

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>).

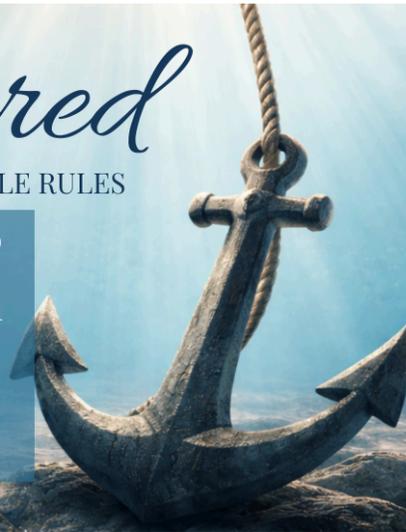
Sunday School for grades 4K–5th grade meets at 9:15 in the lower level. Adult Sunday School ("Sunday Second Cup") meets in the Fireside Room 15 minutes after worship ends.

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.

Anchored

LIVING BY THREE SIMPLE RULES

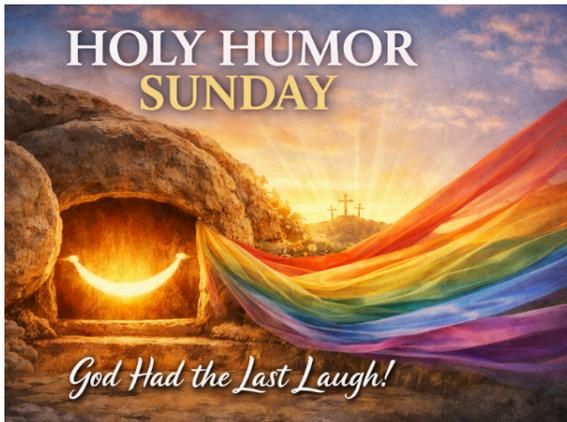
In a world that feels unsteady, God calls us to live with deep roots and steady hope. Join us for this three-week series as we explore John Wesley's simple, life-shaping guide for faithful living: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. Come discover what it means to live anchored in God's grace.



April 5 Easter	John 20:1-18	When the Doorway Is Empty The empty doorway is not a sign of loss, but a threshold—where grief gives way to recognition, and death gives way to new life.
April 12	2 Samuel 6:1-5	Holy Humor Sunday
April 19	Galatians 5:13-25	Do No Harm The first step in faithful living is refusing to add harm to the world. When our words, attitudes, and actions are anchored in love rather than reaction, we create space for grace, healing, and transformation.
April 26	3 John 5-11	Do Good Faith is not only about avoiding harm—it is about actively participating in God's goodness. Anchored in Christ, we are free to look outward and become people who intentionally bring compassion, generosity, and hope into the world.

Crossing the Threshold: *To New Life*

Throughout Lent, we have stood at the threshold between who we have been and who God is calling us to become—journeying with Jesus through struggle, healing, and hope. Now, as we come to Easter on April 5, we step into the light of resurrection. The doorway is open. The stone is rolled away. Join us as we celebrate the promise of new life in Christ and cross the threshold into hope.



Join us for worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday, April 12, as we celebrate Holy Humor Sunday—a joyful reminder that in the resurrection, God has the final word over sin and death. This lighthearted service invites us to embrace the deep joy of Easter, where laughter becomes an expression of hope and resurrection. You're invited to come ready to celebrate—feel free to wear something bright or joyful! Because the story isn't over... and joy still rises.

Get Ready! It's Time for a New Church Directory!

by Jen Wiemer

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.



Universal Church Directories will be setting up a professional portrait studio right here in our church for three days: **April 30, May 1, and May 2**. Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory!

Schedule your appointment as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time, because appointments fill up quickly! If you have 6 or more in your family, please sign up for two consecutive time slots.

Universal offers online scheduling, which will be open Monday-Friday for the next few weeks. We will also have a scheduling sign-up sheet at church. Online scheduling will be closed on weekends when people may be signing up at worship services, to avoid double-booking appointments. It will re-open each Monday.

Here's how to schedule an appointment online:

Go to Universal's website (ucdir.com): [CLICK HERE](#)

Church code: wi455

Church password: Smile2day

Revvibes: Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

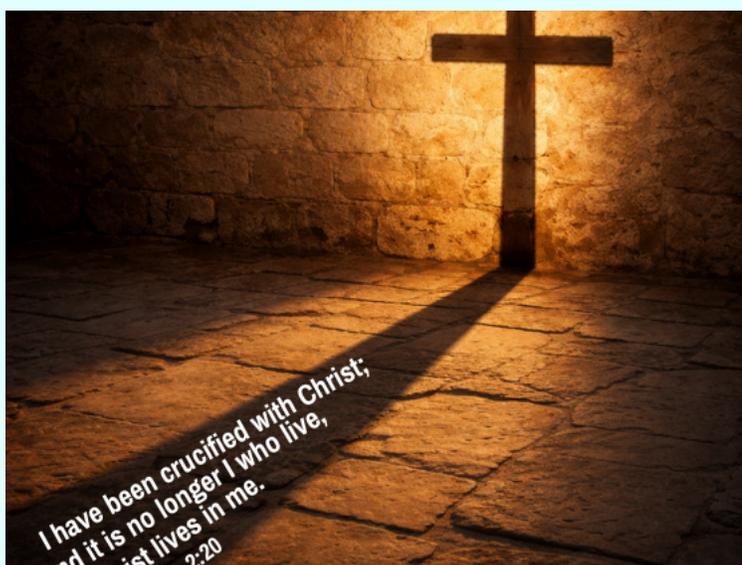
by Pastor Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)



As we move closer to Holy Week, Christians around the world turn their attention again to the cross. It is one of the most recognizable symbols of our faith—and also one of the most profound mysteries at its center...Why did Jesus have to die?

Over the centuries, Christians have offered different ways of answering that question. In his book *Why Jesus Died*, Adam Hamilton reminds us that the Bible itself gives us several images for understanding the meaning of the cross. Rather than offering only one explanation, Scripture invites us to see it from multiple angles.

Some passages describe Jesus' death as a sacrifice, echoing the language of the temple and reminding us that sin has real consequences that separate us from God. Other passages describe the cross as a victory, the moment when Christ defeats the powers of sin, evil, and death. Still others point to the cross as the ultimate expression of God's love, showing how far God is willing to go to reach us.



Perhaps the cross is best understood not through just one explanation, but through all of them together:

- The cross reminds us that sin is serious.
- The cross reminds us that evil does not have the final word.
- And the cross reveals that God's love is stronger than both.

When we look at the cross, we see a God who does not remain distant from human suffering. Instead, God enters into it. In Jesus, God experiences betrayal, injustice, violence, and death—and then transforms them through resurrection.

That means the cross is not simply about something that happened long ago. It also speaks into our lives today:

- Whenever we choose forgiveness instead of revenge...
- Whenever we stand with those who suffer...
- Whenever love refuses to give up even when it is costly...

—we are living the way of the cross.

In the days ahead, as we journey through Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and toward the hope of Easter morning, we are invited to reflect again on the mystery of the cross—not simply as something that happened long ago, but as a story of love that continues to shape our lives.

Because in the end, the cross tells us this:

God's love is willing to go farther than we ever imagined—and that love is still at work in the world today.

April Mission of the Month: DAIS

by Karen Austin, Mission Team



Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (or DAIS) believes that a world free from violence is possible. They work to make Dane County, WI, a safer, more just, more equitable place for people who have experienced domestic violence, their children, and the people who love them.

DAIS, helping Dane County since 1977, strives to empower those affected by domestic violence by advocating for social change through support, education, and outreach. To make this happen, they offer a wide array of crisis intervention and community education/prevention programs, including a 24-hour Help Line, programming for children from violent homes, legal advocacy, support groups, and emergency safety planning. DAIS is also the only domestic violence shelter in all of Dane County.



How to help DAIS

The importance of DAIS's role in the community has never been clearer. And DAIS has had to adapt the way in which they provide services to keep everyone safe. This created additional budget needs at a time when funding sources were already stretched thin.

This is where compassionate people like you can play a big role in showing support for DAIS and victims of domestic violence. Here are ways you can help them achieve their vision of nonviolent community that actively promotes safety, peace, justice, and hope.

Ways to help:

- Make a Monetary Donation to DAIS – DAIS relies on support from the community to provide our life-changing programs. Learn about the various ways to give a monetary donation to DAIS.
- Help Stock Our Shelter – Food and goods donations help keep our shelter running and make a huge difference in the lives of adults and children affected by domestic violence. Learn more about our current needs, and how our donation process works. You might even consider hosting a donation drive.
- Sponsorship – Businesses can get involved via sponsorship opportunities. Please contact Mary at maryd@abuseintervention.org or 608-338-0065.
- Volunteer Your Time – Volunteers are at the center of making our work possible. Learn more about the many ways you can get involved. There are roles that require a short time commitment, and others that are longer. Find the one that suits your lifestyle.

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

From People's UMC Financial Secretary



The 2026 1st quarter financial giving statements will be sent out by April 15th and will include giving through April 5th. The statements will be sent by email. If the church does not have your email address, your statement will be sent by mail. If you have any questions regarding your statement, you can email me at diane@peoplesumc.org or call the church office and leave a message for me.

Wednesday Night Supper in April

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.



4/1: Spring Break - No Wednesday Night Supper

4/8: Pork Loin

4/15: Lasagna

4/22: Potato Bar

4/29: Turkey and Gravy

menus are subject to change



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

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



Join Us for Book Club

by Lois Flee

The next Book Club meeting is scheduled for the 14th of April at 6:30. The books chosen for the next three months are as follows:

April - *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi

May - *Between Sisters* by Kristin Hannah

June - *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

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.



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



Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Alleluia!

by Kate Rush, Director of Music



I've been to lots of Easter Sunday services. Each has had its unique aspects, but every single one of them has included the hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." Many times I have stood tall, opened my mouth wide, and sung those joyous "Alleluia!" lyrics.

But the original hymn written by Charles Wesley in 1789 did not include any *alleluias*. It was entitled "Hymn for Easter-Day" and it was not originally set to music. While the words are indeed joyful, Wesley's text on its own feels so different from what I know.

Imagine hearing these original stanzas spoken aloud at a poetry reading without music. Or, go ahead and read them out loud right now:

Verse 1:
"Christ the Lord is ris'n to day,"
Sons of men and angels say,
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth reply.

Verse 2:
Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won,
Lo! Our sun's eclipse is o'er,
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

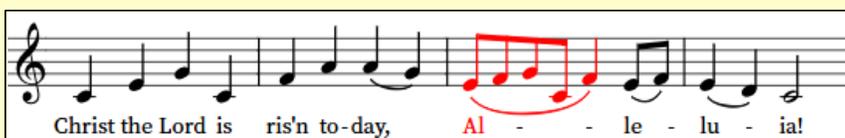
Verse 3:
Lives again our glorious King,
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once he all doth save,
Where thy victory, O grave?

Verse 4:
Soar we now, where Christ has led?
Following our exalted head,
Made like him, like him we rise,
Ours the cross—the grave—the skies!

How did these words become one of the most joyous hymns of all?

Sometime in the 19th century, the words were set to a commonly used tune called "Easter Hymn." This tune is distinctive because of the repeated "Alleluias" sung as a melisma after each line.

In music, a "melisma" is when a single syllable is given more than one pitch. (Most famous example: the *Glooooooooooria* in "Angels We Have Heard on High.") Take a look:

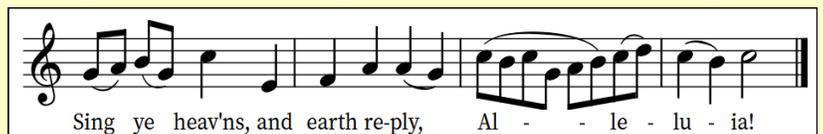


The "ah" syllable has five different notes! The curvy line connecting those notes tells you to keep singing "ah" through all five of them, before moving

on to the "le" syllable (which gets two notes itself). If you count the total number of pitches for the four-syllable word *alleluia*, you find ten notes there.

While melismas are not always easy to perform, there is something inherently exciting about singing them. You need to take a big breath to keep the air moving through all of those notes! (I sometimes give myself a mental high-five when I complete a melisma.) And this may be what makes "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" such a joyous experience for me, every time I sing it. My body is full of energy because of the physical demands of the tune, making me feel fully present in worship, and my mouth is singing beautiful words about God's enormous love.

So if you are able to join us in worship on Easter Sunday, dive deep into this hymn with me. Don't "phone it in." Stand if you are able, fill your lungs with air, be fully present, and feel the Holy Spirit flowing through you as you joyfully sing the **eleven** notes on the final *Alleluia!*



Happy Easter to all!

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 April

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.



April 5 - Family Worship, no Sunday School

April 12 - The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

April 19 - Working Together (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)

April 26 - Pray for Everyone (1 Timothy 2:1-7)

Youth Mission Trip to Boston

This June, Pastor Justin and six members of our youth group will be going to Boston for a mission trip. They will be joining with other youth from Sugar River United Methodist Church for a week-long experience. Next Step Ministries has partnered with a Boys and Girls Club in Boston that is in need of volunteers to renovate a facility that serves many young people. Our team will be helping the Boys and Girls Club with this mission. They also will participate in the worship experience of Next Step Ministries, meet other youth from around the country, and have some time to explore Boston.



How you can help:

To help our youth with the cost of the trip, People's UMC will be having a Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction on May 3. If you can, please plan to attend this \$15 meal and perhaps bid on a dessert.



We will of course need some desserts for the Desert Auction! If you are able to donate a dessert, please sign up in the gathering space.



Why the Cross?
A Bible Study on Jesus' Final Days and What They Mean

One of the central questions of the Christian faith is simple to ask but not always easy to answer: Why did Jesus have to die?

Beginning Tuesday, April 14, we'll explore that question together in a new Bible study titled *Why the Cross?* In this study we will look closely at the final days of Jesus' life, the events that led to his crucifixion, and the different ways the Bible helps us understand the meaning of the cross.

Drawing on Scripture, historical insight, and the Christian tradition, we'll explore questions such as:

- Why was Jesus executed?
- What does the cross reveal about God's love?
- How does the cross shape the way we live as followers of Christ today?

Whether you've wrestled with these questions for years or are simply curious to explore them more deeply, you are warmly invited to join the conversation.

**Tuesdays starting
 April 14
 5:30 p.m.
 Fireside Room**

An Update from Another Hope Children's Ministries in Uganda

Last November, People's UMC chose Another Hope Children's Ministries as our Mission of the Month. This organization cares for orphaned and abused children in Uganda, working to improve their quality of life through education, proper accommodations, health care, and spiritual growth. Recently we received a message from director Ruth Kasozi with the subject line "A miracle for our children and a personal request for prayer." Here is Ruth's message:

Dear People's Church Members,

I hope this message finds you all well and blessed.

I am writing to you today with both a heavy heart and a joyful spirit. Personally, I have been going through a very difficult time. Nearly four weeks ago, I was involved in a motorcycle accident that has left me on crutches and wearing a knee brace. The pain is often overwhelming—sometimes so much so that it brings me to tears. I am currently waiting for a crucial doctor's review on March 24th. Please join me in praying that the report shows healing and that surgery will not be necessary.



However, even in my pain, my heart is full of joy because of the incredible gift you gave to our children. I am so happy to report that the **retaining wall** you helped fund is now **fully complete!**

Before the wall, heavy rains would carry dirty water and debris right into our space, threatening the children's health. Now, the water is diverted, the erosion has stopped, and most importantly, the children finally have a safe, dry place to play!

Their health has improved so much because we no longer have that running water passing through our home.

Thank you for providing this "wall of protection" for our little ones. While I work on my own healing, I find so much peace knowing the children are safe and dry because of your kindness.

May God bless you all abundantly for your love and support.

With gratitude,
 Ruth Kasozi



Making a Difference at Shelter from the Storm

Our Mission of the Month in January was Shelter from the Storm Ministries. They are a transitional living program based in Sun Prairie, serving homeless single mothers and children. Recently we received this kind letter:



Dear People's United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous gift to Shelter from the Storm Ministries!

Your support reflects Christ's heart for compassion and restoration, and it plays a vital role in supporting and empowering moms and children experiencing homelessness. Your generosity is changing lives.

Every day, the families at SFTSM take brave steps toward stability and freedom. Your gift reminds them that they are seen, known, and loved by a community that believes in their potential and the possibilities that lie ahead.

We pray that God's love and peace surround you, and that you're encouraged knowing your kindness truly makes a lasting difference.

With gratitude,

Lily Schwenk

Development Coordinator

Shelter from the Storm Ministries

LISTEN

As we move toward Easter,
stay open to
God's gentle voice.

Ask: "God, what are you
bringing to life in me?"

Hope often begins in the quiet

—
before the stone is
rolled away.



Growing in trust and
transparency...



Line of Credit total:
\$64,157.68

Midwest Mission Rice Bag Project - 2026 Fundraiser

by Kathy Kuehl

The Rice Meal Project is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2026 at Sugar River UMC. The goal is to increase the number of rice bags produced from 5,000 to 5,200 this year. To achieve this, \$12,000 will need to be raised.



The first fundraising event is Bratfest, May 22-24. Last year, there were 35 volunteers committed to 160 hours of service (\$12/hour) which raised approximately \$2,000. There were 13 volunteers from PUMC. There are numerous volunteer opportunities – setting up several days before, brat wrappers, brat grillers, brat runners, cashiers & assistants, ground keepers, tear-down several days following, etc.

Find family and friends, carpool, spread the word – this is a COMMUNITY event! Sign up starts at 10:00am on April 4th, using [this link](#). The name of the charity is Sugar River Rice Meal Project. TEAM BUILDING MADE FUN!! Please consult Kathy Kuehl with questions at 608-215-6364 or kuehl_kathleen_rnc@yahoo.com.

Social Justice Team: Voting Our Values

The Spring Election is on April 7.
Visit vote411.org to get ready!

Access these resources to stay on top of the latest voting/candidate information.

[League of Women Voters Dane County](#), [PBS Wisconsin](#), Myvote.wis.gov, and wpr.org

Explore [WPR's voter guide](#) for the 2026 Wisconsin Supreme Court election.

People's UMC Social Justice Team

Micah 6:8: *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

- Are you registered?
- Do you have acceptable ID?
- Do you know who is on your ballot?
- Do you have a voting plan?

Visit VOTE411.org to get ready!

Upcoming elections:

April 7 - Spring Election
August 11 - Partisan Primary
November 3 - General Election



News from Little Angels Early Learning Center

by Katie Grady, director



Katie read books that matched class themes in March.
Ms. Kelly from the public library came to read to our classes this month.



Students enjoyed 2 weeks of Dr. Seuss themed dress up days.

We have 3 Monday/Wednesday/Friday preschool spots remaining for the 2026-2027 school year.

Wisconsin United Methodist Camps Are Open for Registration!

Lake Lucerne and Pine Lake camps are offering a wide range of programs this summer! Available programs include art, survival skills, video games, adventure sports, cycling, tree houses, and more. The camps are once again holding Grandparent/Grandchild Camp and Mother/Daughter Camp, as well as camps for adults with differing abilities. For more information, visit: <https://wiumcamps.org/>



Oregon Area Food Pantry



Located across the parking lot from People's UMC, the Oregon Area Food Pantry serves residents of the Oregon School District who need some assistance with food and basic necessities. The pantry has seen rising numbers of visitors each year; in 2025, they served approximately 14,000 guests.

Our church keeps two shopping carts in our gathering space to collect items. Each Tuesday, we bring the carts across the parking lot to deliver our donations. If every family brings one item to worship each Sunday, our carts consistently fill up! Please bring a food or personal care item to church, if you can.



Items that are consistently needed:

- Chunky soups
- Peanut butter / jelly
- Cereal (especially sweeter cereal)
- Canned fruit and applesauce
- Hamburger helper type box meals
- Rice/noodle side dishes like Rice-a-Roni
- Paper towels / toilet paper
- Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste

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

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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