



The First Word

First United Methodist Church, Racine

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A THANKFUL HEART, A GRATEFUL HEART!!

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (N KJV)

Welcome to November, the month of Gratitude and Thanksgiving!

It is widely believed that the first American “Thanksgiving Day” probably took place in New England by the Settlers. It all began with a small ship called the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England, on September 16, 1620. The passengers spent 66 days in the hold of the ship arriving on November 21. Most of the people were Puritans who had been persecuted for their religious beliefs in England and established Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1620. Traditionally, this event commemorates the Pilgrims’ celebration of the good harvest of 1621. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday in November. The present date was established by Congress in 1941, the fourth Thursday of November each year.

On this day, families and friends gather together, and many people say prayers of thanks for the years of blessings. In many homes, a big dinner of either roasted or baked turkey with stuffing and dressing is served.

Historically, thanksgiving is a harvest festival and global phenomena. For examples: Canada celebrates its Thanksgiving the second Monday in October. In Africa, specifically West Africa-Liberia, November marks the beginning of harvest season. Therefore, November is widely thought of as a month of Festivity and Thanksgiving.

What’s about this grossly abbreviated history of “Thanksgiving Day, One may ask?”

My goal is to refresh our memories of the importance of exhibiting an attitude of **Contentment, Gratitude and Thankfulness**” as believers no matter what the circumstances life may bring along our path. In the above scripture lesson, the Apostle Paul admonishes us that a non-anxious, but prayerful and humble attitude in all circumstances yield the desired clarity and leads to deep thankfulness and grateful heart in our service to and journey with Jesus Christ. No doubts, a “Thankful heart is indeed a grateful heart!”

John Wesley once said: “If your heart is as pure as mine, give me your hand!” One can never be helpful to another when she/he is not completely satisfied and accepted of

him/herself. In my Christian understanding, it is impossible for anyone to be a blessing to another when they don't feel blessed.

My friends, I know life's path is never smooth as we often wish it would be. Remember, even God in Jesus Christ never promise us that we would live our lives on silver platter in this perverted and broken world. However, God's promise is to be present with us, and to see us through. (**Deut. 31:6; Heb.13:5; John 14:18**).

The year is almost coming to a close! The ultimate question each of us need to ask: **For what can I possibly be grateful / or thankful?**

As for me, like the Apostle Paul, **I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. (Philippians 4: 11b)**. Jesus Christ is my first anchor, and each of you is the medium. I'm thankful that I have a friend like you upon whom I can count and lean in times of needs. For you possess the very nature of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in and through whom every human life find its true meaning.

Finally, be not anxious, but content and thankful! For a life of contentment is a life of gratitude! And life of gratitude eventually leads to exceeding peace and joy that surpass all understanding that finally reign in one's heart and mind in Christ, Jesus. Amen!

A HAPPIER THANKSGIVING DAY,

Rev. Jakes



SCRIPTURES AND THEMES - 11/2017

22nd Sunday –Pentecost 11/05/2017

All Saints Day

Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37

Joshua 3: 1-17

1Thessalonians 2: 9-13

Matthew 23: 1-12

Theme: **The worst Bankruptcy, Spiritual!**

23rd Sunday- Pentecost 11/12/2017

(Holy Communion/International Prayer)

Psalm 78: 1-7

Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-**25**

1Thessalonians 4:13-18

Revelations 19:1-7

Matthew 25: 1-13

Theme: **Trim the Lamp?**

24th Sunday – Pentecost 11/19/2017

(Bible Sunday)

Psalm 123: 1ff.

Judges 4:1-7

1Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Matthew 25: 14-30

Theme: **Are you prepared for the finals....**

Last Sunday-Pentecost- 11/26/2017

(Christ the King/Reign of Christ)

Psalm 100: 1ff.

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1: 15-23

Matthew 25: 31-45

Theme: **What's on your name tag?**

To all our "Birth Days, anniversaries and other milestones celebrants of this blessed month of November 2017, we prayerfully wish you all God's richest blessings. May God's presence and power continue to be upon you, reassuring you and your families God's constant love and grace now and many more years to come through Jesus Christ our Lord and Friend.

Amen!

Shalom!!

Rev. Jakes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER

- 1 – Peggy Nejedly
- 3 – Christopher Larson
- 4 – Carole Randecker
- 14 – Mary K. Tsuchiya
- 15 – June White
- 18 – John Kara
- 19 – Alexandra Feest
Cassie Meredith
- 21 – Kathy Harsh
- 28 – Scott Toutant

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN NOVEMBER

- 1 – Chris & Peggy Larson
- 2 – Andrew & Angela Ganaway
- 18 - Jose & Tamara Burgos

ALTAR FLOWERS IN NOVEMBER

- 5– Patti Walker
- 12 –
- 19–
- 26 –

FOOD BANK ITEM for November will be cake mixes. Bring your donation to church any time and place it in the crate near the entry doors. Thank you for your support of our food pantries.



USHER SCHEDULE

November 5

Chuck & Jane Bragg
Jan Rosellini

November 12

Chuck & Jean Harmon
August Grulich

November 19

Jeff Fernholz
Ricky Castro
Dave Johnson

November 26

Roger & Betty Oakley
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.

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER

is designated to Segue, Racine, coordinators of the homeless shelter currently being developed at 2000 Dominik Drive, Racine. Simply place your loose change, or more, in the small brown envelopes found on the sanctuary tables and in the church pews and place it in the offering plate. Bless you for your continued support of our mission projects.

UMC Council of Bishops Celebrates 500th Anniversary of Reformation

RELEASED Wednesday,
October 18, 2017
WASHINGTON – The United Methodist Council of Bishops

(COB) in collaboration with the General Board of Church and Society will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation with special service on Oct. 25 in the Simpson Chapel at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill.

Under the theme "Reformation as Reconciliation," the service will feature several ecumenical participants including those from the United Church of Christ, The Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Roman Catholic Church, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

COB Ecumenical Officer Bishop B. Michael Watson will be the preacher for the service that is scheduled for 12:10 pm. The service will also include a baptismal remembrance celebration.

Each year many churches observe **Reformation Day** on October 31st or the preceding Sunday, remembering the day Martin Luther first made his 95 theses public in 1517 in a small German town. "As a body of believers born out of an ongoing movement for reformation and renewal, we Methodists should not let this moment pass by without marking its significance," Bishop Watson said in a **letter** he sent earlier to fellow United Methodists. "I hope you will join me in remembering the events that sparked the reformation with thanksgiving, repentance and hope."

Spaghetti Dinner Results

The Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, held on [October 21](#) at First Church, was a great success in several ways.

First, we raised nearly \$2200 to support the Jabez school expansion project in Liberia!!! Adding up proceeds from ticket sales (110 meals served), the Packer ticket raffle, the Quilt Raffle and additional cash donations and then subtracting out expenses we netted nearly \$2200!!!! These heartfelt dollars will go to a great cause!! Support a school, help a child!!!!

Second, the congregation grew stronger as a result. These types of fund raising activities brings us closer. I know I feel blessed to be part of this effort and more importantly to be part of this congregation!

And finally, we are getting the word out to our community and beyond, about our vision and our mission. Come and see what is happening at First Church!

This fund raiser was a success as a result of many, many folks. Some who gave generous contributions, some who gave their free time and some who did both! I have included a list below, of folks that helped out!! (Hopefully I did miss anyone!!). Thanks to all of you!! I also thank those of you that bought tickets and enjoyed the delicious spaghetti dinner, prepared by Cel Heck's catering business.

A special, special mention and thanks to Patti Walker and Jan Rosellini! Patti and Jan were not only supportive throughout the planning phase of this project, but were so involved during the final two weeks to pull things together. I cannot say enough about these two individuals and their support of not only this project, but their support of many other church initiatives that sometimes are taken for granted or are overlooked. Thanks you two!!!

I would like to raise up an additional contribution that Jan Rosellini made to this event. The cost of the meal, the biggest expense related to this dinner, was covered by Jan and her parents, John & Ruth Kaiser. This wonderful contribution was outstanding and really helped make this fundraiser a success!!! Grazie al grande lavoro Jan!

Finally, Reverend Jakes informed me that Mr. Bill Buhler, a friend of the Voker family, donated \$1000 towards this fundraiser. Wow!!! Such a wonderful donation. Glory to God!!

Thanks to the following folks who supported this effort. We are so blessed!!

Jan Rosellini
Patti Walker
Bill Buhler & family
Sherry Heck
Cel Heck
Maureen Beck
Marcia Fernholz
Jeff Fernholz
Ellen Spiering
Fiona Craig
Carol Feest

Marilyn Nelson
Jane Jarrett
Connie Boehm
Linda Tremeling & family
Eric Reed
Liza Michna
August Grulich
Ricky Castro
Earl Christianson
Reverend Jakes Voker
Esther Voker

Fred Ganaway
Jeanne Whiteside
Judith Schulz
Ed Guckenberger
Melanie Guckenberger
Deb Vasy-Johnson
Scott McClelland
Joy McClelland
Jane Bragg
Chuck Bragg
Joe Sens

United Methodist Women News

One again, Jane Jarrett comes to the rescue. When St Luke's Episcopal had a schedule conflict, Jane and Gwen Swanson stepped in to do the Sack Lunch [October 14th](#). They were assisted by Liza Michna and the gang of five: Angelina, Logan, Alicia, Mark and Adrian. Thanks to all for a job well done.

Thirteen churches provide the sack lunches on a rotating basis. When one church had to drop out, Liza recruited Word Of Faith Family Church to take their place.

Thank Offering boxes should be turned in to the office in November. This small box collects loose change over the past year. This money goes to the Conference for worldwide missions.

The Southeast District Fall Gathering was held at Whitewater First UMC [October 7](#). Jane Jarrett and Marilyn Nelson found this an inspiring day. The keynote speaker was Rev. Awilda Nolla a retired minister, who challenged us to step up, shake it off and move on with what God is calling us to do. Dottie Bent was recognized during the Memorial Service. For those taking part in the reading program the 2018 list is now available.

UPCOMING DATES

[December 14](#) – [Christmas Luncheon](#). Everyone is invited to this catered luncheon. We will have installation of officers, distribution of poinsettias and a surprise program.

[May 18-19, 2018](#) – Quadrennial UMW Assembly, Columbus Ohio. Registration is now open for this [worldwide](#) forum of United Methodist Women who gather to worship and learn more about the needs of women, children and youth in the 21st century. For more information go to www.umwassembly.org2018.

The finance committee met October 17, to discuss the financial support of the church. Please consider your giving to our church relating to Pastor Jakes' September sermons on being a steward. We as a committee thank you for your collective gifts. Please consider this November article on "Giving" by Jim Wells.

Giving Not One Member, But Many November 2017

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

A **division of labor** marks our occupations and social institutions in modern society: People perform highly specialized, but reciprocal and interdependent activities. This result both in greater benefits for the whole and greater dependence of individuals on one another.

Paul the Apostle recognized both this benefit and this interdependence among the followers of Christ. He likened us

Christians to body parts. We form a whole Paul calls the Body of Christ, and we are interdependent, “The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you.” Stewardship is like that. Our gifts work **together** for the good.

Arthur Tappan Person summarized the lesson of 1 Corinthians 12:

Every believer has some gift, therefore all should be encouraged.

No one has all the gifts, therefore all should be humble.

All gifts are for the Body, therefore all should be harmonious.

All gifts are for the Lord, therefore all should be contented.

All gifts are mutually helpful, therefore all should be faithful.

All gifts promote the whole Body’s health, therefore none can be dispensed with.

All gifts depend upon the Holy Spirit’s empowerment, therefore none should be out of fellowship with him.

Stewardship strives to maximize the impact of our collective gifts.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at
www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org
Or call 1-888-903-9863

*****COMING UP VERY SOON!!*****

Our Charge Conference is scheduled for Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 7:p.m in the Fellowship Hall. The Rev. Dr. Don Francis will be presiding. As usual, all those in leadership positions that report to the Charge Conference, please begin and complete your reports by Wednesday 15th November2017. Remember, the system of reporting has changed from papers to online! If you have not received the online information, please let either Liza or me know so we can make it available. Moreover, if don’t have asset to inter computer/internet, ask Liza to down load the forms for you. Please return the filled out forms to Liza so she can enter the information on the District’s website.

Thanks for all you do on behalf Jesus Christ through our congregation. May God Almighty continue to increase you in strength and wisdom in the name of Jesus Christ.

Input for ENews

If you have a Conference-related event, a hallelujah moment or a newsworthy story that you want included in ENEWS, or if you have a suggestion for ENEWS, contact: mvirnig@wisconsinumc.org. Please send your submissions by the **Friday** prior to the week you would like the information featured. Note that ENEWS is also posted weekly on the **Wisconsin Conference** website. If you experience a web problem after hours, please report the issue to 608-729-4349.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each Sunday

Faith To Life Bible Study

9:00 am

Morning Worship	10:00 am
Fellowship Time	11:15 am
Keith Griffin Pokemon League	1:00 pm
Casa de Dios Worship Service	5:00 pm
<u>Each Monday</u>	
OFFICE CLOSED	
Casa de Dios Bible Study	6:30 pm
<u>Each Wednesday</u>	
Kiwanis Club Luncheon	Noon
Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm
Young Adult Dinner & Discussion	7:30 pm
<u>Each Saturday</u>	
Sack Lunch Program	Noon
<u>Wednesday, November 1</u>	
Youth Group	6:00 pm
<u>Saturday, November 4</u>	
Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am
<u>Sunday, November 5</u>	
FFRANK Breakfast	9:00 am
<u>Monday, November 6</u>	
SOS Meeting	6:00 pm
<u>Wednesday, November 15</u>	
Youth Group	6:00 pm
<u>Friday, November 17</u>	
LGBT Thanksgiving Dinner	6:00 pm



Prayers for The Five-Day Spiritual Formation Academy

The Wisconsin Annual Conference is sponsoring The Five-Day Spiritual Formation Academy from **October 28th to November 3rd** at Siena Center, Racine, Wisconsin. The Upper Room Ministries of Discipleship Ministries (formerly known as GBOD) is offering this program experience for in-depth learning in Christian spiritual life. Forty-nine participants have registered, including eight international participants. They come from the states of North Carolina, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and India. Linda Vance, Sam Royappa, Jorge Mayorga Solis, Pam McIntyre, and Gail Ray from the Wisconsin Conference will be providing leadership for the event. The theme is Rekindling the Faith and Engaging the World, and the academy will be led by David Brownlee, a retired UM Clergy, and Mary Margaret Pazden, a Dominican Sister. Rev. Jakes Voker our Pastor will be participating in this event. Let us remember this special event in our prayers.

Newsletter Deadline for December

If you'd like to have anything in the December Newsletter please have the information to the office by November 22, 2017

Thank you!!

Liza

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 Editor – Liza Michna

First United Methodist Church

The Vision statement:

- **To provide a community for people to experience God and find inspiration for daily living.**

The Mission statement:

- **To welcome and encourage all to live faithfully through Jesus Christ in ways that impact them and others.**

“A perfect church for imperfect people”