



The First Word

First United Methodist Church, Racine

745 Main Street,
Racine, WI 53403
262-633-7632
racine1umc@tds.net
www.1umcracine.org

Jakes Voker
Pastor

Liza Michna
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

A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO ALL LAY MINISTERS:

I raise my hat, though invisible, in praise of all the lay people who have accepted the call and now faithfully serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in various capacities in the districts and local Churches of our conference. We are truly blessed to have all of you as colleagues in the Ministry and Mission of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Prior to my first ordination as a Deacon in 1987, I did serve as a lay student pastor under the guidance of many "Ordained Ministers." During those years I didn't quite understand the values and importance of my roles in the continuity of the total ministry and mission of the local churches, district and annual conferences with which I served. My first awakening moment came about during a Church History class on Martin Luther's Reformation. Luther wrote an exposition on 1Peter 2: 9 in which he insists: "... **there is no true, basic difference between laypeople and priests, bishops and princes...except for the state of office and work, but not for the sake status. They are all of the spiritual estate, all are truly priests, bishops, popes of the one body of Christ the Head, and all members of one another.**"

"To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation, in Three Treatises." p12-15.

In support of Luther's view are several Biblical passages including the Apostle Paul's letter to the believers in Ephesus: **All Christians Are Ministers in the Body of Christ! (Ephesians 4:11-13)**. Lest we forget that Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Head of the Church began his ministry and mission that changed with select lay people!

This realization became even clearer in my first appointment as the only "Ordained Pastor" assigned to a local congregation February 12, 1987. There were many opportunities for ministry and mission in our local Church setting that I couldn't handle alone without a possibility for burnt out. I immediately turned to the talented lay persons, and with our collective efforts, a lot of ministry and mission programs /projects were accomplished.

Since then, throughout my thirty years of service as an "Ordained Minister," mostly serving as a "solo-pastor," I've come to appreciate, with deep gratitude, the roles of lay people in every ministry and mission of the Church. The truth is, pastoral ministry involves a lot that no "solo pastor" of a local congregation can ever meet singly. For instance, a congregation's primary ministry needs may include: preaching, teaching, counseling, visiting, outreach, committees/ teams meetings, and so on. Alongside the congregation's needs are the needs of the pastor's family as well as his or her needs for self-care. Like any human beings, pastors do have needs for either a vacation or in the worst-case scenario, medical care when they become ill. What would happen to the

congregation without some trained and willing lay person? Well, someone may argue, there are

other “Ordained Clergy” that might help and that’s partly true. However, while the clergy colleagues are usually willing, the demands on their time equally put a limit on how much and how long they can help. So, as for me, while counting on my “Clergy” colleagues for specific pastoral emergencies, the well trained and equipped lay persons have always been my “Rescue squad!” It is on their willing and available shoulders that I more often lean, and for which I’m very grateful!

As mentioned earlier, the important roles laity play in the life of any congregation began with Jesus Christ. After inaugurating the Church, he entrusted its care to his faithful lay followers. Following two thousand years of its inception, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church continues to be a viable presence of the Triune God in the world even today with both clergy and lay leadership.

Finally, my thanks to all my clergy colleagues, SE District Certified lay speakers and lay Servant Minister that have accepted to assist with the continuation of ministry and mission at Racine 1st UMC Church while I’m away on vacation beginning Tuesday 9th May2017 thru Tuesday 7th June2017. Last, but not the least, I’m deeply grateful to the leadership of my congregation for allowing me some time off in order to visit with the other set of my family in Liberia.

May God almighty bless’ us all as we together serve in His vineyard.

In His service together,

Rev. Jakes Voker

Pastor, Racine 1st UMC

SCRIPTURES AND THEMES – MAY 2017

Easter 4th / Holy Communion Sunday
05/07/2017

Psalms 23: 1ff.

Acts 2: 42-47

1Peter 2: 19-25

John 10: 1-10

Theme: Jesus, The Gate for the sheep

Easter – 5th Sunday 05/14/2017
(Mothers’ Day)

Psalms 31: 1-5, 15-16

1Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14

Theme: “The Living Stone”

Speaker: Sis. Connie Ziegler- Member –Christ UMC,
Greenfield/Certified Lay Speaker SE District

Easter 6th / Heritage Sunday 05/21/2017

Psalms 66: 8-20

Acts 17: 22-31

1Peter 3: 13-22

John 14: 15-21

Speaker: Bro. Ken Miller, Member –Community UMC, Oak
Creek/ Certified Lay Speaker- SE District

Easter 7th / Ascension Sunday 05/28/2017

Psalms 68: 1-10, 32-35

Acts 1: 6-14

1Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11

John 17: 1-17

Speaker: Sis. Lisa Jones – Member –Brown UMC/ Certified
Lay Minister, SE District

JUNE 2017

Pentecost Day / Holy Communion 06/04/2017

Psalms 104: 24-34, 35b

Acts 2: 1-21

1Corinthians 12: 3b-13

John 7: 37-39

Preacher: Rev. June Scott Nettles, retired United
Methodist Pastor and member of Racine 1st UMC.

Pentecost 1st / Peace with Justice Sunday
06/11/2017

Psalms 8: 1ff.

Genesis 1: 1-2: 4a

2Corinthians 13: 11-13

Matthew 28: 16-20

Theme: Relationships, God’s ultimate desire

Pentecost 2nd / Father’s Day- 06/18/2017

Psalms 116: 1-2, 12-19

Genesis 18: 1-15

Romans 5: 1-8

Matthew 10: 40-42

Theme: “Godspitality,” Divine rewards

Pentecost 3rd Sunday 06/25/2017

Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17 or 17: ff.
 Genesis 21: 8-21
 Galatians 4: 22-31
 Matthew 10: 24-39
 Theme: Blessings, a challenge!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each Sunday

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	5:00 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm
Young Adult Dinner & Discussion	7:30 pm

Each Saturday

Sack Lunch Program Noon

Monday, May 1

Crafting Conversations 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 4

Circuit Meeting	9:00 am
Hospitality Committee Meeting	5:30 pm

Saturday, May 6

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

Sunday, May 7

FFRANC Breakfast 9:00 am

Tuesday, May 9

United Methodist Women Luncheon Noon

Wednesday, May 10

First Alive Wednesday Pot Luck 5:30 pm

Friday, May 12

Family Movie Night 6:00 pm

Bishops Call Special Session of General Conference for 2019 The Council of Bishops announced the call to a special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. The special meeting of The United Methodist Church's top lawmaking assembly will be limited to acting on a report by Council of Bishops, based on the proposals from [the Commission on the Way Forward](#). The 32-member commission, appointed by the bishops, has the charge of finding ways for the denomination to stay together despite deep differences

around homosexuality. General Conference is the only body that can speak for the denomination. "The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Commission on a Way Forward and the Special Session of General Conference," said Dakotas-Minnesota Area Bishop Bruce Ough, the president of the Council of Bishops, [in a letter released Tuesday, April 25](#). Our current Wisconsin delegation will be serving as delegates to this 2019 Special Session. This includes clergy delegates Dan Dick, Sam Royappa, Steve Zekoff (Delegation Chair) and Amanda Stein (Clergy Reserve Delegate); and laity delegates Lisa King, Barbara Dick, Gail Burgess, and Katie Crise (Lay Reserve Delegate). If any of our elected delegates are unable to serve, our jurisdictional delegates will be moved up in the order of their election (clergy Jorge Mayorga Solis and Dan Schwerin, and laity Tom Popp and Judy Vasby). Wisconsin delegates to the 2020 General Conference will be elected at the 2019 Annual Conference session.

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! Spring is here! First Church is full of ways to celebrate!
May 1st is our next gathering of the Crafting Conversations group. Bring your crafting project and join us in the Social Room from 6 to 8pm. We share faith, snacks and great chats!
May 3rd, any Young Adults are welcome to join our Dinner & Discussion group. We meet on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm in the Social Room with FREE! dinner and a video led discussion. (Dates for the month are 5/3, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31)
May 7th is our monthly FFRANC breakfast potluck! Come and celebrate all the month's birthdays, anniversaries, joys and other mildstones. All are welcome, bring a guest!!!
May 10th is our monthly First Alive! dinner potluck. We gather to share a meal with all generations of the church. Please join us for in a great time of fellowship, beginning at 5:30pm. It is a casual meal, come as your schedule allows!
May 12th brings our monthly FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT at 6pm. Come enjoy a fun animated

movie and some fresh popcorn!!!

May 14th is Mothers' Day this year! Bring your mom or any mother in your life to worship with us at our 10 o'clock service! As May ends we wish our amazing choir a great summer break!
Our last day for Sunday School is Sunday May 28th; summer months are my time to experience worship. Our nursery will continue to be available to infants and

toddlers. Children are encouraged to stay in service with their guardians, there will be no supervision for those of school age. Please share all our wonderful church as to offer with your friends! If weekends are busy, we have many different events to share with all. **Let us plant the seeds of Christ Love this spring!** - Amanda Schnaare

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

7 - Dee Feest
14 -
21 -
28 -

"DID I SING TOO LOUD?"

Is a senior thesis recital presented by MeriKate Bock on Sunday, May 7th at 5:00 pm, to be held at Carthage College in the Johnson Art's Center Recital Hall (located just South of the Chapel) The recital will be an hour long event, followed by a reception with lots of food. This event is free and open to the public. I would be thrilled to see some of you there! The address

for Carthage College is 2001 Alford Park Drive, Kenosha, WI 53140

USHER SCHEDULE

May 7

Roger & Betty Oakley
Dave Johnson

May 14

Chuck & Jane Bragg
Jan Rosellini

May 21

Dave Johnson
August Grulich

May 28

Chuck & Jean Harmon
Jeff Fernholz

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

The item for May is a small bottle of dish soap. Thank you for helping this great mission! Every small act of kindness goes a long way.

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 at

(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 11th.

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR MAY

Will help provide first responders with a devotional called **Strength for Service**. Simply place your loose change, or more, in the small brown envelopes found in the pew racks or on the sanctuary tables and place it in the offering plate.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The First United Methodist Women invite you to our luncheon meeting on Thursday May 11, 2017 at 12:00. The program will be "Exploring Immigration Issues" by Sue Spicer and Linda Boyle, members of Racine Interfaith Coalition Task Force. The program is a presentation that shares facts about immigrants, dispels myths about immigrants, talks about why immigrants come to America and the hardships they face, and what you can do to help.

All are welcome. Please call the church office at (262) 633-7632 before Tuesday May 9th for luncheon reservations. The cost of the meal is \$8.00. This topic will help us in our understanding of immigrants as they worship, work and live in the community.

If you can't join us for lunch, please come to the presentation which will start about 1:00pm.

UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN'S RUMMAGE SALE

Thank you to Scott and the youth who brought all the boxes into

the Social Room. Thanks Carol for handling publicity. Thank you to everyone who sorted, priced and cashiered our treasures. Your time and muscle in this tree day project is much appreciated. Thanks to Liza, Marilyn, Jean, Sue, Patti, Melanie, Jane J., Jane B., Sandy, Carol S., Neenah, Karla,

Amanda, Kay, Chuck and Otto. Everyone's hard work earned a little over \$500.00 for our mission projects. Thank you for the support.

Lenore Creuziger
Rummage Sale Chairperson

April 24, 2017

Last Chance: Annual Conference Award Nominations Due May 1

Nominations for our five annual clergy, laity, and youth awards are still being accepted. These awards will be presented during Annual Conference to individuals who demonstrate outstanding ministry and dedication in the areas of evangelism, disaster response, peace and justice, missionary outreach, or higher education. Send your nomination to the appropriate person via email or mail with nominee's name, church, and things s/he has accomplished to be eligible for nomination. Or, in the case of the Harry Denman and Thelma W. Gregg Awards, fill out and send the form provided for each. **The deadline for all nominations is Monday, May 1.**

Harry Denman Award

- Three recipients – clergy, laity, and youth
- Sponsored by Discipleship Leadership Executive Team (DLET) and Evangelism Resource Team
- Download [clergy nomination form](#), [laity nomination form](#) or [youth nomination form](#)
- **Contact:** *Mike Weaver, 715-557-1814, PO Box 52, Elmwood, WI 54740-0052*

Denman Awards are given to lay, clergy and youth who are nominated by United Methodists in Wisconsin for their outstanding ministry in the area of evangelism. Harry Denman, in whose memory the award is named, was a lay UM whose personal witness and invitation may have brought more people to Christ and his Church than any other person in the last century. The award is made possible by the Foundation of Evangelism, which was founded in 1949 by Dr. Denman.

Love in Action

- One recipient – lay or clergy
- Sponsored by Disaster Response Team of the Board of Global Ministries (BGM)
- **Contact:** *Bud Budzinski, 262-432-2810, 1450 2nd Street, Fennimore, WI 53809*

The **Love in Action Award** is presented by the Disaster Response Committee to recognize outstanding commitment and passion to God's mission through disaster response and relief.

Perry Saito Award

- One recipient – lay or clergy
- Sponsored by the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA)
- **Contact:** *Amanda Stein, 608-260-8578, 329 North St., Madison, WI 53704*

The **Perry Saito Award** is given by the Wisconsin United Methodist Federation for Social Action to individuals who demonstrate their loyalty to Christ through faith and work to further justice and peace through the United Methodist Church.

Thelma W. Gregg Award

- One recipient – lay
- Sponsored by Board of Global Ministries (BGM)
- Download [the application form](#)
- **Contact:** *Gail Burgess, 262-857-2224, 6510 203rd Ave., Bristol, WI 53104*

The **Thelma W. Gregg Award** is given to someone who has demonstrated Christian commitment in tireless promotion of the missionary outreach of the Church. The award includes a financial gift to be designated to an Advance project by the recipient.

Francis Asbury Award

- One recipient – clergy or lay
- Sponsored by Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry (BHESM)
- **Contact:** *Michael Moser, 262-949-6475, W5623 Lakeville Road, Walworth, WI 53184*

The **Francis Asbury Award** is given to persons who have been instrumental in supporting, strengthening, and promoting the church's work in higher education ministries (in schools, colleges, campus ministries, scholarships, Black College Fund, Africa University) and offer outstanding leadership to help bring awareness to the significance of the church's higher education ministries

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.**