



The First Word

February, 2017

First United Methodist Church, Racine

745 Main Street,
Racine, WI 53403
262-633-7632
racine1umc@tds.net
www.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

Amanda Schnaare
Family Ed & Nurture Coordinator

Joy McClelland
Custodian

Christians: Living in Love as Christ's Ambassadors!!

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor[a] and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? (Matt. 5: 43-46-NIV)

14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[a] The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: **Be reconciled to God. (2Cor.5:16-20-NIV)**

REFLECTION:

It's Thursday January 19, 2017, the eve of the day of the inauguration of the president – elect, Donald J. Trump. One need not be told what the political, social and relational climates have been since the inception of the political campaigns season in our country. You would agree with me that tension has been raging amongst opposition parties, politicians, and their supporters in every part of this country. Thinking that civility, forgiveness, and mutual understanding would return following the November 8th 2016 General and presidential elections, but it's been just the very opposite. In fact, not only that the unexpected victory of Donald J. Trump as the elected 45th president of the United States has widened the division, but even his inauguration has exacerbated the tension. Unfortunately, the people being misled by the politicians and bias journalists to get at each other's throats do not live on separate planets and meet at a specific time on earth. The truth, we all live on the same planet earth and breath the same God's given air! Further, the harsh realities we face include the facts that most of the people caught in

these uncompromising divisiveness are either members of the same family, live in the same house, reside in the same neighborhood

and community; attend or graduates of the same school, college and university. Even most devastating, believe me, some are members of the same church/congregation, “The Body of Jesus Christ,” “The prince of Peace!” Possibly, most, if not all, of the relational predicaments mentioned above might hold true for us here at Racine 1st UMC!!

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Those realities don't exist only of our time, but on our front porches, in our backyards and possibly in our congregations. Therefore, we must step back and take a deep breath in prayers as we contemplate our roles under these climates of conflict and high level of anxiety as disciples of Jesus Christ.

While the clouds might appear dark and uncertain, lest we forget that it was out of chaos that our God created the world, all therein and declared everything **“Very Good!”** (Gen.1:31). ***This God is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Heb. 13:8).*** The same God with whom nothing is impossible descended to earth in person of His son Jesus Christ to demonstrate that love, peace and joy are indispensable to purposeful human existence and relationships. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we have unique roles by our calling and being set apart. Apostle Paul reminds us that we are called and designated **“Christ’s Ambassadors!”** As ambassadors, we are deplored to live in love and to share that newly found freedom, which the world cannot offer, with those who have not yet experience the wonderful gift of love that enables reconciliation, peace and joy amongst all the human family on planet earth. As empowered ambassadors of Christ, we are to preach love, peace and reconciliation in words and actions in the midst of all the tumults in our society and the world. We are called to be the calm presence and listening ears amidst the chaos in the world’s room filled with kids scrambling over life’s toys- whatever that might be! We are called to be consoling arms of Jesus Christ around the lonely and bring hope to the hopeless. Most importantly, Jesus Christ calls us to love our enemies and pray for those with whom we disagree just as he did by asking his Father to forgive those who crucified him. Remember, we are all forgiven and saved sinners because of God’s unconditional love.

As we go forth into this turbulent and terrifying society of ours, may we prayerfully ask the Lord to grant us the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to help us be beacons of God’s love, hope and peace to

all, anytime and anywhere for the healing of souls, minds and spirits amongst us and in our society in the name of Jesus Christ.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Jakes

WORSHIP THEMES

Epiphany -5th Sunday/Holy Communion 02/05/2017

Psalm 112: 1-10, Isaiah 58: 1-9 (9b-12)

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12(13-16), Matthew 5: 13-16

Theme: **Preserve the natural ingredients**

Epiphany -6th Sunday 02/12/2017 Boy Scott Sunday

Psalm 119:1-8, Deuteronomy 30:15-20

1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

Theme: **Conflict, a Christ-like approach**

Epiphany -7th Sunday 02/19/2017

Psalm 33-40, Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18

1 Corinthians 3: 10-15, Matthew 7: 24- 27

Theme: **Christ, an unchangeable foundation**

Epiphany -8th Sunday/Transfiguration 02/26/2017

Psalm 99: 1ff., Exodus 24: 12-18

2Peter 1: 16-21, Matthew 17: 1-9

Theme: **“Get up!” “Do not be afraid!”**

A NOTE FROM OUR HOSPITALITY TEAM

The Hospitality Committee will meet at First Church on [Thursday, 2/16 at 6:00 p.m.](#) to discuss 2017 activities. All Team members are invited, but other First Church congregation members are also welcomed to attend.

The goal of the Hospitality Team is to invite, welcome, receive and care for, not only those who receive Christ as their Savior, but for those who are still searching. The Hospitality Team has historically had responsibility for, or supported, the following activities: Fellowship Hour coordination, monthly FFRANC Breakfasts, First Alive pot luck dinners, Maundy **Thursday** and Ash **Wednesday** activities, Fun Fest, Halloween Party, Santa's breakfast and the Chili cook-off.

Thanks, Jayne Dresen

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FAMILY & EDUCATION NURTURE MINISTRIES

Well, hi! February sneaks up on us and disappears just as quickly. It is a month filled with waiting for Winter to be over, waiting for Lent, waiting for the warmth and light of Spring and Resurrection. This year we have many opportunities to wait in fellowship, to experience what Winter provides us with, time for reflection and planning for the future.

FFRANC Breakfast starts our month off with a time to invite Friends, Family, Acquaintances, Neighbors and Co-workers to share in a potluck breakfast before worship. Join us at 9 am in the Social Room on Sunday February 5.

Our ladies group that gathers on Monday February 6th at 6pm in the Social Room is called **Crafting Conversations**. If all you want to do is chat, come along! If you have a craft or art piece you are working on, come too! All are welcome! Share a snack and some good company.

We also gather monthly for our **First Alive! Potluck** dinner in the Social Room on Wednesday February 8th at 5:30. Dinner and discussion with all ages is very informal, come as your schedule allows!

Haven't seen any feel good movies lately? Come join our **Family Movie Night** on February 10th and you will be sure to be entertained! We have coloring sheets and popcorn for one and all! Movie starts around 6:15.

Our young adults meet weekly on Wednesday nights in the Social Room for dinner, discussion and a short video led devotional. We are working with the RightNow Media program entitled: "Watch Your Mouth" led by Pastor Tony Evans. Dinner is served at 7:30pm.

A very special night is planned for February 24th in Milwaukee. The Bucks organization is hosting a **FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT** at their home game at 7pm. I am organizing a group to go from First Church. If you are interested, please let me know you would like to attend (ladymae13@aol.com). All payments should be into the office by February 12th to place the order in advance. All are welcome, we will be sitting in the higher levels, **tickets are \$14**.

Please note that Ash Wednesday is late this year, it falls on March 1. The Hospitality and Worship teams are organizing a contemplative night for us to start our journey to the cross together. Please watch your bulletins for details.

In His Patient Grace, Amanda Schnaare
Family & Education Nurture Ministries Coordinator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each Sunday

Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Morning Worship & Sunday School	10:00 am
Fellowship Time	11:15 am
Keith Griffin Pokemon League	1:00 pm
Casa de Dios Worship Service	5:00 pm

Each Monday

OFFICES CLOSED	
Casa de Dios Bible Study	6:30 pm

Each Wednesday

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

Each Saturday

Sack Lunch Program	Noon
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Wednesday, February 1

Youth Group Meeting	6:00 pm
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Saturday, February 4

Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am
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Sunday, February 5

FFRANC Breakfast	9:00 am
Bob Trobaugh Memorial Service	2:00 pm

Monday, February 6
 Crafting Conversations 6:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7
 Intentional Faith Team meeting 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 8
 First Alive Pot Luck & Program 5:30 pm

Friday, February 10
 Movie & Trivia Night 6:00 pm

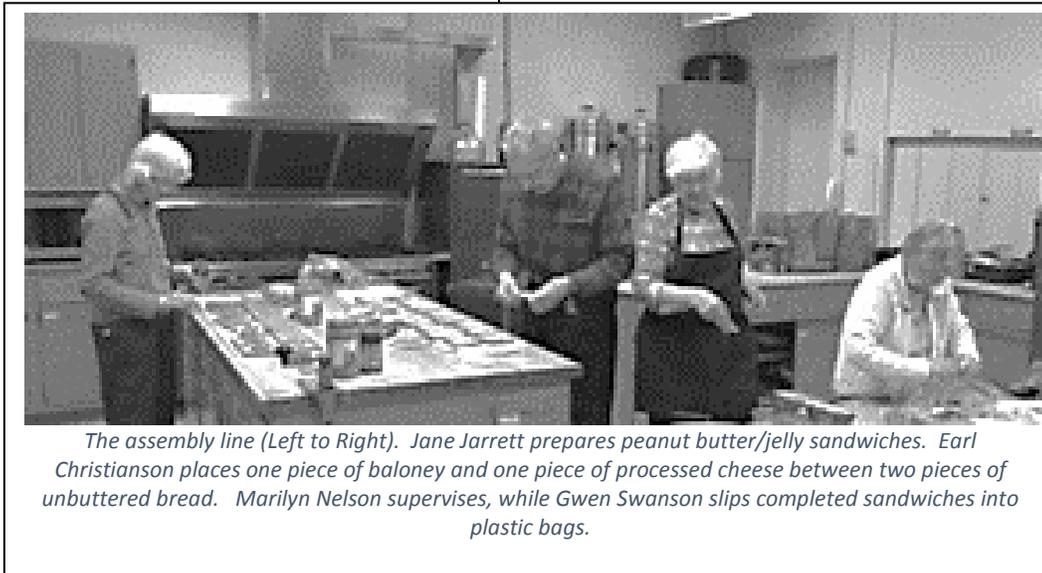
Wednesday, February 15
 Youth Group meeting 6:00 pm

Thursday, February 16
 Hospitality Team meeting 6:00 pm

Finance team meeting 6:00 pm
 Church Council meeting 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 25
 Controlling Community Violence 9:00 am

Tuesday,
February 21
 First United
 Methodist
 Church
 Preparing and
 Distributing
 Lunches to
 Need
 Saturday,
 2017 as
 by Earl
 Christianson



The assembly line (Left to Right). Jane Jarrett prepares peanut butter/jelly sandwiches. Earl Christianson places one piece of baloney and one piece of processed cheese between two pieces of unbuttered bread. Marilyn Nelson supervises, while Gwen Swanson slips completed sandwiches into plastic bags.

(Your)

 Sack
 Those in

 January 7,
 submitted



Jane Jarrett assembles one packaged peanut butter/jelly sandwich, one packaged baloney and processed cheese sandwich, a cookie, a soft drink, and places the assembly into a sturdy paper bag. (Sack)

At 11:45, having worked for over an hour, we began transporting the filled Sacks to the foyer at our church's 8th Street entrance.

I was shocked to discover three adult males, standing on the steps in near zero weather, waiting for something to eat.

At noon, the designated start time, we began passing out the Sacks in exchange for many, many "thank yous." Due to the cold weather, we decided to not ask the recipients to sign the log-in-sheet. After all, ballpoint pens do not work well in the cold.

A steady stream of needy people, adults and children picked up a Sack. In a half an hour, we had passed out all of the Sacks and provided something to eat to over 40 individuals.

Because our church's United Methodist's Women's organization finances the Sack Lunch program, Jane Jarrett purchased the food for the January 7th event. Total cost \$45.00 plus using peanut butter and jelly from its pantry.

As part of her duty, Jayne Dresen recruited volunteers to staff the event and took the photos appearing in this report.

Many years ago, Reverend Jim McChesney, our then pastor, identified a problem. He learned some neighborhood children qualified for free school lunch during the week but had little to eat during the weekend. He recruited a number of churches who agreed to aid our church fill the need. Presently, one of twelve churches take on the responsibility for providing the Sack Lunch for three-months at our church. Some bring prepared lunch to church others use our kitchen to prepare it. Due to their need, adults as well as children now participate.

I Am A Proud Member of First Church

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY

- 1 – Ron Tremelling
- 2 – Shirley Schimek
- 3 – Erika Meredith
Linda Tremelling
- 7 – Chris Larson
- Eric Buhler
- 9 – Adriano Mireles-Rangel
- 10 – Austin Feest
- 10 - Mariah Mireles-Rangel
- 13 – Pat Held
- 14 – Christian Ferguson
- 18 – Ellen Spiering
- 27 – Esther Voker

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN FEBRUARY

- 11 – Robert & Elissa Pischke
- 14 – Scott & Joy McClelland
- 25 – Jakes & Esther Voker

ALTAR FLOWERS – All dates are currently open in February.

**FOOD BANK ITEM FOR
FEBRUARY** will be dried

potatoes. **Plastic or heavy grocery bags with handles are needed for clients that walk, ride the bus or bike. Thanks so much for your support of this mission.**

Bring your donation to the church and place it in the crate near the church entrances. All items collected will be taken to the North Side Food Pantry at Trinity UMC for distribution. This item is just a suggestion – all items are welcome at any time so if you see something on sale, feel free to purchase that item as well. Thanks for helping feed the hungry of our city. Cash donations are also welcomed.

USHER SCHEDULE

Feb. 5
Jeff Fernholz

Ricky Castro

Feb. 12
Roger & Betty Oakley
Dave Johnson

Feb. 19
Jan Rosellini
Chuck & Jane Bragg

Feb. 26
Dave Johnson
August Grulich

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.

RUMMAGE SALE IN THE WORKS

Mark your calendars and start collecting your rummage! The United Methodist Women will host the Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 22, 9 am – 3 pm

in the church social room Books, toys, linens, household items, decorations, etc., will be appreciated (no clothing, please). We'll then need help in setting up on Thursday and Friday of that week. Watch for additional details in the weekly bulletins.

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY will benefit the Hospitality Center at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Meals are offered during the day so let's continue to help our neighbors as they serve the most vulnerable of our city.

All Women invited to a Spring Retreat at Lake Lucerne

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

Join us for the Women's Retreat March 31 - April 2, 2017 at Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center We will Bee United by God's Sweet Word as we participate in workshops such as Bee Keeping, Bible Study, Cooking with Herbs, Flower Arranging, Sweet Music with Chimes, Stamping, Mindful Movement and more. There will be devotions, worship and social time too. The cost is \$160 for 2 night's lodging, 5 meals and all materials. A \$60 deposit must accompany your registration form, registration deadline and final payment is due March 1, 2017. . Registration forms are available in our church office. For more information contact [bonnieclement05@gmail](mailto:bonnieclement05@gmail.com) or 262-895-2644

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth." Psalm 119:103

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Dr. Robert Trobaugh – January 22, 2017 – May you rest in peace, Bob. A Memorial Service for Bob will be held on Sunday, February 5 – visitation from 12:30 with the service beginning at 2:00 pm.

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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.**