

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 has concluded for the year, and will return in September.

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.



August 2	Matthew 18:21-35	Paid in Full The parable of the Unforgiving Servant: God's mercy toward us is immeasurable. It reshapes how we forgive others.
August 9	Matthew 20:1-16	Same Day Grace The parable of the Workers in the Vineyard: God's generosity goes beyond fairness.
August 16	Matthew 22:1-14	RSVP Requested The parable of the Wedding Banquet: God invites everyone to the banquet of grace.
August 23	Luke 18:9-14	Open with Humility The parables of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector: True prayer is humble and honest before God.
August 30	Matthew 25:31-40	Delivered in Disguise The parable of the Sheep and the Goats: We encounter Christ in the way we treat others - especially those in need.

Revyvibes: Seeing People Along the Way

by Pastor Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)



As summer begins to wind down and many of us prepare for the rhythms of fall, I find myself reflecting on a poem by Rex Tilley.

At first glance, it appears to be a poem about homelessness. But the more I sit with it, the more I think it is a poem about us.



The toothless old man jingles his can
And begs for a little spare change
I hasten my walk as I look all around
He seems just a little deranged
The drunk with the bottle slides down
on the bench
And inquires if I'd like to partake
I say "That's OK" as I go on my way
I think that would be a mistake
A junkie, a hooker, looking to score,
asks if I am in need of a date
Averting my eyes, I hurry on by,
telling her I don't want to be late
Young kids scurry by, no parents insight
I sure hope they get home alright
I should stop and check
But oh what the heck
My destiny is now insight
That walk made me late for the service tonight
Maybe next time I'll just ride my bike
Lord grant me the knowledge,
courage, and grace
To love people that I don't like

The speaker encounters person after person along the way—people who are struggling, people who make him uncomfortable, people he does not understand, people he would rather avoid. Yet each encounter presents a choice: Will I stop?... Will I see them?... Will I care?

Like many of us, the speaker has reasons for moving on. He is busy. He is running late. He has somewhere important to be. In fact, the implication is that he is on his way to church.

That is what makes the final prayer so powerful: "Lord grant me the knowledge, courage, and grace to love people that I don't like."

Notice that he does not pray for God to change other people. He prays for God to change him.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to worship, pray, study scripture, and gather in community. These are important and life-giving practices. Yet Jesus also reminds us that loving God and loving our neighbor are inseparable.

Perhaps the challenge of this poem is not simply to think differently about homelessness. Perhaps it is to ask ourselves a broader question: Who do I struggle to see?... Who do I pass by?... Who might God be placing in my path today?

As we enter a new season together, may God grant us the knowledge, courage, and grace not only to worship Christ on Sunday, but also to recognize Christ in the people we meet along the way.

August Mission of the Month: Rice Blessings Bag Project

by Kathy Kuehl, Mission Team

The August Mission of the Month is Midwest Mission's program to fight world hunger---The Rice Blessings Bags Project. This is the third year for Sugar River United Methodist Church to host this event. The goal for 2026 is to increase the bag production from 5,080 bags to 5,200 --- which would feed over 31,000 people. Each rice bag is a nutrient-dense meal containing a vitamin pack, dehydrated vegetables, soy, and rice and feeds 6 people. Each bag costs \$2 each to make, so the goal of raising \$11,300 to offset expenses was set. The first fundraising effort was Bratfest. There were 24 volunteers, who worked approximately 117 hours at \$12/hr, earning \$1395 for this cause.



The work date for this year is September 26th at Sugar River UMC in Verona. REMEMBER, this is NOT just a Methodist endeavor---it is a Community event. There are 10 churches planning to participate in the Blessing Rice Bag Project, both youth and adults. This is an excellent time to connect with other congregations, grow teamwork skills, make memories, deepen discipleship---Just like going on a Local Mission Trip!!!! More information will be available soon about shifts

and how to sign up. This year, the goal is to run 5 lines instead of 4, so the volunteer requirement rose from 120 to 150 volunteers---but shorten the shift length and still achieve our goals. Please consider these volunteer opportunities--- or supporting this cause with a donation.

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



Join Us for Book Club

by Lois Flee

The next Faith Book Club meeting is scheduled for August 11 at 6:30. We will be discussing *Beautiful Ugly* by Alice Feeney.



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

September-Symphony of Secrets by Brendan Slocumb

October-The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah

November-The God of the Woods by Liz Moore

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.

Musical Notes

by Kate Rush, Director of Music



*Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.*

My mother once told me about the first time she heard the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." She and my father had been living in a small town for six years as he served his first appointment as a Methodist pastor. My sister and brother and I were all born during this time. Then the leadership in the conference decided to send him to a new church. After settling in this small town and starting her family, my mother was fearful about the transition to a new and bigger congregation. She felt that all eyes would be on her as the pastor's wife. She worried that people would expect her to be perfect as she juggled three small children and also publicly supported her husband.

When we arrived in the new town, the church held a luncheon to welcome us. (I was only 1, so I don't remember any of this.) During the lunch, they all sang a couple of hymns. My mother had never heard "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" before, and as she sung the words she was overcome with the assurance that she would be held by God through every season. No shadow of turning.

I leaned on "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" during a transition period in my life as well. I attended a college that was very far from where my family lived. When I was nearing my college graduation, I was faced with a choice: go home and work at a job I wasn't excited about, or stay 1,000 miles away from my family and take a great job. I stayed. I had memorized all the verses to "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," and I used them as something of a mantra as I started my adult life. I found that every line of the hymn brought me a sense of comfort and strength.

I'm sure there are many people in our congregation who have found meaning in a song during a time of need. If you have a story about a song that spoke to you, I'd love to hear it. Your song could be exactly what someone else needs right now! Blessings to all, and may you find "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."



Welcome Kelly Klitzman!

We are pleased to welcome our newest staff member, Kelly Klitzman. Kelly will be sharing the Office Manager position with Amanda. She will be working in the church office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12:00-2:00. If you see Kelly, please introduce yourself and say hello!

Communion Companions

NEEDED!



Help share Christ's grace at the table!

 Offer the cup and share the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you."	 Offer the gluten-free elements and share the words, "The body of Christ given for you."	 Occasionally assist with the bread and share the words, "The body of Christ given for you."
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♥ Join the Communion Companions! ♥
Training provided. All are welcome!

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, and invite a friend!

The next meeting is on Saturday August 1st at 9:00.

Growing in trust and transparency...



Line of Credit total:
\$ 56,585

LISTEN

Listen for God
in every sunrise,
every conversation,
every act of kindness,
every quiet moment.
The days may pass quickly,
but God's voice is never
rushed.



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



Decades of Care through Stephen Ministry

Since Stephen Ministry began in 1975, millions of people from around the world have received emotional and spiritual care from a Stephen Minister during a challenging time in their life.



People's Church became part of this half-century legacy of care in 2023. Over the years, our Stephen Ministers have cared for a dozen people in our congregation and community for a wide range of needs: loss of a loved one, divorce, job loss, medical crises, and many other life transitions and difficulties.

As shown by the millions who have benefited from Stephen Ministry over the decades, this ministry is for everyone, no matter their background or walk of life.

"I didn't think I needed a Stephen Minister at first," said one care receiver. "But I quickly discovered that everything was so much more manageable when I had someone I could just unload on with everything I was worried and anxious about. It didn't fix my situation, but it did help me get through without feeling completely overwhelmed.

Here at People's Church, our Stephen Ministers are ready to come alongside you, no matter what you're facing. They're trained to provide a non-judgmental presence, a patient listening ear, and Christ-centered care that meets you where you are in life.

If you're going through a difficult time, we encourage you to consider having a Stephen Minister. Join the thousands of others who have benefited from a caring Christian presence walking with them through challenging times.

You can learn more about Stephen Ministry or request a Stephen Minister by contacting Pastor Justin at 206-769-1390.

Just Bakery Visiting August 9



Mark your calendar – Sunday, August 9, will be Just Bakery's next visit to People's Church!

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 formerly incarcerated people and other individuals with significant barriers to employment. Thank you in advance for your purchases.

Upcoming Blood Drive

Make an appointment at
redcrossblood.org

Thurs. August 26

10:00-3:00

**People's United
Methodist Church**



**GIVE
BLOOD
SAVE A LIFE**

The need for blood is urgent – if you are able, please donate! Thank you!

Be a Voter!

from the PUMC Social Justice Team

Voters make our world by choosing the people who will make the many decisions that affect our lives! The August partisan primary election is coming soon - August 11! This election selects the candidates who will represent each political party on the November 3 ballot.

In the partisan primary **voters must choose ONE party and vote ONLY for candidates in that party.** If you have ordered an absentee ballot, be sure to read the directions carefully to make sure your ballot will be counted.



What's on the ballot?

- Wisconsin Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer
- Representative in U.S. Congress
- Representatives in the Wisconsin Senate (some districts) and Assembly
- Dane County Sheriff and Clerk of Circuit Court

Go to myvote.wi.gov to:

Look at your ballot, find your polling place, find out how to vote early in person. Note that it is too late to register to vote online but you can still register at your clerk's office or at the polling place.

Be an informed voter!

Don't rely on the candidate advertisements to choose your candidates! An online search will bring up various options to learn about the candidates.

One source of nonpartisan information about candidates is [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) published by the League of Women Voters. Here candidates answer questions posed to them. **Be aware that names will appear on the ballot of candidates who have dropped out of a race!** This will be noted in [vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Another way to view this information in a format that may be easier to read is an online Flipbook, found here: <https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/be-a-voter>

Another information source is Wisconsin Public Radio's [2026 Partisan Primary Voter Guide](#). The guide details candidates' responses to survey questions about topics important to Wisconsin voters.

Various forums and interviews have been held with the candidates. Search online to find these events so you can read or hear the candidates present their qualifications and priorities.



... And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". (Micah 6:8)

Calendar & Community Notes

Sunday	9:00am	In-person Worship (Great Room) Livestreamed (https://www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi) Nursery Care (through age 4)
	10:15am	Sunday Second Cup Adult Sunday School (Fireside Room)
Monday	7:30am	Ball Exercise
Tuesday	10:30am	Hugs & Stitches (Fireside Room)
	7:00pm	AA–Room to Grow (Adult Meeting Rm. LL)
	7:30pm	Aspire Rehearsal (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
Kelly Klitzman, office@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