



The First Word

SEPTEMBER 2018

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
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Coordinator

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Custodian

**WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH
ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN!!!**



FACE PAINTING MUSIC FREE FOOD BOUNCING HOUSE
IT'S FUN FEST TIME AGAIN!! FREE EVENT!!
FUN FEST – SEPTEMBER 15 NOON – 3:00 PM
(FIRST UNITED & NEIGHBORS FEST)
QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 262-633-7632
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
1UMCRACINE.ORG

Ye [are] the children of the LORD your God (Deut. 14:1-KJV).

[Luke 18:16](#) ¹⁶But Jesus called the children to him and said, "**Let the little children come** to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

“...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:” (John 1:12-NIV)

Members and Friends of Racine 1st,
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

No matter what your summer has been, the truth are we've been blessed with God's gift of life spared in us to enjoy the “Out-doors,” even when it was really HOT at times. Summer often afford us opportunities for personal and Church-wide out-reach activities: For some of us, this is the time of year when we are mostly out-doors, either on long planned adventures, or visiting with families, relatives and friends, or participating in community /neighborhood events or just for the fun of enjoying the friendly weather.

As a congregation, some staff members including our Chancel Choir often take time off, and guest musicians covered each Sunday. Our Mission and Out –reach activities such as Vacation Bible School; our collaborative meal programs (Sack lunch & Hot meals) get increased number of participants. Local

and International Mission trips are mostly planned around the summer. Ironically, attendance at Sunday morning Worship Services are often low! Whatever has been your experience, let's not forget to give God the glory! The Apostle Paul admonishes: *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom, 8:28).*

Now, out of the business of summer, we invite you, "All of God's Children," to join us to say good-bye to summer and to welcome the fall Season by participating in the "First United and Neighbors Fest" (FUN Fest). Did I say "All of God's Children?" A resounding YES! As in the above scripture lessons, the Deuteronomy passage uses the phrase: "All of God's children" in reference to the "Chosen and Ritually cleansed Jews." While the gospel writers expanded the notion of being God's Child (ren) to include all who accept Jesus Christ, not only as God's son, but as Lord and Savior of all of sinful and estranged humanity. In the context of the latter, we as disciples of Jesus Christ, aka "Racine 1st United Methodist Church," all of our Mission and Out-reach activities are solely aimed at reaching and inviting all persons. The invites include both believers and non- nonbelievers to share in God's unconditional love and grace made known through the life and death of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul better captures it by saying: *"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith" (Galatians 3:26 NIV).* We honestly believe that our congregation is where to belong as everyone is somebody and everybody is someone special. This makes us a perfect Church for imperfect people who seek to know God, to grow in faith and service together.

Welcome Back to Church in Jesus' name! Join us for worship on Sunday 9th September 2018 to begin a new Church year with our Chancel Choir and the Praise Team to the glory of God!

Shalom,
Rev. Jakes

09/2018 – SCRIPTURES AND THEMES

Pentecost – 15th / Holy Communion Sunday –
09/02/2018

Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9
Song of Solomon 2:8-12
James 1: 17-27
Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23
-Guest Preacher-

Pentecost -16th Sunday 09/09/2018
Psalm 45: 1-2,6-9 or Psalm 72: 1ff.
Song of Solomon 2: 8-12
2Corinthians 3: 7-12
Matthew 28: 16-19
Themes: Holy Spirit – Is "God!"

Pentecost – 17th Sunday 09/16/2018
Psalm 89:1-15
Isaiah 2: 1-5
Ephesians 5: 8-15
John 8:1-12
Theme: Jesus, "The Light of the world"

Pentecost – 18th Sunday 09/23/2018
Genesis 4: 1-7
Psalm 55: 22ff.
Revelation 3; 7-13
John 10: 1-9
Theme: Jesus, "The Door"

Psalm 23: 1ff. Pentecost – 19th Sunday
09/30/2018
Revelation
John 10:10-16
Theme: Jesus, "The Good Shepherd"

To all our "Birth Days,
anniversaries and other
milestones celebrants of this
blessed month of September

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
SEPTEMBER!!**

- 1 - Carol Buhler
Marcia Fernholz
- 2 - Sandy Koleske
- 6 - Dick Hannon
- 7 - Melissa LaChance
- 8 - Jean Harmon
Peggy Larson
- 9 - Joyce Stearns
- 10 - Brittany Piliouras
Melanie Guckenberger
Shannon Hirth
- 12 - Bev Christensen
- 16 - Chuck Bragg
- 17 - Al Feest
- 22 - Jill DeRosia
Fred Knobel
- 30 - Peter Feest Jr.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN
SEPTEMBER!!**

- 1 - Al & Dee Feest
- 2 - Scott & Connie Boehm
- 5 - Paul & Peggy Nejedly
- 16 - Scott & Wendy Toutant
- 22 - Mike & Ruthann Grayson



USHER SCHEDULE

**PLAYGROUND FUND ESTABLISHED AT
LAKE LUCERNE**

We are very excited to announce the formation of a "playground fund" for the building of a playground

September 2

Jeff Fernholz
Ricky Castro
Jan Rosellini

September 19

Chuck & Jane Bragg
August Grulich

September 16

Roger & Betty Oakley
Jeff Fernholz

September 23

Jan Rosellini
Ricky Castro
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 SEPTEMBER**

The loose change offering for September will be the Pastor's Emergency Fund which is continuing from August thru September. Your contribution to the Pastor's Emergency Fund will allow us to assist as many people as possible. Please place your "loose change" or more in the small brown envelopes found on the sanctuary tables or in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate. Thanks for supporting these mission projects!

**FOOD PANTRY
COLLECTION**

Our item for September will be canned fruit. Bring your contributions to the church any

at the Ridgewood area at Lake Lucerne United Methodist Camp. This will be a wonderful addition to the camping experiences for younger children, especially those attending Grandparent/Grandchild

time and place them in the crates near the entrances. Thanks for your continued support of the food banks of Racine.



**EDITH ANDERSEN
SCHOLARSHIP**

Through the generosity of Edith M. Andersen, the United Methodist Women are able to offer a \$500.00 scholarship to members of First United Methodist Church and Casa de Dios United Methodist Church who are in their second year, or beyond, of continuing education in an accredited college, university or technical school. A student working part-time and attending school part-time is also eligible.

You may reapply for this scholarship each year you are still in school. Students must remain in school and get good grades in order to remain eligible. You may be asked to give a brief statement about your education at some time during the school year. Contact Carol Feest (pfeestsr@wi.rr.com) for an application.

Camp, family retreats, church outings, etc. The plan is to have the playground completed as soon as possible so that those attending camp in the upcoming year can use the equipment. The completion of this project is totally dependent on the amount of donations received by Lake Lucerne. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to the “playground fund” and direct your contribution to Lake Lucerne United Methodist Camp, W6460 County Rd YY, Neshkoro, WI 54960.

General Conference 2019 – Listening Sessions

Why is there a special General Conference coming **February 23 – 26, 2019** in St. Louis, only a year before the regularly scheduled 2020 session in Minneapolis? How might my church be affected by this talk about choosing among a One Church, Connectional Conference and Traditionalist plan? Will other possibilities emerge? Change is coming for The United Methodist Church, and there will be meetings this fall to help Wisconsin United Methodists understand what is being proposed.

Formed following authorization by General Conference 2016, the Commission on a Way Forward identified three possible options, or plans, for our denomination as we move into the future. [Read press release.](#) [Read report in English.](#) The Council of Bishops has recommended adoption of the *One Church Plan*.

The Wisconsin Delegation to GC 2019 is hosting eight educational listening sessions around the state to allow feedback about the proposals. These sessions for interested clergy and laity will each last between 60-90 minutes.

The dates and locations are:

Sunday, September 30, 3:00 pm, Webster Grace UMC, 7423 Elm Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each Sunday

Faith To Life Bible Study

9:00 am

Monday, October 1, 7 pm, Eau Claire Lake Street UMC, 337 Lake Street
Saturday, October 6, 10:00 am, Wausau Wesley UMC, 1101 Elm Street
Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 pm, Onalaska UMC, 212 4th Avenue North
Saturday, October 20, 10:00 am, Kaukauna Peace UMC, 2300 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 pm, Waukesha First UMC, 121 Wisconsin Avenue
Thursday, October 25, 7:00 pm, Sun Prairie UMC, 702 North Street
Saturday, October 27, 10:00 am, Janesville Cargill UMC, 2000 Wesley Avenue

In addition, invitations have been extended to Conference boards, agencies and other groups to provide their feedback to Delegation members. The purpose of all this information gathering is for the Delegation to hear from the diversity of membership that makes up Wisconsin United Methodism. The desire is to better understand the thinking and feeling within our Annual Conference membership about our denomination’s future.

All are welcome to participate!

The Wisconsin Conference Delegation to the 2019 General Conference consists of six voting delegates, along with reserves. Clergy are *Dan Dick, Sam Royappa, Steve Zekoff* and first reserve *Amanda Stein*. Lay delegates are *Lisa King, Barbara Dick, Gail Burgess* and first reserve *Katie Crise*. There are additional reserves who would serve should any of these eight be unable to attend. In order elected, they are clergy *Jorge Mayorga, Dan Schwerin, Jeremy Deaner, George Kafer* and *Jenny Arneson*; laity *Tom Popp, Judy Vasby, John Lawson* and *Julie Schubring*. All remain engaged in the Delegation’s preparations for the upcoming General Conference.

Rev. Steve Zekoff

Clergy Delegate to General Conference

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

OFFICE CLOSED
 Casa de Dios Bible Study 6:30 pm
Each Wednesday
 Kiwanis Club Luncheon Noon
 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm
 Young Adult Dinner & Discussion 7:30 pm
Each Saturday
 Sack Lunch Program Noon

Sunday, September 2
 FFRANK Breakfast 9:00 am
Wednesday, September 6
 Choir Rehearsal Resumes 6:00 pm
Saturday September 15
 Fun Fest Noon
Sunday September 16
 National Back to Church Sunday 10:00 am
 Sunday School Starts 10:00 am
Saturday September 22
 Controlling Community Violence 9:00 am

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

United Methodist Women News

September Meeting

All women of the church are invited to the September Luncheon. It will be on **September 13th** at noon. Reservations can be made by calling the church (262-633-7632) before noon on **September 11th**. The cost

The First Word is published monthly by First United Methodist Church
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Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 8:30 - noon
 Pastor – Jakes S. Voker
 Editor – Liza Michna

is \$10. Marilyn Nelson and Carol Feest will present a **brief** reports on the Assembly 2018 that they attended in Columbus Ohio.

UPCOMING DATES

October 6 – South East District Annual Fall Gathering at Janesville Cargill UMC. The Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Wesley White, a WI delegate to “The Way Forward” Commission.

October 20-21 – Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering at Waukesha First UMC. This year's theme will be: Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God and Neighbor.

Due to a major leak in the ceiling of the sanctuary caused by our air conditioning unit, I have roped off a portion of the pews under the area of the leak. The leak has been fixed, but we don't want loose plaster falling on someone. Until we have this area evaluated by an expert and repaired if necessary, those pews should remain unused.

Chuck Bragg, Trustees Chair

ATTENTION ALL CHOIR MEMBERS

It's hard to believe that summer is already drawing to a close and the sanctuary choir is preparing to begin a new season.

We will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 5th at 6:00 p.m. and will sing our first service on the **9th of September**.

It is a good time to fellowship and praise the Lord and we welcome any new members to join us.

Nancy Cook

Biblical Women and the Spread of the Gospel



This is the first of three articles by the Rev. Carolyn Moore on women in Scripture and in ministry.

As a pastor, as one called to the ministry of church planting, and as a woman, I am inspired and challenged by those great matriarchs of the faith who proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The list of women in the New Testament who led in the spread of the good news about Jesus is impressive: Mary and Martha, Phoebe, Chloe, Priscilla, Lydia, Junia, the four daughters of Philip, Euodia, and Syntyche. These are all notable examples of women who were visibly present in the gospel story. Women traveled with Jesus, prayed over him and with other disciples, led churches, mentored other evangelists, and led in assemblies. As Stanley Grenz and Denise Muir Kjesbo point out in their book, *Women in the Church*, the story of Jesus “radically altered the position of women, elevating them to a partnership with men unparalleled in first-century society.”

Ben Witherington, professor at Asbury Theological Seminary, has written extensively on the role of women in the spread of the gospel. His doctoral work was the study of women in the New Testament, and his first three published works were in defense of the role of women as spiritual leaders. In his more popular writings he summarizes well a generation of argument and research on the subject. These points are offered as a summary of his findings:

- Women were last at the cross, first at the tomb, and the first to be told to, “Go and tell others.”
- Jesus himself chose a woman to be the first preacher of the gospel. It was Mary to whom the resurrected Jesus said, “Go and tell the others” (John 20:17).
- Women were evidently leaders in early house churches. The home, which was the domain of women, was the primary location of the early church and it is this location that shaped its early identity as a “family,” and as a message of freedom from oppression in all its forms. The New Testament narrative clearly notes the integral role played by women in the development of the first-century church, and it is surely no coincidence that after Paul meets Lydia in a gathering by the river and presides over her conversion, she invites him into her home (Acts 16:1-15).

But what of those passages in Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (14:34-36) and in his First Letter to Timothy (2:12), often cited to discredit women as leaders of men and as preachers? These passages must be read within the context of the overall message of the Bible. They must be read through the lens of Deborah’s story, through the lens of Mary’s charge, through the lens of Galatians 3:28 (“there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female”), and the lens of Priscilla and Junia who labored in the gospel with integrity.

God has surely not called all women into vocational, pastoral leadership (just as he has not called all men either), but he has surely called some. The Bible itself testifies to this. They were clearly partners in the proclamation of the gospel, and this partnership is embedded in the creation story. Men and women fulfill each other’s contributions to the Kingdom. Male and female are partners in the work of realizing God’s

Kingdom on earth. In some obvious ways men and women complement one another, and in all ways they are in partnership.

Without exception, the Bible must be read within its historical context. Paul's letters are not bound historically, but they are rooted historically. What we know about women in the world of the first century is that they were seldom if ever given the opportunity to lead. They were largely uneducated. They had little or no experience in speaking and leading at public gatherings. But in the early church they found freedom they had not experienced before, and Paul's instructions were instrumental in making that possible. He fostered a climate where women were educated, encouraged to ask questions, and to lead. In his letters, he honored a number of women partners in the proclamation of the gospel.

For all of us, Jesus' words carry much weight. His commands and charges at his resurrection were all gender-neutral. "Go, make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). And, "Take up your cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). These commands and commissions were not spoken to only half an audience in the first century; likewise, they are not spoken to half an audience today.

Contemporary women church planters owe much to those first-century evangelizing women who embraced the whole gospel, believing Christ had called them to proclaim the good news. The first-century church proved that when men and women work together to build the Kingdom of God, operating in freedom and in the power and giftedness of the Holy Spirit, the effects of the Fall are reversed, and the glories of the gospel are made manifest.

The Rev. Carolyn Moore is the lead and founding pastor of Mosaic United Methodist Church in Evans, Georgia. She serves as the vice-chairwoman of the Wesleyan Covenant Association Council.

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 ☺

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”