

Sundays

In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship begins at 9:00 a.m., in-person in the Great Room and livestreamed on People's UMC YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi>).

Sunday School for grades 4K-6th 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 ages 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.



We live in a world of raised voices, quick reactions, and deep divisions. How might followers of Jesus live differently? This October, Graceful Conversations will explore what it means to speak with kindness, listen with humility, disagree without contempt, and practice peace. Together, we'll discover how our Christian witness is shaped not only by what we believe, but by how we treat one another.

October 4	Ephesians 4:25-32	Words that Give Grace Grace changes not only what we say, but how we live with one another. Followers of Jesus are called to use our words, our actions, and what we have been given to build up rather than tear down.
October 11	James 1:16-27	The Grace to Listen Listening is an act of love. In a culture that rewards quick reactions and loud opinions, discipleship calls us to become people who are slow to anger and quick to truly hear others.
October 18	John 17:13-26	That They May Be One Christian unity does not mean uniformity. Jesus prayed that his followers would be united in love so the world might see the reality of God through them.
October 24	Philippians 4:2-9	Practicing Peace Peace is not denial, avoidance, or pretending everything is fine. Christian peace is a Spirit-formed way of living that steadies our hearts and reshapes how we engage the world.

Revyvibes: Count Me In!

by Pastor Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)

It may seem as though we just filled out pledge cards—and in some ways, we did! Earlier this year, we completed our 2026 stewardship emphasis on a later-than-usual schedule. This fall, we are returning to our normal rhythm by asking you to consider your financial commitment to People's Church for 2027.



We're calling this year's pledge invitation Count Me In! It's not another stewardship campaign. Rather, it is an opportunity to say, "Count me in as we continue the ministry we share." Your pledge also helps our Finance Team plan responsibly for the coming year. Knowing what we can reasonably expect allows us to build a budget that reflects both our resources and our hopes for ministry. Paul reminds us, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)



A pledge is not a contract or a bill. It is simply an expression of what you prayerfully intend to give. Circumstances can change, and we understand that. But when we share our intentions, we are better able to plan faithfully for the work God has entrusted to us.

Beginning October 1, you may make your 2027 pledge online by scanning the QR code or going to <https://forms.gle/AzUtnfegCXqbfvKK8>.

Pledge cards will also be distributed during worship on Sunday, October 4. Whether you pledge online or by card, we invite you to prayerfully consider your commitment for the coming year and say, "Count me in!"

Thank you for the many ways you say "Count me in"—through your gifts, presence, prayers, service, and witness. Together, we continue to make ministry possible at People's UMC and beyond.

Budgets and pledges and fiscal years, oh boy!

by Cheryl Johnson

- Budgets are financial plans that estimate revenues and expenditures over specific periods of time.
- Pledges are serious, formal promises or commitments to do, give, or support something.
- Fiscal Years are 12-month periods used by businesses, governments, and other organizations for budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, and tax purposes that may, but do not necessarily match. the standard January-to-December calendar year.

Peoples' United Methodist Church's (PUMC) fiscal year is the standard January-to-December calendar year. We account for revenues and expenditures for the twelve months beginning January 1st and ending December 31st of each calendar year.

When budgeting, expenditures generally receive the most attention, but revenues are equally important. In most churches, and many non-profit organizations, the annual pledge process provides necessary information to estimate annual revenues.

For a number of years, PUMC estimated revenues for budget purposes based on prior years' revenues received. Estimating revenues based on prior years can be challenging and subject to errors as demographics and circumstances change. To improve how we estimate budgeted revenues, PUMC has returned to using an annual pledge process. Due to timing of the first annual pledge drive, the first pledge period is February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027. This is inconsistent with our fiscal year, causing a mismatch of estimated revenues and expenditures.

The Finance Team and the Servant Leadership Council have agreed that we should adjust the pledge period to align with our fiscal year, the standard January-to-December calendar year. This means that the pledge process will start each October, beginning this year for calendar year 2027. General giving offerings received during January 2027 will be recorded as part of the calendar year 2027 pledges.

By making this change we will be better able to generate responsible budgets in time for our annual conference, which will be held November 22nd.

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



From the Financial Secretary

by Diane Strohmenger

The financial giving statements from January - September 2026 will be sent out by email on October 6, 2026.

If the church does not have an email address on file for you, a copy of the statement will be sent to you by US mail.

If you have any questions regarding your statement, you can either email Diane Strohmenger at diane@peoplesumc.org or call the church office at 835-3755 and leave a message for her. Thanks for your continued financial support of PUMC!

Join Us for Book Club

by Lois Flee

The next Faith Book Club meeting is scheduled for October 13th at 6:30.

We will be discussing *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah.

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

The book chosen for November is: *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.

LISTEN

Generosity begins with listening.
As you consider what you have
and what you have to share,
listen for God's invitation.
"God, how are you calling me
to live generously?"
Listen with an open heart.
Sometimes generosity begins
not with an amount,
but with an answer.



Growing in trust and transparency...



Line of Credit total:
\$ 96,223.82

October Mission of the Month: Oregon Area Food Pantry

by the Missions Team

The Mission of the Oregon Area Food Pantry is to nourish our community by providing dignified access to food, basic necessities, and support.

The Vision of the OAFP is to create a thriving, connected community where everyone has the resources and opportunities to live well.



The food pantry is located in the building across from our church since 2017. But where and when did the concept of a community food bank begin for Oregon Wisconsin?

The origin of the food pantry began with Dorothy Larson, a member of St John's Lutheran Church in 1985. They ran a pantry for a year until in 1986, when three other churches joined the organization—First Presbyterian, United Methodist, and Holy Mother of Consolation Catholic church. A committee was formed from each church, with clergy acting as advisors. In 2004, Hillcrest Bible Church and Community of Life Lutheran joined. Initially, the pantry was housed in the Village Garage (Public Works), then moved to the old EMS building (youth center) until 2000. Food was distributed on the last Thursday of each month from 3-6pm. The food pantry was sustained by donations of money and food from churches, community groups, food drives, school clubs and classes, and local businesses.

In 2000, When this location was no longer available, Ed Hefty kindly offered a 1200 square foot storage unit free of charge. This location on Union Street lasted until 2017. There was limited refrigerator & freezer space but it offered more room to sort and store pantry items, and serve the guests.

As guest numbers increased and the participants were required to stand outside to await entry into building, a change of accommodations was a must. After much research, consultations, brainstorming, planning, and prayers, a solution came to fruition!! Due to the vision and persistence of PUMC pastor, Jason Mahnke and the Methodist "powers", the pantry was able to lease the land for \$1/ year for 25 years.

April 2017 was ground-breaking and the first pantry occurred in November 2017. Currently, there are 9 distribution times each month. An example of guest numbers, in June 2026, 585 individuals were served encompassing 214 households. This includes 12 new households and 44 new people. Other assistance programs the pantry offers are Food 4 Break (OSD), School lunch Program, Gas & Grocery Cards, and personal Care Items. Other sources of donations are Second Harvest (less cost), food recovery from Dollar General, Target, HyVee, and Kwik Trip.

Ways the community can support OAFP: donations of money and food, participate or host a food drive, buying HyVee bags, check out Amazon Wish List, or Volunteer on distribution day or sorting events.

PLEASE REMEMBER: "YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT MAKES A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUR NEIGHBORS WHO SUFFER FROM FOOD INSECURITY"

Voting Our Values

from the PUMC Social Justice Team

"While declaring our ultimate allegiance is to God, Scripture recognizes that faithfulness to God requires political engagement by the people of God." (United Methodist Book of Resolutions, #5012)



Just as we pursue change by advocating just policies, so too we are called to faithfully engage in the electoral process. Elections provide an opportunity for us to put our faith into action by engaging candidates, encouraging participation, selecting representatives, and voting on ballot initiatives.

Creating Change Together A Toolkit for Faithful Civic Engagement
www.umcjustice.org/toolkit

3 Constitutional Amendments are on the November 3 Ballot

The titles of proposed constitutional amendments can be misleading. The League of Women Voters explains each amendment and helps wade through the legal jargon and see the actual effect of each amendment.

QUESTION 1 - State of Wisconsin Partial Veto Referendum

- A "yes" vote supports amending the Wisconsin Constitution to prohibit the governor from using the partial veto to create or increase any tax or fee.
- A "no" vote opposes amending the Wisconsin Constitution to prohibit the governor from using the partial veto to create or increase any tax or fee.

QUESTION 2 - State of Wisconsin Freedom to Gather in Places of Worship During an Emergency Referendum

- A "yes" vote supports this amendment to prohibit the state or any political subdivision from ordering the closure of or forbidding gatherings in places of worship in response to a state of emergency, including public health emergencies.
- A "no" vote opposes this amendment to prohibit the state or any political subdivision from ordering the closure of or forbidding gatherings in places of worship in response to a state of emergency, including public health emergencies.

QUESTION 3 - State of Wisconsin Governmental Entity Discrimination Prohibited Referendum

This amendment, if passed, has some especially troubling implications, as explained in [this flyer](#).

Find more details on these amendments and all election/voting information on the [League of Women Voters Dane County website](#)

Save the date: October 17, 2026 for Another No Kings rally - centered around voting.

Events are planned locally so check social media for area specific locations and times.

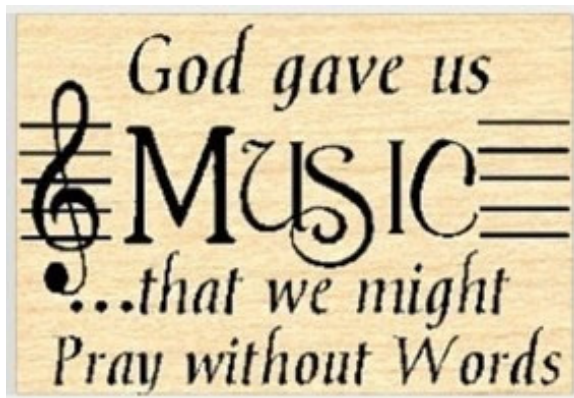
And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". (Micah 6:8)

Musical Notes

by Kate Rush, Director of Music



"God gave us music, that we might pray without words." I have been thinking about this quote recently. (The quote is anonymous; there are stories about the sentence being carved inside an opera house in Germany centuries ago, but no one really knows where it came from.) Prayer is a communion with God; I speak to God, I listen for God to speak to me, I try to clear the junk from my mind and let it be filled with the Holy Spirit.



Music can help me find that focus. Sometimes I am completely concentrated on God when I pray.

But other times I close my eyes and fold my hands, ready to pray, and then I somehow devote all my attention to planning my family's meals for the week or trying to remember where I left my keys.

My thoughts zoom around my head like ping-pong balls. Listening to quiet instrumental music somehow fills that space, stopping the ping-pong balls. I am ready to turn my spirit to God.

As director of music and worship, I plan and lead most of the songs we use in our services. I take seriously the honor and responsibility of providing music to our congregation that may give them a powerful worship experience. Sometimes leading the music means I am overly focused on the details of performance or technology – the "woman behind the curtain" stuff.

That is why I am always so pleased to listen to our handbells, and also why I love to sit and meditate during our prelude and postlude. I am not in charge of those things. I can let the music in, without constant calculations about making sure all the notes are right. I can say, "God, I am here. Speak to me." And no more words are needed.

God gave us music, that we might pray without words.

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 1, we join Christians around the world in observing All Saints Sunday—a time to remember those who have died in the past year and to give thanks for the saints who shaped our lives. On that day, you will receive a Post-it note with your worship program. You are invited to write the name of a loved one you would like remembered on the Post-it note. (If the name is difficult to pronounce, please include a phonetic spelling, as the names will be read during our Communion service.) During worship, you will be invited to light a candle and place your saint's name on the remembrance table as a sign of love, gratitude, and hope in God's promise of new life.



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."



Join the Communion Companions!

Training provided. All are welcome!

Men's Fellowship Group
by Howard Brantmeyer



Men's Fellowship meets in the Great Room on the first Saturday of the month.

Men's Fellowship 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, October 3rd, at
9:00am in the Great Room.

Wednesday Night Supper

by Barb Feeney

Wednesday Night Supper is back and serving up delicious home-style meals every Wednesday night from 5-6:30pm!

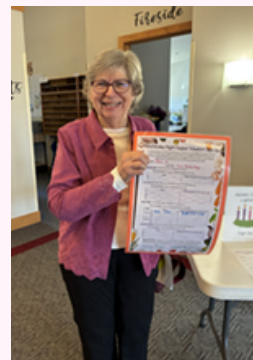
OCTOBER MENU

October 7 - Pancakes and Sausage

October 14 - TBD

October 21 - Mexican Feast

October 28 - Ghoulish & Dreadsticks



We are always looking for volunteers to keep this amazing 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



Informational Christmas Pageant Meeting

All children and youth are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant, which will be held on Sunday, December 13th.

A short informational meeting for children, youth, and families will be held in the Great Room on Sunday, October 11th, following worship.

Rehearsals will take place on Sundays after worship beginning Sunday, October 25th.

Anyone wishing to participate can sign up at the informational meeting. We hope you'll join us for this special Christmas tradition!



Sip & Support

**Saturday, October 10th
10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.**

Sip & Support will be held on the second Saturday of the month from 10am-11am in the Fireside Room at People's UMC. Everyone is welcome!

Come enjoy coffee and tea while spending time together in a relaxed and supportive setting.

An email has been sent to those who previously expressed interest. If you think you might like to join the group, please reach out to Leslie or Lauren for more information.

News from Little Angels Early Learning Center

by Katie Grady, Director



The school year has started, students and staff are learning all the new routines. Ms. Kelly from the public library came to read to students on Sept 16th.

Ms. Katie recreated books for each classroom around the 5 Standard Response Protocols, that we use to handle emergency situations, She read the section about evacuation and sheltering to students as these will be practiced later in September.

We had our pictures professionally taken, and participated in fun dress up days during the Week of Oregon School District's homecoming.

We hired a full-time assistant childcare teacher that started the week of Sept 21st. Her name is Marley, she is a graduate of the Oregon High School and is also studying to be a social worker.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

by Karen Austin

This October, we're hosting our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to support the Oregon Area Food Pantry! It's a wonderful opportunity to give back to our community while enjoying a little friendly competition along the way!

As always, we have five competing teams ready to collect donations and see who will take home this year's Golden Gobbler!



Meet This Year's Teams:

- Team Stuffing – Christine Richards & Faith Portier
- Team Instant Potatoes – Lauren Aitken & Leslie Adams
- Team Canned Pumpkin – Isabel Avila & April Seekins
- Team Casserole – Howard Brantmeyer
- Team Baking Mix – The Berland Family



Team captains received their assignments during worship on September 27 and are excited to get started!

Want to join a team? Sign up on the team clipboard in the Gathering Space, or simply bring your donations and place them on the collection table to the right of the church office.

Every item counts!

The food drive will run through Sunday, October 25, with results shared weekly so you can follow the friendly competition. Last year, we collected an amazing 979 items! Can we beat that number this year? Which team will win the Golden Gobbler? Stay tuned to find out!

Thank you for helping us support our neighbors through the Oregon Area Food Pantry.

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 (music room - LL music room)
Tuesday	10:30am	Hugs & Stitches (Fireside Room)
	7:00pm	AA-Room to Grow (Adult Meeting Rm. LL)
	7:30pm	Aspire Rehearsal (Great Room)
Wednesday	8:00am	Line Dancing (Great Room)
Thursday	7:30am	Ball Exercise- (meets in music room - LL music room)

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

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Little Angels Early Learning Center Director

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Lay Leader/Servant Leadership Council Chair

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