

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 (April 21).**

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

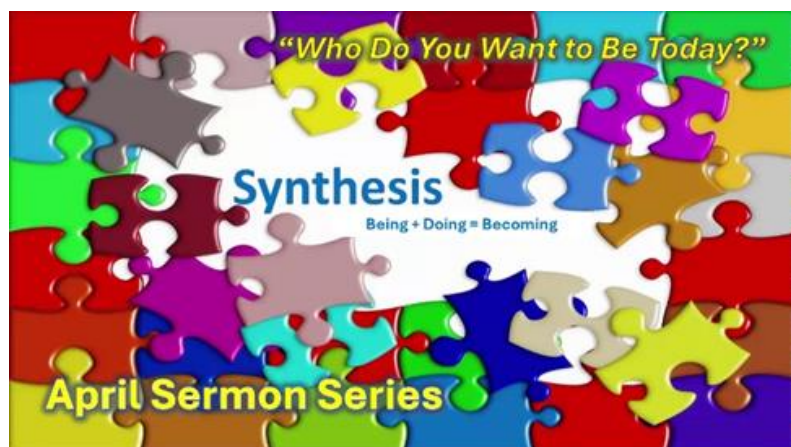
Nursery Care is available for children age 4 and under every Sunday. Check your child in downstairs in the nursery prior to the start of the service.

April 7 Holy Communion	"Delusionality"	1 John 1:1–2:2	We can't live any way we want and call it Christianity
April 14	"Do Gooderers"	1 John 3:1-7	Clarifying the simple/difficult choices we make every day
April 21 Family Sunday Holy Communion	"Acting Up(ward)"	1 John 3:16-24	True faith is active. Actions speak louder than words
April 28 Peacekeeper Vows	"Splitting Image"	1 John 4:7-21	Are we more similar or different from Jesus?

Wednesday Night Light Service at 6:30pm

April 3 Youth Leading	Putting <i>unity</i> in Community	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133	Community requires more than goodwill
April 10	When We Act in Ignorance	Acts 3:12-19	Ignoring what we know is worse than not knowing
April 17	The Deed to the Kingdom	Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23	We are judged by our deeds more than by our words
April 24 Peacekeeper Vows	Tutorial	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31	Learn how to share and act on our beliefs

April Sermon Series: Synthesis—Sunday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings



Continuing our year-long, "Blessed Are the Peacemakers, for They Shall Be Called Children of God," theme, in April we focus on **Synthesis: Who Do You Want to Be Today?** This examination of what our Christian scriptures instruct on the integrity of being and doing will offer one more defining aspect of what it means for us today to be peacemakers. Turn up or tune in to reflect on what Dan and Justin share each Sunday morning at 9:00 and each Wednesday evening at 6:30.

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.

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

Special Music Ministry at People's UMC

Hand Bells

Bell practice is on Sunday mornings following worship (about 10:15, downstairs in the Music Room). We play at worship services monthly. Everyone is invited to give it a try.



Vocal Choir

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

Orchestra

Stay *tuned* for information about our next Orchestra Sunday. Rosin your bow or clean your reeds and come play with us.



Questions about any of our music ministries? Contact Anne Meyer (anne@peoplesumc.org)

Dan's Musings: Re-spons-ible Adults

What is the proper and healthy relationship between religious faith and politics? Quickly now! There is only one right answer. Right? And isn't your answer the right answer? Isn't that the way we as a society are dealing with more and more issues of extreme importance? *The truth* is being replaced by *my truth*. Objectivity based in facts and provable evidence has been abandoned for subjectivity based in hearing others say the same things that you believe in the most provocative ways possible.



We are in an election year, with primaries merely hours away (before or after, depending on when you read this) and a national election in seven months. Does our faith—in any way, shape, or form—influence our political views? It's not much of a faith if it doesn't. Our values, guiding principles, and deepest convictions are all rooted in the soil of our faith. There is no possible way to separate "who I am" from "what I believe," and "how I will behave." I am a Christian before I am anything else. It is my Christianity (specifically my interpretation of God's will in the world) that guides many of my decisions: what I will support; where I will give time, energy, and money; who I will vote for to represent *all people equally* (a subjective value imposed from a place of personal bias).

The only way you cannot allow your beliefs to impact your functioning is to compartmentalize your faith from your life. Doing this allows us to focus all our attention and energy on our rights, and to completely ignore our responsibilities. We displace God at the center of our lives, assigning a subordinate position, often where we can easily ignore or forget what God might desire. This is *ir-re-spons-ible*.

Yes, I am going to play with words and their original meaning. The word *responsible* (Ἀνάδοχος anadoches, or godparent) literally means "to be able to be a godparent again." Say what now? The *spons* in responsible is the root from which we get *sponsor*. In ancient times, in cultures where infant mortality was high, family size was large, and everyone in the village was related to everyone else in some way, everyone was *responsible* for everyone else. This was the core definition of citizenship: defined not by individual rights but by shared responsibility. To be a fully engaged citizen meant that we are *god-parents* to one another. We are here to protect, support, provide for, care for, give to, and share with our community. The extension of this is the responsibility to engage in whatever social functions strengthen and guard the common good. A recent example would be masking. To be a responsible citizen, one would never ask, "Do I want to?" Responsible citizens would be guided by the simple question, "Is this good for others specifically and all in general?" No citizen would ask whether or not to care for others; this is not our choice. Our choice is **how** we will care for others.

Friends: vote. Vote your conscience. Vote your values as defined by the authors of our gospels who share the teachings of Jesus Christ to help guide us. Vote for the common good, placing your sacred responsibility to godparent each other over the individualistic demand for personal rights, privileges, and liberty.

Liberty is not doing whatever one wants; liberty is choosing to do that which will honor everyone's wants and needs. We are free, but in the historic and traditional meaning of the word *freedom*—the capacity to make friends—we need to improve. Freedom is not given just to the individual; freedom is given to all, that we might forge transformative relationships that make us greater than the sum of our parts.

Connect

Join Us for Book Club



March was the first meeting of Book Club for 2024. We had a great discussion on the chosen book. We also compiled a list of recommendations for the rest of the year. Many good books were enjoyed during our winter break. The books we have chosen for the next three months are:

April 9: *A Different Kind of Gone* by Catherine Hyde. Our discussion question will be: What would you choose: morally right or legally right?

May 7: (Note: rescheduled to the first Tuesday) *Looking for Alaska* by John Green. This was one of the Banned Book Club selections, and we look forward to a lively discussion.

June 11: *Remarkable Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

We meet at Lois Flee's house (324 Concord Dr.). If you have questions, please call Lois (608-291-2328). Join us for the discussion even if you have not read the book. All are welcome.

Vacation!

Dan & Barbara will be on vacation April 12-20. We joyfully leave you in the capable hands of Justin, Amanda, Anne, and the rest of the staff and leadership as we visit our granddaughter (oh yeah, our son and daughter too) and recover from a challenging Lenten season.

As many of you are aware, Dan suffered a minor stroke and a systemic infection in March, and while recovery is expected to be total, it is also slow! We both want to thank you all for your concern, your prayers, your patience, and your kindness as we navigated this brand new, completely unexpected, surprise of life. Thank you so much.



People's Peace Talks

Our focus on Peacemaking is spreading far beyond People's UMC. People's Peace Talks podcast is being picked up, promoted, and listened to across the United States, in the Philippines, Africa, Northern Europe, England, Canada, and India. Over 7,000 have tuned in to at least one episode of People's Peace Talks. Here are some of the things we will be adding throughout the month of April:



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



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

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

APRIL MENU:

April 3: Chicken Stir-Fry

April 10: Pulled Pork

April 17: "Thanksgiving in April"

April 24: Mexican Lasagna



First-Quarter Financial Statements

The 2024 1st-quarter financial giving statements will be sent out by email by April 8. If you don't receive it, please check your Spam folder. If the church does not have an email address listed for you, your statement will be sent by mail. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Diane Strohmenger (diane@peoplesumc.org) or call the church (608-835-3755) and leave a message.



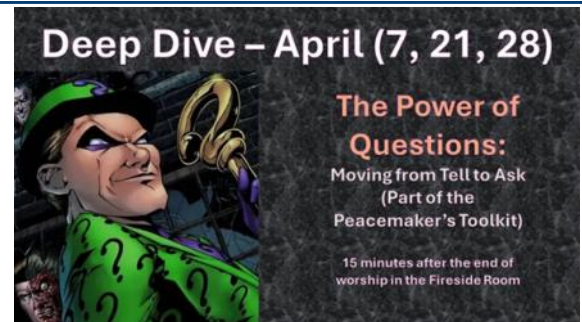
Sacred Space Team

Our Sacred Space Team is charged with *decorating* our worship spaces, from the personal altar in the Fireside Room, to seasonal scenes in the gathering space, to the walls and communion table in the Great Room. There is always room for one more in all of our worship ministries. Questions? See Anne Meyer.

Grow

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

We continue to fill the Peacemaker's Toolkit as we explore **The Power of Questions** in April. This will follow our Facilitator Training session on April 6 (see below). We will work through scenarios, role plays, exercises, and group processes to learn how to hold conversations that lead to understanding instead of division. Join us following Sunday worship in the Fireside Room. Grab a treat, a beverage, and don't forget the napkin as you make your way to Deep Dive.



Facilitator Training: Saturday, April 6, 9:00–2:00

This summer and fall, People's United Methodist Church, in partnership with a number of community organizations, will facilitate conversations about the upcoming election, the future of the Oregon area, and how we can build bridges that bring people together instead of polarizing them. On April 6, 9:00am–2:00pm in the Fireside Room, we will hold a Facilitator Training session to prepare members of our community of faith to guide these conversations. This training is sponsored

by our Social Justice Team, and is open to anyone interested in (a) working with us as a facilitator, and/or (b) being able to have more productive, civil, and meaningful conversations, even with those with whom you disagree. Lunch will be provided.

Live

April Mission of the Month: Friends of the State Street Family



The Friends of the State Street Family (FSSF) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to alleviate human suffering by providing help to people experiencing homelessness in Dane County. The resources in Madison are overburdened and unable to meet the basic survival needs of the current population. FSSF works to fill the gaps that impact those who are on the street and in desperate need. Their anchor values are dignity, collaboration, friendship, trust and community. They work to develop trust and foster a relationship . . . to become a FRIEND.

The goal of FSSF is to help the homeless on their journey to permanent, supportive housing, support of sobriety, trauma counseling, medical or mental health care. This includes networking with their partners in the Madison community. Thus, FSSF provides help and hope by giving basic need services for survival.



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: Friends of the State Street Family" on the memo line of your check or online on the GIVE tab at www.peoplesumc.org.

Our dear Kathy Smith was a devoted and long-term supporter of this mission, and we proudly offer all of this month's donations in her memory.

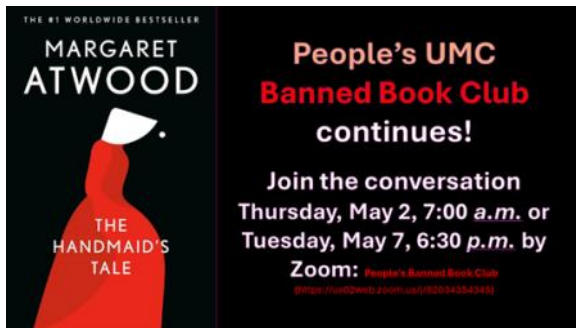
Oregon Area Food Pantry

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

Banned Book Club Continues by Popular Demand!



By popular demand, the People's UMC Banned Book Club will continue past April! We will continue to meet monthly to discuss books that have been banned for one reason or another . . . AND coming in May . . . in addition to our Thursday 7:00am meeting time, we will beginning an **evening option** (Tuesdays at 6:30pm).

On Thursday, April 4, we will discuss the most banned book in Wisconsin public schools, *Flamer*, by Mike Curato. Then, in May, our book will be Margaret At-

wood's, *The Handmaid's Tale*. For those of you who watched the Netflix series, I encourage you to read the book as well. You can join any session, April or May, using this link: [People's Banned Book Club \(https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82034354345\)](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82034354345).



**American
Red Cross**

Tri North Builders
2625 Research Park Dr
Fitchburg, WI 53711
04/30/2024
10:30 AM-3:30 PM

**Find all locations or
make an appointment**
(800-733-2767;
redcrossblood.org)

**Volunteer to help with
blood drives**
at People's UMC.
Contact Anne Staton

American Red Cross:

Give a Little Time, Save a Life

People's UMC is a proud host and sponsor of the American Red Cross Blood Drives. As we still live through the tail end of the pandemic, the demand for blood, plasma, and platelets is at a crisis level. There are very few things that *everyone ought* to do, and this is no exception. But if this is something you feel you CAN do, please do, soon. For platelet donation, we have two easily accessed facilities in Madison: [Red Cross Donation Centers](#).

Get ready to vote on April 2!

1. Make sure you are registered to vote at your current address at www.myvote.wi.gov.

Here you can look at what will be on your ballot, find your polling place, and get information about early in-person voting in your municipality.

If your registration is not current, you can register at your local municipal clerk's office or at the polls. Bring along a proof of residence such as a current Wisconsin driver license, utility bill, bank bill or any government issued document.

2. Go to www.411.org to read the candidates' responses to question about issues. Not all local races are covered here: check your local newspaper for information about local candidates.

Note that there will be two questions on the ballot that propose changes to the Wisconsin State Constitution. By following the links contained in Vote411.org, you can learn more about these referendum questions and read arguments for and against these proposed changes.

3. Prepare to vote early or at the polls on election day, April 2. Bring your photo ID (Wisconsin driver license or State of Wisconsin ID card, or current passport) to use as proof of identity.

Have any questions? Call the Voter Helpline (608-285-2141).



Calendar & Community Notes

Sunday	9:00am	In-person Worship (Great Room) Livestreamed (https://www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi)
	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 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 May newsletter, submit articles to Kate Rush at kate@peoplesumc.org by April 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.

Lead Pastor

Dan Dick, dan@peoplesumc.org

Pastor of Care and Connections

Justin Beatty, justin@peoplesumc.org

Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

Amanda Kuntzelman, amanda@peoplesumc.org

Director of Music & Worship Arts

Anne Meyer, anne@peoplesumc.org

Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

Leanne Gerry, leanne@peoplesumc.org

Little Angels Early Learning Center Director

TBD

Church Treasurer

Karen Binger, karen@peoplesumc.org

Financial Secretary

Diane Strohmer, diane@peoplesumc.org

Worship & Communications Coordinator

Kate Rush, kate@peoplesumc.org

Lay Leader/Servant Leadership Council Chair

Laurie Kelly, t1mckelly@tds.net