

June-July
2024

The Current



Monthly News from Port Edwards United Methodist Church

Port Edwards Community Church (1898-1910) (*Catholics, Lutherans, and Methodists*)

Community Methodist Episcopal Church (1910-1939) (*Methodists only*)

Community Methodist Church (1939-1968)

Port Edwards United Methodist Church (1968-)

To view more congregational
photos, go to peumc.org
and click the button
on the top of our home page.



The following are the amazing & beautiful responses from the worshippers at P.E.U.M.C. This congregational survey was taken on Sunday, June 16th

Q.: How have you seen God at work in the life of this congregation over the years?

A.: It has made us a church family!

A.: Worshipping together has held us close in friendship through the many years.

We reach out to others in mission.

A.: This church supports so many missions with financial and hands-on volunteer support.

A.: This congregation has become a family who cares for each other and rejoices with each other.

A.: Whenever someone is in need, the rest spring into action.

A.: Mission trips, regular funding of special offerings for local, regional needs.

A.: We can speak to the loving Spirit who has welcomed us.

As a result, we have been challenged and grown closer in our walk with God.

A.: Our positive vote on inclusiveness; doing mission and outreach in multiple ways.

A.: This congregation is blessed with SO MANY wonderful members.

We have ALWAYS welcomed everyone! When I witnessed the BAZAAR each November,

I see the members of this church all come together to put on a wonderful event for our community.

A.: The friendliness and support have been wonderful for people, especially when they've needed it most.

A.: The congregation provided wonderful support and guidance for our kids as they were growing up.

A.: PEUMC is where I witnessed the baptism of my wife and daughter.

This church also led my daughter through confirmation and united my fiancée and I in marriage.

A.: Through mission work and mission giving \$\$\$

Q: Where have you seen inward (spiritual) growth in us?

A.: Becoming a Reconciling Congregation

A.: United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women) studies—
sermons with thought-provoking biblical interpretation

A.: People have felt called to reach out in many missions—
in other places and in our own community to serve others and share God's love.

A.: A deeper connection with God.

Q.: How have lives been changed here?

A.: Can always come here and feel spiritually complete

A.: People have found comfort, friendship, and caring here, and many have responded
by serving this church and serving God in many different capacities in and outside of the church.

A.: It does not take long to consider yourself a part of this church "Family."

A.: Our members have promoted ethical, responsible decisions and behavior when some others have not.
We have reached out into the community offering a positive, loving, inclusive community of faith.

A.: Thru in-depth supportive friendships.

A.: Having a church family to support us with love, while growing spiritually closer to God
thru hearing the Word of God, thru Bible studies, and praising God with our combined voices.

A.: More awareness of others and how blessed we are!

Q.: Do you know anything about our pre-1960s history?

A.: Sunday school classes were held in our boiler room.

A.: I know the early structure burned down. I know the first church started out as ecumenical—
a community church for all Christians.

I have heard stories about Sunday School being held in the boiler room.

A.: Sunday School in the old church basement.

Sunday School in the back of the present church sanctuary. Sunday School in the boiler room.

A.: There were many members with children so we had an active Sunday School. Lots of potlucks, too!

OUR STORY

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

The first Methodist minister to be appointed to Port Edwards by the Annual Conference was Rev. John R. Reynolds, in 1894. For about 3 years, a small gathering of Methodists met in homes.

By 1898, the need for a new schoolhouse in the village was realized. The old schoolhouse was sold to Lewis Miller Alexander and Mrs. (John) Frances Jane Edwards for \$1,400. They, in turn, moved the building to the corner of Letendre Ave and Wisconsin River Drive. After enlarging it, adding a basement, and decorating the building, it was presented to the community as the first-ever ecumenical church building in town for all Christian groups.

It was known as the **Port Edwards Community Church**. This was in 1898.

Catholics, Lutherans, and Methodists took advantage of the chapel, each group conducting services in the church at different hours each Sunday morning. At this time, no minister of any denomination resided in Port Edwards; they came from either Wisconsin Rapids or Nekoosa.

The Methodist minister at the time of our charter was Rev. Frank A. Nimits.

From 1894-1951, Port Edwards shared a pastor with Grand Rapids. During the early years, they came to Port Edwards only once a month, and later, each week.

By 1910, the Catholics and Lutherans no longer worshipped in Port Edwards, as the new interurban rail line meant that they had a convenient means of traveling to Rapids or Nekoosa to attend services. The chapel in Port Edwards was presented to the Methodists and was brought under the authority of the Wisconsin Annual Conference and became the **Community Methodist Church**.

In 1917, through a gift on the part of Lewis Miller Alexander, the church was enlarged, a used organ was acquired from Milwaukee, new pews were installed, and a stained-glass window made it really look like a church.

The Silent Bell

Our very active congregation of Methodists was happy with our little church, but on December 14th, 1946, we had a setback when our church was demolished by fire. A faulty oil burner was the cause. Intense heat was noted when choir members entered the building around 4:00 PM. Noting excessive heat in the chimney area, members carried water from the downstairs kitchen to help cool the chimney until the volunteer firemen arrived from Nekoosa. They fought the fire by pumping water from the river. As the fire attacked the steeple, the bell fell and sounded one final clang as it hit the ground. Then came silence and the feeling of sadness. While the ground floor was destroyed, the basement survived and it was roofed over, converting it into a sanctuary to be used until a new church could be built. Even after the current sanctuary was built, the basement continued to serve as a social hall for many years.

Ministers of Port Edwards UMC

Before 1951, our ministers served both the Grand Rapids (Wisconsin Rapids) and Port Edwards Methodist (Episcopal) Churches. First they came to Port Edwards once a month, and later each week. The Rev. Albert E. Tink was the first to be appointed full-time to Port.

1894-1897	John R. Reynolds
1897-1900	Frank A. Nimits
1900-1905	William A. Peterson
1905-1907	Sidney A. Sheard
1907-1909	Richard Evans
1909-1910	William A. Newing
1910-1912	Francis A. Pease
1912-1917	Harland C. Logan
1917-1918	Charles C. Becker
1918-1920	Carl F.W. Ludwig
1920-1921	William S. Whitsitt
1921-1922	Jesse B. Rutter
1922-1926	James Churm (1923 – 25 th Anniversary)
1926-1929	Carl H. Wiese
1929-1932	Douglas Ostrum Anderson
1932-1936	Theodore J. Reykdal
1936-1951	Alpheus W. Triggs (1948 – 50 th Ann.)
1951-1953	Albert E. Tink
1953-1968	David A. Spear
Jan.-Mar. 1968	Bruce A. Bartel
1968-1975	David G. Storzer
1975-1976	R. A. Pegram
1976-1980	John Paul Thompson
1980-1994	Kenneth Boettcher
1994-2003	Rebecca N. Niese (1998 – 100 th Ann.)
2003-2007	Rey Diaz
2007-2013	George William Beaton
2013-2021	David Neil Guse
2021-present	Caleb Robert Elmore McGregor (125 th)



Rising from the Ashes

Ground broke for the present sanctuary on August 27th, 1948. The church, costing \$151,000, was dedicated in October 1949. A parsonage was added in 1960, costing \$32,000. The Rev. David Spear family was the first parsonage family to live at 40 Market Avenue, and a few years later an educational wing was added to the sanctuary, which cost \$185,570, and was dedicated in 1964.

In 1962, a small parking lot was added to the back of the church after a home was removed, later enlarged in 1992. A church newsletter was started in January 1964 by two church members. A library in the church was added in 1964. A Couples Club first met in May of 1964, bringing together couples of all ages for programs of interest, for activities, and for fellowship; in the 1970s, it became known as the Pairs and Spares. A Sunday School, Bible study, or discussion group has always been provided for the adults over the years. The church membership experienced a significant rise in the late 1960s. As a

result, pews, which could accommodate approximately 50 people, were added at the back of the sanctuary. During this same period, the Conrad Schmidt Studios of Milwaukee, who had made the original stained-glass windows over the high altar, created two new windows for the back of the sanctuary, in memory of Donald Lichty. A stained-glass window over the front door of the church was designed as a fitting tribute to the memory of Clarence and Harriet Jasperson.

In 1968, after the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and The Methodist Church denominations, our local church followed suit and voted to rename ourselves the **Port Edwards United Methodist Church**.

When Mrs. Dorothy Brazeau Gallery died in 1974, she willed her property on the corner of Wisconsin River Drive and Market Avenue to the church. The house was sold and moved. With this addition of land, the church now owned the entire block #16 in the Village of Port Edwards. The interest from the Gallery Trust is used each year for education and missional purposes, according to Dorothy's request.

In 1981, the mortgage was paid off for the church & parsonage and the congregation was finally debt free!

From the winter of 1987 to the summer of 1988, an extensive project of repair and revitalization was done to the church exterior, with interior work being done in January and February 1989, pews were removed and the stone was power washed.

Children and Youth

Sunday School often featured a music program each Sunday morning before the children were taken to their classes. There were sometimes up to five different classes for children grades 1 through 8. Summer church schools and VBS kept the children engaged during the summer. Children participated in the lighting of the Advent wreath, "hanging of the greens," Christmas and Easter programs, performances of Kids Praise, fundraising for missions, acolyte, and many studies on how the Bible relates to their own lives. Lately, the children of the community have enjoyed our community Easter Egg hunt held the day before Easter; this event has brought upwards to 100 children together!

Rev. Alpheus Triggs led the earliest known youth group, called the "Young Peoples." In the late 1940s, the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) would meet at the church and sometimes would join with Wautoma and Wisconsin Rapids groups and attend district rallies.

In the 1970s, the youth did several activities to raise funds for mission trips. They traveled to such places as the Red Bird Mission School in Kentucky, poor neighborhoods in Nashville, and Antlers, Oklahoma.

The children of the church enjoyed their annual service projects like stocking the Family Center food pantry, making valentines for shut-ins, collecting vegetable seeds for missionaries, and giving gifts for the Christmas angel tree. Each year, the middle school youth would have a "Packers and Potatoes" fundraiser.

Musical Talent

Port Edwards is truly blessed to have such a fine array of musical talent. There have been senior, junior, and cherub choirs. The adults presented many cantatas. During 1964-68, the junior choir numbered almost 30 boys and girls! Dedicated organists and pianists have graced the congregation with their musical gifts. The handbell choir had their first performance on Christmas Eve of 1983, with seven ringers, eventually growing to 11. In 1985-86, a chimes group for children was formed. The bell choirs provided music on the

fourth Sunday of each month, as well as for holidays and special occasions. Performances around the area at other churches, organizations, and the malls built a positive reputation in the community for the music ministry of our church.



Missions and Outreach

Over the years, our church has participated in mission activities all over the world through our missional giving projects. In some cases, we visited sites directly, such as the Caribbean Island of Dominica, the Bahamas, Hawaii, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Appalachia. We have also participated in outreach work in our community by volunteering at the South Wood Emergency Pantry, the Family Center, FOCUS Neighbor Table, LOVE Inc., and Meals on Wheels. We have visited such places like Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, fed the hungry at The Gathering in Milwaukee, Harbor House in Superior, WI, and most recently, worked with Afghan refugees at Fort McCoy in Tomah, WI. There really isn't a charity or organization in the Rapids area for which we have not collected items or money over the years. Recently, this has included Mary's Place, Jeremiah's Crossing, Dove's Nest, and local school lunch debt programs.

A New Century

With no more street parking along Letendre Ave and Wisconsin River Drive, most people were in the habit of entering the facilities through the rear doors by the parking lot. In 2000, the congregation decided to reconstruct the "back entry" of the building, creating a new lobby and accessible restrooms. In 2013, a state-of-the-art sound system was installed in the sanctuary for better amplification and accessibility.

In 2017, the congregation voted, by 90% affirmation, to become a Reconciling Congregation; this vote was the result of many bible studies and conversations about the nature of human sexuality and our faith. Since that vote, our congregation has been at work learning about, and practicing, our welcome of, the LGBTQ+ community, including other marginalized people, like those with disabilities or are neurodivergent. Workshops are still being conducted to help the congregation become fully inclusive of all God's people!

In 2018, several downpours during a roof replacement caused massive damage to both floors of the educational wing. The majority of 2019 was consumed by emergency renovations. This led right into the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, which caused all things to shut down for the better part of 18 months.

As the pandemic was slowly waning, discussions about the addition of an elevator had resurfaced. Serious discussions took place before the water damage. In the summer of 2023, work began on a \$410,000 OTIS elevator that would make the entire facilities accessible. The project was completed a day before the annual ladies' holiday bazaar on the first weekend of November!

In 2022, as the world, including the church, was investing heavily in their online presence, our media outreach was also extended by the installation of TVs in the sanctuary, a camera, and computer. With this setup, services could now be livestreamed to social media each week and the addition of five 48-inch TVs allowed for better visual aid during the service.

In Conclusion . . .

Lots of time has been spent telling the story of our buildings and grounds. Perhaps this is because construction, demolition, expansion, renovations, and destruction of church property always stick in the mind as major turning points that open and close chapters in the life of any congregation. But ours is *not* a history of *buildings*; neither is it a history of *events*.

Our history is a story of people.



[concludes on next page]

People like you, who, over the years, have volunteered their time as a seamstress of costumes, choir robes, curtains or draperies, as a phone caller, letter-writer, chauffer, nursery worker, custodian. People like you have made food donations, visited the sick in hospitals and in their homes, cooked meals, served as teachers of classes, chaired committees, served on ministry teams, elected as lay leaders, trustees, treasurers, and offering counters. People like you who gave us music by singing or playing their instrument, gave to our mission projects, stood up for justice issues and advocated for the rights and dignity of all people, including the earth itself. You offered your talents as plumber, electrician, painter. Our list goes on! Each member and friend of the People Called United Methodists in Port Edwards has contributed to the spiritual growth and faith formation of this community of faith. To you, we are indebted.

To all who are blessed to follow us—we dedicate this history.

This history narrative was taken from the "History of The United Methodist Church of Port Edwards, Wisconsin" booklet made in 1998 (100th Anniversary) and the section on churches in Marshall Buehler's "Looking Back: A History of Port Edwards" published in 2002. The 2016 to present history was compiled by Pastor Caleb McGregor

P.E.U.M.C. STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

CONNIE CROSS



Did you, or do you still, have any nicknames?

When I was in first grade, I got into trouble when I drew a cookie jar at school and put nickname on it. My nickname was Stinker.

Where Are You from?

I was born in Stevens Point. My mother's ancestors are from Norway and Sweden. My father's family is from England and Scotland.

My 9th great-grandfather on my father's side was Roger Williams, who founded Rhode Island. My father's side goes back to the 1400s in England. My mother's side is hard to figure out with the Johnsons, Swensens, Jensens, Olsons, and Petersons.

Do you have any siblings?

I have one brother, but I have adopted my shut-in friend as my sister. My brother lives in Bismarck, North Dakota with his wife. He served in the Vietnam War and was held stateside to fix jet engines. He is an inventor.

What are your hobbies?

Cooking. Family trees. Computer support. Drawing. Fishing. Reading non-fiction books, but I do enjoy James Patterson books. Helping people grocery shop. Spending time with family.

What is your favorite holiday tradition?

My favorite holiday tradition is Thanksgiving because I love to cook. I invite people over, or pick up the ones who can't drive, to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with us.

DONATE TODAY TO OUR "LOBBY CARPET" FUNDRAISER!



We are preparing to replace the carpet in the lobby, vestibule, and tower room (*old main*) with carpet squares.

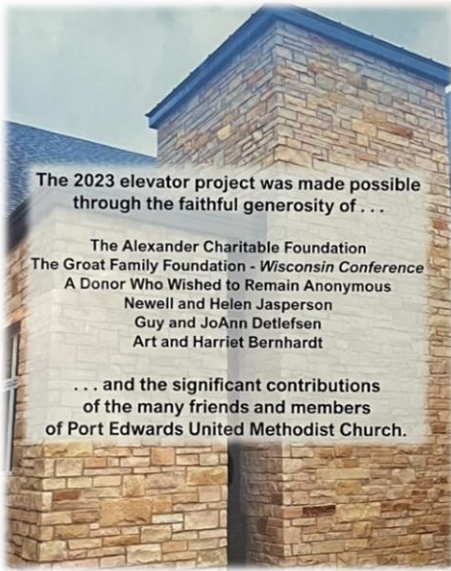
But we need *your* help!
Each square will **\$14-\$16**.

Go to peumc.org/donate OR use this QR Code:



Our Clergy Through the Years





Plaque given in dedication of elevator and its major donors

A plaque now hangs near the elevator to commemorate the financial contributions of the six top donors and in recognition of all the many, many people who contributed to the project.

The Alexander Charitable Foundation gave a grant of \$300,000.00. We do thank the members of that Foundation for their continued investment in our congregation and our mission in the Port Edwards area! Thank you, O Generous Hearts!

Dear United Methodist Church of Port Edwards,

On behalf of Wisconsin Rapids Family Center, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of **\$250.00** received on 5/16/2024. Your contribution makes it possible for us to continue to serve people victimized by abuse.

Since its inception in 1983, Wisconsin Rapids Family Center has worked to eliminate violence and provide support and safety for individuals and families impacted by domestic abuse and sexual assault, in all its forms. We are able to accomplish this because of contributions from people like you.



Sincerely,
Tricia Fancher
Executive Director

A letter from College Student Melanie Sillars & from Shut-In Barbara Taylor:

Dear Congregation,
Thank you all so much
for the encouraging letters
you sent me during my
finals week. It was nice
hearing from friendly people
back home. The gift cards
were a nice little surprise.
Thank you for thinking of me,
Melanie Sillars ♥

Dear Friends at PEUMC,
I want to thank
you for the blanket.
It is beautiful
and I really like
it. Thanks for
thinking of me.
Sincerely,
Barbara Taylor

Our Prioritized Church Goals

#1: Provide learning opportunities for the community.

#2: Provide a compensated children/youth/family coordinator.

Weekly Church News Email Looks Different

Our weekly church office email sent to all email addresses associated with the church has now received an updated look. This change is not just for aesthetics-sake, or ease of navigation, but ultimately for practical/legal reasons. We are now using MAILCHIMP to send our mass emails. MAILCHIMP helps keep our emails from entering people's junk folders or tagged as potential spam. Additionally, it is best practice for churches to follow the privacy law requiring businesses to include an "unsubscribe" option in the email. MAILCHIMP does this automatically.

"Unsubscribing" only affects the weekly email and does not remove your email address from our church database; we can still contact you via one-to-one email correspondence. Additionally, unsubscribing does not affect your membership status.

June Household Prayers

This month the congregation is asked
to pray for the following families

(randomly chosen on 5/26):

- Ella, Eliza, Gabriel, Sawyer, Anna & Travis Hintz;
- Leslie Arendt;
- Nancy & Jerry Klahn;
- Joann & Peter Kurth;
- Joy & Peter Rogoski



July Household Prayers

Next month the congregation is asked
to pray for the following families

(randomly chosen on 6/20):

- Joann & Charles Lester household;
- Midge & Jim Herschleb household;
- Sara Tyne;
- Mike & Lori Hintz household



May-June Mission Project:

All special donations given during the months of May & June will be toward two Wisconsin Conference funds (evenly divided):

1. **Summer Camp Scholarships** *(helps to offset the cost of summer camp to campers who need it most)*
AND
2. **State-wide Disaster Relief Fund** *(helps to fund our U.M.C.O.R.-related disaster relief efforts in WI).*

COLLECTING SOCKS!

CALLING ALL OLD-BUT-CLEAN SOCKS!

Through the end of June:

All the donations will be sent to TerraCycle, a recycling company that specializes in hard-to-recycle material. They have a special program that allows us to designate an organization to receive \$\$\$\$. The organization we're helping is the **Northcott Neighborhood House**. They will earn \$10 credit for 10 pounds of socks, *ETC*. The program is sponsored by "Golden Toe" sock company.

WE HAVE ALREADY FILLED UP TWO BOXES OF SOCKS!

WHEN YOU SEE THE BOX, JUST PUT A SOCK IN IT! 😊

July-August Mission Project

Part One: Collect \$\$\$ for

This ministry is a therapeutic horseback-riding ranch and is located in Babcock, WI.



The ranch is dedicated to helping horses help children and adults with diagnosed physical, cognitive, emotional, and academic special needs at no cost to the riders or their families.

Part Two: Collect school supplies for **TEACHERS**

(teachers are always having to buy their own supplies during the year; it can get very expensive)

We will focus our energy on buying:

1. Boxes of tissue & hand sanitizer
2. Dry erase markers and dry erasers

Worship Servants for June

Communion: Skip Candles: Skip	Greeter(s)	Usher	Liturgist	Pew Ambassador	Musician
June 2 nd	John & Diane Sw.	Becky T.	Kathy Mil.	Sue T.	July M.
June 9 th	Sara T.	Pat Mc.	Kathy Mc.	Kathy Mc.	Judy M.
June 16 th	Mike & Lori H.	Leo T.	Ellen M.	Julie B.	Sue M.
June 23 rd	Pat & Kathy Mc.	Skip M.	Leo T.	---	Ellen M.
June 30 th	Sue T.	Skip M.	Kathy M.	Diane S.	Ellen M.

Worship Servants (so far) for July

Communion: Skip Candles: Skip	Greeter(s)	Usher	Liturgist	Pew Ambassador	Musician
July 7 th			Leo T.	Kathy M.	TBD
July 14 th				Kathy M.	TBD
June 21 st				Julie B.	TBD
June 28 th				Diane S.	TBD

Sundays in June

June 2 nd	Series – III of IV “Compassion”	Summer Series #1:	Pentecost.2 Communion Sunday
June 9 th	Series – IV of IV “Justice”	Our Wesleyan Discipleships: The Way of Grace	Pentecost.3
June 16 th	Looking Back at 126 Years		Pentecost.4 / Father’s Day
June 23 rd	126 th Anniversary Celebration		
June 30 th	Looking Forward for Eternity	Pride	Pentecost.6

Sundays in July

July 7 th	Freedom Sunday Sermon: “Is there a God?”	Summer Series #2:	Pentecost.7 Communion Sunday
July 14 th	Celebration of a Reappointment Sermon: “Can I Trust the Bible?”	Wrestling With Doubt:	Pentecost.8
July 21 st	Sermon: “Heaven & Hell?”	A Questioning Heart	Pentecost.9 / Father’s Day
July 28 th	Christmas-in-July Sermon: “Suffering? Prayer?”		Pentecost.10

P.E.U.M.C. DONATES TO THE FAMILY CENTER (RAPIDS)

Becky Taylor and Pastor Caleb pose with two staff members of The Family Center in Wisconsin Rapids. Our March-April Mission Project at PEUMC was to collect household and hygiene items to fill 20 bags that would be given to families upon exiting their program. These “Send Off” bags are meant to help families get settled into their new place with basic items as they start a new chapter in independent living. Upon seeing our 20 bags, filled with our donations, the staff were ecstatic!



Looking Ahead:

July Sermon Series:

WRESTLING WITH DOUBT: A QUESTIONING HEART

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there really a heaven? How can we know? Whether you're a longtime Christian or someone brand new to faith, this sermon series will lead you to trust in God that is unafraid of hard questions. Together, we will wrestle with doubt while finding faith—honoring trust over certainty and embracing mystery over simple answers. This series is based on The Rev. Adam Hamilton's newest book of the same name.

*The Rev. Adam Hamilton is the founding pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood (Kansas City), Kansas, one of the fastest growing, most highly visible churches in the country. *The Church Report* named Hamilton's congregation the most influential mainline church in America.

Sunday, July 7th, 2024 – “Is There a God?”

Sunday, July 14th, 2024 – “Can I Believe the Bible?”

Sunday, July 21st, 2024 – “Is There a Heaven & Hell?”

Sunday, July 28th, 2024 – “Why is There Suffering? What is the Point of Prayer?”

August Sermon Series:

HOPE FOR HARD TIMES: THE END OF OUR ROPE

We've all been there: Rock bottom. At the end of our rope. The last straw. During such times, it often seems like the only option is to throw in the towel. Based on the book by The Rev. Magrey R. deVega, we will examine the lives of the two great Old Testament prophets, Elijah and Elisha, to reveal their consistent message to us: Don't give up! Don't lose hope! Trust that God will help you find a way. There is hope for you in hard times. Your story of hurt, heartache, and hopelessness has been heard, and God has a message for you. We will also be touching upon such significant life experiences like: Grieving the Loss of Your Spouse; Living with Dementia; Empty Nesters and Loneliness; Depression.

*The Rev. Magrey R. deVega is the Senior Pastor at Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida.

Trustees Project

- Fix front lawn damaged by elevator equipment. Ben Martinson of the Village Public Works crew has graciously offered to fix the sidewalk himself. But the lawn, including sections of the sprinkler system, will need to be fixed as spring approaches.
- Six problematic spots on the roof will be addressed in a more permanent way.
- The foyer floor will be replaced with carpet squares. This will be our congregational fundraiser. Price of each square will be approximately \$14-16.
- **COMPLETED:** Sinks and cabinetry added to the Meeting Room and Classroom. Towel dispensers were added this week.



FIRST TUESDAY

For the month of July,

our **“First Wednesday”** service will become the **“First Tuesday”** service.

Still—the service has the same purpose.

This once-a-month service is a hymn-sing, focusing on older, beloved hymns, and learning a few new ones.

The lyrics of our songs will provide our devotions for the evening.

Interspersed in the music is scripture and prayer.

The service takes place in the Fellowship Hall around the piano.

Our second “First Wednesday Tuesday” service

will take place on TUESDAY, JULY 2nd from 7:00-8:00 PM.



History of Pride Month

It all started on June 28th, 1969, a hot summer night in Greenwich Village, N.Y. Cops stormed the Stonewall Inn, arresting patrons and forcing them into waiting police vehicles. But a nearby crowd grew restless and angry, and eventually someone started whipping onlookers into fighting back. Confrontations continued over the next few nights. These demonstrations were not the first instance in American history when people fought back against a government-sponsored system that persecuted sexual minorities; but the Stonewall Riots became the defining event that marked the start of the “gay rights movement” in the U.S. and around the world.

Following the Stonewall Riots, organizers wanted to build on that spirit of resistance. The following year, they organized a march to Central Park and adopted the theme of “Gay Pride” as a counterpoint to the prevailing attitude of shame. Most Pride celebrations take place in June to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

**We Are A
Reconciling & Inclusive
Congregation**





Lilyann Sillars was recognized during the May 19th service for her graduation from John Edwards High School. She is standing with her mother, Jerene Sillars. Congratulations and good luck at UWSP! *Photo by Pat McGrath*



Pastors Doug and Caleb enjoyed the views from the Miller Lite Lounge at Lambeau Field. The event was called "clergy connection dinner" and all clergy of the UM conference in Wisconsin, and their families, had a nice meal and great views. The event took place during Annual Conference 2024 in Green Bay.



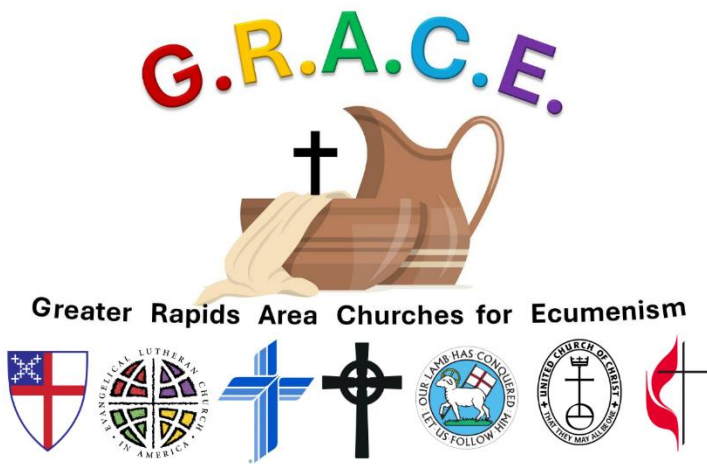
VISIT US AT PEUMC.ORG!



Pastor Caleb took part in the installation service of Rev. Kate West at the First Congregational Church of Wisconsin Rapids on Saturday, June 1st.

Rev. Michelle Nickodemus of Grace Lutheran (Rapids), Rev. Wanda Veldman of Nekoosa UCC, and members of the UCC conference were in attendance, as well as members of her

congregation. While Methodist ministers are not "installed," when ministers *are* installed in traditions like the United Church of Christ or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, it is often an event attended by pastors with ecumenical relationship with each other. By doing this, we not only show our support for our area clergy colleagues but we also show the oneness in Christ to the community. "Installation" is how these congregations officially receive their new pastors.



The above logo was designed by Pastor Caleb as a parade banner; this banner will be used at the Cranberry Blossom Festival this year; Pastor cannot attend as it coincides with our 125th.



PEUMC received Scott and Tiara Grunden into professing membership on May 19th. They have been attending for well over a year, and their son, Colby, is our incredible media technician!



PEUMC heard from Lilyann her plans for after high school. She plans to go to The University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point to receive a science and psychology degree.



Larry Miller

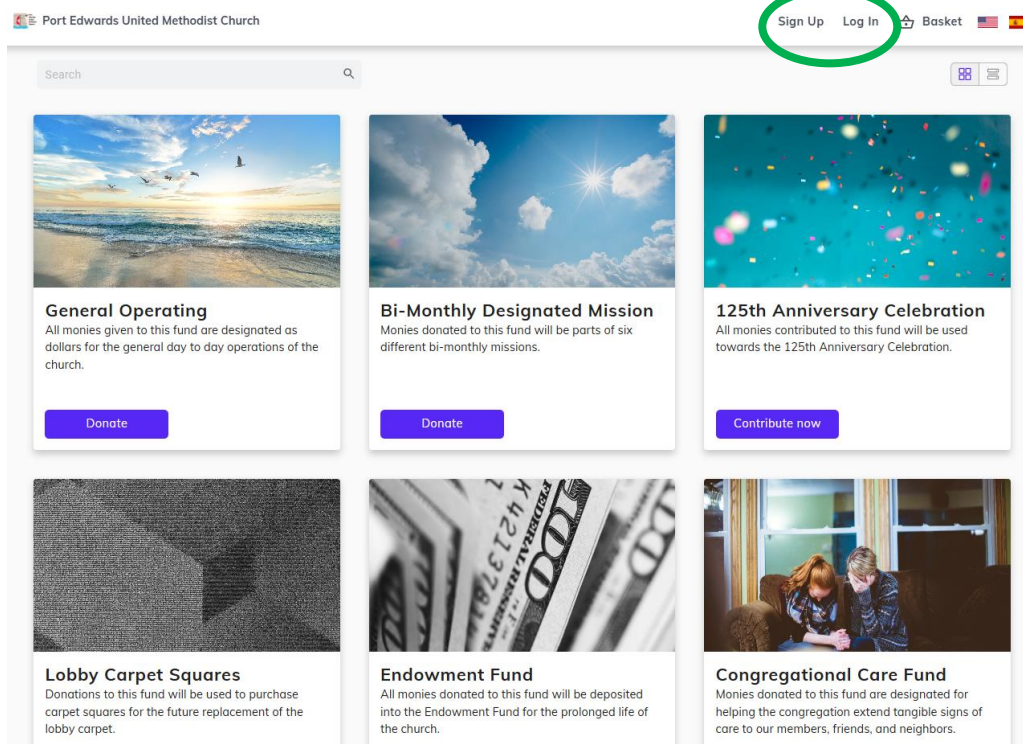
Air Force, Vietnam Era, Port Edwards

Larry Miller went on the *Never Forgotten Honor Flight* on May 20th out of Wausau. He was escorted by his son. With other veterans, he visited memorials in Washington D.C. During “mail call” on the return flight, each veteran received a surprise stack of letters written by many people who know and love Larry! Upon debarking, he was greeted by friends, family, and church members. *Photo above: Larry is greeted by many people when he returned to Wausau that evening.*

Online Giving Looks a Little Different

Go to **peumc.org/donate** and click on **"Donate Now"** to find the landing page for our online giving. This page looks a little different now. VANCO, our online giving portal, owns this and chooses to update the look of their page.

You can **sign up** for an account (good for recurring payment schedule) or **log in** to your existing account. Both are accessed at the top of the page (**green circle**).



As you can see from the photo on the left (below), you can give a one-time donation or set up a recurring payment plan (auto withdrawal from your bank account). One-time options are:

Once, now OR once, at a later time (you select date of transaction). Recurring options are: **weekly OR monthly**.

As you can see from the photo to your right, that the system requires only some basic information to set up an account with VANCO. However, to complete a transaction, you will need to do one of two things: insert your credit card information for one-time only donations OR insert your bank account information for recurring transactions. You can set up a recurring payment plan yourself online OR you can print a copy of the authorization form found on our website at peumc.org/donate OR

find the paper copy at church and give to our Financial Secretary, Bill P.

To find our online giving portal, go to peumc.org/donate and click on the link that says **"Donate Now."**

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS, FOR HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN MAY!



A program of Aspirus Riverview Hospital
made possible by United Way of
South Wood & Adams Counties

Home Delivered Meals Drivers

Skip & Ellen Mazurek
Pat & Kathy McGrath
Sue Mitchell
Becky Taylor
Leo & Sue Thomasgard

Every four weeks, PEUMC volunteers deliver a hot and nutritious, noon meal to homes of Wisconsin Rapids area residents who are unable to prepare their own meals.



By Merging Strengths of SWEPS, Rapids Family Backpacks & The Neighborhood Table

FOCUS Food Pantry Helpers

Tiara Grunden
Sue Mitchell
Candy Prah-Tell
LuAnn Slattery
Diane Sweat
Becky Taylor
Leo & Sue Thomasgard

Your efforts to help put food on the table for our neighbors is so appreciated! Anyone interested in helping with these programs may contact Becky Taylor (715-887-2163) for more information. **THANK YOU!**



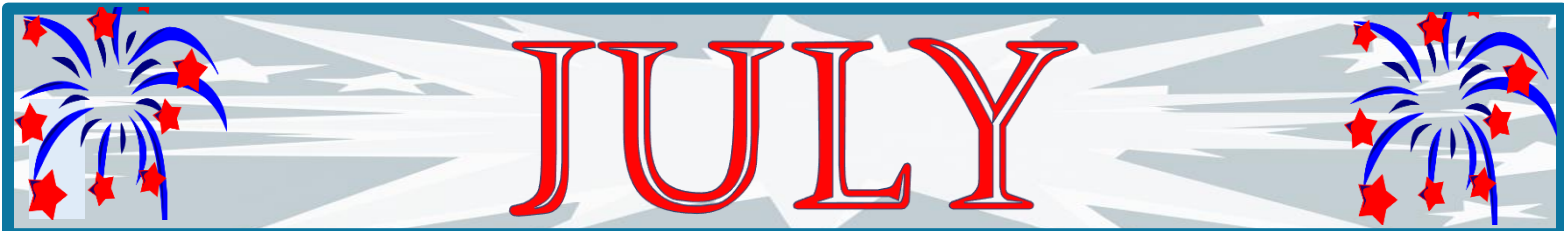
JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
MAY-JUNE Mission: \$\$\$ for Camp Scholarships & Disaster relief (+clean, USED socks)						Birthday Julie Berg 50th Anniversary Bill & Marna Lindroth
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Communion Service 10:00 am	Birthdays Leslie Arendt Maribeth Lacasse-Salo	Sharing Memories Group El Café' 10:30a Birthday JoAnn Detlefsen	7:00pm "First Wednesday" Service 7-8p		Pastor's day off	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2nd Sunday Refreshments Birthday Randy Bauer	Church Office Closed	THE Ministry Team 10:00 am		Birthday Nina Pelo 65 th Anniversary Norm & Lucy Silvester	Pastor's day off	Birthday Judy Miller
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Father's Day Church Council 11:00 am Birthday Ellen Mazurek		Birthday Joann Kurth	Birthdays Jenna Boerner Bill Parks	60 th Anniversary Jim & Midge Herschleb	Pastor's day off	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
125th Anniversary Celebration		Birthday Marie Hernesman			Pastor's day off	Marshfield Pride Fest
30						
Annual Pride Service						

Church Office Hours:

Church Office Hours:

Connie: Monday through Friday : 8:00a – noon



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
JULY-AUGUST Bi-Monthly Mission: \$\$\$ for Jeremiah's Cross; Collect school supplies for students/teachers	<u>Birthday</u> Sara Mykisen	10:30 AM - Sharing Memories Group - El Café 7:00-8:00 PM "First Tuesday" Music Service			Pastor's day off	
				Pastor on camping getaway		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<u>Birthday</u> Donna Klinger Holy Communion Service 10:00 AM		10:00 - Nurture Committee - Lounge			Pastor's day off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<u>Birthday</u> Rachel Lamb 2 nd Sunday Refreshments				<u>Birthdays</u> Terry Hernesman Makenzie Mykisen Jennifer Swenson	<u>Birthday</u> Art Harvestine Pastor's day off	
					Pastor out of state	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<u>Birthday</u> Peter Kurth NO Church Council	<u>Birthdays</u> Kathy Mills Trevor Mykisen		11:00 AM Summer Reading Group – El Cafe		Pastor's day off Anniversary Richard & Page Clark Travis & Anna Hintz	
28	29	30	31			
	Anniversary Randy & Marge Bauer					

Church Office Hours:

Connie: Monday through Friday : 8:00a – noon

Pastor: Monday through Thursday : 9:00a – 1:00p