



# *The First Word*

## *September, 2021*

### *First United Methodist Church, Racine*

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#### **RETREAT, BUT REASSEMBLE:**

***“We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed.***

**(2Corinthians 4:8-10-GNT)**



Dear Families and Friends of Racine 1<sup>st</sup> U.M Church,

Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. As always, I prayerfully hope you and your respective family are safe, healthy- even if not 100%, as well as staying cool in this hot and often humid summer weather.

My friends and Co-workers in our Lord’s vineyard, I can’t agree enough with you when it comes to how much challenges and difficulties we’ve endured, and still experiencing one way or another. The fact that the level of impacts this global deadly Pandemic COVID-19 has had and possibly is having, varies from one individual, family and community to another cannot be denied. For some it has been either oneself or a loved one mildly infected, treated and recovered. At the same time, for another, it’s either oneself, a loved or an entire neighborhood that was severally infected, treated and survived, but suffered and still struggling with some kind of side effects, while another may have sadly lost a closed loved one! Again, whatever has been either your personal experience, family’s or community’s experience through these strange and difficult times, rest assured that you haven’t been, not for a second, alone! There was and still someone somewhere holding you all in his or her prayers! Most importantly, as a child and friend of Jesus Christ, you can count on his faithful promise: ***“I will not leave you as orphans,” (John 14:18)***, and surely, he’s been present and will continue to do so even now until the end!

Remember, as a believer, physical separation, and at times isolation, from the assembly of other believers negatively impacts very essential parts of our life in ministry and mission together. Some may argue, truly so, that

distance is not a Barrier to God's power, presence and special blessings wherever and whenever the needs arise. While the above argument is true, I would still like to extend a **"Pastoral Invitation"** to you, your family, relatives and friends: A warmed **"Welcome Back To Church!"**

Yes, it is true that our God is present with us in all places, in all circumstances and all of the time, but that does not diminish the importance of the need for the assembling of all believers. Alongside his call upon the struggling believers to persevere, the author of the Book of Hebrews writes: **"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not NEGLECT our meeting together as some are doing."** (Heb. 10:23-25- NIV). The Apostle Paul also reminds members of Corinthians Church that was very troubled and engulfed by internal and external conflicts not to give up, but keep holding firm to their faith, for the Lord would bring them the desired healing at his appointed time. (2 Cor. 4:8-10) In other words, just as gold is refined by fire in order to bring out its best, so are challenging and tough times we go through as believers in this life. They serve as tests of our faith so that once we remain steadfast and firm, the authenticity of our faith becomes an indisputable witness to help strengthen those with either weak or untested faith, as well as a motivation for those who haven't come to believe and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to do so.

My friends, how about we think of our being alive today as the gracious act of God keeping a **Remnant**, like he did with the Israelites, in order to continue spreading the Good News! (**Romans 11: 1-5- ESV**). Frankly, with all due respect to all the health professionals and the protocols, let's not ever forget that you and I are alive today only by the Grace of God! We need to continue trusting Him with our safety as we gather for "In-Person Worship" in the days and months ahead.

Now, trusting God to help us continue to keep ourselves and others safe, I'm please to present the schedule for the events marking our congregation's formal **"Welcome Back To Church"**

Sunday September 12, 2021- Special Coffee Hour (meet and greet), with a special Cake. Like "FRANC Sunday," anyone may bring a favorite Snack to pass at the fellowship table following the worship Service. Please invite and bring along a Guest!

In conclusion, we definitely missed each of you and would love to get back to our **"In-Person"** style of Worship. However, while it is true that "In- Person Worship" has huge benefits to our faith journey including Christian socialization, Spiritual Growth and Witness, I would also encourage you to pray and follow God's guidance in your choice of worship style. There is no pressure on anyone to join the "In-Person Worship!"

Thanks to all of you for your prayers, committed services and financial gifts to our congregation. Your gift in any kind enables the Lord's ministry and mission through our congregation. Deeply appreciated!  
Finally, let's stay prayerful, safe, and healthy in Jesus' Name.

Blessings,  
Rev. Jakes

NOTE: We will NOT HAVE THE REGULAR "FFRANC BREAKFAST" on September 5<sup>th</sup>. As stated above, we will be celebrating "Welcome Back to Church" Sunday with refreshments following the worship service on September 12th.

## SCRIPTURES AND THEMES - 09/2021

PENTECOST - 15<sup>TH</sup> /HOLY COMMUNION  
SUNDAY - 09/05/2021

Psalms 125: 1ff

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23

James 2: 1-10; 11-13, 14-17

Mark 7: 24-37

Theme: **UNSHAKEABLE FAITH- THE KEY TO  
DIVINE INTERVENTION**

PENTECOST – 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY – 09/12/2021

Psalms 19: 1ff.

Proverbs 1: 20-33

James 3; 1-12

Mark 8: 27-38

Theme: **THE IDENTITY OF JESUS: DO YOU  
KNOW HIM...?**

PENTECOST – 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY – 09/19/2021

Psalms 1: 1ff.

Proverbs 31: 10-31

James 3: 13-4:3,7-8

Mark 9: 30-37

Theme: **JESUS- A MODEL FOR TRUE  
GREATNESS ...**

PENTECOST – 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY - 09/26/2021

Psalms 124: 1ff.

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 20-22

James 5: 13-20

Mark 9: 38-50

Theme: **CALLED TO BE BLOCKS: what TYPE of  
block are you?**

### ***The First Word***

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Tuesday thru Friday 8:30-noon

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Wisconsin

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Wisconsin  
Conference:

We are deeply saddened by the news of the  
tragic events that have recently occurred in Haiti.  
On Saturday, August 14, Haiti experienced a 7.2  
magnitude earthquake that produced widespread  
destruction in the western region of the country.  
The current death toll stands at 1,297 and left at  
least 5,700 people injured in the Caribbean  
nation, with thousands more displaced from their  
destroyed or damaged homes.

We invite you to make a donation to UMCOR to  
aid in the response efforts in Haiti. We ask you to  
pray for the families of those who have died or  
are missing. We also pray for the communities  
experiencing upheaval and uncertainty. UMCOR  
stands in solidarity and is in communication with  
partners in Haiti as the full scale of this disaster  
unfolds.



You may contribute directly through First Church  
by indicating UMCOR – Haiti Relief on your  
check.

August 17, 2021

My Beloved Wisconsin Siblings in Christ,

I greet you in the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, and I would begin with gratitude for the faithfulness and witness of your discipleship during the pandemic. I write today concerned about grounding our Christian practice as the Delta Variant has become the predominant strain in Wisconsin.

We cannot eliminate risk in our life together, but we can be wise and bear witness to Jesus by what we place in the center. Psalm 84 begins, “how lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!”. The temple is considered lovely in verse three because, “even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young.” The temple and temple community are lovely because they have made room for the sparrow who looks for protection.

Consider, dear Siblings, that with the Delta Variant we are seeing increased transmissibility and impact on the unvaccinated, as well as breakthrough cases for the vaccinated. We are experiencing turnover in clergy leadership from stress. Children are unable to be vaccinated. Many have compromised immune systems and our health care professionals are under great strain. In such a time as this, might we train our eyes on ways we make room for the vulnerable? How might we be children of a God whose eye is on the sparrow?

In January of this year, I asked you to consider the accountability and practice of three simple rules for United Methodists in Wisconsin: be cautious, be gracious, and be flexible.

I thank God for our Coronavirus Task Force. Their Q & A is attached. Please read it prayerfully. Leaders, these are important days for spiritual leadership. Thank you for every way you walk the moral high ground, and every time you humbly surrender your personal preferences to benefit the mission of Jesus. How lovely is the temple where the sparrow finds a home.

Know that I am praying for you.  
In Christ’s love,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

## Covid- 19 FAQ Sheet – Updated August 16, 2021

Due to the changing nature of Covid-19 and the Delta Variant, the Covid Task Team has summarized some commonly asked questions and new guidelines.

We live in a precarious time where a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated persons create a high risk of a COVID strain developing that is resistant to all vaccines, which means the pandemic could start all over again with another year or more of not being able to gather as a congregation. This adds to the urgency to get more people vaccinated.

### **What is the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mask guideline?**

As of July 27, 2021, the CDC states that those fully vaccinated can “participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic”, **unless there are local rules that require a different mandate.**

Masks are not required for those fully vaccinated if you live in an area of **Low or Moderate** Covid-19 transmission.

In areas with **Substantial or High** transmission, the CDC recommends masks be worn in indoor, public places regardless of vaccination status.

Currently, most of Wisconsin is in the High category. Therefore the Conference strongly urges people to wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. Please be sure to follow your local county guidelines if different from the current CDC guidelines.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN SEPTEMBER!!**

- 1 - Carol Buhler  
Marcia Fernholz
- 6 – Bryson McKenney
- 7 - Melissa LaChance
- 8 - Jean Harmon  
Peggy Larson
- 10 - Brittany Piliouras  
Melanie Guckenberger  
Shannon Hirth
- 12 - Bev Christensen
- 16 - Chuck Bragg
- 17 - Al Feest
- 22 - Jill DeRosia
- 30 - Peter Feest Jr.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN SEPTEMBER!!**

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



**FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

Our item for September will be canned fruit. Bring your contributions to the church any time and place them in the crates near the entrances. Thanks for your continued support of the food banks of Racine.

**LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER** will benefit the Diaper Ministry housed at North Point United Methodist Church. Place your contribution in the small brown envelope found in the pew rack or indicate “Diaper Ministry” on your check. Thank you for your continued support of our Mission projects.



**BIBLES TO BE PRESENTED** We are very excited to present a Bible to those entering third grade – or older children who have not yet received their own Bible. Be sure to join us on Sunday, October 3rd for this special time to recognize these young students.

**MINISTRY/MISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. 10: a. m – 11:15 q.m - Wednesday Bible Study- Topic: The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm via Rightnow Media, All invited, and if interested, send me an email to receive an invitation to join.
2. 8:a.m -9:45 a.m Faith To Life Bible 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday thru last via Face Book
3. 10: a.m - Regular “In-person” Sunday Worship Service is being encouraged. Please find to check us out!
4. 8:30 – 2:p.m – Tuesday-Friday weekly Church’s Office hours.

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~**THEN & NOW**~  
**September 2021**  
~**OUR CHURCH HISTORY**~

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First Methodist Episcopal Church of Racine  
now First United Methodist Church, Racine WI  
~Research by Judith D. Schulz, Church Historian,~

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**Our congregation is**  
**185 years old this year 2021**

~ **The First United Methodist Church is the City of Racine's first organized congregation, originally called First Methodist Episcopal Church, or the M. E. Church**  
~ founded 35 years before the Civil War ~

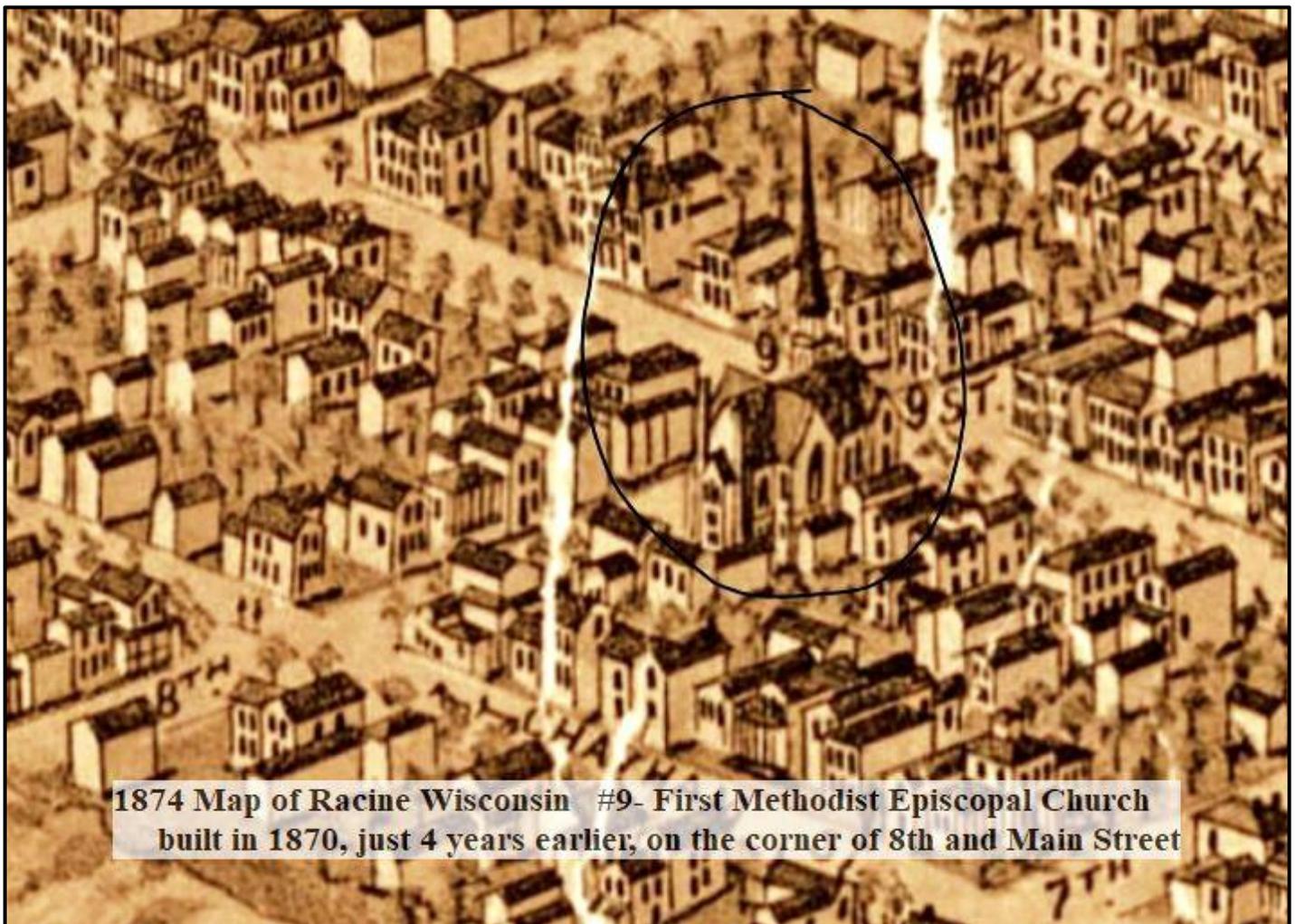
~ **Old maps** are so interesting! You can feel like you are right there in 1874 in this section of the 1874 pictorial map of Racine. Our church is marked #9 and is circled. There is a #9 on both sides, making the right #9 look like 9<sup>th</sup> street,

but we know it is 8<sup>th</sup> St. The map confirms 8<sup>th</sup> street further to the left edge.

~ Our new church pictured here, broke ground in 1870, dedicated in 1871, had a very prominent tall steeple then. The story goes, quoting E. W. Leach; *the contractor, in beginning the pitch for the spire got the pitch a little too steep and it went up 19 feet higher than the plans called for!*" This added to its beauty and was considered the handsomest church in the city. A drawing of it appears on the important wall size 1873 Plat map of Racine-Kenosha County. Click to see plat map: <https://archives.uwp.edu/exhibits/show/plat-maps-racine-kenosha/map-of-racine-and-kenosha-coun>  
**Sadly**, we lost the steeple in the fire of Feb. 5, 1882.

~ **Notice on the map, the back of the church**, facing East with prominent design. The pulpit was in the East end of the sanctuary in this church building. We wonder why they changed the location of the pulpit to the West end when they built our current building on this same location. Any theories?

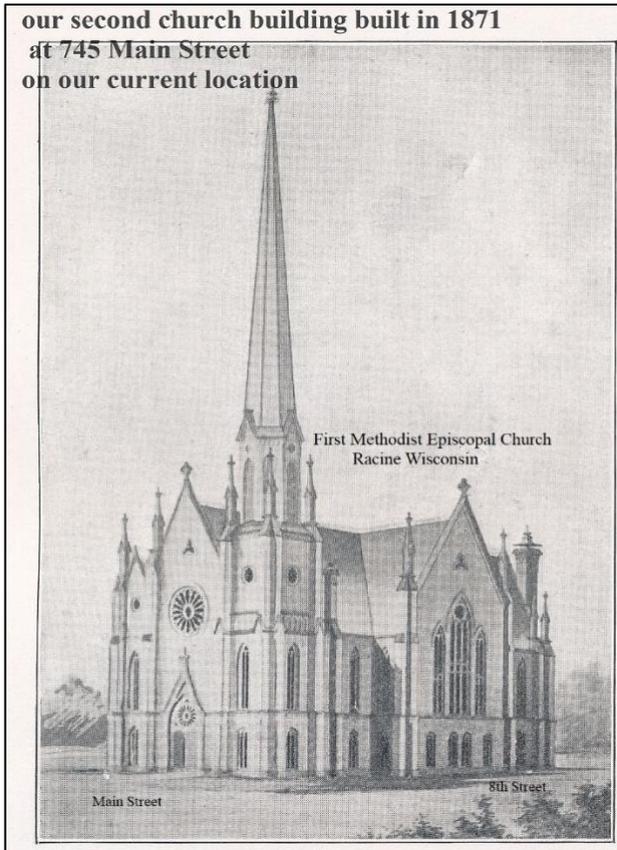
~**the small "shed"** just East of the church was the meeting place of the W.C.T.U. - Women's' Christian Temperance Union. How appropriate, to be next to a Methodist Church!



Chatham Street on the map is now called Lake Av. Wonder why and when it changed? **Can you find** the people walking on the street, and the horse and carriage?

~ **Below:** You are looking at the front façade (left face) which faces Main St. in this drawing. The main entrance was on Main Street. Compare this drawing to the drawing on the pictorial map, where you are looking from the opposite direction.

~ **How much did this church cost?** Our corner lot, building and furnishings totaled \$42,128. It was razed in 1913 to build



the “new” church, our 3rd building; which is now about 107 years old and still serves us well. *Thanks to many through the years who, and currently Chuck Bragg, have helped to maintain our Methodist Church building.*

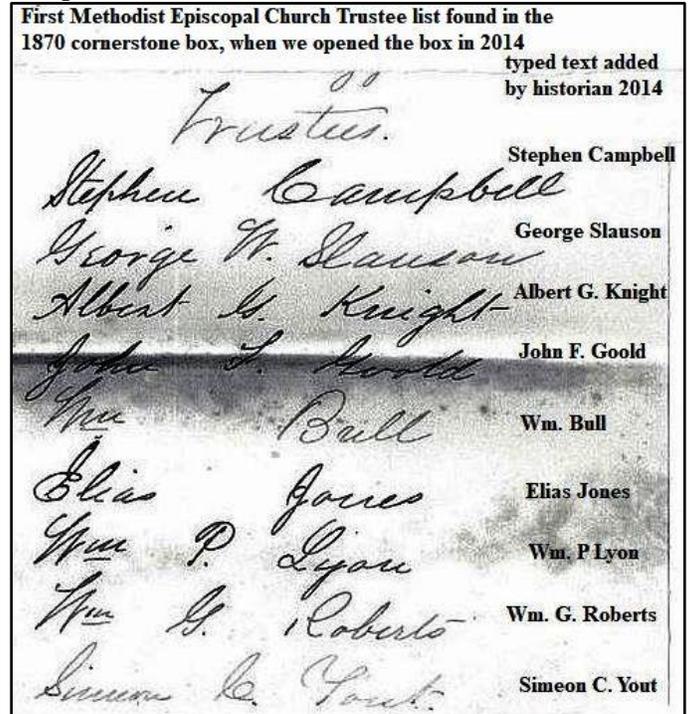
~**The cornerstone** from this 1870/71 building was found in the NW stairwell of our current 1914 building. You can go take a look at the opening in the wall where it was found. We left it open for all to see; plus, information about the special cornerstone is on display there.

~ **This is just part of the 185-year story** ~

~ **Celebrate! our congregation is 185 years old this year 2021** ~

Watch for more of our history on our website and a special event this year.

~ The First Methodist Episcopal Church Trustees who supervised the building of this impressive structure, were on a list found in the 1870 cornerstone box, when we opened the box in 2014.



~ **Did you know?** 3 Racine STREETS are named after 3 from our trustee list above? // A.G. Knight founded the Knight Title Co. that still exists today, 151 years later. // W.G.Roberts served as a Racine County Supervisor and is the great grandfather of Marie Kappel; great, great grandfather of Herb Kappel & Wayne Maire Schulz; and ggg grandfather of the author of these history pages.

**CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS?**

-We are collecting confirmation group photos! If you have any, would you kindly scan it at high resolution (front and back if names on back) and email it to the church --or arrange a time to bring it to church office to be scanned, while you wait~

-We also welcome photos of the confirmed person on their confirmation day. Please include names & dates.

- So far, we have these group confirmation photos:
- 1937 from Marilyn Kappel
  - 1958 from Esther & Carl Wulff
  - 1959 from Judy Michael Kara
  - 1961 from Judith Schulz & Carol Michael Feest
  - 1963 from Jan Kaiser Rosellini
  - 1970 from Lisa Oakley Bristow

*Please help us complete the timeline with more~*

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



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## **First United Methodist Church**

**The Vision statement:**

**Inspire all to live faithfully in Jesus Christ**

**The Mission statement:**

**Gather, Equip, and Serve our community and the world in the name Jesus Christ!**

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