

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 downstairs in the nursery prior to the start of the service.

Receive



Work



Steward



Share



This October we'll explore John Wesley's wisdom for faithful living: Earn all you can, Save all you can, Give all you can. Through bread imagery—broken, kneaded, stored, and shared—we'll discover how God calls us to live with open hands.

As part of the series, join our Food Pantry Team Challenge by collecting Thanksgiving staples for local families. October 26 we'll dedicate all donations, celebrating God's abundance together.

October 5	Matthew 6:19-34	Receive the Treasure All generosity begins with what we have received from God. At Christ's table, we are given the great treasure: grace and unity across the world.
October 12	Matthew 25:14-30	Work with Your Hands Work is a gift from God who entrusts us with resources, abilities and opportunities. Wesley urged us to earn diligently, but not at the cost of our health, relationships, or soul. Work is worship when done faithfully.
October 19	Genesis 41:33-40	Steward with Wisdom To "save all you can" is not about hoarding selfishly, but about living wisely and simply—avoiding waste so that resources can be preserved and used for God's purposes.
October 26	Esther 4:10-17	Share with Joy God's generosity is the model for our own. Giving isn't about guilt—it's about joy, love, and participation in God's abundant kingdom.

RevVibes: Building a Culture of Kindness

by Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)

In recent years, many of us have noticed a troubling trend: people seem sadder, lonelier, and at times, meaner. Restaurant owners talk about having to escort customers out for rudeness. Entire flights have been diverted because of violent outbursts on planes. Nurses leave their jobs because patients lash out in anger. On social media, small disagreements quickly turn into heated battles.

Author David Brooks points out, in his September 2023 *Atlantic* article¹ "How America Got Mean," that part of the problem is that our society has forgotten how to form people in kindness, respect, and moral responsibility. For generations, families, schools, churches, and community groups emphasized not just what we should know, but who we should become. Children were taught to care for their neighbors, to show courtesy, and to find purpose in serving others.



As followers of Jesus, we know this kind of formation by another name: discipleship. Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Yet too often our culture teaches us to look inward, to put self-interest first, rather than to look outward in love. The Apostle Paul warned of this very temptation when he wrote, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

Brooks asks an important question: How do we rebuild communities where it is easier to be good? As Christians, we might put it this way: How do we live so that God's love shapes us into the likeness of Christ? The answer is not about shame or rigid rules. It's about practicing the everyday habits of kindness, compassion, and service that form us into people who reflect God's love.

This is why our worship, our small groups, and our mission work matter. When we pray together, study scripture, serve a meal, or sit with someone who is grieving, we are being formed. We are learning to "love one another with mutual affection" (Romans 12:10).

The good news is that renewal is possible. Jesus promised, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). Even in a culture where meanness feels loudest, small acts of love ripple outward. A gentle word, a patient presence, or a shared meal can restore trust and re-knit the fabric of community.



So let us ask: What act of Christlike love can I practice this week? How might our church be a place where people are not just taught about Jesus but are formed in his way of kindness?

Together, with God's Spirit guiding us, we can build a community where compassion and grace take root and grow.

1. Brooks, D. (2023). How America got mean. The Atlantic. Retrieved from <https://zoe-life.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Brooks-How-America-Got-Mean.pdf>

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 2, 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.



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. 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!



Supper menus are subject to change

Serving 5:00-6:30

October 1: Pulled Pork Sandwiches

October 8: Tater Tot Casserole

October 15: Sloppy Joes

October 22: Potato Bar

October 29: Egg-stravaganza



Membership Inquiry Gathering

October 19
10:15 am
(Sunday Second Cup)

Thinking about joining People's UMC?... This gathering is your chance to learn more about our church family, ask questions, and explore what membership means. It's a friendly, no-pressure space to help you decide if membership is your next step—longtime members will also be present to share their experiences.

Music Ministry at People's UMC

by Kate Rush

Vocal Choir and Hand Bell Choir are back! It has been wonderful to make music together again. New faces and voices are always welcome!

If you love to sing but are too busy to commit to year-round choir, another one-time opportunity is coming. On Monday November 24 there will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving service with a choir of singers from several churches in Oregon. This year I will be directing the choir. There will be one rehearsal prior to the Monday evening service. Let me know if you're interested!

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!

Join Us for Book Club!

by Lois Flee

Only two meetings left before we take our winter break. For our October meeting we will be reading *Two Old Women* by Velma Wallis. The meeting is at 6:30 on October 14th at the home of Lois Flee, 324 Concord Drive, here in Oregon. If you have questions, give Lois a call at 608 291-2328.



In November we will be reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towler. The plan is to read a classic over the winter months. More information will come soon.

Join us even if you haven't read the book. All are welcome.

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

 **THE UPPER ROOM**
WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY

News from Little Angels Early Learning Center

by Katie Grady, director



September 2025 Highlights:

The month of September was an exciting one here on the lower level. The staff is enjoying getting to know all of their new students and families. I got to read to each class about the importance of always staying with their adults (be it parents or teachers). Ms. Kelly, the children's librarian from the Oregon Public library, came to read to us. All rooms are learning their classroom routines, how to be part of a group, and how to make new friends.

Many enjoyed watching the construction equipment work during the parking lot project, Some experienced an unexpected power outage with the fire department coming to make sure the building was safe. We did our first fire and tornado drills of the new school year, and had a professional photographer come to take our photos.

Parking Lot & Thank You:

While the process of getting the parking lot replaced was frustrating with all the delays, poor communication, and parking issues during the work — we LOVE, LOVE, LOVE that it looks beautiful, the safety of our vehicles & OSD buses is greatly improved, and that the process is now behind us. THANK YOU to all that contributed to the Paving The Way capital campaign to make this possible. THANK YOU to Steve Staton for coordinating and communicating with Payne & Dolan, THANK YOU to Amand Kuntzelman for your part in sharing our schedule with the Payne & Dolan Crew.

Looking ahead:

October is Fire Prevention Month. We do have planned visits from the Oregon Fire and EMS team on October 6th and 7th; please do not be alarmed if you see them at our site.

MEDICATION DISPOSAL & SHARPS COLLECTION Free drive-through event

- Bring all unwanted or expired medications
- Use original containers and cross off personal info with black marker
- Sharps must be dropped off in a registered sharps container or thick plastic laundry detergent bottle

The Lions Club will be collecting used
eyeglasses and hearing aids



OCTOBER 25 2025

9 - 11 am

Stoughton Fire Department

401 E Main St, Stoughton, WI
53589



**The Oregon Area CARES Coalition and Stoughton
Wellness Coalition are partnering this fall!**
Questions? Email Adam Peters at
apeters@stoughtonhealth.com



Children & Youth Ministries



Sunday School

4K-5th grade

9:15am on lower level

Youth Group

6th-12th grade

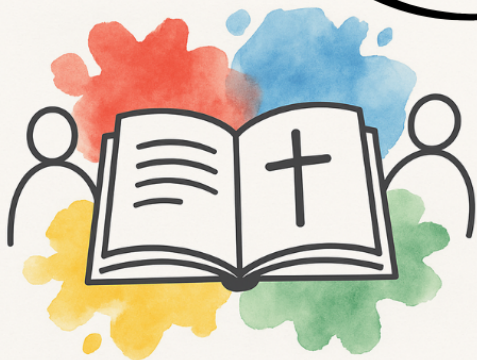
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00

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.

**Wednesdays
at 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.

October Mission of the Month: Oregon Area Food Pantry

The mission of Oregon Area Food Pantry is to provide food and basic necessities to those in need who are residents of the Oregon School District. In 2023, OAFP had 7,400 guests. By the end of 2024 they are projecting a total of 10,000 guests. If recent years' trends continue, they are expecting 14,000 guests in 2025. There are many reasons for the rising number of citizens in need of help: many people have experienced a significant increase in their rent, health care costs continue to rise, and most people's salaries are not keeping up with the increased price of everyday needs. The majority of OAFP's guests are people who have at least one job, if not two, and are trying their best to make ends meet. OAFP is able to provide some relief by supplying basic groceries.



One of the ways OAFP uses our donations is to sponsor school lunch for kids whose families make just a little more than the threshold required to qualify for free/reduced lunch. This program costs about \$18,000 a year. Another program provides grocery gift cards for families during school breaks, when their children don't have access to school breakfast and lunch. And a third program funds Kwik Trip gas cards, which a food pantry guest can receive once per month.



During the month of October, your Mission of the Month donations will go to the Oregon Area Food Pantry to help them continue this essential mission. In addition, our church will be holding a month-long Thanksgiving Food Drive Contest with five teams collecting the items most needed this time of year.

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

Sunday, Oct 26
after worship



Have you ever wondered how you can make a lasting impact on the ministries of our church? On Sunday, October 26, we'll welcome representatives from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation for a special presentation on Planned Giving immediately following worship. The Foundation has over 120 years of experience helping Wisconsin congregations and individuals connect faith and finances in meaningful ways. They'll share practical tools and options for leaving a legacy—whether through gifts of stock or mutual funds, IRA rollovers, scholarships, grants, or other creative ways of stewarding God's blessings.

Come learn how you can make a difference that extends far beyond today and helps grow the mission of the church for generations to come.

*** Sunday Second cup will not be meeting this date**

News from our Social Justice Team

by Ruth McNair

The Social Justice Team has selected immigration as one area of focus for the next year. One of the ways that we stay informed about this issue is by participating in the Oregon Area Immigration Support Network. Also related to this topic was a recent forum hosted by the League of Women Voters of Dane County. It featured a panel of experts who discussed immigration issues in the U.S. and Dane County. To view a recording of the forum, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaGwMs3XPmU>



The Wisconsin Council of Churches recently hosted a presentation about the impact of this year's U.S. Supreme Court decisions. The speaker was Jim Santelle, former United States attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. To view a recording of his presentation, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7hFuPckWU4>



The Social Justice Team wants to know, how are you doing? No, how are you **REALLY** doing? In this troubled world, there is a lot to be concerned about. Pastor Vicki is planning a sermon series for November to hear from the congregation about their feelings and coping strategies. Stay tuned for more information!

Interested in joining the Social Justice Team? We welcome new members. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 in the Fireside Room.

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:

Wednesday October 22 10:00-3:00

Sugar River United Methodist
Church in Verona



Make an appointment at
redcrossblood.org

From People's UMC Financial Secretary



The financial giving statements from January through September 2025 will be sent out by email September 30, 2025. If you don't receive it, please check your spam folder. If the church does not have an email address listed for you, your statement will be sent by mail. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Diane Strohmer at diane@peoplesumc.org or call the church at (608) 835-3755 ext. 106 and leave a message.

The Thanksgiving Food Drive Contest is ON!

For the month of October, the Oregon Area Food Pantry has asked our church to collect the Thanksgiving items they need the most. In order to serve our community and also have some fun with a friendly competition, we have launched the second annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Contest! Five teams will collect the items throughout October, with the final delivery to OAFP on October 28. The captain of the winning team will receive the Golden Gobbler trophy!

Team captains started recruiting folks at our September 21 service, but it's not too late to join a team! Feel free to be on more than one team, if you can't choose. Sign-up sheets are in the gathering space at church, along with the donation bins. The five teams are:

Team Canned Pumpkin

Captain: Jane Morgan



Team Gravy

Captain: MacArthur Family



Team Instant Mashed Potatoes

Captain: Liina-Ly Roos
(defending champion)



Team Stuffing & Corn Muffin

Captain: Berntsen-Less family



Team Casserole

(green beans, crispy onions, cream soup)

Captain: Howard Brantmeyer



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

Associate Pastor

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

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Lay Leader/Servant Leadership Council Chair

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