



# The First Word

JUNE 2017

First United Methodist Church, Racine

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## Hello Church Family!

As a fourth-generation member of First United Methodist Church, I have been blessed to have had so many of you in my life for years. As the Family & Education Nurture Ministry Coordinator, I have been getting to know more of you through our joint efforts to serve God, our beloved Racine community and the world. I am honored to be asked to open our June newsletter while Reverend Jakes is continuing his mission work in Liberia. We have been so fortunate to have great speakers and volunteers to fill in for the meanwhile, thank you all who have helped and plan for the month.

As a (former) Michael, I have many traditions that I get to pass down to my children. One of them is gardening: the planting, tending and watering seeds in hopes of producing food for the nourishment of our bodies. This time of year, the endeavor takes time and planning. My girls eagerly check the progress of the sprouts that we have started on a window shelf. They offer to water them, more often than necessary. They also lament when nothing grows, knowing that we will have to start over or wait until next year.

Is this not true with our efforts of faith? We plan to refresh ourselves and each other to ensure we are growing towards God. We share these practices with our children so that they may establish deep roots and share in the fruits of the Spirit. Jesus had many parables involving gardening and growing food, examples that would resonate with the people of His day. In our modern world, especially our developed society, not many of us have to grow food anymore. But it is in each of us to do so. We can pass it down to our families or neighbors. We may think we know how, but then it takes years to get the soil established and to collect the tools we need to be successful. We can read about it, or watch how-to videos online, learning about fertilizer and seasonal variations for ourselves.

Likewise, some of us have years of practice, though many of us are figuring out Faith Cultivation for the first time in our lives. There are times of overweeding, where life feels as we have been pulled out of the Garden, unconnected and alone. There are times of drought, where we must refill our faith in the wells of others in order to survive a rough season. Then there are times when God's Grace is so prevalent in our lives and our faith explodes causing us to dig trenches to reroute the overflow to others' fields. God has made life a beautiful cycle, how blessed are we to be able to be of His creation and to help nurture it further.

As a Church family, let us share our lessons for growing in Faith with each other. Let us share the tools and resources God has granted us to help establish more gardens, bearing more fruit. Let us remember that we may need to start again, planting new seeds in soil that has yet to prosper. Let us be dutiful and open to new lessons, for each flower and plant is chosen and called by God. I wish you an abundant growing season for your gardens, and many more seasons to come.

In His Love,  
Amanda Schnaare

## Scriptures and themes for June 2017

Pentecost Day / Holy Communion 06/04/2017

Psalm 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 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.

Pentecost 1<sup>st</sup> / Peace with Justice Sunday  
06/11/2017

Psalm8: 1ff.

Genesis 1: 1-2: 4a

2Corinthians 13: 11-13

Matthew 28: 16-20

Theme: Relationships, God's ultimate desire

Pentecost 2<sup>nd</sup> / Father's Day- 06/18/2017

Psalm116: 1-2, 12-19

Genesis 18: 1-15

Romans 5: 1-8

Matthew 10: 40-42

Theme: "Godspitality," Divine rewards

Pentecost 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Young Adult Dinner & Discussion 7:30 pm

### Each Saturday

Sack Lunch Program Noon

### Saturday, June 3

Controlling Community Violence 9:00 am

### Sunday, June 4

FFRANC breakfast 9:00 am

### Monday, June 5

Crafting Conversations 6:00 pm

### Friday, June 9

Family Movie Night 6:00 pm

### Sunday, June 11

Honoring our Graduates 10:00 am

### Wednesday, June 14

First Alive Wednesday Pot Luck 5:30 pm

### Tuesday, June 20

Finance Team Meeting 6:00 pm

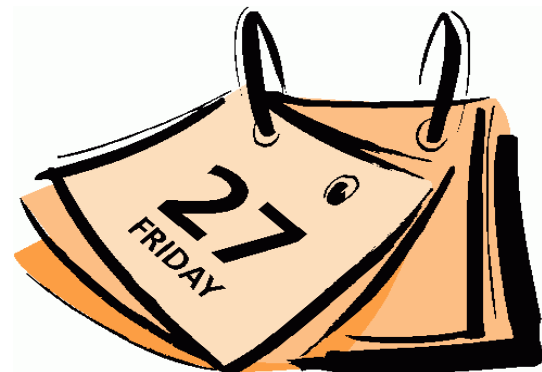
Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm

### Thursday, June 22

Volunteer meeting 6:30 pm

### Saturday, June 24

Controlling Community Violence 9:00 am



The calendar year, like the school year and church year moves quickly. As the weather rises and the days lengthen in our city and state, we add extra plans to our days. We make time to see those we haven't seen during those cold, dark months. We, at First UMC, understand that summer months mean gaps in time between seeing our church family members, but know you are thought of often. Please keep in mind the different activities we provide throughout the month, besides worship. If you are in need of a quiet place, a great conversation or a free meal, we are here. FFRANC breakfast is held on Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Join in on the monthly potluck celebration!!!

**Crafting Conversations** will meet in the Social Room on Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We share snacks, a quick video and great chats! Bring whatever artsy-fartsy project you are working on along!

**Family Movie Night** meets on Friday June 9 in the Social Room at 6pm. We provide a free, fun, safe movie and popcorn! Bring some friends along, all are welcome!!!

**Honoring our Graduates** will be held on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> during our 10 am worship service. Please let me know if you or someone in your life is achieving a degree this spring.

**First Alive!** will be on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Gather around the table for our free monthly potluck and discussion! It is a casual buffet style meal, join us whenever your schedule allows. All are welcome. Our Young Adults will be leading a **service project** to aid in cleaning out the upper balcony rooms in June, please speak with Amanda if you are able to help us. A date and times are yet to be determined.

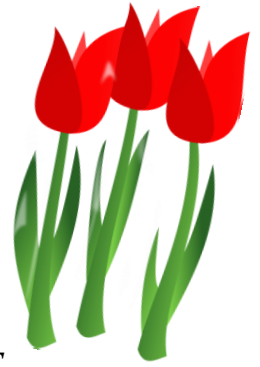
**Young Adult Dinner & Discussion** meets every Wednesday at 7:30pm. We provide a free meal and video led devotional. This event is open to any youth, college age or young adult interested.

**Vacation Bible School** is coming soon! July 24-27<sup>th</sup> right here at First Church! We will be having an organizational meeting of all interested volunteers on **Thursday June 22 at 6:30pm**. Contact me with any questions!

**Reminder: Our last day for Sunday School is Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>**; 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. Enjoy your summers, stay safe and return as often as possible! May God's love shine through you to the world.

In His Love,  
Amanda Schnaare      ladymael13@aol.com  
Family & Education Nurture Ministry Coordinator

Happy  
Birthday!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JUNE**

- 2 - Scott McClelland  
Esther Wulff
- 5 - Paul Burlingame  
Amanda Mireles
- 6 - Harv Randecker
- 15 - Deb Johnson
- 16 - Shardae Feest
- 18 - Tessa Meredith  
Dylan Olson
- 20 - Mary Meekma  
Rick Reinhard
- 21 - Hilda Ayers
- 22 - Charlotte Schnaare
- 26 - Abigael Bergman
- 29 - Charlotte Hirth  
Dan Jarrett

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE!**

- 6 - Lyle & Mary Meekma
- 13 - Chuck & Jean Harmon
- 15 - Nathan & Liz Michael
- 18 - Roger & Betty Oakley
- 24 - Ed & Karen Robotka
- 25 - John & Bev Christensen  
Mark & Carol Buhler
- 26 - Andy & Judy Madsen  
Chuck & Jane Bragg
- 28 - Otto & Marilyn Nelson

**USHER SCHEDULE**

**June 4**

August Grulich  
Ricky Castro  
Jan Rosellini

**June 11**

Dave Johnson  
Roger & Betty Oakley

**June 18**

Jeff Fernholz  
Chuck & Jane Bragg

**June 25**

Chuck & Jean Harmon  
Dave Johnson

**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.**

**ALTAR FLOWERS IN JUNE**

- 4 –
- 11 –
- 18 – Dee Feest
- 25 – Scott & Joy McClelland

**FOOD BANK ITEM FOR JUNE**

The item for June is toilet paper. Thank you for helping this great mission! Every small act of kindness goes a long way.

**LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR JUNE**

This month your loose change will go to the Health Care Network located at 904 State Street, Racine. You will help provide free/low cost health care to Racine County residents who are of limited income and medically uninsured. 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.



*The First Word* is published monthly  
by First United Methodist Church  
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[pastorfumcr@tds.net](mailto:pastorfumcr@tds.net) (Pastor)

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday thru Friday, 8:30 - noon  
Pastor – Jakes S. Voker  
Editor – Liza Michna

# Family Movie Night



Family Movie Night  
Friday June 9, 2017  
At 6:00 pm in the Social Room  
Come have some fun!!  
We'll be watching a great  
movie and eating popcorn too!!  
Bring a friend or two

## Looking Ahead

4<sup>th</sup> of July Booth - July 4<sup>th</sup>  
Grandparents Camp - July 9 -12<sup>th</sup>  
Vacation Bible School - July 24 - 27<sup>th</sup>



This month our special offering will be  
for the *Health Care Network*.  
*Mission: To provide free/low cost health  
care to Racine County residents who are  
of limited income and medically  
uninsured.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017!!  
YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION HAVE PAID  
OFF!! WELL WISHES AND BLESSINGS ON YOUR  
FUTURE PLANS!!

On behalf of the families who have suffered  
damage or lost their homes to the extensive  
flooding and tornado that touched down in  
North West District, and those who are in  
ministry in the area, we ask for your prayers.

If anyone would like to give any type of  
monetary donation it can be sent to the  
Wisconsin conference Treasurer, 750  
Windsor Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.  
Please write the check out to Wisconsin  
Conference Treasurer, with NW Disaster  
Recovery #7775 in the memo line.

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Jakes Voker  
Pastor

Chuck Bragg  
Trustee Chairperson

Nancy Cook  
Organist

Joy McClelland  
Custodian

Liza Michna  
Administrative  
Assistant

Sue Mills  
Financial Secretary  
Parish Visitor

Fred Ganaway  
Church Council  
Chairperson

Amanda Schnaare  
Family Ed & Nurture  
Coordinator

Jeff Fernholz  
Treasurer

Judith Schulz  
Church Historian

Jeanne Whiteside  
Media Coordinator

