



The First Word

May, 2016

First United Methodist Church, Racine

Amanda Schnaare

Family Ed & Nurture Coordinator

Rick Reinhard

Custodian

745 Main Street,

Racine, WI 53403

262-633-7632

racine1umc@tds.net

1umcracine.org

Jakes Voker

Pastor

Carol Feest

Administrative

Assistant

Jeff Fernholz

Treasurer

Sue Mills

Financial Secretary

Fred Ganaway Church

Council Chairperson

Chuck Bragg

Trustee Chairperson

Judith Schulz

Church Historian

Sue Mills

Parish Visitor

Nancy Cook

Organist

Jeanne Whiteside

Media Coordinator

“GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING “

“For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only Begotten Son...” (John 3:16)

Gifts –giving and receiving seems to be a part and parcel of active faith life and journey. Going back to our creation history recorded in the Bible, God models “Giving gifts that keep on giving” when God formed human beings and gave them the gift of His breath breathed into their nostrils. This gift of breath has never ceased to be, whether in this life and life beyond. As though that is not generous enough, this Deity incarnated in the person of a Son in order to pay the just ransom for a deadly pandemic, sin, on the cross so that sinners might be saved and live. **The cost? Priceless!** You and I are whom we claim to be, “Christians” - people rescued, saved from the power and dominion of sins by the blood of the Lamb. As freed people, we are sent out to be the true witnesses of the true and meaningful life we’ve FOUND in and we’re GIVEN through “God’s Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ,” to those who are still held captive by that from which we’ve been delivered.

If the concept of God’s Creative and Redemptive works being “**God’s Gifts that Keep on Giving**” sounds a bit remote to you, it’s Ok! I can identify with that. Let’s briefly reflect on how my struggles with this concept of “**God’s gifts that keep on giving**” has been clarified and resolved. The Bible is replete with instances and events that speak clearly about God’s acts of mercy and compassion revealed in the life and works of Jesus Christ. God’s actions are never meant to be the personal possession of those who benefit, but to be shared abroad with others. For examples: Jesus’ parable of the “**Unforgiven debtor**” (Matt. 18: 21-35). **God’s forgiveness is a way of empowering the forgiven one to also forgive others.** Jesus **washed his disciples’ feet and instructed them to do the same for one another.** (Matt. 26: 14-39; John 13: 1-20). This was Jesus’ lesson on his style of leadership, servanthood, that all believers must imitate. There are many more to be cited, but these two should help us, present-day followers of Jesus Christ understand we are called to give gifts that would keep on giving beginning today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

All of us 21st Century Christians are products of and continue to enjoy the fruits of the faithful life and passionate works of 1st Century and subsequent centuries’ followers of Jesus Christ. **How about these?** Most of us were brought to church and got baptized while still infants based on our parents’ decisions. For some of us, our parents had to drag us to church and tried to hammer their faith into our heads until we finally got it, at least, to some extent. These parents might have had heart-warming experiences with Jesus Christ and did everything humanly possible to pass on those Christian values and faith legacy to their offspring. Isn’t this exactly what the Bible teaches as the utmost duty of Christian parents? The following Bible references on Christian parents’ missional calling and responsibilities might be helpful hints: “**...impress these commandments on your children-**(Deut. 6:4-8); Train a child in the way he/she should

go---(Prov. 22:6); and Jesus said, **“Suffer the little children to come to me-** (Matt. 19:14). The truth is, after 10,

20, 50, 60 or more glory of the fruits of our parents’ faith, but use their faith legacy as a springboard to help inform and form our personal faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. ! We must rise to the task of **giving gifts that would keep on giving to the glory of God.** Let’s not be the generation in which faith in Jesus Christ would fade and face extinction! We must pride ourselves with offering our offspring the **“Gifts that Keep on Giving..”** Let’s give the gift of God’s Word that is both life and light”, Jesus Christ. (John1:4).

As we are being blessed, let’s be a blessing to ensure the sustenance and vitality of God’s church for both now and generations to come. As United Methodists, John Wesley taught that we seek to be “Altogether Christians” by doing acts of Piety and Mercy as signs of True disciples of Jesus Christ. We can “Give gifts that keep on giving” by faithfully honoring our pledge to uphold Christ’s ministry and mission through our congregation with our prayers, presence, services, gifts and witness to the glory of God Almighty.

As you enjoy God’s generous gift of new life this spring time, remember you are being blessed to be a blessing!

Rev. Jakes

NEW EVENTS HAPPENING!!

Amanda Schnaare, Family Education & Nurture Chairperson, announces the following:

I am planning on two events for May.

The first will be a Young Adult Dinner and Discussion every Wednesday 7:30-9 (to take place after Youth Group). On First Alive night we will be with the whole church for the meal.

The second will be a Movie and Trivia night on the second Friday of every month. This is for the whole church and community. Bring your favorite take out to church, relax and try your knowledge to win the trivia grand prize. 6pm.

The last day of Sunday School will be May 15th, due to the Memorial Day holiday and I will be out of

years, most of those committed Christian parents are no longer around. Even if they were, they won’t be in the business of dragging their adult children to Church. Sadly, the few faithful and devout Christian disciples still around are mostly either elderly or physically too weak to live out an active life of faith and service as they did in the past. The messages for us: Today’s Christian men and women must buckle up and take charge of their parent’s faith legacy. **Our challenges:** that we don’t get stuck with living on the past

town May 20-22.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Amanda (995-4315)

MAY WORSHIP THEMES

Easter 6th Holy Communion Sunday 05/01/2016

Psalm 67: 1ff. ; Revelation 21: 10, 22 ff.

Acts 16: 6-12; John 14: 20-29

Theme: A Promise you can count on...

Easter 7th / Ascension /Mother’s Day Sunday

05/08/2016

Acts 1:1-11; John 19: 25-27

Theme: The Prize of an exemplary Motherhood

Pentecost Sunday - 05/15/2016

Psalm 104: 24-34; Acts 2: 1-21

John 14: 18-26

Theme: A promised fulfilled, the tasks to carry out

Pentecost 1st & Peace with Justice Sunday

(Congregational Meeting @ 11:30) 05/22/2016

Psalm 8: 1ff.; Romans 5: 1-5

John 16: 12-15

Theme: Holy Spirit, “The Judge and Guide”

Pentecost 2nd /Memorial Sunday 05/29/2016

Psalm 96: 1ff; 1 Kings 18:20-39

Galatians 1: 1-12; Luke 7: 1-10

Theme: “The One True Gospel”

IN GATHERING AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As we have done in the past, First Church will be preparing personal care kits to be distributed to United Methodist Children’s Services and Northcott Neighborhood House. Pastor Jakes will deliver the kits when he attends Annual Conference in June.

On Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 8th, you will find an envelope in the bulletin. We are asking for monetary donations which will be used to purchase Kid’s Kits. The United Methodist Women will collect the donations and purchase the necessary items. This

way, all will be the same and all contain the required items.

Be sure to bring your contribution on May 8th and thank you for your help as we help the children at the United Methodist Children's Services facility and Northcott Neighborhood House.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MAY!!

- 2 - Jeff Fernholz
- 6 - Judy Vasy
- 8 - Kay McClelland
- 12 - Jayne Dresen
- 13 - Kim Doonan
 Robyn Meredith
- 14 - Jane Bragg
 Judy Madsen
- 15 - Ruthann Grayson
- 24 - Lenore Creuziger
- 26 - Melanie Olson
- 28 - Otto Nelson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN MAY!

- 14 - John & Judy Kara
- 21 - Eric & Liza Reed
- 25 - Jeff & Marcia Fernholz
- 28 - Stan & Debra Johnson

ALTAR FLOWERS IN MAY

- 1 –
- 8 – Stan & Deb Johnson
- 15 – Paul & Peggy Nejedly
- 22 – Jeff & Marcia Fernholz
- 29 –

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

for May will benefit the local NAMI organization. The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Racine County (NAMI) is a non-profit organization working to improve the quality of life for all individuals affected by mental illness. To make your contribution, simply place your "loose change" in the small envelopes found in the pew racks or on the sanctuary tables and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your continued support of our Mission Projects.

Copyright, First United Methodist Church, Racine, WI May 2016 newsletter

USHER SCHEDULE

May 1

Chuck & Jean Harmon
Dave Johnson
Paul Nejedly

May 8

Jeff Fernholz
August Grulich
Ricky Castro

May 15

Chuck & Jane Bragg
Dave Johnson

May 22

Paul Nejedly
Chuck & Jean Harmon
August Grulich

May 29

Jeff Fernholz
Ricky Castro
Jan Rosellini

If you are unable to be a greeter/usher on your assigned day, please contact someone from the usher list to substitute for you. Thanks.

FOOD BANK ITEM FOR MAY

will be small dish soap. Bring your contribution to church and place it in the crate near the entrances. Thank you for your support of the local food banks.

DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE IN THE FAMILY? Is there a high school or college graduate in the family? If so contact the

church office (633-7632) with the name of the graduate so that we may honor the grads during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday, June 5th.

CHURCH CAMP!!

It's not too late to register for one of the many camping opportunities offered by the Wisconsin Conference! Be sure to pick up a camping brochure and make your selection soon.

We still have a few openings at the Grandparent/Grandchild camp which is led by Karen Robotka and Carol Feest, June 26 - 29 at Lake Lucerne.

Don't delay - you don't want to miss a wonderful camping experience!!

UNITED METHODIST

WOMEN will have their Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 12th at 12 noon in the Social Room. The program will be given by Katie Scheller, founder of The Vivian Foundation which is dedicated to helping children of incarcerated parents. Reservations are needed and may be made with the monthly callers or by calling the church (633-7632) by noon on Tuesday, May

10. The cost is \$8.00. All are welcome.

CAMPBELL LABELS FOR NORTHCOTT – We have recently been informed that Northcott Neighborhood House

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each Sunday

Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:00 am
Morning Worship	10:00 am
Fellowship Time	11:15 am
Keith Griffin Pokemon League	2:00 pm

Each Monday

OFFICES CLOSED

Keith Griffin Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm
Casa de Dios Bible Study	6:30 pm

Each Wednesday

Kiwanis Club Luncheon	noon
Praise Team Rehearsal	5:00 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm
Young Adult Dinner & Discussion	7:30 pm

Each Thursday

Faith to Life Bible Study	3:00 pm
---------------------------	---------

Each Saturday

Sack Lunch Program	Noon
--------------------	------

Friday, May 6

Lasagna Dinner at the Masonic Center

Saturday, May 7

Kiwanis Club Pancake Day-Festival Hall all day	
Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am

Wednesday, May 11

First Alive Wednesday Pot Luck	5:00 pm
--------------------------------	---------

Thursday, May 12

United Methodist Women Luncheon	Noon
---------------------------------	------

Friday, May 13

Movie & Trivia Night	6:00 pm
----------------------	---------

Sunday, May 22

Congregational Meeting	11:30 am
------------------------	----------

Sunday, May 29

Memorial Day Worship Service	10:00 am
------------------------------	----------

TOGETHER, WE SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF PEACE AND ENCOURAGE COOPERATION LOCALLY, IN THE UNITED STATES AND GLOBALLY.

in Milwaukee has collected over one million labels and has earned a 2016 van!! WOW – what an accomplishment! They are still collecting the labels for future projects. Thanks for saving the

bar code on your Campbell products!!

Copyright, First United Methodist Church, Racine, WI May 2016 newsletter

Peace With Justice Sunday is May 22, 2016

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens' human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice. Although you, and possibly even your congregation, may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation.

Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.

Equipping The United Methodist Church to Do Justice in Jesus' Name

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give.

Your Giving Makes Possible the Proclamation of Christ's Peace. Will you continue to support Peace with Justice Sunday? Will you empower local Christians—in Pennsylvania and Arizona and Liberia—to build the kingdom of peace that Jesus ushered in?

In Jesus' inaugural address, standing in his home synagogue in Nazareth, he detailed his game plan, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has

anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Through your giving good news is proclaimed to—and experienced by—the poor.

Thanks be to God!

Copyright, First United Methodist Church, Racine, WI May 2016 newsletter



MEMORIAL SUNDAY

Sunday, May 29, 2016, is Memorial Sunday at First United Methodist Church. Memorial Sunday is a day of

remembrance. Through the worship service, we remember the saints of First Church (with the New Testament meaning of "saints" being all Christian people who have lived at any time or in any place).

The members of First Church who have died during the course of the past year will be remembered in the worship service. These saints are now a part of the Church Triumphant, but their memory continues with us. This Sunday helps us to remember them.

In the worship service on that Sunday, we will light a candle to remember them, not a candle to pray for the departed; but, through the lighting of the candle, we give thanks to God for the gift of their lives and especially for their part in the on-going history and ministry of First Church for Christ in Racine and throughout the world.

Memorial Sunday is also a day of dedication. Through the worship service, we dedicate the memorial gifts given to First Church during the past year. These gifts have been used in a number of different ways. These gifts are also an on-going reminder of the legacy we have received from others. We are "surrounded by a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) whenever we worship.

CHOIR RESTS FOR THE SUMMER!

The choir will close its season on Memorial Day Weekend, May 29th. The church will need special

music to take the choir's place each week. The special music is one piece and can be solos, duets or groups of any kind with any instrument. Please see the sign-up sheet located in the choir room and contact Nancy Cook for confirmation. This is a great opportunity to showcase your musical talents. Please contact your friends and family and inform them of this opportunity. The church will welcome all performers during the summer months.

Copyright, First United Methodist Church, Racine, WI May 2016 newsletter



FFRANC BREAKFAST MAY 1 – 9:00 AM

You are invited to be a part of our FFRANC (Fellowship of Families, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, and Co-workers) breakfast on **Sunday, May 1** at 9:00 am. We would like to congratulate Austin Feest on his receipt of the Good Samaritan Award on **Sunday April 17**. We are all so proud of him.

FFRANC Sunday offers opportunities for all members of our congregation and their invitees to gather on the **first Sunday** of each month for a time of fellowship and to celebrate the blessings of special days in their lives over delicious breakfast. Those special days may include birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, newly wedded, first job, etc. We note that you have a special event happening in your life in May

May's FFRANC event will be sponsored by the people who were recognized as having special occasions in April. Thereafter, on the **first Sunday** of each subsequent month, people whose special days were celebrated in the preceding month, along with

the entire congregation, will provide the breakfast for those celebrating in the current month. The FFRANC Breakfast has been a resounding success. Let's keep it going!

Again, we would like to encourage everyone to invite someone and be present at each celebration, even if you aren't able to bring a dish! We prayerfully

look forward to a joyful celebration with you at each FFRANC **Sunday**, all in the name of Jesus Christ, the one in whom our joy is made complete!

Sincerely,
The Team on Hospitality

**First United Methodist Church
745 Main Street, Racine, WI**

Questionnaire: Four questions for congregation's ministry and mission evaluation and focus.

There are two ways/levels of determining Church growth:

- 1. Growth in Faith (Ministry- inward focus)– spiritual formation and vitality**
- 2. Growth in Service - outreach (Mission- outward focus)**

The four basic questions that help determine the direction of a congregation's growth are as follow:

- 1. Is our congregation (Church) what God intends it to be? (God's intention for every church/congregation is to grow both spiritually and numerically, become vibrant and thrive – **Matt. 28:16-20**)**
- 2. If no, what is holding us back from becoming a thriving and vibrant congregation/Church?**
- 3. What would it take to be a vibrant and thriving congregation as God intends us to be?**
- 4. What one or two gifts / talents or idea (s) are you willing to offer to help our congregation live up to its God's intended purposes for which it exists in this community and the world?**

Thanks for taking the time to prayerfully read and discern your responses to these questions.

Together in the Lord's service,

**Rev. Jakes Voker
Pastor**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!!!
SUNDAY 22ND May 2016 @11:30 a.m
EVERYONE'S INVITED !!!**

Dear Friends and members,

This comes to inform and invite you all to a very important meeting following the worship service on Sunday May 22, 2016.

The purposes of the meeting are as follow:

1. Review the ministry and mission of our congregation;
2. Solicit additional ministry and mission ideas that would motivate more people to get involved, thus help our congregation to grow in faith and service;
3. Discuss a few other important issues.

Please read the questionnaire above, as it will found the basis of our discussions and decisions.

Copyright, First United Methodist Church, Racine, WI May 2016 newsletter

5th Annual Lasagna Dinner & Silent Auction



Please help God's Cheeseheads raise funds to go to Christian Disciple Farm this summer!!

God's Cheeseheads is the youth ministry of Faith United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church and Trinity United Methodist Church and anyone else who tags along!!

Christian Disciple Farm is a week-long day camp for special needs children, young adults and their families at which we volunteer.

Come and enjoy a delicious meal and check out the Silent Auction items as well. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Friday, May 6, 2016

Dinner served 6-7:30 pm

Silent Auction ends at 7:45 pm

Ages 13 and up \$10.00

Ages 4-12 - \$5.00

Ages 3 & under free with proper supervision

Tickets now available from any of the youth members.

**Racine Masonic Center
1012 Main Street, Racine.
Call 262-308-3500 for more information.**

*FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
745 Main Street
Racine, WI 53403-1211*

**The Mission of
First United Methodist Church**

- **To provide a place for people to experience God and find inspiration for daily living.**
- **To welcome all people as valued members of the community.**
- **To encourage growth in faith and service on their**

spiritual journeys.

- **To work for social justice.**
 - **And to invite all to experience eternal life through
Jesus Christ.**