



## OUR NEW PASCHAL CANDLE

***A new 44-inch candle now adorns our sanctuary!***

### ***What is this?***

This is called a “Paschal Candle” and can be found in most liturgical (usually “high church”) traditions. Other names for it are the “Easter Candle” or “Christ Candle.” Most commonly, it is known as a Paschal Candle. Paschal (pash-kull) means “relating to Easter,” although its roots are actually found in the Greek and Hebrew words] for “Passover.”

This is no coincidence: Jesus’ death and Resurrection occurred during the annual Jewish festival called the “Passover.” This candle has about an 1,800-year history within the Christian tradition. Its size resembles the pillar of cloud and fire that led the Israelites through the sea and stopped the invading Egyptian army.

It is made of beeswax to represent the purity of Christ. The candle itself represents Christ—the Light of the World. All the symbols found on this candle also point to Christ.

Our candle features some unique symbols on it, but it also features the traditional ones found on most Paschal candles:



- At the bottom can be found the Lamb of God emblem.
- In the middle is the cross.
- Above and below are the letters for Alpha and Omega, with the current year surrounding the cross.

Jesus called Himself “the Alpha and Omega—the beginning and the end.”

Alpha and Omega were first and last letters of the classical Greek alphabet. Essentially—Jesus is from “A to Z.”

The year represents the presence of Christ among us even right now.





Toward the top, you will find an emblem of Jesus holding a victory flag with an angel kneeling.

At the very top is a “bouquet” that features seven lilies. “Seven” represents “fullness” or “completeness” and lilies represent “new life.”

Five “nails” are inserted into the wax at the five points of the cross. These 5 nails have a wax exterior embedded with incense. The incense can represent the beauty of the prayer life of God’s people. The 5 nails represent the 5 wounds of Jesus: 3 for the nails in His hands and feet, 1 nail for the spear that pierced His side, and 1 nail for the crown of thorns He was forced to wear. The incense in these nails represent the fact that God makes our ugly into something beautiful.



This candle is lit every year on Easter (in Catholic traditions, it is lit during the Easter Vigil service on Saturday night), and it stays lit throughout the Easter season, through Pentecost Sunday. After that, it is only lit during baptisms and funerals.



At baptisms, it represents the light of Christ shining in the lives of the baptized; but also that Christ leads the way for us through this “watery grave.” Smaller baptismal candles are lit from here and given to the baptized.

At funerals, it stands near the head of the casket or urn; here, it recalls the baptism of the deceased but also that Christ stands guard and leads us through the exodus of death.

While many churches buy a new one every year, ours will be with us for a lot longer!

***This candle is a gift to the church from Pastor Caleb.***



# G.R.A.C.E.



Greater Rapids Alliance for Christian Ecumenism

COVID-19 saw the end of the former Cranberry Clergy group that met at the Riverview hospital. Now I (Pastor Caleb), with the help of the Moravian and Grace Lutheran pastors, are helping relaunch a fresh expression of this group. At our last meeting, I suggested the acronym “G.R.A.C.E.” which can stand for the “G.reater R.apids A.lliance for C.hristian E.cumenism.”

We have seen consistent participation in our group from Pastor Michelle Nickodemus (Grace Lutheran—ELCA), Pastor Beth Rohn-Habegger (Rapids Moravian), myself, Pastor Trey Turner (Church of Wazeecha), Pastor Eric Dunker (Christian Life Fellowship), Pastor Margo Peterson (Woodland Lutheran—ELCA—Rome), Pastor Chuck Bradbury (First Baptist—W.R.). These following pastors and laypeople have shown interest and attended at least one of our meetings: Father David Klutterman (Episcopal Church—W.R.), Seth Dykstra (Baker Street Wesleyan), and lay representative from Bethany Lutheran (ELCA—Rudolph). I am happy to have hosted our second meeting, with the Moravian Church hosting our initial meeting, and Woodland Lutheran hosting our latest one.

We are still trying to articulate who we are and what we are going to be about. We had consensus that this was not going to be just a group of clergy meeting for camaraderie. Instead, we are clergy, and lay representatives, representing our respective congregations for the sake of visible unity and community

service. In such a divided world and divided country, it is extremely important to have community churches working together visibly.

I am happy to say that my idea to create a fund to relieve school lunch debt was a success with the group. We are currently figuring out the specifics of how we manage and advertise such a fund. This is our idea: Every year, our group will focus on one school in the Greater Rapids Area to raise funds to reduce as much school lunch debt as possible. We hope to funnel funds through individual church offerings, special community services and events, and individual contributions. Our first school of choice is **Nekoosa**.

A multi-year federal relief program which covered all school meal expenses has now ended at the beginning of the '22-'23 school year. Lunch debt rolls over and accumulates year to year and many students reach high school with hundreds of dollars' worth of breakfast and lunch debt, some going all the way back to their elementary years! In many schools, seniors cannot graduate in good standing without this debt paid off in full. It seemed very important to us to help these struggling families, particularly those graduating seniors. The end of their senior year and the beginning of their independent adult lives should be marked with a clean slate for their future success.

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the W.R. Moravian Church.**

# SUNDAY SERVICE GUEST GIFTS

PEUMC has offered gifts for our guests in the past. This featured a paper bag filled with such items like: a mug, some chocolates, a notepad made by Kathy McGrath, and a box of raisins. We are grateful for people like Kathy McGrath and Lori Hintz for keeping these supplied!



The Witness Team has decided to revamp our gifts. Now, every guest, on their first visit, will receive a “Thank you worshipping with us” card.



For the men, a small cross is attached to the notepad.



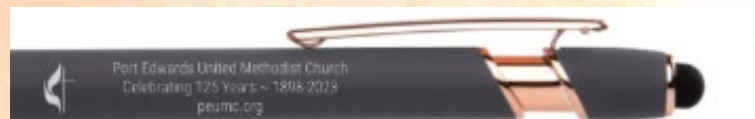
For the women, a seed-embedded plantable paper is attached.

These cards are not just for those “unexpected” guests; they are also for our visiting family members and friends who attend with us as well. This is important to us, because sometimes we forget to treat our returning friends and family members as our honored guests, as well. We want you all to be assured that whenever you bring a friend or family member with you to church, they will also receive one of these cards as a sign of our gratitude. In addition, our “unexpected” guests will also receive a revised and updated packet with lots of information about our church.



On their second visit, guests will receive a notepad lovingly created by Kathy McGrath along with one of our new church pens.

(Similar to what's pictured above.)



## SANCTUARY MEDIA

Our media project is completed! The total cost was \$9,100—and was made possible by a designated memorial in memory of Florence Sprecher, aunt of Lucy Silvester. The remaining balance was covered by a portion of Elaine Cattanach’s undesignated memorial from 2009.

I am thankful for **Bob Berg, Leo Thomasgard, Jennifer Swensen, Becky Taylor,** and **Skip Mazurek** for stepping up and volunteering to learn how to use the system.\*

**\*Many of these same people have been regular liturgists, greeters, and ushers.**

**If you feel you are not capable of learning how to use the media, then \*PLEASE\* consider adding your name to our thinning rotation of liturgists, greeters, and ushers. The same handful of people cannot—in good health—do all these things every week. Thank you for considering!**



***Our “SOUP FOR THE SOUL” project is now coming to a close. Soon, all your responses these past 6 months will be compiled into a little booklet that will be part of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.***

***You can find the final prompt for **April** below.***

**Below were our 5 previous prompts. If you missed any of these, you still have time this month to go back and fill these out.**

**Return your responses to the offering plates OR the church office.**

**March: “Tell us about how you have given back to the community (as a volunteer) and how this experience has shaped you as a person.”**

**February: “What is your favorite Bible verse or hymn verse? Why does it speak to your heart?”**

**January: “What was your first experience at PEUMC like? And what kept you coming back?”**

**December: “I am reminded of God’s gifts when I see . . . because . . .”**

**October/November: “Tell us about a life-changing (significant) moment you have experienced which brought you closer to God.”**

***And now . . .***

**APRIL’S PROMPT:**

**You may write in the space below anything you’d like to say concerning your time and experience at PEUMC, our congregation, or maybe something about your own personal faith journey.**

**This is our last prompt.**

**This is your last chance to add something for inclusion in our “Soup for the Soul.”**



Our worship services are now live-streamed from **YouTube.com**.

If you are used to finding our services on **Facebook.com**, you can still find the link there. It appears on our Facebook page every week 1-hour before the service starts. A link is also provided in our weekly church email, as well as in many places throughout our church website (peumc.org).

Additionally, you can visit our **YouTube** channel by going to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and searching for “Port Edwards United Methodist Church” in the search bar.

Our Sunday services are listed in a “playlist” titled “Sunday Morning Services.”

Just like before, you can watch our services live or at a later time.

Below the description of each video are 3 links:

- (1) give electronically on our website
- (2) view our worship bulletin on our website
- (3) register your online attendance.



## OUR LENTEN OFFERING

Throughout Lent, we have shared our Wednesday evenings with our Nekoosa U.C.C. friends for a combined worship series called

*“A JOURNEY OF STONES.”*

Each week, we read scripture passages relating to stones. Our offerings during this series have been earmarked for a program called **“Families Helping Families.”** This is a program through the Nekoosa school district. This fund is administered by the Student Services staff and is utilized whenever a local family or a student experiences a critical need, especially when there are no community services available to meet that need. The fund is made possible through donations from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, and churches. Recently, monies from this fund has helped some families who have gone through a housefire, and has helped homeless families transition into housing.

During our 5-week series, we have raised a total of **\$279.00**.

On Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, our children collected a Noisy Offering for this same organization, which collected a total of: **\$47.25**.

*That a grand total of **\$326.25!***

# NEW CHURCH DISHWASHER

Our new church dishwasher has been installed! Like our old one, it is also a Hobart.

Here a very quick tutorial for our dishwasher users:

- (1) Press the “ON” button—the machine will then heat up the water.
- (2) After a few minutes, the display will read “READY.”
- (3) Open the door and insert the tray of dishes.
- (4) Close the door and press “Start.”
- (5) Give Jeff Taylor a pat on the back and a cookie.
- (6) Repeat.



This machine uses hot water to sanitize, not chemicals. After the end of each round of washings, the strainer in the bottom of the machine will need to be cleaned out. There are no tools needed for this; it lifts straight out.

NOTE: the dishwasher is ready to use, but is not in its final place. A longer electrical connection will need to be installed to get it into its original spot and for the extra space to be closed up by a wood façade.

## COMBINED SERVICE

with Wisconsin Rapids United Methodist Church  
@ Port Edwards UMC

**Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM**

The people of WRUMC will be worshipping with us at 10:00 AM @ PEUMC for a combined service, followed by a potluck. Our speaker will be talking about a new ministry program in Wisconsin Rapids called “**MARY’S PLACE.**”



# Looking Ahead

## COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT



PEUMC is hosting one of two community Easter Egg Hunts in Port Edwards on **Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**.



The Lions' Club will host their hunt at the Alexander Memorial Park at 10:00 AM.



Our hunt will be on our **church lawn at 10:30 AM**. The hunt will begin near the gazebo and finish near our church sign.

We will have about 900 eggs filled with candy. Our egg hunt will be color-coded by age, including eggs strictly for toddlers. We will also have special golden eggs, too.

We will need a few volunteers to help out for this event including a few adults to be stationed around the church yard (to help guide the kids in the right direction). Contact Pastor Caleb to volunteer.

## LOOKING AHEAD: Holy Week

<b>Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Nekoosa U.C.C. at 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Friday April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Nekoosa U.C.C. at 1:00 pm</b>

## Easter Sunday Events

<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Potluck Breakfast starts</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>9:50-ish am</b>	<b>A short, informal service, meant for those who have to travel on Easter</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>9:15 am</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Regular Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Sunday School with Easter Egg Hunt and crafts</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>





# April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:00 AM Service			Elevator Mtg. - 10a  NO Worship On Wednesday in April	MAUNDY THURS. SERVICE 7:00 PM @ NEKOOSA UCC	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 1:00 PM @ NEKOOSA UCC	Community Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 AM Church Lawn
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter Sunday 8:15 AM - breakfast 9:50 AM—Short Service 10:00 AM Service 10:15 AM—Sunday School / Crafts & Egg Hunt			NO Worship On Wednesday in April			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:00 AM Service Festival of God's Creation Church Council Mtg			Elevator Mtg. - 10a  NO Worship On Wednesday in April			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:00 AM Service  U.M. Student Sp. Offering			NO Worship On Wednesday in April			Bunco Party & Baked Potato Bar Meal - 5p Game- 6p
30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6
10:00 AM Service  Wis. Rapids UMC worships with us. Potluck after church			(Elevatr Mtg. - 10a)			



# Noteworthy

## APRIL MISSION - INGATHERING 2023



### PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT

#### Items for the Kit

- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Toothbrush - no multipacks
- 1 Bar soap - 3 to 4 oz
- 1 Shampoo - 12 to 19 oz
- 1 Deodorant - 2 to 3 oz (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \$2 donation for razor and toothpaste
- Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit

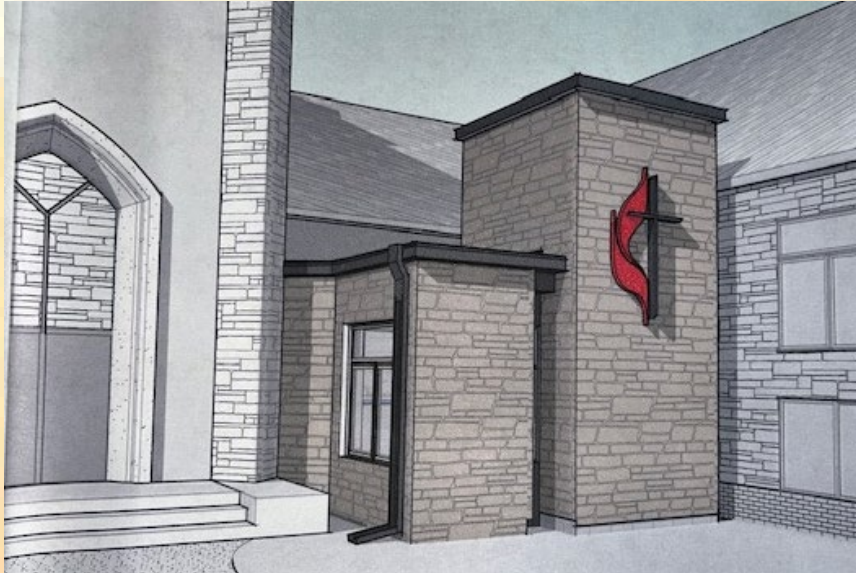


## ELEVATOR UPDATE

Behind the scenes, the Elevator Committee has been very busy. They meet often to plan the future installation of this much needed addition to our building. Thus, the elevator project is moving along. The project area has been removed of asbestos. It will be some time before the area is remodeled. The area is safe, but dark, so watch your step. The down payment on the elevator has been made and architectural drawings are ready for state submittal. State approval has been running about four weeks. Contractors are being lined up, but a start date has yet to be established. Drawings will be displayed soon. Target date for completion is fall of 2023, in time for the Fall Bazaar.

*John Sweat, Elevator Study Committee Chairperson*

# RENDERING OF OUR APPROVED ELEVATOR PLANS



Special Offering – Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

## UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

This annual offering calls the Church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. This offering supports United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund, particularly for those young adults active in their local churches and students attending United Methodist-related colleges.

## BUNCO PARTY and Baked Potato Bar Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

Meal starts @ 5:00 PM

Game starts @ 6:00 PM

We invite our participants to bring a topping for the baked potato bar.

The meal and event are free!

Sign up on the clipboard now!

The event is back by request!

During our last Bunco event, the players wanted more opportunities to play it!

The group in January had a blast!

We hope you will consider joining us again for this game night!

The young and old have great fun the last time!

This is a *family-fun, no-gambling* game night event!

# Community

Thank You!



Thanks to Sue Mitchell, Diane Sweat and Julie Berg who volunteered to help clear out the church nursery before the asbestos removal. Jeff and Becky Taylor had done a lot of work prior to us getting there so we were able to get the remaining work done in a short amount of time. My heartfelt thanks to each of you! The real work will come when we must put the nursery back together again.



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

### FOCUS Food Pantry Helpers

Julie Berg  
Chuck Lamb  
Pat Markuson  
Renee Marzofka  
Pat & Kathy McGrath

LuAnn Slattery  
Diane Sweat  
Leo and Sue Thomasgard  
Sara Tyne  
Carol Zuelke

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!**

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



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

### Home Delivered Meals Drivers

Julie Berg  
Pat & Kathy McGrath  
Sue Mitchell  
Leo & Sue Thomasgard  
Becky Taylor

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.



The Port Edwards School District Board of Education  
would like to thank you for your generous donation.

Your support of public education is  
greatly **appreciated!**

Kathy McGrath

John Dave

Member of the Port Edwards Board of Education

3/8/2023

To Part Edwards United  
Methodist Church,  
We want to thank you  
for the generous gift of  
#12 #2  
Chairs & Tables. We  
will use them in many directions  
with our Childcare Center!  
Thank you for the kindness. 😊  
Building Blocks Learning Ctr.

We appreciate  
the kindness  
and delivery  
from Jeff the  
Driver!

happy birthday!

April 3  
Sue Mitchell

April 5  
Gaylord Johnson

April 6  
Ellis Mills

April 7  
Mike Landowski

April 10  
Pastor Caleb McGregor

April 11  
Sandy Robinson

April 13  
Collin Boerner  
Ethan Boerner  
Jerry Klahn

April 18  
Brynlee Mayek

April 20  
Midge Herschleb

April 22  
Ed Heuer

April 23  
Aaron Harnisch

April 24  
Jerene Sillars

April 25  
Croix Kawleski

April 26  
Natalee Hadow

April 30  
Jon Mykisen