

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.



The life of faith is rarely a straight climb upward. Often we revisit old questions, circle through familiar lessons, and find ourselves growing in ways we do not immediately recognize. Spiritual growth is mysterious, layered, and ongoing. In our new sermon series, *What's Next?*, we will explore how God continues to form us through every twist, turn, and unexpected step of the journey. Even when life feels uncertain—or when it seems we are simply going in circles—God is still at work shaping us. Like an impossible staircase, discipleship invites us to trust that every turn, every landing, and every step is part of becoming who God is calling us to be. We never truly graduate from growing in grace.

May 3	John 21:15-22	<b>Stay in Love with God</b> The practices of faith—prayer, worship, scripture, communion, and acts of mercy—keep our lives rooted in God's love.
May 10	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	<b>When You Can't See the Next Step</b> Endings are rarely neat, and beginnings are not always obvious. God is present in the in-between spaces to guide us.
May 17	Psalms 139:1-18	<b>How Is It with Your Soul...Really?</b> Growth begins when we pause long enough to notice where we truly are. Honest reflection helps us recognize the quiet ways God is shaping us.
May 24	Jeremiah 29:11-13	<b>Faith, One Step at a Time</b> Faith does not require seeing the entire path ahead. God often gives only enough light for the next faithful step.
May 31	Philippians 3:7-16	<b>Still Climbing</b> There is no finish line in discipleship. Faith is lifelong formation, and God continues shaping us at every age and stage.

## Revyvibes: Paving the Way to Ministry Freedom

by Pastor Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)



Last year, as a congregation, People's United Methodist Church stepped out in faith through the Paving the Way Capital Campaign, committing ourselves to three important priorities:

- Replacing our parking lot
- Paying down the line of credit
- Updating our church signage

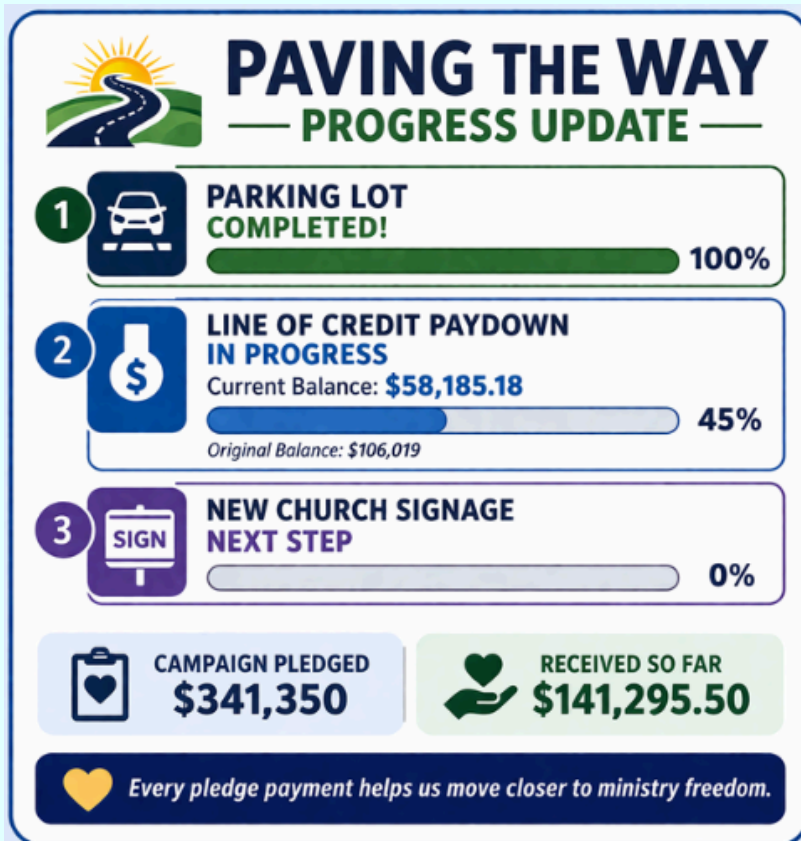
Thanks to your generosity, the first goal has already been accomplished. The parking lot has been fully replaced and paid for. That is something worth celebrating.



Since November we have turned our focus toward reducing and, prayerfully, eliminating the remaining balance on our line of credit.

At present, that balance stands at \$58,185.18. Every dollar paid toward campaign pledges helps reduce that debt—and every reduction means less money spent on interest and more money available for ministry.

Scripture reminds us: The borrower is slave to the lender.—Proverbs 22:7



This verse is not meant to shame debt, but to remind us that freedom from debt creates freedom for mission. The sooner we reduce this balance, the sooner those resources can be directed fully toward ministry rather than finance charges.

If you have already fulfilled your pledge, thank you.

If your pledge is still in progress, thank you for your faithfulness.

And if you have not yet had the opportunity to begin fulfilling your commitment, now would be a wonderful time to join in.

Together, we are not simply paying bills—we are strengthening the future ministry of People's United Methodist Church.

## May Mission of the Month: Three Gaits Therapeutic Horsemanship

by Anne Staton, Mission Team

Three Gaits is a therapeutic horsemanship center located on Hwy. 138 between Oregon and Stoughton. It exists to provide equine-assisted activities and therapy to enhance the lives of people with physical, emotional, or intellectual disabilities.



The vision of Three Gaits is to create a positive, supportive, resource-rich community for the participants, their families, and the volunteers that nurtures mind, body, and spirit through partnerships with horses and interactions with nature. The center provides therapeutic riding, horsemanship, and physical therapy to people of all ages living with a disability. All are welcomed as they are, and encouraged to strive for what is possible.



The program is supported by three full-time staff members, five certified therapeutic riding instructors, two licensed and registered occupational and physical therapists, and seven part-time staff members who support horse care, facility management, and administrative needs. Along with these staff members, there are 11 specially trained horses and more than 100 active volunteers who are essential parts of the team.

By annually choosing Three Gaits as a Mission of the Month organization, we are a part of the group of very essential generous donors and partners who help keep the farm open and the programs running. The mission team thanks you in advance for your support of this Mission of the Month. For more information, please visit their website at [three-gaits.org](http://three-gaits.org)

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



### 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?

We continue to explore that question together in a new Bible study titled Why the Cross? In this study we are looking 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 are exploring 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  
5:30 p.m.  
Fireside Room**

## Wednesday Night Supper in May

The Wednesday Night Supper season is almost over! Please join us for our final meals in May. Thank you for a great year of food and fellowship.

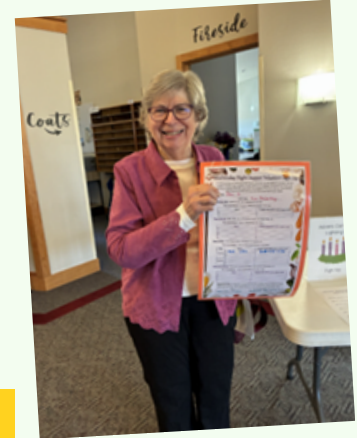
The meal is served from 5:00-6:30pm. All are welcome!



### May Menu

5/6: Salad Bar

5/13: Brats and Hot Dogs



Special shout-out to all of our rock-star volunteers this year! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



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

## Making a Joyful Noise

by Kate Rush, Director of Music



*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" – Psalm 100:1-2*

### Question: Does every Christian need to love singing?

The Bible is full of references to singing and making music. For someone like me, it makes perfect sense to equate praising God with singing songs. I'm a professional musician. I've been making music for my entire life. Music is just about my favorite thing in the world. Come into God's presence with singing? You bet!

I might not feel quite the same if *"Come into his presence with singing!"* was replaced with something like *"Come into his presence with the throwing of basketballs into hoops!"* That would not feel like an act of praise to me; it would feel like an awkward attempt to praise God that would ultimately fail due to my lack of athletic prowess.



This world is full of people with different interests, passions, and talents. And we are all welcome at church. So when we gather in a worship service, is your music director expecting every person to love singing? No. It certainly brings me great joy to see members of the congregation singing with enthusiasm. But I understand that there may be some who are feeling the way I would feel in my imaginary Church of the Hurling Basketballs. If a leader of basketball worship was looking out at me with encouragement, I would do my best to slam-dunk for Jesus a couple of times but I would mostly observe everyone else. I wonder if this is the mindset of those who don't love to sing.

So, if you don't love to sing, I believe that's an acceptable way to feel. We all love different things. I would offer two thoughts to you, as I continue to strive for worship to be meaningful to all:

1. If you haven't sung at all yet, please give it a try! You can sing in whatever way feels comfortable to you. The Bible tells us to "make a joyful noise to the Lord." It doesn't say, "Make a classically trained, perfectly in-tune noise to the Lord, with extra points if you sound like Beyonce." The physical experience of taking words and elongating them into musical tones with your voice is an amazing enhancement to the worship experience. Doing so as part of a faith community makes it even more meaningful, as you join with your siblings in Christ. You are part of something bigger than yourself.



2. If you've tried singing and you're sure it's never going to feel right, try to immerse yourself in the worship experience. Just as a movie scene can use music to bring your emotions into the story on screen, the melodies and harmonies in worship music are intended to bring your spirit closer to God. During the music, say the words to yourself along with the singing. Turn it into a prayer, letting the music carry you further into your communion with God.



I look forward to worshipping with all of you every Sunday. I pray that our services bring you peace, joy, and introspection. If music helps you get there, I hope we are providing the songs to feed your spirit. If you have a suggestion for a different way of worshipping that we could try, I am always open to learning about other people's passions! (If your passion is basketball, I can't promise that we'll worship by shooting hoops. Sorry.) May we all make a joyful noise to the Lord.

# 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 May**

by Pastor Justin Beatty

All children from 4K through 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



May 3—Family Worship, no Sunday School

May 10—The Ascension (Acts 1:6-14)

May 17—The Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21)

May 24—Memorial Day Weekend, Lego Sunday

May 31—End of Year Celebration



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**People's UMC @ Madison Mallards**

**Saturday June 13, 6:05pm**

**More details coming soon!**



### **Men's Fellowship Group**

by Howard Brantmeyer

On the first Saturday of every month, Men's Fellowship meets at 9:00am in the great room. It is a time to connect with other men in our community, and enjoy coffee and donuts together. Please join us on Saturday May 2, and invite a friend!



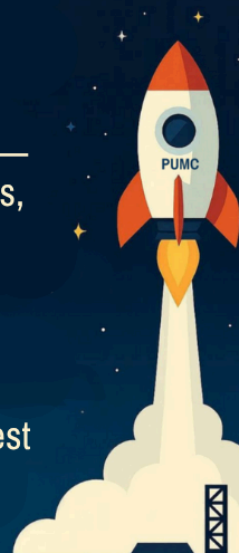
## **LISTEN**

May is often full of motion—plans, transitions, endings, beginnings.

In the midst of it all, pause and ask:

“God, where are you leading me today?”

God's voice is often clearest when we make room to notice it.



## A Thank-You Note from Oregon Area Food Pantry

Dear leaders, staff, and congregants of People's Church,

Recently the Oregon Area Food Pantry received food and personal essentials donations at PUMC from the Scouting for America food drive.

We took in 3,436 pounds in less than 5 hours. We engaged 50 volunteers, several yards of packing tape and labels, and one Dad joke. (How do you fix a broken tomato? With tomato paste!)

We were successful because you kindly loaned us enough open space to process the donations smoothly. We cannot thank you enough. Your generosity made all the difference.

Thank you,  
Diana Kirchdoerfer  
Board, OAFP



*April 1, 2024*

*Dear Leaders, Staff, and Congregants of People's Church,*

*Recently the Oregon Area Food Pantry received food and personal essentials donations at PUMC from the Scouting for America food drive.*

*We took in 3436 pounds in less than 5 hours. We engaged 50 volunteers, several yards of packing tape and labels and 1 Dad joke.*

*We were successful because you kindly loaned us enough open space to process the donations smoothly. We cannot thank you enough. Your generosity made all the difference.*

*Thank you. Diana Kirchdoerfer, Board, OAFP*

## News from Little Angels Early Learning Center

by Katie Grady, director



### Reading Fun

Ms. Katie read a book written by her about tornado/shelter drills. These books were written with specifics to each classroom. We are to practice a tornado drill once a month between April and October.

Ms. Kelly from the public library came to read to the center as well.



### Enrollment Update

Both the M-W-F and T-Th preschool classes are now completely full, and we have students on a waiting list.

Child-Wrap care class is also full for the fall.

4K enrollment is done through the Oregon School District, enrollment lists will be made mid-May.

## Opportunity to Join the Church Staff

The Servant Leadership Council (SLC) is looking for an individual to share the position of Administrative Assistant with Amanda Kuntzelman. The normal hours for this position are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 AM - 2 PM. How the position will be shared is to be determined and will depend on what works best for the two people sharing it. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Anne Staton at [staton.anne@gmail.com](mailto:staton.anne@gmail.com) or 608-335-3249. You may also talk with Anne or another member of the SLC after worship on Sunday.



## The Frog Is Hopping!

by Steve Staton

The Green Action Collective has chosen FROGS as a symbol of our efforts. The well-being of frogs is indicative of the health of our planet, and right now frogs are struggling to prosper and survive. Do we want to lose the cacophony of Spring Peepers? The foghorn bellow of Bullfrogs? Or the beauty of a Leopard Frog? We think not, because losing those will mean increasingly harmful impacts of climate change!



The GAC is focusing its initial efforts on basic actions that can benefit our environment. We recently passed our reusable shopping bags to be used to replace plastic bags when buying groceries. Plastic contaminates our environment in many ways and only 9% of plastic waste is recycled in the United States. Please do your part by using reusable bags when shopping. More bags are available in the church office.

The GAC also made eight sets of reusable straws available to members. The straws are a great example of how small actions can benefit our environment and we were happy to get several families using them.

If you would like to be involved in the GAC please contact Steve Staton at [staton.steve@gmail.com](mailto:staton.steve@gmail.com). Participation doesn't have to involve attending meetings, it can mean that you are on our email chain so that you can be aware of activities and can offer to help with projects that interest you. Plus, you are always invited to attend meetings. We have a good time and leave feeling refreshed that we are supporting God's creation.

## Join Us for Book Club

by Lois Flee

The next Faith Book Club meeting is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. We will be discussing *Between Sisters* by one of our favorite authors, Kristine Hannah.



The books chosen for the next three months are as follows:

June: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

July: *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston

August: *Beautiful Ugly* by Alice Fee

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.

## Letter from the Oregon Youth Center

Our congregation supported the Oregon Youth Center as our Mission of the Month in March of this year. Recently we received this kind letter.



Dear members of the Mission Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Youth Center, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your generous donation. Your support plays a vital role in helping us provide a safe, positive, and engaging environment for youth in our community.

Because of contributions like yours, we are able to continue offering consistent after-school programming that gives students a place to go, people to connect with, and opportunities to grow. Each day, we serve middle school youth by creating an environment where they feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged to be themselves. Beyond simply providing supervision, we focus on building meaningful relationships, fostering a sense of belonging, and helping students develop confidence and life skills that will carry with them into the future.

Your generosity also helps us expand the quality of our programming - whether that's through activities, mentorship opportunities, or simply ensuring we have the resources needed to meet the growing number of students who walk through our doors. Over the past year, we have continued to see increased participation, and support like yours allows us to keep up with that growth while maintaining a positive and impactful experience for every student.

We are truly thankful for your commitment to supporting local youth and investing in their future. It is partnerships with organizations like People's United Methodist Church that make our work possible and strengthen the entire community. Please know that your kindness is making a direct and lasting difference in the lives of the young people we serve.

With sincere appreciation,  
Brandon Loncaric  
Director, Oregon Youth Center

Growing in trust and transparency...



Line of Credit total:  
**\$58,185.18**

## 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 ( <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](https://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)