VIEWS AND VISTAS

The Newsletter of the

WEST GRANVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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From Our Interim Pastor:

Growing through Gratitude

Journeying through our transitional pilgrimage, there has been so much to celebrate. We have celebrated the stories of individual members in our Rocking Chair Reflection. We've celebrated the gifts of elders, teachers, musicians, and all those who so generously give of their time and talents to West Granville. We've celebrated our relationships with our community through service and mission giving, and we've celebrated our relationships with one another through prayer, fellowship, and a lot of delicious food. West Granville is truly a community of givers, as well as a community of gratitude. We are grateful for the blessings God has poured out upon our church family.

Gratitude is a foundational spiritual posture. We know that all good things come from God, and only through gratitude can we experience the abundant joy God intends for our lives. As our transitional pilgrimage continues, we will be asking some big questions of one another. What are West Granville's strengths? What areas are more challenging for us? How have we been effective in our mission and service, and when has our energy petered out? Where is there space for us to grow, and what do we need to let go of as we follow God's call in *this* moment? Our Transition Team will guide us through this evaluation using various tools, including a congregational survey, which we expect to launch in early 2027. Each of these conversations, however, will always start from a place of gratitude for what God has already allowed us to be and do as a church family.

As this season of gratitude continues with celebrating stewardship, counting our blessings, and preparing through Advent, let us return again and again to a spiritual posture of gratitude. In gratitude for God's abundance, our joy will overflow into generosity. Thanks be to God for West Granville Presbyterian Church. Thanks be to God for the mission and ministry given to us through Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for our church family.

Pastor Elizabeth McCord

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION

The month of October traditionally brings us the annual stewardship campaign. The theme for this year's campaign is, "Abundant Joy/Overflowing Generosity."

"For during a severe ordeal of affliction their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the favor of partnering in this ministry to the saints, and not as we expected. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us."

2 Corinthians 8:2-5

When we focus on abundant joy/overflowing generosity, we view serving God with our time, talents, and treasures as a privilege. This also allows us to see the joy in our being called to be stewards. As a result, we give not as a sense of obligation, but as a means of sharing what God has entrusted to us.

When we join with our fellow church members to join our time, talents and treasures we create an opportunity to make a difference in a way we could not do alone. When we embody an overflowing generosity, we manifest the love of Christ.

The approach we prefer to encourage financial giving, is the Abundance approach. It is based on what God has done for us and continues to do for us. It invites people to give according to what they would like to become and encourages a sense of growing in giving the first fruits of our labors for Christ's work. Congregations who use this approach, create more joy in giving and embody a greater sense of being part of God's design for a blessed life.

As you consider your giving this year, we encourage you to reflect on the knowledge that people who focus on giving and living abundantly tend to be happier and have a greater sense of God's mission for the church.

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

James 1:17

We respectfully request you return the pledge card on or before Stewardship Sunday, November 8, 2026.

Sincerely,

The Stewardship Committee

West Granville Transition Team Members:

Chigozie Okonkwo
Kristina Tarvid-Lawrenz
Dorothy Harris-Shuff
Mark Savage
Tim Schneller
Tammy Wood
Pastor Elizabeth

BELL CHOIR IS RINGING AGAIN

And if you would like to join us we could use more ringers! (Spoiler: you don't have to be able to read music – we have secrets!) Evening rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:30. Please see Amy Mikec or contact her at mikec.amy@gmail.com .

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November 1 *All Saints Sunday*
with the Reading of the Rolls
Holy Communion
Daylight Saving Time ends
Liturgist: Calley Savage
Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17; I John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12
Sermon: *All Saints: and That is What we Are!*

November 8 *Stewardship Dedication Sunday*
Please turn in your Pledges for 2027
Liturgist: Joe Hrovat
Scripture: Joshua 3:7-17, Matthew 23:1-12
Sermon: *The God Who Provides*

November 15
Liturgist: Pastor Elizabeth
Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30
Sermon: given by Dr. Chigozie Okonkwo

November 22 *Trinity Sunday*
Recognition of Service honoring custodian Tim Scott
Liturgist: Rachel Cannestra
Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46
Sermon: *Come, Ye Thankful People*

Tuesday, November 24
Thanksgiving Interfaith Service 7:00pm
Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun
2020 West Brown Deer Road,
River Hills, WI 53217
7:00pm Worship with Blessing Bag assembly to follow

November 29 *First Sunday of Advent*
Prepare the Way of the Lord!
Advent Candle of Hope: The Prill Family
Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 13:31-37
Sermon: *Keep Awake*

Live Stream West Granville

Live Stream will open 10 minutes before service
Live and recorded sermons and videos may be found at our YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq94r4FOEOUO3NpOGQttUKw/featured

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Prayers
Janet Beltman, receiving hospice care
Ruby Tylenda-Emmons, special need

Larry Sullivan
Oral surgery this week and ongoing health issues, and prayers for Lil as caregiver.

Pat Grogan
Recovering in rehab

Nicki Rupke
Prayers of love and support

Joel and his wife Cindy
Family of Terry Mikec, Joel is recovering from brain surgery

Tom DeBuhr
Declining health and transition to assisted living. Cards welcome
Tom DeBuhr Room J209
Luther Manor Courtyards
4611 N. 92nd St.
Wauwatosa, WI 53225

Kevin Tarvid
Managing ongoing health challenges

John Rupke
Health challenges, and Nancy as she supports him

Carol Buck
Recovering from treatment

Pastor E's Family
Prayers

Brian Conner
Lifelong friend of Mark Savage, having triple bypass

Laura Wallenfang
Cousin of Deb Crane, mother of young family with aggressive breast cancer

Sharon Scott (Tim Scott) Custodial Staff
prayers for continued recovery off ventilator and eating food currently at Amethyst Health Brown Deer.

Military
Abraham Cosico (husband of Kali Grogan-Cosico) United States Navy
Major JT Lorbiecki of the Wisconsin Air National Guard 115 Air Wing in Madison

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The Bag Lady is back, handing out grocery bags and lists of items needed by the St. Peter Immanuel Food Pantry.

If you are attending church in person and would like to donate non-perishable and unexpired food items, please drop them off in the box in the church narthex by Sunday, November 22nd so that the food pantry will have them in time for Thanksgiving distributions.

<u>These are the most-needed items</u>:
Canned tuna, chicken, or other meats
Canned or dry soups
Canned chili or stew
Canned fruits or vegetables
Peanut butter
Pasta and boxed pasta dishes, mac & cheese
Beans, dry or canned, such as chili, pinto, lentil
Rice
Breakfast cereal, oatmeal, grits
Baby food and formula, and diapers
Cake & brownie mixes

If you prefer to make a financial donation (which is used for fresh produce, dairy, meats, and bread) please do one of the following:

1. Online – Go to the West Granville website and click on the Donate button in the bottom right corner. There is a box for Food Pantry.

2. Cash - Put your cash donation in an envelope marked "Food Pantry" and place it in the collection box (or give it to Marna Tess-Mattner, who will direct it to the office).

3. Check - Make your check payable to "West Granville Presbyterian Church" and note in the lower left corner that it is for the food pantry. Send it to West Granville or place it in the collection box at church. West Granville will combine all online, cash and check donations and send a single check to the food pantry.

Thank you for your generous support to help alleviate hunger in our community!
Mission Committee

LADIES EVENT

Open Circle's next event will be **Saturday, November 14th at 10:30**. We will make No-sew tied fleece blankets followed by a salad luncheon.
For the blanket making, please bring a sharp scissors if you have one. Blankets will be donated to needy families.
There will be a sign-up genius for the salad luncheon. Questions ask Patit Lorbiecki.

OPEN CIRCLE-SPONSORED EVENTS

December 19 NEW TIME AND DAY.: Christmas Party at Marna Tess—Mattner's home. **Saturday at 1:00 pm.** Time to gather and reveal your secret pals. Hoping this helps those who don't care to travel at night.

January 24, 2027 A Soup Swap immediately after worship for the entire congregation. Free-will donations for Open Circle's missions. More explanation to come. Headed by Joy Hartman.

February 7, 2027 Sunday at 2:00: Valentine Tea and card creation at Deb Crane's home.

March 14, Chili Cook-off after church. A chance to fill bellies and extend our mission reach with donations. Questions ask Deb Bascom.

April 17, Saturday 10:30. Cooking with Linda Annor. Learn how to cook delicious foods and make blessing bags.

May: flower orders due by 9th, pick up on 16th; Shady Lane flower fundraiser, see Deb Crane.

May 22, Book club at Terry Mikec's home on Saturday at 3pm. Book title to be announced.

June 20: Strawberry Festival on Fathers' Day. We need a volunteer to head this up.

Sept. 12, Ice Cream Social immediately after church. Need a volunteer to head this up.

All women of the church are welcome to any Open Circle events. Times and dates always subject to change; watch future newsletters and weekly emails for more details about each event.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends of West Granville,
Thank you so much for your expressions of sympathy with the loss of mom. Your support meant so much to our family. Thank you!
Dawn Anderson and family

Dear WGPC Family,

I didn't expect to be needing you again so soon to help me through yet another lifequake. Thank you so very, very much for your continued prayers, support, cards, check-ins, calls, texts, and nourishing foods for both me and Jon. I could not have gotten this far without Jon and my church family.

With love and endless gratitude, Carol Buck

Thank you for your very generous donation of $300.00 to the food pantry. Your continuing help is greatly appreciated. God Bless you for caring.
St. Peter- Immanuel Food Pantry

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Lori Talasek
1700 W. Bender Road, Room 148
Glendale, WI 53209

Moving Effective Nov 21, 2026
Eleanor M Ellner
N109W17075 Ave Circle, Apt. 240
Germantown, WI 53022

Tele: 262-345-1095 land line
262-623-0018 cell phone

Leave a Legacy

Presbyterian FOUNDATION

We are grateful for all who name West Granville for Memorial Funds, IRA, or Estate Gifts. Thank you for your generosity.

WINNEBAGO INSTITUTE CHRISTMAS

The Giving Tree will soon be set up in the narthex. We invite you to choose an ornament from the tree and return the items unwrapped or in a gift bag. **Gifts are due by Sunday, December 6th.** Any questions please contact Pat Grogan, assuming she's home soon! 414-807-9104.

HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT

The Master Singers of Milwaukee invite you to experience "RADIANCE: Auroras, Angels, and Heavenly Song." This concert of timeless choral traditions, thrilling modern compositions, and joyful holiday favorites will fill your afternoon with breathtaking beauty, warmth, and celestial harmony, perfectly bridging the autumn season and the holidays.

November 22, 2026 at 4:00 PM
St. Matthias Catholic Church
9306 West Beloit Road (near 92nd & Oklahoma)

Tickets are $25 in advance ($28 from Friday, November 20 to the concert) and may be purchased here: https://msm.ludus.com/index.php.
Students are free! Please see Marna Tess-Mattner if you have questions.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2 John & Patti Lorbiecki, 1974
2 Jeff & Jodey Ellner, 1990
2 Benjamin Martens
3 Pat & Tom Grogan, 1967
4 Mavis Orr
5 Patti Lorbiecki
6 Shirley Wick
11 Christian Ellner
12 Carol Otten
12 Dave Pearson
13 Dawn Radder Berlin
14 Barbara Suyama
14 Roger Olson
18 Joan Schroeder
19 Alex Champion
20 Judy Calvert
23 Kaitlyn Lorbiecki
25 Karl Koslowski
27 Jean Casey
27 Cindy Anderson
30 Chris Pogorzelski
30 Kyle Von Drasek

If your dates are missing or in error, please inform the church office.

WEST GRANVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Elizabeth McCord, *Interim Pastor,* pastore@westgranville.org
Sara Nygaard, *Administrative Associate,* secretary@westgranville.org
Carol Buck, *Newsletter Editor,* cagbuck@sbcglobal.net
Please submit Dec. newsletter articles by 11/28.

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion team: Scott & Marcie Mangas-Prill, Tammy Wood ~ It is *All Saints Sunday* and families of loss are invited to attend. Ushers: Paul and Lori Martens Stream Team: 1,22 Logan Cannestra, 8,29 Angie Anderson, 15 Laura Meyer Coffee Hour Hosts: 1: Member Care Committee 8: Finance Committee 15: Daniel, Daniella, & Albright Asiedu 22: Personnel Committee 29: Volunteer welcome, please sign up through the office Daylight Saving Time ends Saturday night/Sunday morning, October 31/November 1						
1 – *All Saints Sunday* 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Holy Communion	2 6:30 – Worship *	3	4 6:30 Bell Choir	5	6	7
8 – *Stewardship Dedication Sunday* 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 2027 Pledges will be collected	8 7 – Finance *	10	11 6:30 Bell Choir	12	13	14
15 – *26th Sunday after Pentecost* 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship	16 7 – Session *	17	18 6:30 Bell Choir	19	20	21
22 – *Christ the King Sunday* 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Food pantry donations due today	23	24 **Thanksgiving Interfaith Svc 7:00pm	25	26 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL**	27	28 *December Newsletter deadline tomorrow*
29 – *First Sunday in Advent* 9:15 Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 -Property	***Thanksgiving Interfaith Service Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun* *2020 West Brown Deer Road, River Hills, WI 53217 7:00pm Worship with Blessing Bag assembly to follow* Zoom links may be found on our www.Westgranville.org website under the *Events tab.* Recorded sermons and videos may be found at our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq94r4FOEOUO3NpOGQttUKw/featured *Meetings may be via Zoom and/or may have been date- and/or time-changed; please stay tuned.					