practice to help us be grateful and gracious.

This is not about being *nice* or ignoring the unkind words and actions we hear and see. We will continue to confront some uncomfortable situations, but asking God's help to be kind will encourage us to practice social justice and live out our peacemaker vows every day. This world is often a place of injustice. Taking some time to practice kindness can help us shine light and hope into dark places.

*We are called to act with justice;  
We are called to love tenderly;  
We are called to serve one another;  
To walk humbly with God.  
("We Are Called" by David Haas  
The Faith We Sing #2172)*



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February 27, 2024

**People's United Methodist Church**

103 N Alpine Pkwy  
Oregon, WI 53575



Dear church staff and congregation members,

Thank you for the church organ! My family and I are so excited to receive it and use it!

I have been driving about an hour and a half every week back and forth to our church to practice enough to play during a worship service. I'm eagerly anticipating not having to drive to practice, and having more opportunities to practice with the instrument in our home.

My husband and kids will enjoy the organ their own way, whether it's figuring out how a new instrument works or learning to play it themselves.

We're grateful for the opportunity to receive the organ and anticipate using it for years to come to make music to worship God.

Thank you sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Koch".

**Julie Koch**





## 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–5) and Nursery Care (through age 4)
	10:15am	Hand Bell Rehearsal (Music Room, LL)
Monday	7:30am	Ball Exercise
Tuesday	10:30am	Hugs & Stitches (Fireside Room)
	7:00pm	AA–Room to Grow (Adult Meeting Rm. LL)
Wednesday	8:30am	Line Dancing (Great Room)
	4:30pm	Wednesday Night Supper (Great Room)
	6:30pm	Wednesday Night Light Worship (in-person in the Great Room)
Thursday	7:30am	Ball Exercise
	6:30pm	Vocal Choir Rehearsal (Great Room)
	7:30pm	Aspire Rehearsal (Great Room)

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

**Church Office Hours: 9:00am–2:00pm Monday–Wednesday; Closed Thursday & Friday**

**People's Newsletter Deadline:** The newsletter releases on 28th of each month. The due date for articles is the 21st. **For the April newsletter, submit articles to Kate Rush at [kate@peoplesumc.org](mailto:kate@peoplesumc.org) by March 21.**

### Community Resources for Mental Health

**Project Recovery Crisis Counseling by Phone**—Counselors are providing crisis counseling by phone free of charge, focusing on nonjudgmental listening and helping navigate emotions and reactions to stress caused by the public health crisis. Resource referral is part of the process, so counselors have knowledge of local resources for needs related to food, shelter, and health. To be connected to a crisis counselor call 608-237-1255, or call 2-1-1 and ask for Project Recovery.

#### 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

Dan Dick, [dan@peoplesumc.org](mailto:dan@peoplesumc.org)

#### Pastor of Care and Connections

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

#### Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

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

#### Director of Music & Worship Arts

Anne Meyer, [anne@peoplesumc.org](mailto:anne@peoplesumc.org)

#### Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

Leanne Gerry, [leanne@peoplesumc.org](mailto:leanne@peoplesumc.org)

#### Little Angels Early Learning Center Director

TBD

#### Church Treasurer

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

#### Financial Secretary

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

#### Worship & Communications Coordinator

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

#### Lay Leader/Servant Leadership Council Chair

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