



The First Word

May 2019

First United Methodist Church, Racine

745 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403

262-633-7632

racine1umc@tds.net

www.1umcracine.org

Jakes Voker
Pastor

Liza Taliaferro
Administrative Assistant

Jeff Fernholz
Treasurer

Sue Mills
Financial Secretary

Fred Ganaway Church Council
Chairperson

Chuck Bragg
Trustee Chairperson

Judith Schulz
Church Historian

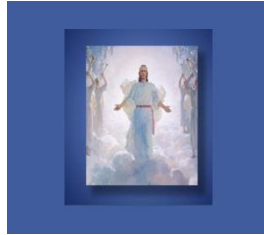
Sue Mills
Parish Visitor

Nancy Cook
Organist

Jeanne Whiteside
Media Coordinator

Family Ed & Nurture Coordinator

Joy McClelland
Custodian



CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUJAH!!

⁴Rejoice^[a] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.^[b] ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. (Philippians 4:4-5 NRSV).

As a reminder, several weeks ago I mentioned in my Easter Letter that unlike other slogans, “Christ is risen,” is not just the proclamation of an event on Sunday, and done away with. Notice the present tense **“Is.”** It is a present occurrence that reinvigorates a believer’s life and vital faith. I have added the word **“Hallelujah”** which according to Biblical definition is an **exclamation of worship or a call to praise. Whenever we proclaim “Christ is Risen” the typical response: “Hallelujah”, a Greek form of the word “Allelua”-meaning “Praise YAHWEH or Praise ye the Lord!”**

This proclamation: **“Christ is Risen! Hallelujah”** often reminds me of the importance of the **“Shema”** in the life of the Jews. The constant recitation of the **“She·ma”** essentially informs and reinforces the Jews’ religious tenet and teaching that affirms the Oneness and Sovereignty of their God, **“YAHWEH.”** This message is recorded in the Hebrew text consisting of three passages from the Pentateuch and beginning with “Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one.” (Deut. 6:4). It also forms an important part of Jewish evening and morning prayers, and is used as their Jewish confession of faith.

Christ is Risen, Hallelujah! Lest we forgot, the significance of this historical event is incredible, as it is the foundational truth and essence of the Faith you and I profess and proclaim. Here’s how the Apostle Paul declares the nature of Christ’s Resurrection in relationship to our Faith: **“... if Christ has *not* been raised, *our* preaching is useless and so is your *faith*. (1Corinthians 15:14).**

Christ's resurrection provided the needed strength and courage for his reluctant, disbelieving and fear-gripped, disciples who later became "World Changers!" These first disciples took the Good News to the four corners of the world in His name. It is the cornerstone of our Faith and spiritual substance. The Resurrection claims and proclaims victory over sin, death and promises new life to all believers then, now, in this life and the life hereafter. It is continuing event

My friends, Christ is Risen! Hallelujah! Christ's resurrection avails us to the wonderful gift of a new and vibrant life. Thank you for recommitting yourself to being a witness and a pilgrim dedicated to taking and sharing this good news and sharing it with all those you might encounter this Easter Season and beyond.

Remember, we are the Church, Christ's arms, feet, and mouths together!

A very blessed and Joyful Easter season to you and your family in the name of our Resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Easter Blessings,

Rev. Jakes

SCRPTURES AND THEMES: 05/2019

Easter 3rd Holy Communion Sunday **05/05/2019**

Psalms 30: 1ff.

Acts 9: 1-6, 7-20

John 21: 1-19

Rev. June Nettles

Easter 4th Sunday - 05.12.2019

Psalms 23: 1ff.

Philippians 4: 1-7

Luke 18: 15- 17

Theme: **"The Faith of a Child"**

Leader: Mr. August Grulich

Easter 5th Sunday - 05/19/2019

Psalms 148: 1ff.

Acts 11: 1-18

Revelation 21: 1-6

John 13: 31-35

Theme: God's Problem vs Human Problems...

Leader: Mr. Scott McClelland

Easter 6th /Memorial Sunday - 05/26/2019

Psalms 67 1ff.

Galatians 5:13-26

John 8: 31-36

Theme: **The Wise use of our Freedom**



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

The following are drafts of the Discernment Process undertaken by a six members Team on behalf of our congregation from December 18, 2018 to March 26, 2019. Members of the Team include: Carol Feest, Scott McClelland, Jayne Dresen, Debby Ganaway, Becky Meredith (Christ UMC) and Rev. Jakes Voker. The Team was put together by Rev. Jakes to prayerfully seek God’s guidance in discerning a process for effective and growth oriented ministry and mission pathways for our congregation. The Team diligently did just that using Scriptures and a Church –Growth research book known as: “Simple Church-Returning To God’s Process For Making Disciples,” Authored by: Thom S. Rainer & Eric Geiger.

Guided by the two written resources and prayerful thoughts, the Team concluded that while our congregation’s ministries and mission reaching and touching lives in our community, a “SIMPLE PROCESS” is needed. The Simple Process would lead to Clarity, Movement, Alignment and Focus of every Ministry and Mission endeavor based on research findings.

Based on all of the above, the Team presents the following proposed simplified versions of our congregation existing “Vision and Mission Statements, and select number of programs/events for your viewing and suggestions. You may please review and send your comments and recommendations by Tuesday 11th June 2019 to the Church’s Office-attention: Rev. Jakes - Pastorfumcr@tds.net or the secretary – racine1umc@tds.net .

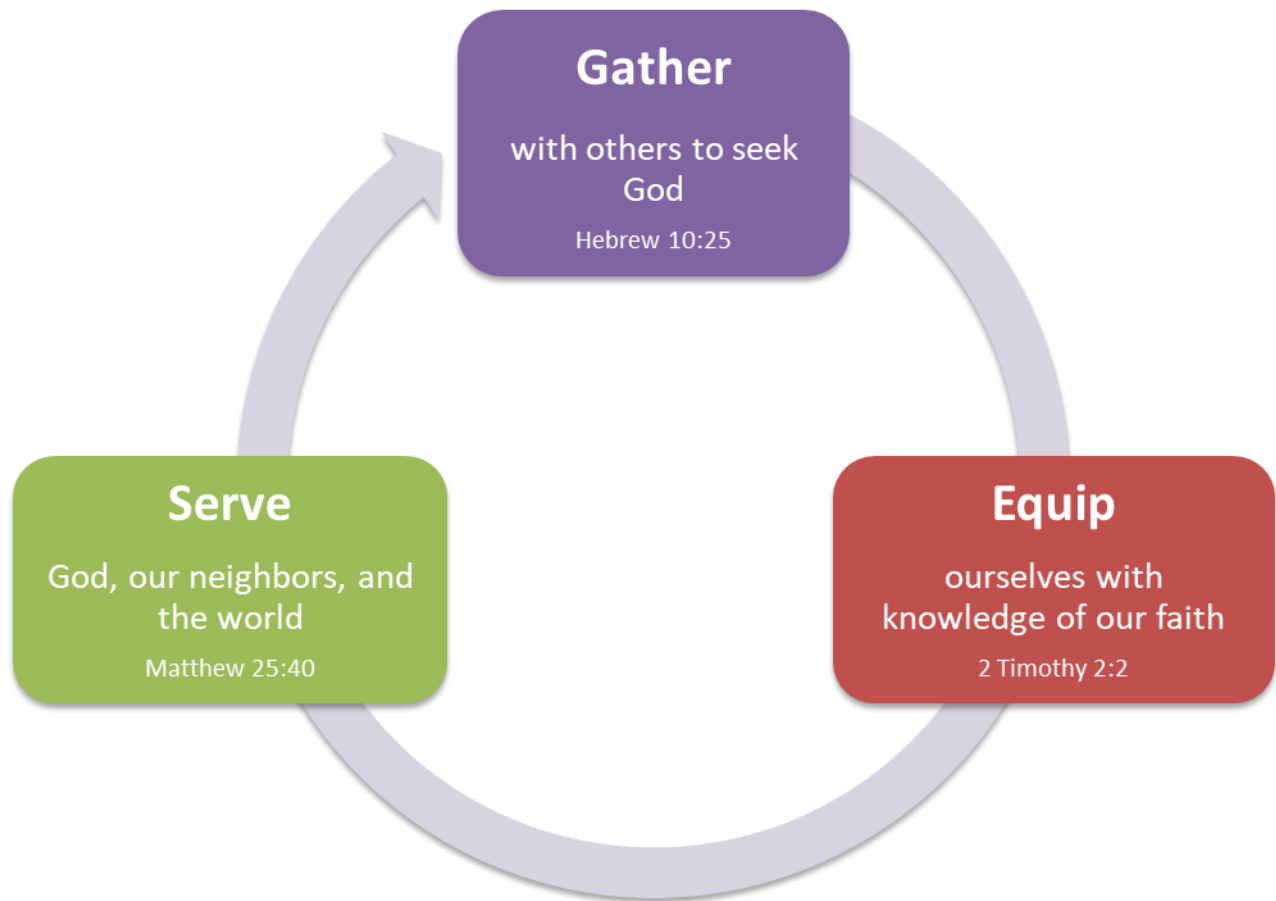
Finally, I would like to extend our thanks to members of the “Discernment Team” for their love for their Jesus Christ and commitment to see his Ministry and Mission become more effective and vital through the Racine 1st U.M Church.

Until then, you all have a very blessed and joyful Easter Season in Jesus’ name.

Happy Easter,
Rev. Jakes

Discernment Team – Final Recommendation
3-26-19

To inspire all to live
faithfully through Jesus Christ



	Gather <i>with others to seek God</i>	Equip <i>ourselves with knowledge of our faith</i>	Serve <i>God, our neighbors, and the world</i>
Congregation:			
Worship Services	x		
Fellowship Hour on Sunday	x		
FFRANC Breakfast (Hospitality)	ONLY CONGREGATIONAL	ONLY OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP EVENT TO CELEBRATE...!	
5th Sundays	x		
Bible Study		x	
Opportunities from Conference		x	
4 th of July Celebration ??????	HOW DOES IT	FROM OTHER EVENTS	OF THAT DAY???
Fundraisers-(As needed Event!)	?????		x
Hot Meal Program	X		x
Sack Lunch Program	X		x
Pastor's Emergency Fund			x
Monthly Mission Funds -			x
Women :			
United Methodist Women's Group – meeting		x	
Rummage Sale			x
Bethany Birthday Parties			x
Men:			
United Methodist Men's Group – meeting??	WHEN ANDWHERE	DO THEY MEET?	
Family:			
Grandparents and Grand children Camp:		x	
Youth & Young Adults :			
Youth Group - meeting		x	
Children/Youth/adults:			
Sunday / Church School-			
Vacation Bible School?????	Great, but requires	Skills and lots of time?	
Pageant	x		
Santa's Breakfast	x	ONE BIG FAMILY	

		FELLOWSHIP EVENT!	
Easter Egg Hunt	JUST FLOWS INTO.!	KIDS LOVE IT! FUN!	
Halloween Party	x		
F.U.N. Fest -(Largest Audience Event)	A GREAT/ UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT	WITH OUR COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORS!	x
Nursery			x

Yellow highlight indicates possible deletion of activity or change to current activity.

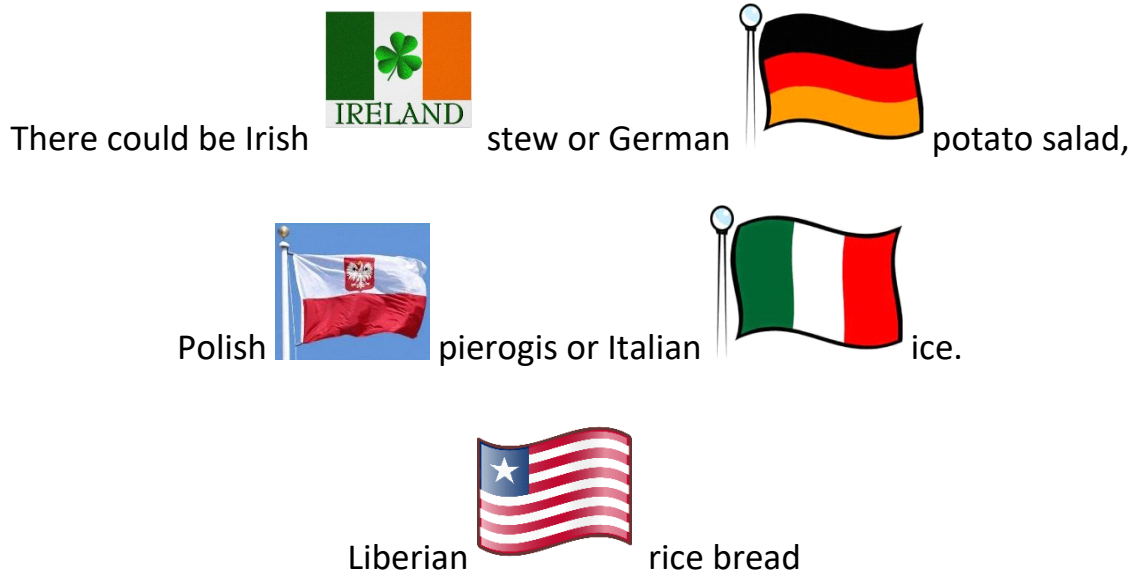
Start thinking about the next 5th Sunday pot luck

June 30, 2019

Let's get to know where our friends are from!

When your ancestors came to America they brought with them an abundance of recipes.
Hopefully, these recipes are now with you.

Bring an appetizer, entre' or dessert that reflects your heritage.



We do ask that you bring a list of ingredients due to any allergies.

You will be able to vote for your favorite dish and the proceeds will benefit the Church emergency fund.

U.M.W. SPRING LUNCHEON

The United Methodist Women will meet **May 9th** for the Spring Luncheon, hosted by Patti Walker. The cost will be \$10. Reservations can be made by calling the church office (633-7632). Reservations need to be made by noon on **May 7th**. Everyone is urged to come help assemble the Kid's Hospitality Kits.

Prior to the luncheon a brief business meeting will be held in the Reep Room at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to the meeting--the luncheon--or both.

KIDS HOSPITALITY KITS

For the WI Conference

The UMW will be creating Kids Kits that will be sent to the WI Church Conference in June. They will then be sent to the Methodist sponsored crisis centers at Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee and/or to Harbor House in Superior. We will be asking the congregation for help with the cost of this worthy project. You will find a special envelop in the Mother's Day bulletin – any donation will be greatly appreciated.





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 Kirk
- 28 - Otto Nelson



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN MAY!

- 14 - John & Judy Kara
- 21 - Eric & Liza Reed
- 25 - Jeff & Marcia Fernholz
- 28 - Stan & Debra Johnson



USHER SCHEDULE

May 5

Chuck & Jane Bragg
August Grulich

May 12

Roger & Betty Oakley
Ricky Castro

May 19

Jeff Fernholz
August Grulich
Ricky Castro

May 26

Chuck & Jane Bragg
Jan Rosellini

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.

Others, who might like to serve the church in this way, please contact the church office.

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.



LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR MAY

Loose change offering for May will be sent to UMCOR. The severe weather around the country this winter and spring has been a challenge for UMCOR. Your contributions will assist them in helping those who have lost homes and personal belongings due to flooding. Place your donation in the small brown envelopes found in the pew racks or simply indicate "UMCOR" on your check. Thank you for your continued support of our mission projects.

JUNE NEWSLETTER INFO

If you'd like something in the June newsletter please send your information in by May 21st. Send it to racine1umc@tds.net or give me a call at (262)633-7632. Thank you, 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 or pastorfumcr@tds.net
Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 8:30 - noon
Pastor – Jakes S. Voker
Editor – Liza Taliaferro

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
(Every other week)	
Casa de Dios Worship Service	5:00 pm

Each Monday

OFFICE CLOSED	
Casa de Dios Bible Study	6:30 pm

Each Wednesday

Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm
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Each Saturday

Sack Lunch Program	Noon
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Sunday, May 5

FFRANC Breakfast	9:00 am
June Nettles Preaching	10:00 am

Saturday, May 4

Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am
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Sunday, May 12

August Grulich Preaching	10:00 am
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Sunday, May 19

Scott McClelland Preaching	10:00 am
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Amazon Smile

First United Methodist Church Racine has partnered with Amazon Smile to allow those of us who choose to purchase items from Amazon to donate a percentage of the cost of the purchase price to our church. If you use Amazon, we hope that you will choose to designate First United Methodist Church as your charity of choice. The following link will allow you to designate First United Methodist Church. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0989786>. Please share this link with family and friends who would be willing to support our church through Amazon Smile.



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”