



# The First Word

August 2018

First United Methodist Church, Racine

---

745 Main Street,  
Racine, WI 53403  
262-633-7632  
[racine1umc@tds.net](mailto:racine1umc@tds.net)  
[www.1umcracine.org](http://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

Family Ed & Nurture  
Coordinator

Joy McClelland  
Custodian

## **WHAT EXITEMENTS! COME TO 1<sup>st</sup> UMC AND SEE.....**

*“The Lord God has put his Spirit in me, because the Lord has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken, to tell the captives they are free, and to tell the prisoners they are released.” (Isaiah 61:1-2 NCV).*

*Now the LORD is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is freedom. (2Cor. 3:17).*

## **Members and Friends of Racine 1<sup>st</sup> UM Congregation,**

**Greetings from the Pastor’s desk in the name of Jesus Christ. I pray that this Newsletter meet you with undeserved, yet unspeakable blessings for you and your respective family in the Mighty name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May our God continue to enfold each of you in his arms of mercy and grace.**

**Let me quickly remind us of our congregation’s Vision and Mission Statements. Our Vision: “To provide a community for people to experience God and inspiration for daily living. “**

**Our Mission: “To welcome and encourage all to live faithfully through Jesus Christ in ways that impact them and others!”**

## **VERY IMPRESSIVE, YET CHALLENGING STAMENTS OF FAITH!!**

**The questions: How are we translating these very Impressive, yet challenging Ministry and Mission Guideposts so that they do not become another wonderful, but emptied sentiments? The task is ours to figure out and implement. Therefore, we continue to prayerfully discern and get involved with diverse Ministry, Mission and Outreach oriented opportunities. Those events are meant to communicate and invite members of both our immediate and global communities to the unconditional love and grace of our Lord and Salvation Jesus Christ. These are freely available to all who may come.**

**In view of all of the above, it’s the time of year when our congregation gets really busy with specific outreach ministries and Mission such as the following:**



**1st. Hosted fifty six “Volunteers -In- Mission from the Dakotas Annual Conference/ United Methodist Church for five days- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> –Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018. This group of Christian Youths, young adults and pastors engaged the Racine, Mt. Pleasant and Kenosha Cities with Christ’s compassionate love by providing free service at various community centers including 1.Racine: Shorelight Memory Care and cleaned or reconditioned three Racine Mutual Housing Authority (RHMA) Homes as well as worked at HALO Shelter Inc. 2. MT. Pleasant: Ridgewood Care Center. And 3.Kenosha: They cleaned, prepared and served meals at Grace Welcome and Shalom Centers respectively. What wonderful ways of applying one’s faith to scripture! *“Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith with deed!” For faith without deed is empty and dead!! (James 2: 18). Faith in actions that touch and transform lives!***

**2<sup>nd</sup>. We provide “Food Booth and free bathrooms facility on July 4<sup>th</sup> for hundreds of people each year. We see this as one of the ways we connect with our community. Again, thank to Ellen Spiering for coordinating and all those who made it very successful to the glory of God!**



**(JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FOOD BOOTH AND OTHER FACILITIES )**

**3<sup>RD</sup>. Grandparents and Child (ren) Camp – Again, this event was a huge success this year! As usual, the event was co-coordinated by Carol Feest, held at the United Methodist Camp Lucerne with over fifty people from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Lots of fun and fellowship in Jesus’ name!**



**(ARCHERY, BOATING, SANDY BEACH, ETC.)**

**4<sup>TH</sup>. We offer Christ-centered Vacation Bible School (VBS), for all children in our community. This year’s VBS Sessions began Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. In attendance were twenty five people-ten adults, fifteen younger and older children. Most of the children and three of adults were from the broader Racine community. Our thanks to Linda and Ron Tremeling for co-coordinating, Carol Feest, Jeanne Whiteside, Connie Boehm Esther Voker, Loretta Voker, and Liza for the administrative support.**



**(2018 VBS- HERO CENTERAL- JESUS IN MY HERO!)**

**THANKS FOR TOUCHING AND TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR JESUS’ SAKE!**

**5<sup>th</sup>. FUN FEST-** Acronym for “First United & Neighbors Fest scheduled for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Noon -3:p.m. This will be our final summer outreach event for the year! As usual, the event meant to reach out and celebrate the love Jesus Christ with our neighbors and the entire community. It includes gospel music, free food, activities such as bouncing house, face painting, firefighters and K-9 Officers come to educate the children about their works in the community. Most importantly, the event is meant to share Christ’s love, and invite others to his saving grace, all of which are free to all who may come.

Indeed, the Spirit of the Lord is moving mightily amongst us here at Racine 1<sup>st</sup> UM congregation. Everyone is welcome to be a part of what the Holy Spirit, through our congregation, is doing in our community and around the world. As someone has said, “Without God you can NOT DO ANYTHING! And Without you God cannot!” God’s Spirit indwells you! **DO NOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT!!** (1Thess. 5:19). We are God’s instruments in the places we are, and to the people we encounter daily! Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer in Jesus’ name.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Jakes

\*\*\*\*\*

**08/2018 - Scriptures and theme** **Pentecost – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday**      **08/19/2018**

Psalm 111: 1ff.

**Pentecost – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday**      **08/05/2018**

Isaiah 11: 1-2

Psalm 51:1-12.

1Corinthians 2:7-13

2Samuel 11: 26-12:1-3

John 14: 15-26

Romans 14: 5-18

Theme: The Holy Spirit- our Illuminator

John 6: 25-35

**Pentecost – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**      **08/26/2018**

Theme: Jesus, “The Bread of Life”

Psalm 84:1ff.

**Pentecost – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday**      **08/12/2018**

1Kings 8: 1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 130: 1ff.

Ephesians 6: 10-20

2Samuel 18: 5-9; 15, 31-33

John 16: 7-11

Ephesians 4: 35-5: 2

Theme: The Holy Spirit Convicts .....

Matthew 3: 11-17

**Pentecost -15<sup>th</sup> Sunday**      **09/02/2018**

Theme: The Holy Spirit- “The Seal” of God”

Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9 or Psalm 72:1ff.

Song of Solomon 2: 8-12

2Corinthians 3: 7-18

Matthew 28: 16-19-

Theme: The Holy Spirit – Is “God!”

To all our "Birth Days, anniversaries and other milestones celebrants of this blessed month of August 2018, 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 AUGUST!**

- 4 - Judy Kara
- 5 - Jakes Voker
- 10 - Wendy Toutant
- 11 - Chuck Harmon
- 20 - Joe Sens
- 22 - Meghan Fernholz  
       Scott Randecker
- 23 - Hunter DeRosier
- 27 - Helen Botsford  
       Beth Michael
- 29 - Elissa Pischke

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN AUGUST!!**

- 4 - Jim & Sue Ott-Holland
- 5 - Ed & Melanie Guckenberger
- 31 - Fred & Debby Ganaway

**FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

Our item for August will be cans of pork & beans. Place your donations in the crates located near the church entrances. Thanks for your continued support.

**LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR AUGUST**

The loose change offering for August will benefit our Pastor's Emergency Fund. Each day members of the community come to First Church seeking help with paying rent and/or utility bills, needing copies of birth certificates and many other requests for assistance. Your donation to the loose change offering will help us help others.



**USHER SCHEDULE**

**August 5**  
**Roger & Betty Oakley**  
**Ricky Castro**

**August 12**  
**August Grulich**  
**Jeff Fernholz**  
**Ricky Castro**

**August 19**  
**Jan Rosellini**  
**Chuck & Jane Bragg**

**August 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.**



**MISSION PROJECT SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR TEACHERS**

Since various organizations throughout the community offer free back packs and school supplies to students this time of year we thought we would assist our teachers by collecting supplies they can use as student's supplies run out. Especially helpful are glue sticks, notebooks, pencils, and paper. ALSO, any purchase of school supplies between August 1 and August 5 will be TAX EXEMPT. Bring your donations to the office anytime and we will see that our teachers receive all the donated supplies. Thanks for your support of this mission project.

**Fun Fest Meeting**

We'll be having a Fun Fest meeting on August 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the church. Hospitality Team, Praise Team, Intentional Faith Development Team and any interested members who would like to help out. Hope to see you there!! Thank you for all you do!!



## 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

### 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
--------------------	------

### Sunday, August 5

FFRANC breakfast	9:00 am
------------------	---------

### Tuesday, August 14

Finance Meeting	6:00 pm
Council Meeting	7:00 pm

### Saturday, August 25

Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am
--------------------------------	---------

## LOOKING AHEAD

First United Neighbor's Fest

(Fun Fest)

Saturday, September 15

12:00 – 3:00 pm



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROVIDE ALTAR FLOWERS?

*Is there a special day you want to honor or remember? Perhaps a birthday or anniversary? Simply select a date on the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board right before you go into the sanctuary. You will receive a phone call from the church office asking what you'd like in the bulletin and any other details. The cost is generally \$40.00 and you'll be billed at the end of the month ☺*

## SHOPPING FOR THE CHURCH

*If anyone needs supplies for the church you can leave me a list in my mailbox and I'll pick those items up. If items are needed by a certain time please indicate that on the note. Thank you Liza ☺*



*Always keep your head up, because if it's down you won't be able to see the Blessings that have been placed in your life.*



WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM

If you'd like any information in **The First Word** you can email [racine1umc@tds.net](mailto:racine1umc@tds.net) or call 633-7632 and give me your information.  
Liza

*The First Word* is published monthly by First United Methodist Church  
745 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403  
Phone: 262-633-7632  
Email – [racine1umc@tds.net](mailto:racine1umc@tds.net) or [pastorfumcr@tds.net](mailto:pastorfumcr@tds.net)  
Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 8:30 - noon  
Pastor – Jakes S. Voker  
Editor – Liza Michna

# Choices Abound!

by Keith Boyette



In a recent [article](#), I shared about *The Long and Winding Road to St. Louis*. Well, we have now journeyed further along that road. A lot is happening and we want to keep you informed.

As required, petitions for the special General Conference, which will meet in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019, were filed by July 8. Members of the Commission on a Way Forward (COWF) filed petitions in support of three plans – the One Church Plan, the Connectional Conference Plan, and the Traditional Plan. In addition, the COWF finalized its narrative report providing additional information about each of them. After some delay, the petitions proposing the implementation for each plan and the COWF’s narrative report are [now available for review](#). The Council of Bishops (COB) has requested a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council (JC) on the constitutionality of each of them. The JC has placed this request on its docket for its Fall 2018 session, which will be held from October 23-26 in Zurich, Switzerland.

Working with other partners, the Wesleyan Covenant Association supported the filing of petitions to further strengthen the accountability provisions of the Traditional Plan. The Traditional Plan reaffirms The United Methodist Church’s present teachings on sexual ethics, the definition of marriage, and ordination standards. The plan also contains enhanced provisions to hold bishops, annual conferences, and clergy accountable to our teachings. Finally, the Traditional Plan provides a means for those who cannot comply with the provisions of the *Book of Discipline* to move out of the UM Church into other bodies where they can set their own rules. [Petitions](#), filed by Maxie Dunnam, seek to improve on the Traditional Plan in the COWF report. The WCA supports the adoption of the Traditional Plan with these enhancements.

As the COWF met and prepared a preliminary report in 2017, it stated that an exit path out of the denomination would be provided for local churches in each of the plans under consideration. However, the petitions filed by members of the COWF in support of the One Church and the Connectional Conference Plans contain no exit ramp. This is unfortunate. The failure to provide such a pathway for local churches to leave the UM Church with all their property and assets will only intensify the conflict and lead to the kind of expensive legal battles we have witnessed in other denominations. Compelling local churches to remain in the denomination through expensive and time-consuming litigation will not help the UM Church move beyond its existential crisis.

The WCA believes a generous exit path is essential for the health and viability of the denomination and local churches. With justification, some traditionalist congregations believe the church has become so dysfunctional that it can no longer fulfill its God-ordained mission. They have also, for good reasons, lost confidence in some of our bishops’ commitment to defend and maintain the good order of the church. Likewise, some progressive congregations have decided they can no longer live according to the *Book of Discipline*. Other denominations that have navigated waters similar to those being traversed by the UM

Church have expended significant sums of money and time in secular courts contesting the ownership of local church properties and assets. In accordance with the Apostle Paul's teachings, we should do all we can to avoid such a costly and public spectacle.

Going forward, we believe the UM Church should be composed of those who are fully committed to its theology, mission, and ministry. In the current environment, forcing local churches to be affiliated with an entity they can no longer support is bad for everyone. The UM Church should be composed of the willing, not the constrained. The WCA has consistently urged the adoption of a generous exit path for local churches regardless of the plan chosen by General Conference for the future of the UM Church.

A [petition](#) has been filed to provide such an exit path. It would allow local churches to leave the denomination with all their property and assets, and their liabilities. And of course, such churches would agree to satisfy their proportionate share of the UM Church's unfunded liabilities (largely related to pre-1982 pension benefits). All churches and the denomination will benefit from the provision of a generous exit path. Such a provision enables us to *do unto others as we would have done to us*. Additionally, providing such an exit ramp will permit the UM Church to move forward focused on its mission without the crippling distraction of further conflict over the church's sexual ethics, teachings on marriage, and its ordination standards. It would be far better off moving ahead with the willing, not the constrained.

Perhaps the best way forward for the UM Church is a straightforward parting of ways. Our differences are irreconcilable; we must now acknowledge that reality. And encouragingly more people are coming to just such a realization. The UM Church is one part of the church universal. Preserving it simply for the sake of the institution is not missional, especially if it continues to be mired in an acrimonious and self-destructive debate. Dissolving the UM Church has the potential to release diverse parts of it that genuinely believe they should be permitted to pursue their own understandings on the nature and mission of the church. We have an opportunity to show grace and mercy to one another as we bless each other in our parting. Believing that the delegates to the special General Conference should have such a mechanism available as an alternative, a [petition](#) has been filed providing for dissolution of the UM Church as a gracious and reasonable way forward.

Much will be written in the coming weeks analyzing all of the legislative proposals that will be before the special General Conference. The WCA continues its preparations to birth a vibrant, vital new Methodist expression if necessary following the conclusion of the 2019 special General Conference. Now is the time to become familiar with all the options before us. Now is the time for local churches to begin discussing the alternatives so we are prepared to act wisely. Now is the time for each of us to fervently seek God and cry out for His intervention on behalf of His church.

*Rev. Keith Boyette is president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and an elder in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.*

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

---

## **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”**