People's Church

December 2026 Newsletter

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).

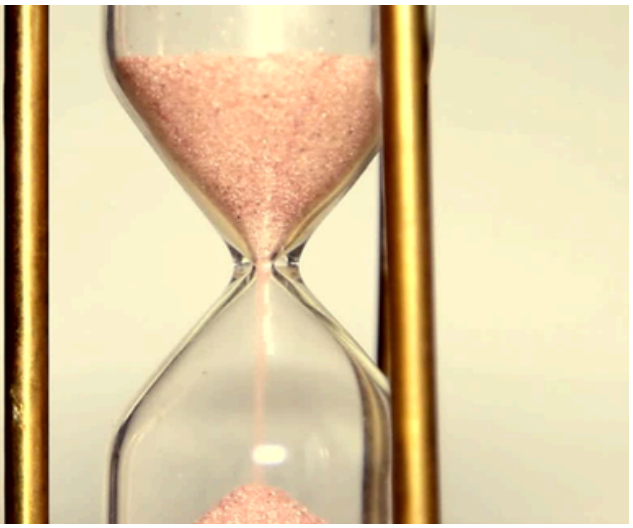
Sunday School for grades 4K-6th meets at 9:15 in the lower level. Adult Sunday School (Sunday Second Cup) meets in the Fireside Room 15 minutes after worship ends.

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.

Waiting Well

Advent Sermon Series

Waiting isn't easy—especially during a season when everything seems to move at full speed! We wait for Christmas, but we also wait for answers, healing, change, and hope.
What if waiting isn't simply something to endure, but an opportunity to grow in faith?
Join us this Advent, as we explore how to slow down, pay attention to God's presence, recognize when it's time to act, and discover that waiting doesn't mean nothing is happening.
And December 13, the children and youth will share the Christmas story through the pageant, Sheep Detectives: The Case of the Newborn King.
Together, we'll discover that God is at work—even in the waiting.



December 6	Matthew 3:1-12	**Not All Actions Are Created Equal** Waiting does not mean doing nothing. John the Baptist calls God's people to "bear fruit worthy of repentance." Faithful waiting involves discerning which actions actually move us toward God's hopes for the world. Being busy and bearing good fruit are not necessarily the same thing.
December 13	Luke 2:1-20, woven into the Christmas story	**Sheep Detectives: The Case of the Newborn King** Waiting does not mean nothing is happening. God's people waited generations for the promised Messiah, and all along God was at work in ways they could not yet see. The Christmas story invites us to watch, listen, trust, and be ready to recognize hope when it arrives—even when it looks nothing like what we expected.
December 20	Matthew 1:18-25	**Don't Drop the Baby** Eventually, waiting brings us to a moment when something is placed in our hands. Joseph could not control how God's promise would unfold, but he had to decide how he would respond to what God entrusted to him. Waiting well prepares us not simply to receive what comes, but to respond faithfully when it arrives.
December 24	Luke 2:1-20	**The Gift of Fragility** After generations of waiting, God comes—and astonishingly, God comes in vulnerability. The long-awaited Messiah arrives as a baby who must be held, fed, protected, and loved. The incarnation reveals a God who entrusts God's presence to ordinary human hands. Christmas is not simply the end of waiting; it is the beginning of our responsibility to carry Christ's love into the world.

People's United Methodist Church
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www.peoplesumc.org
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www.youtube.com/peopleschurchoregonwi

Unexpected Women in Jesus' Family Tree



A Four-Week Advent Bible Study

Before Matthew tells the story of Jesus' birth, he introduces four remarkable women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Their stories are filled with courage, resilience, difficult choices, and unexpected grace. Why did Matthew include these particular women in Jesus' family tree?

Join us as we explore their stories, challenge some familiar assumptions, and discover what they can teach us about Mary, the coming of Christ, and God's surprising ways of working in the world.

Tuesdays 5:30-6:15 starting December 1!

Warm Hearts. Warm Church.

Furnace Replacement Matching Challenge

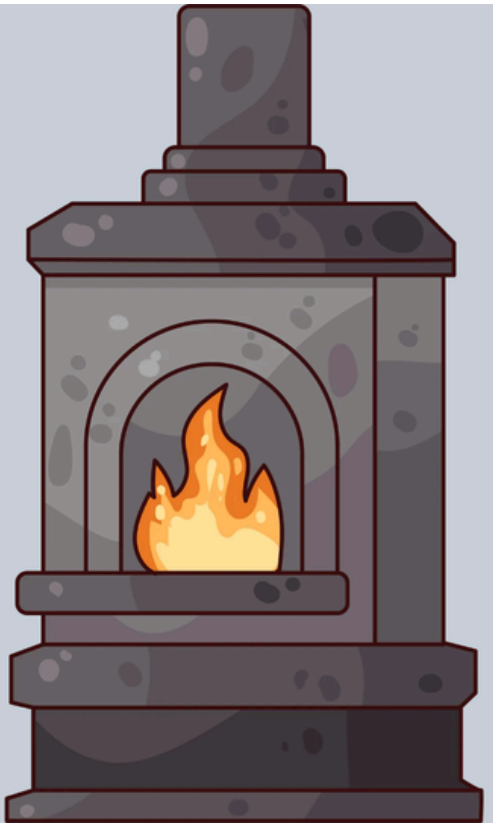
$1 + $1 + $1

Your Gift *First Match* *Second Match*

Every $1 becomes $3!

Thanks to two generous anonymous donors, every dollar you give will be matched with two additional dollars, tripling the impact of your generosity, up to the pledged matching amounts.

Total Furnace Cost: $6,618 *Congregational Goal: **$2,206***



Newsletter: New Year, New Deadline!

Starting this month, the deadline for submitting articles for our monthly newsletter is changing. We kindly ask that all articles be submitted to office@peoplesumc.org by the 15th of each month. We understand that things come up from time to time, so we will allow a five-day grace period. However, articles submitted after the 20th of the month will not be accepted.

This change will allow the church office adequate time to compile, format, proofread, and distribute the newsletter in a timely manner.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and attention to this matter!

Revyvibes: More Than a Manger Scene

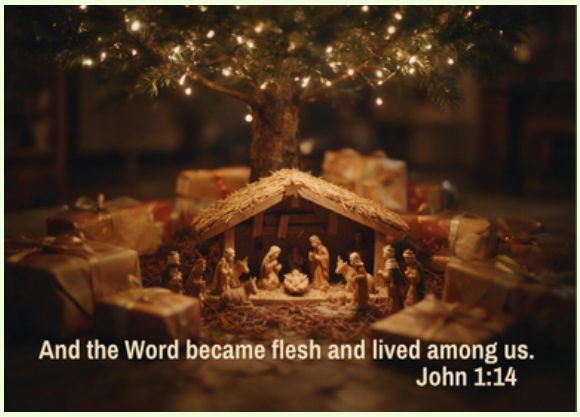
by Pastor Vicki Brantmeyer (she/her/hers)



Every December, nativity scenes begin appearing in our homes, churches, and communities. Mary and Joseph gather around the baby Jesus, shepherds stand nearby with their sheep, wise men arrive bearing gifts, and angels hover overhead.

It's a familiar and beloved picture. But did you know that much of what we see in our nativity scenes is not actually described in the Bible?

Luke tells us that Jesus was laid in a manger but never mentions animals being present. The shepherds come to visit, but there's no mention of sheep accompanying them. The wise men appear in Matthew's Gospel, arriving sometime after Jesus' birth. And those angels hovering over the stable? Luke places them in the fields announcing the good news to the shepherds!



Spoiler alert:
The sheep in our upcoming Christmas pageant might have something to say about all of this! Perhaps the beauty of the nativity scene isn't found in its historical accuracy, but in the truth it helps us see.

In her book, *Refugia Faith*, author Debra Rienstra reminds us that the gathering of people and creatures around the manger points to something much bigger than the birth of one child. It reminds us that God's love embraces all creation.

John's Gospel tells us, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us." (John 1:14)

This is the wonder of the incarnation. In Jesus, God does not remain distant from the physical world but enters fully into it. The birth of Christ is not simply the beginning of a story about saving human souls. It is a declaration of God's love for the whole of creation.

Perhaps that's why our nativity scenes continue to speak to us. Around that manger, we see people from different walks of life, animals, and the natural world gathered together in peace.

And maybe that's an invitation for us to recognize God's presence not only in one another but in the world around us, and to care for all that God has made.

This Christmas, as you look at a nativity scene, may you see more than a familiar collection of figures. May you see a reminder that God's love is bigger than we can imagine—there is room for all of creation, at the manger.



Oregon Community Blood Drive

People's United Methodist Church

Hall
103 N. Alpine Parkway

Friday, December 18, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: OregonWI

LISTEN

Amid the sounds of Christmas,
make room for the whispers
of Advent.
Listen with a heart filled with
hope, peace, joy, and love.
God's greatest message of love
first came to us in the quiet vulnerability of a
child.



Growing in trust and transparency...



Line of Credit total:
$ 101,533.82

COMING SOON

KWIK TRIP

We are partnering with The Kwik Trip Gift Card fundraising program to include

Food, Gas & Car Wash Cards

available for purchase...

Stay Tuned!!!!



December in Sunday School:



Building Faith, One Story at a Time!

Join us this December as we explore God's Word

December 6th—Family Worship (no Sunday School)

December 13th—Christmas Pageant! (no Sunday School)

December 20th—Jesus is Born (Luke 2)

December 27th—Christmas Break (no Sunday School)

Sip & Support

Saturday December 12 at 10am

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.

Please reach out to Leslie or Lauren for more information.

December Mission of the Month

by the Missions Team

December is our month to focus on supporting two local ministries: the NINA fund (Neighbors in Need of Assistance) and the Helping Hands fund.

The NINA fund was established in December 2002 through the cooperation of Oregon churches and Joe Sullivan, a Community Social Worker. The fund is now managed by a social worker, Ryan Estrella, who has done a wonderful job assisting local families for the past several years.

The fund assists families who are in need of the basic necessities of life. The top two requests have been for rent (to avoid eviction) and utilities (to avoid disconnects/to re-connect). The NINA fund is supported by donations from churches, businesses, and individuals.

In 2025, NINA had a reduction in donations to the fund which impacted the number of families they were able to assist. However, so far in 2026, donations have increased significantly and they have now assisted 38 families over the course of the year up through October (which is up from 20 families by this time last year). In terms of receiving donations, NINA has had a positive year.

In terms of need, in 2026 NINA has seen an increase in the number of families who were homeless and needed help with security deposit funds to get into housing. Six families needed assistance with a security deposit, which is up from three families the previous year. Also, eight families needed assistance with utilities, up from three families last year. That assistance is specifically for families who had their utilities already shut off because of an inability to pay the bill, or whose utilities were about to be disconnected within 10 days.

The Helping Hands Fund, administered by St. John's, is an emergency fund for individuals and families who live in the Oregon-Brooklyn school district. The fund is supported by donations from St. John's members, members of area churches, and individuals in the community.

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

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!



December MENU

December 2- Comfort Casseroles

December 9- Chicken Bruscetta Bake

December 16- Italian Beef

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

Join Us for Book Club

by Lois Flee

The last Faith Book Club meeting for this year is scheduled for December 8th at 6:30. We will be discussing "The Redbird Christmas" by Fannie Flagg. We will take a winter break in January and February, coming back together on March 9, 2027. Once again, we will be reading a classic book over the break-- "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain.

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.



Men's Fellowship Group

by Howard Brantmeyer

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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, December 5th 9:00am in the Great Room.

News from Little Angels Early Learning Center

by Katie Grady, Director



This month Ms. Katie read to each class matching a book to their themes:

- Preschool: Eating a Rainbow, as they were learning about the importance of eating healthy and with a lot of variety.
- 4K AM/PM: Whose Vehicle is This, as they were learning about different occupations, what tools they use, what vehicles they use, and how they help everyone.
- 4K AM2: Families, Families, FAMILIES, as this class is learning about what it means to be a family and that families can look very different.
- Childcare: Bear Gives Thanks, as the children are learning about being grateful/thankful for all the things they have.

Annual Cereal Drive:

November 2-13th we held our annual cereal drive with a goal of collecting 200 boxes of cereal to donate to the Oregon Area Food Pantry.

This year we collected 214 boxes. It was amazing to see that this year's donations included a wide selection of "adult" and "child" friendly cereals, and also included some oatmeal and infant cereal.

We did a domino style cereal maze to celebrate our collection on Thursday and Friday, Nov 19th and 20th, then we donated the boxes to the pantry.





Social Justice Updates

from the PUMC Social Justice Team

😄Vicki introduced the Group Code of Conduct to the committee, which outlines behavior and etiquette for all group meetings and gatherings at Peoples' UMC.

😄Election Updates will begin again in February.

😄Looking at if there is a need for volunteers at Oak Hill. There is a big aging population in the prisons and, after discussion, it was decided that Caroline should contact Anne Staton on the Mission Committee.

😄The Kids/Parents Project has been tabled until March/April 2027.

😄Church Survey Projects underway:

🌲🌲Nature Walks - Deb Lee was absent and there was no update on the most recent walk.

☕☕Sip and Support - Leslie Adams and Lauren Aiken organizes this event the 2nd Saturday of the Month at Church from 10-11am. It serves to connect with fellow congregants to discuss whatever the attendees bring up. Anywhere from 8-12 attendees each month and all are invited!

🌳🦌Garden in front of church: Diane Strohmenger and her husband Rich cleaned out the front and right side beds. They trimmed blew and raked leaves, wrapped the Japenese Maple and hauled the leaves to the Dump. Thanks you two!

🧍😇Volunteering Group: Val Brickner texted multiple opportunities to volunteer both in the church and in the community. If anyone is interested in being included on the list, please contact Val at 608-835-3539.

Repectfully submitted by Val Brickner

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
Vicki Brantmeyer, vicki@peoplesumc.org

Associate Pastor and Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator
Justin Beatty, justin@peoplesumc.org

Administrative Assistant/Office Manager
Amanda Kuntzelman, amanda@peoplesumc.org
Kelly Klitzman, office@peoplesumc.org

Church Treasurer
Karen Binger, karen@peoplesumc.org

Little Angels Early Learning Center Director
Katie Grady, laelc.director@gmail.com

Director of Music and Worship & Communications Coordinator
Kate Rush, kate@peoplesumc.org

Financial Secretary
Diane Strohmenger, diane@peoplesumc.org

Lay Leader/Servant Leadership Council Chair
Laurie Kelly, tlmckelly@tds.net