

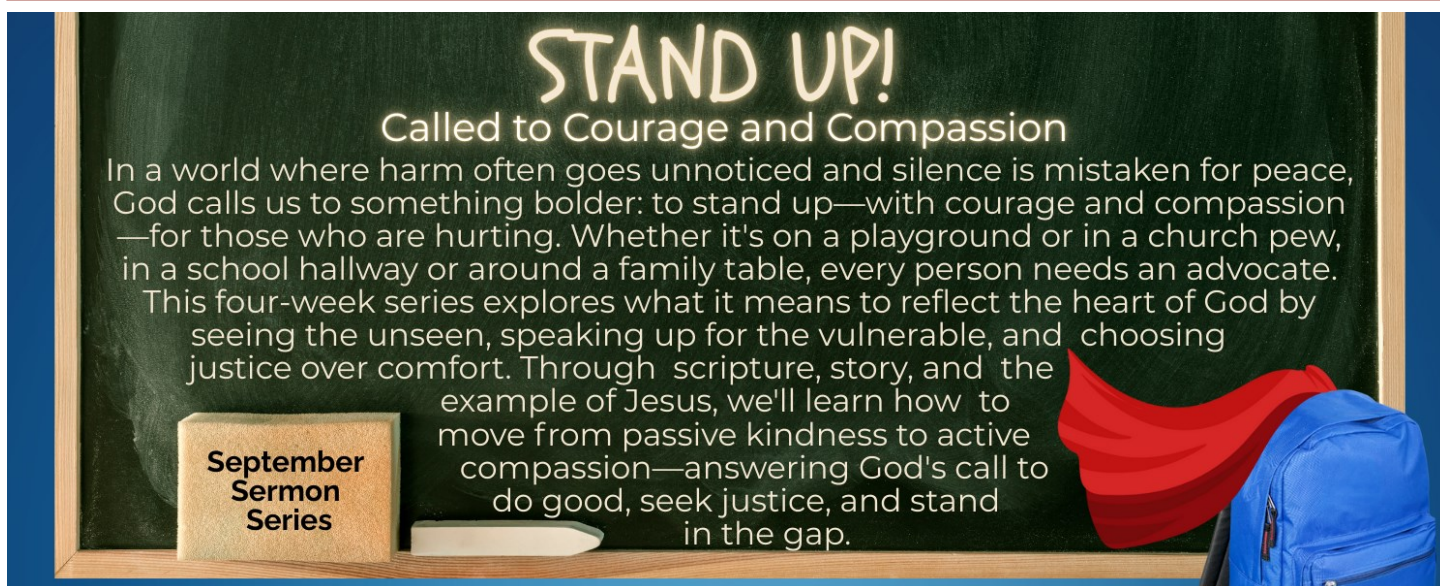
People's Church September 2025 Newsletter

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 (beginning September 14). 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 downstairs in the nursery prior to the start of the service.



September 7	John 14:15–21	Everyone Needs an Advocate Jesus doesn't leave us alone—he sends an Advocate, and we are called to reflect that advocacy for others.
September 14	James 2:1–17	When Nice is Not Kind Being “nice” often keeps the peace—but being kind sometimes requires disruption. God's people are called to speak up when others are silent.
September 21	Luke 10:25–37	The Courage to See The priest and Levite turned a blind eye. The Samaritan saw and acted. Love begins with seeing and continues with courage.
September 28	Esther 4:10–17	Not on My Watch Esther had a choice: stay silent or risk speaking up. So do we. God puts us in places of influence for a reason.

People's United Methodist Church
103 N. Alpine Parkway / Oregon, WI 53575
608-835-3755 / office@peoplesumc.org

www.peoplesumc.org
www.facebook.com/peopleschurchoregon
www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi

RevVibes: You Are Not Alone

by Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)

Each year, September 10 marks World Suicide Prevention Awareness Day—a time to shine a light on a topic often shrouded in silence. For many people, struggles with depression, anxiety, trauma, or other mental health concerns can feel isolating and overwhelming. As a church, we want to say clearly: you are not alone.

Faith doesn't make us immune to pain. Even the psalmists cried out, "How long, O Lord?" (Psalm 13). Jesus himself wept and knew deep anguish. Struggle is not a sign of weak faith—it's part of being human. But in our faith, we also find hope. We believe in a God who meets us in the valley, who binds up the brokenhearted, and who calls us to care for one another.

This month, we invite you to:

- **Check in** with someone who might be struggling. A simple "How are you really doing?" can open a door.
- **Reach out** if you're hurting. You are beloved, and help is available.
 - * Call or text 988 anytime to talk with someone who cares.
 - * If you are a young person in the LGBTQ+ community, call or text the Trevor Lifeline 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678678
- **Educate** yourself on the signs of depression and suicide risk. A small amount of awareness can make a big difference.

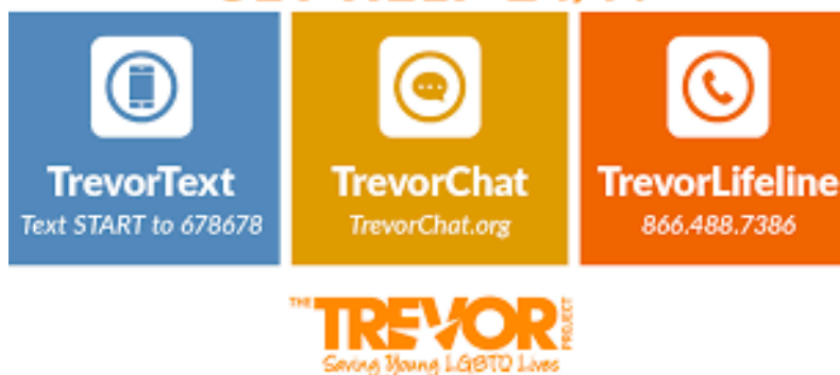


The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT

GET HELP 24/7:



Our church is committed to being a safe, grace-filled space. Whether you're full of hope or running on empty, you are welcome here.

If you ever need someone to talk to, Justin and I are available. You don't have to walk alone.

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



Connect

Wednesday Night Supper is Back!

For nearly 30 years, People's Church has been a gathering spot for the community to enjoy food, laughter and the warmth of companionship on Wednesday evenings. We start up our new season on September 10. The meal is served from 5:00-6:30. Volunteers are always welcome, and desserts are gratefully accepted. If you're interested in being part of the kitchen team, please contact office@peoplesumc.org to be connected with Wednesday Night Supper leadership!



Serving 5:00-6:30

September 10: Fall Picnic (grilled brats and hot dogs)

September 17: Salad Bar

September 24: Pulled Pork Sandwiches

October 1: Tater Tot Casserole



Backpack Blessing September 7



Please join us during worship on Sunday September 7 to bless the backpacks of those in our congregation who are involved in education. In addition to the blessing, we'll be giving out tags that people can put on their backpacks as reminders of God's faithfulness towards us. If you have a student in the household, remind them to bring their backpack to the service. If you work in education, bring your backpack to the service so we can bless those as well. If you work any kind of job and want your backpack/briefcase/laptop case to be blessed, feel free to bring that to the service too. We look forward to seeing you there!



Join Us for Book Club!

by Lois Flee

For September we have chosen *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towler. We would love to have you join us on September 9th at 6:30. We will be meeting at the home of Lois Flee, 324 Concord Drive, here in Oregon. If you have questions, give Lois a call at 608 291-2328. Come join us and bring a friend, even if you have not read the book.

Upcoming books are:

October's book is *Two Old Women* by Velma Wallis

November's book is *A Gentleman in Mosco* by Amor Towler

We look forward to seeing you soon.



People's Peacemaker T-Shirts

We will be ordering another round of People's Peacemaker T-shirts this fall. These shirts have already been paid for, as part of our Giving Wall last December, so you may order shirts at no cost. Sizes come in Small through 3XL. If you'd like to order a shirt, please email office@peoplesumc.org by September 28.



Music Ministry at People's UMC

by Kate Rush

It's a great time to try something new! If you are a lover of music, there's something for you at People's. Our music ensembles strive to provide excellent music for our church services—but more importantly, they are faith filled communities of people who care about one another and find great joy in making music together. (We also love to laugh!)

Hand Bells

Bell practice is on Sunday mornings following worship (about 10:15). The bells are directed by Faith Portier, and we play at worship services monthly. Everyone is invited to give it a try.



Vocal Choir

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

Solos and Small Ensembles

Our church is blessed with musicians who contribute special music to our services. If you would like to share your favorite song with the congregation, please volunteer for Special Music!



Questions or suggestions about music ministry? Please feel free to contact me at kate@peoplesumc.org or chat with me on a Sunday!

Friendly Reminder Regarding Church Use



ALL individuals/groups must submit a Facilities Use Request with the church office prior to any gathering, meeting, or event. Once the request is reviewed and approved it will be added to the church calendar. The church calendar is used to avoid duplication and ensure that spaces are available for use when people submit requests. Please refrain from meeting at the church if you did not contact the church office or are not on the church calendar. Thank you!

News from Little Angels Early Learning Center

by Katie Grady, director



Current openings:

We still have some openings in our Monday, Wednesday, Friday preschool class. Reach out to Kari or Katie at LAELC.office@gmail.com or 608-835-1945 for more information.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU:

Thank you Howard Brantmeyer for the use of your power-washer and for mowing and tilling the sand Volleyball court prior to our Back to School Night.

Thank you Steve Staton for disposing of several piles of brush from our weeding and pruning projects.

Thank you to Vicki & Howard Brantmeyer and Justin Beatty for attending our Back to School Night event and helping with greeting families.

A Brief History of Little Angels Early Learning Center:

- 1999-Little Angels Christian Preschool started
- 2005-I took over as the lead preschool teacher and Center director
 - At this point we had:
 - 2-classes with 14 students
 - 2-employees
- 2010-4K began in Oregon School District and we hosted 2 classes
- 2011-Mom's Day Out (parent play co-op) became Parent's Day Out as we had several dads participating.
- 2014-Name changed to Little Angels Early Learning Center as we are no longer just a Christian Preschool, but also an OSD 4K site. This is the year we combined the Parent's Day Out Program and the need of more wraparound childcare care for preschool and 4K families to start our childcare/wrap around program.
- 2018-We added a 3rd 4K class.
- 2019-We held a 20-year celebration with a community open house.
- 2024-I took on the role as full time center director and passed the 4K teaching baton to a former preschool student.
- 2025-As we prepare for the start of the 2025-2026 school year:
 - 21-members on our staff (this includes regular teacher, office staff and substitutes)
 - 3-4K classes with 51 students currently enrolled.
 - 2-preschool classes with 23 students enrolled
 - 9-students enrolled in our childcare/wrap care on various schedules.



As we look to the future, we hope to turn the sand volleyball court into a 2nd playground that has an ADA approved cushioning base and some ADA activity options as well. As we are a site that receives a fair number of students with varying special needs. This year we are expecting our 4th student that uses a wheelchair.

There is so much to celebrate. Thanks for hosting our center as a ministry of the People's Church.

Children & Youth Ministries



Sunday School

4K-5th grade

9:15am on lower level

Youth Group

6th-12th grade

Wednesdays 6:30-8:00

Bible Sunday and the Start of Sunday School

by Pastor Justin Beatty

Hello everyone, it's that time of year again where we start our new Sunday School classes. We're starting on September 14, and we'll have two classes, one for kids from 4K-2nd grade, and one for kids from 3rd-5th grade. This year, we're using the Whirl curriculum for both classes, so the kids will be learning about the same stories, but a little bit different ways, and we're really excited about having more synergy between the classes. As part of the beginning of the Sunday School year, one of the ways we celebrate is by giving the kids new bibles as they graduate into the different classes, so if you have a student going into either 4K or 3rd grade, or if you have a student who started in a new class in the last couple years and we somehow missed them, and Pastor Justin hasn't already reached out to you, let him know at justin@peoplesumc.org, so we can have a Bible ready for your student on September 14.



Sunday Second Cup



Stick around after worship for Sunday Second Cup... a relaxed, coffee-friendly space to dig deeper into the morning's message. We'll revisit key ideas, reflect on how they connect to our lives, and open up space for questions and conversation. Whether something stirred in you during the sermon or you just want to listen in, your presence matters. No prep, no pressure—just honest conversation and maybe a refill.

Starting
September 10



6:53 pm in the
Great Room

Creative ConnXions for the Not-So-Creative

Join us Wednesdays for a weekly faithshop where we explore scripture and bring it to life with simple, hands-on creativity. The "X" marks the spot where God meets us just as we are — no perfection required — reminding us that faith-filled creativity can break the rules, coloring outside the lines as the Spirit leads in unexpected ways. Whether you feel creative or not, you'll discover that everyone has something beautiful to contribute.

Training Opportunity—*Cultivating Connection: Reaching Young Families*

This training is for pastors and lay leaders to engage the emerging generations in Millennial families outside their churches.

September 20, 2025

9am - 12pm

St. Paul's UMC

600 Wilshire Blvd

Stevens Point, WI 54481



Speaker: Pastor Kellen Roggenbuck

Pastor Kellen Roggenbuck has been in ministry since 2005 with a strong focus on creative ministries and innovative solutions that he has honed over his many years in youth ministry, consulting, and now as the Executive Director of NextGen Ministries. After earning an MDiv at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, he is continuing his education as he pursues a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral and Congregational Revitalization. When he is not pastoring, Kellen also teaches ukulele, writes and illustrates children's books, and enjoys finding new and exciting taco trucks.

Register here: <https://wisconsin-reg.brapp.com/Cultivatingconnection2025>



Suicide prevention ribbons will be available at the church throughout September. Everyone is welcome to take one, or a few!



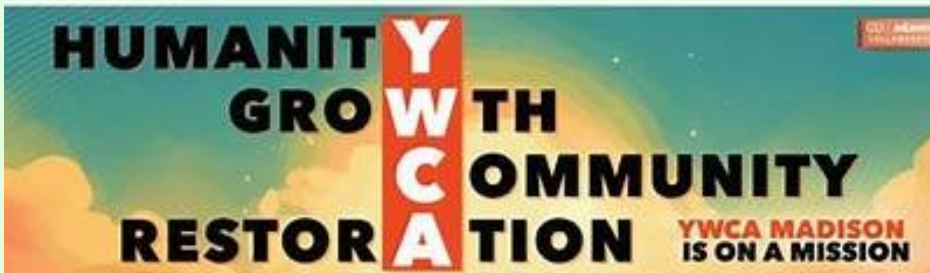
People's UMC September Mission of the Month: YWCA Madison

by Barb Feeney

The PUMC Missions Committee has selected the YWCA Madison to be the September Missions of the Month because of the organization's programs to meet families' emergency needs while also helping these families achieve long-term stability.

YWCA Madison has been in continuous operation since 1909 and in 2023, served more than 4,488 individuals across over 20 programs within four areas of work: Employment & Transportation, Housing & Shelter, Race & Gender Equity, and Restorative Justice.

YWCA Madison is Dane County's largest provider of affordable housing for women, as well as one of the oldest providers of emergency shelter. To improve long-term family stability, the organization assists with transportation-related needs and helps each client find work, and/or get additional training to find and keep family-sustaining employment.



From their website: "YWCA Madison strives to make a positive difference in the lives of women, children, and families. Our effort is to support and make recommendations on policies that contribute to the empowerment of women and

the elimination of racism. We also work to promote effective policies that will improve the economic and social conditions for all people, so they can support their families and be part of our community's economic mainstream."

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

Volunteer Opportunity on October 4

Volunteers from local churches will be gathering at Sugar River United Methodist Church in Verona on Saturday, October 4 for the Rice Blessings Bag Project. The goal: pack 5,000 rice bags in one day! Each rice bag is a nutrient-dense meal that feeds 6 people. This project is through Midwest Mission, an organization that supports communities around the world through disaster relief, education, nutrition and micro business.



You can sign up for a shift at <https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/9040A49ABAB23AB9-54866439-midwest>.

Plenty of People's members are already signed up — come join us!

News from our Social Justice Team

by Barb Feeney

The Social Justice Committee has selected immigration issues as one area of focus for the next year. The issue is complicated, and people of good faith can have points of disagreement on how immigration should be handled in the US. One thing we can agree upon is that as citizens, we should be well-informed - because of the impact of immigration policies on people, and because immigration is woven into the economic life of this country.



There are two opportunities to become better informed, **both on September 9.**

1. League of Women Voters of Dane County

Dane County Immigration issues

- Tuesday, September 9, 2025
- 6:30 PM-8:00 PM
- First Unitarian Society (900 University Bay Drive, Madison) AND on Zoom
- This forum will explore the basics of immigration, the economic impact of our immigrant community, and the legal issues imposed by immigrant status across Dane County and how that impacts on the rule of law.

For more details and to register to attend on Zoom, go here:

<https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/forums/dane-county-immigration-issues>

2. Wisconsin Council of Churches

Supreme Court Year in Review

- Tuesday, September 9
- 6:30-7:30 PM ON ZOOM
- Jim Santelle, former United States attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, will present on the impact of this year's US Supreme Court decisions.

To register to attend on Zoom, go here:

<https://www.wichurches.org/events/supreme-court-year-in-review>

Let's Keep Filling Our Carts for the Food Pantry!



The Oregon Area Food Pantry is experiencing record numbers of visitors. People's Church collects donations and delivers them to the pantry each Tuesday. This summer, our congregation has been generously filling the carts in our gathering space! Our continuing goal is for every church member to bring an item each Sunday and put it in the carts.

Typically the pantry has a high need for personal hygiene products, canned fruit, sweeter cereal, and rice/noodle side dishes.

American Red Cross: Give Time, Save a Life

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 facilities in Madison: [Red Cross Donation Centers](#).

Upcoming Blood Drive:

Saturday September 22 8:00-12:00

St. John's Lutheran Church in Oregon



Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org

Need help now?
Call or text 988

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE



**SAFER HOMES
SUICIDE AWARE**

SaferHomesCoalition.org

Forefront Suicide Prevention **LEARN® SAVES LIVES**

*Many suicides are preventable.
You can do something.*

L

LOOK FOR SIGNS

Emotions, actions, experiences

E

EMPATHIZE AND LISTEN

Offer compassion, not advice

A

ASK ABOUT SUICIDE

*Be direct, calm, and courageous
"Are you thinking about
suicide?"*

R

REDUCE THE DANGER

*Remove or lock up firearms and
meds*

N

NEXT STEPS: SEEK HELP

*Contact a crisis line or
professional for help*

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)
Wednesday	7:30pm	Aspire Rehearsal (Great Room)
	8:30am	Line Dancing (Great Room)
	5:00-6:30	Wednesday Night Supper
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Thursday	6:53pm	Creative ConnXions for the Not-So-Creative (Great Room)
	7:30am	Ball Exercise

Visit peoplesumc.org/calendar to see all events, meetings, and links to virtual groups.

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

Vicki Brantmeyer, vicki@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

Kate Rush, kate@peoplesumc.org

Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

Justin Beatty, justin@peoplesumc.org

Little Angels Early Learning Center Director

Katie Grady, laelc.director@gmail.com

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, tlmckelly@tds.net