



The First Word

August, 2015

First United Methodist Church, Racine

745 Main Street, Racine,
WI 53403

Jakes Voker
Pastor

Carol Feest
Administrative Assistant

Jeff Fernholz
Treasurer

Sue Mills
Financial Secretary

Fred Ganaway
Administrative Bd.
Chairperson

Chuck Bragg
Trustee Chairperson

Judith Schulz
Church Historian

Sue Mills
Parish Visitor

Nancy Cook
Organist

Jeanne Whiteside
Media Coordinator

Denise Ferguson
Family, Education &
Nurture Coordinator

Rick Reinhard
Custodian

August 2015 Newsletter,
First United Methodist
Church, Racine, WI

Saturday July 4th Parade: A message for our faith life and journey

Years after another, many of us have had the privileged to either participate in or just witness the events that mark the celebration of the declaration of our national identity as a freed, sovereign nation and people. I bet it's always been colorful, well planned, with magnificent decorations, spectacular displays of talents, human inventions and the pride of all those who actually performed roles in the event as well as the attendees that include both residents and visitors alike. People from the Racine community and its environs joyfully celebrated this occasion in various shapes and fashions including but not limited to honoring the services of the military, including the veterans both deceased and those still alive like Mr. Earl Christiansen, a very active member of our congregation. Close to home participants in the parade included Mr. Pete Feest Jr. with his son Austin standing on the back of his fire truck, businesses, antiques cars, schools, colleges, churches, and Fred Karst, President of the Kiwanis that meets in our building. As a first-time viewer, I had the opportunity of watching the event with Mr. Pete and Mrs. Carol Feest, Mr. Chuck and Mrs. Jean Harmon while Dr. Ellen Spiering and Mr. Dave Johnson, Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Marcia Fernholz and a number of youth from our congregation, all of whom were busy in the booth selling fund raiser food to support the joint youth group's camp trip. What a Memorable Day! Notice: I didn't say a "Glorious Day!"

As I struggled walking through the densely populated crowds from and to my house, I began to wonder about what I could possibly learn and be able to take away from this wonderful scene of celebrations? The Apostle Paul's words concerning the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ spoken to 1st Century believers in Thessalonica began to dawn on me. Lest we forget that prior to his ascension, Jesus had promised his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them, and thereafter would come back to take them, so that where he is, they might also be. (John 14: 3). As a disciple of this Jesus, Paul reminds the Thessalonica believers, even us, of what that second coming of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ would look like. Here's an excerpt of Paul's reminder: ***"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with Lord forever! (2 Thessalonians 4:16-17- NIV).***

No matter how wonderfully honoring the Independence Day Celebrations, there is only group of people that participate in them, i.e. those who are still alive, right? Now imagine, what if it were humanly possible to bring back all the deceased national heroes and patriots like Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, all the past presidents and members of their cabinet, the Generals of the military and all the enlisted men and women of the Armed Forces, police, governors, city mayors,

deceased loved ones of ordinary citizens and friends, just to name a few, what would the celebrations have looked like? Personally, I think it would have made a GREAT and most GLORIOUS DAY on planet earth! Unfortunately, it is not humanly possible! As wonderful and spectacular the July 4th Celebrations often are, they are nothing in comparison to the Celebration that awaits all believers on the day our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ returns! This will be “THE DAY” when all believers, both deceased and alive, will come together for a Great reunion and fellowship! John the Revelator envisions and tells us there will be no need for sun or night on that Great Day marking the Celebration of our Lord’s return. (Rev. 21:25). Let’s keep the Faith and be prepared as we eagerly await the dawn of this GREAT and GLORIOUS DAY of endless joy with all of our sisters and brothers, families and relatives, friends where the Lord Jesus Christ will be all and in all to all peoples and nations to the honor and glory of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Amen!

You all have a wonderful summer in Jesus’ name.
Blessings,
Rev. Jakes

Scriptures and Themes August 2015

Pentecost 10th Sunday- 08/02/2015

Psalm 51: 1-12; 2 Samuel 11: 26—12:13a

Ephesians 4: 1-16; John 6: 24-35

Theme: **Work smart and eat healthy**

Everywhere Jesus went crowds of people from all works of life with various needs and conditions followed and gathered around him. Even when he would try to find a quiet time, they still sought him out. While some followed him because of his miraculous signs and power, still others followed Jesus because he had given them food for their stomach. Jesus warned those who for the sake of the food he’s given them to work for the food that last onto eternity, that’s “**working smart**” and not only for their stomach, that’s “**eating healthy.**”

Pentecost 11th Sunday 08/9/2015

Psalm 130: 1ff.; 2 Samuel 18: 5-9

Ephesians 4: 25-5:2; John 6: 41-51

Theme: **The Power that attracts a person to Jesus**
The conversion of a sinner to the saving knowledge of God is by God’s grace as found in Jesus Christ. The process begins with God’s Spirit intercepting the

spirit of the unbeliever. This is why Jesus would say, we, then sinners, did not choose him, but he chose and saved us.

Pentecost Sunday 12th 08/16/2015

Psalm 111: 1ff.; 1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 3-14

Ephesians 5: 15-20; John 6: 51-58

Theme: **Jesus, The Real and living Bread**

Just as our physical body cannot sustain its vitality and strength without adequate supply of physical food/bread, so does our spiritual life. Jesus Christ is the second person of the Holy Trinity. He was with God the Father during the time of creation and through him all things were made according to scripture. Jesus uses the symbolism of bread to help us understand that he is both the source and supplier of all that our life needs, both physical and spiritual, in order to survive, grow and be more meaningful.

Pentecost Sunday 13th – 08/23/2015

Psalm 84: 1ff.; 1 Kings 8: 1,6, 10-12, 22-30, 41-43

Ephesians 6: 10-20; John 6: 56-69

Theme: **Christ, the Word of eternal life**

We read in the Gospel of John 1: 12-14 that God’s Word became flesh and dwell among us. The Word that became flesh also became known as God’s Begotten Son, the Anointed One of God, Jesus Christ. Not only that Jesus Christ is the incarnate Word of God, but he also possesses the power of life eternal, and believing in him gives one eternal life. This is one of the distinctiveness of our faith compares to other faith traditions.

Pentecost Sunday 14th 8/30/2015

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

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13; James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Theme: **God’s law vs. human traditions**

The problems of some leaders in, both secular as well as religious circles, exploiting genuinely established norms to meet their personal and selfish aims is as old as the human race. God’s laws are meant to set God’s people free from those crippling, demeaning human traditions and other causes of human sufferings. The same is true of the Pharisees and legal experts of Jesus’ da in Jerusalem. They willfully twisted God’s laws, but accused Jesus’ disciples of not observing the purity law of hand washing. This was one of the ways they tried to entrap and get at Jesus and his disciples. In response, Jesus put them

on the spot by reminding them that they were ignoring God's commandments at the expense of honoring human traditions. Which would you prefer? God's commands or human traditions?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each Sunday

Worship Service	10:00 am
Fellowship Time	11:15 am
Casa de Dios Worship Service	5:00 pm

Each Monday

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

Casa de Dios Bible Study	6:30 pm
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Each Tuesday

Pokemon League with Keith Griffin	2:00-6:00 pm
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Each Wednesday

Kiwanis Club Luncheon	Noon
Praise Team Rehearsal	5:00 pm

Each Saturday

Sack Lunch Program	Noon
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Saturday, August 1

Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am
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Wednesday, August 5

Youth Group meeting at First Church	5:00 pm
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Sunday, August 9 thru Saturday, August 15

Youth Attend Christian Disciple Farm in Sullivan

Tuesday, August 11

Worship Team meeting	6:00 pm
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Tuesday, August 18

Finance Committee meeting	6:00 pm
Administrative Board meeting	7:00 pm

Wednesday, August 19

Youth Group meeting at First Church	5:00 pm
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Saturday, August 22

Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market	8:00 am
Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am

Sunday, August 30

F.U.N. Fest in parking lots	2:00 – 6:00 pm
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NEW POSITIONS FILLED

Several months ago, the Administrative Board approved and directed the Staff Parish Relations Committee to hire two additional staff members to help with our congregation's ministries and mission. Having gone through all of the required processes of employment, we are delighted to introduce to you these two new staff members and a brief description of their respective ministries:

Jeanne Whiteside - Coordinator, Media and Technology Ministry. She will build a team, monitor and manage all of our congregation's technology needs including, but not limited to, keeping our website up to date with current and future ministries and mission events, Sunday worship and other projection needs, create multimedia accounts such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. to help keep members, the community and the world connected.

Denise Ferguson - Coordinator, Families Education and Nurture Ministries. She will, along with the pastor, explore and assess the basic needs of families in our congregation and the community, build family oriented education and nurture teams to assist with how best we can better serve and get our Church family more involved in the Church's life, ministries and mission.

Finally, please work with and support Jeanne and Denise in their new positions to make our congregation's ministries and mission more effective.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

The First Word is published monthly by First United Methodist Church
745 Main St., Racine, WI 53403
Phone: 262-633-7632
Email – racine1umc@tds.net or
pastorfumcr@tds.net (Pastor)
Office hours:
Tuesday thru Friday, 8:30 - noon
Pastor – Jakes S. Voker
Editor – Carol Feest

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN
AUGUST!**

4 - Judy Kara
5 - Jakes Voker
10 - Wendy Toutant
11 - Chuck Harmon
Marilyn Kappel
20 - Joe Sens
22 - Meghan Fernholz
Scott Randecker
23 - Hunter DeRosier
26 - Geri Christianson
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

**ALTAR FLOWERS IN
AUGUST**

2 -
9 -
16 -
23 - Mary K. Tsuchiya
30 - Earl Christianson

FOOD PANTRY

COLLECTION - Our item for August will be cans of pork & beans. Place your donations in the crates located near the church entrances. Patti Walker will deliver the items to the food pantry. Thanks for your continued support.

**OUR "LOOSE CHANGE"
OFFERING**

- The August collection will benefit the Respite Services of Lincoln Lutheran. Simply place your loose change, or more, in the small envelopes found in the pew racks or on the sanctuary tables and place it in the offering plate. Thanks for your mission giving.

USHER SCHEDULE

August 2

Dave Johnson
Roger & Betty Oakley

August 9

Jeff Fernholz
Chuck & Jane Bragg

August 16

Chuck & Jean Harmon
Dave Johnson

August 23

Jeff Fernholz
August Grulich
Ricky Castro

August 30

Chuck & Jane Bragg
Dave Johnson

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.

**OUR HISTORY PAGES WILL
RETURN IN THE
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
- WATCH FOR THEM!!**



Bake Sale

**BAKE SALE AT THE
FARMER'S MARKET -
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22nd.**

The U.M.W. will host the bake sale at the Farmer's Market on State Street. The entire church family is asked to bring your baked goods to the Case Company Parking lot on State Street by 8:00 am that morning; or bake ahead and put your goodies in the freezer at church.

NOTE: No home canned goods are allowed due to State regulations. (Also, frosting does not hold up well in warm weather.) Help will be needed at the sale as well. Let Carol Feest know how you can be of assistance.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!!

Jeanne Whiteside, our Media Coordinator, has a Facebook page up and running for the church!!

The directions to finding the Facebook page are as follows. Find the search bar at the top of your Facebook page. Search Racine First United Methodist
When you get to the page, please click like
At this point, you will get all updates and notifications on your wall.

Jeanne is also working on the church website: 1umcracine.org
Check it out!!

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FFRANC BREAKFAST AUGUST 2

Dear members and friends,

You are invited to be a part of our FFRANC (Fellowship of Families, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, and Co-workers) breakfast on **Sunday, August 2** at 9:00 am. We are reaching the mid-point of summer already! Seems like it was never going to get here and now it is racing by!

FFRANC Sunday offers opportunities for all members of our congregation and their invitees to gather on the **first Sunday** of each month for a time of fellowship and to celebrate the blessings of special days in their lives over delicious breakfast. Those special days may include birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, newly wedded, first job, etc. We are also looking forward to our big party/carnival First United Neighborhood (F.U.N.) Fest at the end of the month.

This month's FFRANC event will be sponsored by the people who were recognized as having special events in July. Thereafter, on the **first Sunday** of each subsequent month, people whose special days were celebrated in the preceding month, along with the entire congregation, will provide the breakfast for those celebrating in the current month.

Again, we would like to encourage everyone to invite someone and be present at each celebration, even if you aren't able to bring a dish! We prayerfully look forward to a joyful celebration with you at each FFRANC **Sunday**, all in the name of Jesus Christ, the one in whom our joy is made complete!

Sincerely,

The Team on Hospitality

FIRST ALIVE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

The **second Wednesday** of each month is First Alive **Wednesday**! We feature a potluck dinner starting at 5pm. The event, hosted by the hospitality team, is open to everyone. This is a place of fellowship, fun, and good conversation. **We look forward to Pastor Jakes returning from his trip to Liberia! He plans on showing us some pictures and/or video and discussing the trip.** That sounds like it will be very interesting so plan on joining us that evening!

First United Neighborhood (F. U. N.) Fest Sunday August 30 2-6 pm

WE HAVE A WINNER!! The winner of naming the end-of-summer party/carnival is Amanda Schnaare! She came up with a catchy acronym for the party. Thank you, Mandy! F. U. N. Fest will be held from 2-6pm on **August 30** and is open to everyone from our church and the community.

We will be having food, games, bingo, music, a bouncy house, a dunk tank, face painting, and prizes! There will also be a tour of our historic church building during the event! This is going to be a great time, but we do need your help. We need people to set up directly after church, to serve food, run games, supervise the bouncy house, give rides, pop popcorn, call bingo numbers, and clean up afterwards.

ATTENTION YOUTH: We need some strong able bodies!! And we also need people to donate school supplies as prizes, donate food, or even just money to help the party along with its expenses. Of course, we need people to attend the party, too, so there is something everyone can do in some capacity.

Please contact Denise 262-994-1021 MMaiden200@yahoo.com or Carol in the office 262-633-7632 with your offer of assistance!

YOUTH TO ATTEND CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE FARM AUGUST 9-15

Several of our youth will be working with the campers at Christian Disciple Farm, a camp for people with various disabilities. If you'd like to make a "care package" for our youth, please do so and bring them to church by Wednesday, August 5th. They might include lip gloss, sun screen, snacks, cards, etc. Shoe box size works best. Thanks for your support of this ministry.

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Racine, WI

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

**The Mission of
First United Methodist Church**

- **To provide a place for people to experience God and find inspiration for daily living.**
- **To welcome all people as valued members of the community.**
- **To encourage growth in faith and service on their spiritual journeys.**
- **To work for social justice.**
- **And to invite all to experience eternal life through Jesus Christ.**