



The First Word

October, 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

WELCOME TO FIRST UMC “SEEDERS” MINISTRY INITIATIVES



“**SEEDERS**” is an acronym for the following ministry and mission ventures:

S- seek the lost;
E- embrace the those found,
E- equip them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
D- deploy them into the harvest field to
E- engage with the people,
R- recruit those found for
S- services that transform lives in the name of Jesus Christ.

The “SEEDERS Ministries and Missions Initiatives is in response to our conference’s constant call to “Imagine Wisconsin Anew!” Generally, “Imagining Wisconsin Anew” is our Bishop’s passionate invitation to all members and friends of every congregation to leave the comforts of their buildings and intentionally reach out and passionately invite new people into their congregation and faith communities. Over the last two years, our annual conference themes have been conveying messages of invitation, nurture and growth. In 2014 the conference’s theme was “Sowing the SEEDs,” and 2015 theme is “Cultivate and Nurture.” We are being challenged and encouraged to equip ourselves for vital, collaborative and transformative ministries and missions outside of our congregations.

In light of these challenges, the “SEEDERS Ministries and missions initiatives” provides the needed apparatus for adequate preparations that would help us meet our conference’s ministries and missional challenges. The SEEDERS Initiatives provides and invite everyone to intentionally take advantage of the various spiritual formation and faith building study groups such as the Faith To life, Coffee Time With God, First Alive Wednesday, Faith and Fun Forum now reading the entire Bible in a “Story” form in addition to our regular Church School classes for children. All of these are meant to offer

opportunities that promote Biblical literacy, strengthen faith and empower participants for bold and fearless

came by, some of whom we may never have met or ever get to meet again. The greatest benefit, as a congregation we planted SEEDS! We reached out to our community with the love of God and touched lives in the name of Jesus Christ! To God be the glory! Let's keep up that momentum and continue to be the congregation God specifically calls and stations us in this community to be!

Remember the words of Jesus Christ when he said: *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few!" (Matt. 9: 37-NIV); "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest!" (John 4:35-NIV).* The challenge is ours! Join the **SEEDERS Initiatives** and become the disciple God Calls and intends you to be! Touch and invite one life to Jesus today, for tomorrow might be too late!

Blessings,
Rev. Jakes

SCRIPTURE AND THEMES-OCTOBER 2015

10/04/2015 19th Sunday Pentecost/ Holy Communion
Psalm 124: 1ff.; Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10; 9: 20-23
Ephesians 6: 10-17; John 3: 1-11

Theme: Put on the Helmet of Salvation

A helmet is meant to protect one's head from injury in the event of an accident. There are state /city laws that require people who drive race cars, ride bicycles, motorcycles, motorbikes, football players; etcetera, to wear specific kinds of helmets in order to protect their heads from concussion and other forms of serious injuries in case of an accident. The assurance of Salvation through Jesus Christ is fundamental to the life and faith of all believers. The Apostle Paul encourages all believers/disciples to always wear this very important spiritual equipment as they confront and fight against the evil forces that are opposed to God's will, his purposes and his people in this world.

10/11/2015 – 20th Sunday Pentecost
Psalm 119: 11, 33—40, 99-105
Ephesians 6: 10-17; Hebrews 12: 12-13

outreach into our community to invite both backslided members back into the fold, and new people into our household of faith. Together, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can do this and even more!

The **"F.U.N. (First United Neighborhood) Fest"** event of Sunday September 30, 2015 should serve as an example and encouragement of how together we can make positive impacts on our community. It was a wonderful outreach initiative that impacted all who

Matthew 10: 17-20

Theme: Take the Sword of the Spirit

The "Sword of the Spirit" is simply the "Word of God." "God's Word" is the weapon a believer uses to go on the offense against the enemies that are opposed to God's way and will in the world. Again, lest we forget the Apostle Paul's warning that this war is not physical, but spiritual. So, God's word though intangible, its sharpness surpasses a doubled edged sword according to scripture. It's the best weapon for this spiritual warfare. Believers must be properly equipped, well grounded in God's word in order to be able to defeat the enemies.

10/18/15 – 21st Sunday Pentecost/ Laity Sunday

Psalm 46: 9-11; Isaiah 2: 2-4

Ephesians 6: 10-15; Luke 10: 17-20

Theme: Put on the shoes of the Gospel....

The Bible makes it clear that, when God's Kingdom is established and the entire world begins to live out God's way faithfully, the result would be universal peace for all people and nations. Wars and fears will give way to abundant peace worldwide as we live God's way of life. As Christ-like warriors, believers are to put on/wear the shoes of the Gospel of peace Jesus Christ offers and be ready to walk in it at all times and in all circumstances of life.

10/25/2015 22nd Sunday Pentecost

Psalm 118: 1ff.; Romans 8: 22-37

John 3: 16-17

Theme: You are Equipped for victory

Our messages have been focused on the Apostle Paul's letter to the believers in Ephesus. Specifically, in Ephesians 6:10-17, Paul calls our attention to the nature of being a disciple of Jesus Christ in this world. He compares living as disciples of Jesus Christ in everyday life to a warfare, but a spiritual one. He lists six pieces of equipment to which he also refers as "The Armor of God." He encourages every believer to wear this "Armor" if they would ever succeed in the war against the spiritual forces of evil that are opposed to God's Will for his people in this

world. The Apostle Paul is most experienced and knowledgeable of all the disciples of Jesus Christ who ever lived. I believe his testimonies are true as they are based on his personal struggles and how he overcame them. Paul has given us real and reliable protective gear known as the "Armor of God". We have discussed and reflected on each part of the "Armor" over the past six Sundays. Now, I am

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER!

4 - Laurie Lewis
14 - Danny Buhler
16 - Mark Buhler
Marilyn Nelson
17 - Roger Oakley
23 - Angel Thiel
24 - Jane Crawford
24 - Trevor Rasmussen
25 - Rick Michael
28 - Jacob Boehm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN OCTOBER!

2 - Pete & Tracie Feest
3 - Robb & Becky Meredith
12 - Andy & Jill DeRosia
14 - Harvey & Carol Randecker
18 - Ben & Amanda Schnaare
24 - Rick & Beth Michael
26 - Jean & Keith Whiteside
30 - Rick & Eva Hoaglund

ALTAR FLOWERS IN OCTOBER

4 -
11 -
18 -
25 -

IN MEMORIAM

Geraldine Christianson - 9-18-15



LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR OCTOBER

October's offering will benefit

confident that we are well equipped and ready to fight for victory over those spiritual forces in the name of Jesus Christ.

First United Methodist Church, Racine WI October 2015 Newsletter

UNICEF. Simply place your change in the small brown envelope found in the pew racks or on the sanctuary tables and place it in the offering plate. Your continued support of our various mission projects is greatly appreciated.

USHER SCHEDULE

Oct. 4

Sandi McQuade
Jan Rosellini
Chuck & Jane Bragg

Oct. 11

Roger & Betty Oakley
Dave Johnson

Oct. 18

Chuck & Jean Harmon
Jeff Fernholz

Oct. 25

August Grulich
Ricky Castro
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.

HOT MEAL PROGRAM - First Church is responsible for the Hot Meal at St. Luke's Hospitality Center on Monday, October 26th. If you can help by providing a casserole or with serving & clean up, please sign on the sheets located on the tables in the sanctuaries. Thank you for your

continued support of this Outreach ministry

NEW WOMEN'S EVENT -

Starting on Monday, October 5th, a new women's group will be meeting. The group is called Crafting Conversations. Women and girls are invited to bring your craft project and a treat to share. If you aren't "crafty" come for the conversation! We will meet on the first Monday of each month from 6-8pm in the Reep room. Hope to see you there.

SOCKS TO BE DISTRIBUTED

- The Hospitality and Outreach team is leading a Mission Project to distribute warm socks to the people who come for the Sack Lunches on November 21st. This will be our "Thanksgiving Outreach" for this year. We are asking members to purchase warm socks - all sizes for all people (men, women and children) and bring your socks to church anytime for distribution that day. Any extra socks will be distributed to those in need at a later date.

FOOD BANK ITEM FOR

OCTOBER will be tooth paste. Bring your donation to church on any Sunday of the month and place it in the crates located near the church entrances. All items will be taken to the North Side Food Bank at Trinity UMC for distribution. Thanks.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH:

We could use your help during any Sunday worship service.

Some of the ways in which you can help include: Greeter, usher, reader, sing/play music, or serve communion. You do not always realize how much the congregation enjoys seeing and hearing your presence in our church. Please consider how you would like to help and which Sunday in Oct./Nov. would work for you. Contact Becky Meredith or Carol Feest with that information. Thank you!!

*First United Methodist Church, Racine
WI October 2015 Newsletter*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Each Sunday

Coffeetime with God Sunday School	9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am
Morning Worship & Sunday School	10:00 am
Fellowship Time	11:15 am
Faith & Forum Sunday School	11:30 am
Casa de Dios Worship Service	5:00 pm

Each Monday

Casa de Dios Bible Study	6:30 pm
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Each Tuesday

Keith Griffin Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm
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Each Wednesday

Kiwanis Club luncheon	noon
Praise Team Rehearsal	5:00 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm

Each Thursday

Faith to Life Bible Study	6:00 pm
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Each Saturday

Sack Lunch Program	noon
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Saturday, October 3

Controlling Community Violence	9:00 am
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Sunday, October 4

FFRANC Breakfast	9:00 am
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Monday, October 5

Crafting Conversations, Reep Room	6:00 pm
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Wednesday, October 7

Youth Group Meeting here	6:00 pm
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Wednesday, October 14

First Alive Wednesday Pot Luck	5:00 pm
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Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

Youth Group meeting here	6:00 pm
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Monday, October 26

Hot Meal Program at St. Luke's	4:30 pm
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Wednesday, October 28

Halloween Party at church	6:00 pm
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TOGETHER, WE ENABLE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

World Communion Sunday is October 4, 2015

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

Equipping Disciples Like Mary Grace to Serve in Jesus' Name

As a small child Mary Grace Galapon labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess, of the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference, to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty.

Mary Grace's work, and the impact of hundreds more like her, are possible because you give.

Will You Equip World-Changers?

Will you give generously on World Communion Sunday to make education and vocational impact possible for more students, like Mary Grace? Will you equip gifted and qualified students from around the globe to become the world-changers God created them to be?

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most

powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” And because the people of The United Methodist Church believe that all of God’s children have been created and gifted to build the kingdom Jesus ushered in, we’re resourcing them to do just that. Because of your giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.

Please join us on Wednesday evening, October 28th for our annual Halloween Party. We will begin at 6:00 and end by 8:00 pm. Youth are asked to help with the games for the younger children. Please contact Amanda Schnaare (995-4316) or Beth Michael (939-0999) with your offer to help. Watch up-coming bulletins and newsletter for information on the Children’s Christmas program



FFRANC BREAKFAST

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, October 4 at 9:00 am. We look forward to many fun activities in the church this Autumn starting off with the breakfast!

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.

October’s FFRANC event will be sponsored by the people who were recognized as having special events in September. 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. The FFRANC Breakfast has been a resounding success. Let’s keep it going!

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 OCTOBER 14

The second Wednesday of the 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. This month, we are starting a new video series, "Earn. Save. Give: Wesley's Simple Rules for Money" by James A. Harnish. These comprehensive videos are divided into four sections. We will be viewing and discussing the first two in October. Hope to see you there and don't forget to bring your favorite dish to share!

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION OF FEEDING THOSE IN NEED

Your gifts of food, money or time to the Northside Food Pantry are much appreciated. During the month of August we served 338 adults and children. The pantry also thanks the Piggly Wiggly on Erie St. for donating its day-old bread and sweet rolls. First United Methodist Church is responsible to serve on the third Thursday of each month. Just a reminder: if you wish to contribute money to the food pantry, identify your check with Northside Food Pantry and drop it in the collection plate. If you have extra garden produce, you may drop it off at Trinity UMC on Tuesday or Thursday from 2-3:30, or bring it to church and I will take it to the pantry. If you would like to help at this pantry, please let me know. God bless you for your contributions to this Racine need.

Patti Walker

First United Methodist CHURCH HISTORY ~THEN & NOW~

Racine, Wisconsin Judith D. Schulz, Church Historian
Editing assistance from Carol Michael Feest & Judy Johnson Madsen

5 Sunday School Children



First Methodist Episcopal Church, Sunday School Class, 8th and Main Streets, Racine, Wisconsin
Sandra Simpson (Golberg Brown), ??, Dick Schubert, Bob Mittelstadt, and ??
-searching for names of others -jds, historian Year of photo?

Left to right: Sandra Simpson (Golberg Brown), ???, Dick Schubert, Bob Mittelstadt, and ???. Circa 1941?
First ME Church, Racine, Wisconsin Appears to be to the left of the church entrance on 8th Street. Was it Easter Sunday? How old are they? Who was their Sunday School Teacher?

Hunting to find the names of the children in the photo took quite a fun turn today!

Sandy Simpson Golberg Brown had given a copy of this photo to our church archives years back, and she knew the names of 3 of the 5; including herself. The spelling of the center boy's name was hard to read: Dick "Senubert" "Schubert" maybe something else? Off and on, in past years, I would show people the photo, without success.

Several weeks ago I asked Carol Feest about the names on the photo and she remembered the name Mittelstadt: Vera who sang in the choir. Now thinking maybe Vera's obituary would be on the internet and hoping someone named Bob would be listed/related somehow... I googled it. She had passed away in 1997, but the only info I could find was her husband's name: Walter.

But...this doubled my clues! So I googled their names, and lo and behold: a Bob Mittelstadt's 2004 wedding announcement from the *New York Times* came up with Vera and Walter's names in it, saying they were his late parents from Racine!

This brief news item mentioned that he owns an architectural firm bearing his name in San Francisco. **Another clue!** I looked at the clock and hoped, *if I was fast*, I could track his firm down by googling his name/architect/San Francisco... and maybe get a phone number to call before the end of their business day. A website and number came up, I dialed (and was so excited to think I might find the man who is the boy on the right in this old photo!) It rang, a man answered, and I asked if he was Bob Mittelstadt? He said **Yes!** I told him who I was. *I think he was as surprised and pleased as I was!* He doesn't think he ever saw this photo. I have emailed it to him and will now wait for more of this photo's story.

~~~~~ If you know any names, dates, etc. about the photo, please let us know.

### <<<< NOTICE IN THE PHOTO:

the girl's hats (could it be Easter Sunday?), Sandy's braids & bows/ knee socks/ Startrite shoe style; all are standing like a row of soldiers; Bob has on a tie; the 3 different lengths of boys pants; Dick has on striped socks and has a handkerchief in the chest pocket; the girl on the right is holding something. I think they are standing to the left of the church entrance on 8<sup>th</sup> St., because of the building shape. Do you see the electrical wire tied around the old ceramic knob and tube on the brick wall?

As I am writing this story, it is getting later and later, on the night before Carol's deadline for these pages, *but I really wanted to find out who the others are in this photo*. I played with the spelling of the name of the center boy and tried many variations in Ancestry's site using genealogy research. I called Judy Madsen, who had been helping with lots of research all day, and asked her if she remembered any "Schuberts" as church members. She said there was a Judy Schubert but didn't recall any other names in their family.

***This still was an excellent tip:*** the name Schubert in our church congregation, with a first name, too. Researching Census records of Racine turned up a Judy Schubert, with a brother named Richard who was born in 1935! The same year some of the others in the photo were born! *This had to be him.* (I hoped.) Googling turned up a Richard Schubert married to a MaryAnn, listed in the obituary of Anita M. Schubert, mother of a Judith and a "Richard (MaryAnn)," Anita's funeral was at Christ Church United Methodist, Racine, so the Methodist connection kept me heading this direction. Records were showing different Richards in different cities in Florida, and the internet directories we got matching with the correct age.

I searched through more obituaries and found their name in a Kenosha man's obit, with MaryAnn as the sister-in-law to the wife of the deceased, saying the Schuberts lived in Miami. **Complicated, confusing**, but the city was a new clue. The internet phone directory for Miami had a Richard K. Schubert. It was already 6 minutes to 9 pm here, and that would be almost 10 pm there.

**Would it be polite to call this late?** Would they even answer?

I called Judy to get her thoughts...then quickly called the Miami # **and it was HIM!** I told him I had been looking for him all day, and he said "that's all, I thought you would have been looking for me for years?" And laughed. He was pleased that I had found him. Me, too! They left Wisconsin around 1990. Here I am looking at his photo of when he was about 6 years old, and I met him now at 80. *Probably many of us sat in some of the same church services that he did!* He immediately asked if I would email him the photo and he will see if he can identify the others!

**This was the SECOND time today** that I was talking to former members of our church who I only thought of as young children in this old photo. I have invited them to visit when they do come to Racine... and see their childhood photo in the church they grew up in. Will hope they know the names of the other 2 in the photo, or maybe you do?

*Thank-you Sandy, for giving us this photo and new connections to past member of our church congregation.*

## QUICK! OLD STUFF....

**~ Which of our pastors was a Prisoner of War?**

Caleb D. Pillsbury served our church Aug 1857-April 1859 and later was the Chaplain in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, Civil War. *Where was he held prisoner? (We don't know!)*

**~ How much did the church organ cost in our 1870 church?** \$3000, and in today's money that would be about \$58,445

**~ Two of our pastors had the same last name?**

--Samuel Pillsbury 1802-1888, served us Fall 1836-Sept 1837  
--Caleb D.Pillsbury 1817-1897, served us Aug 1857-April 1859  
*Were they related? (We don't know, yet...)*

**~ Who bought our old wooden church in 1870 on Pearl Street/now called College Ave?** The Turners, a national movement/group: motto, "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body" advocating gymnastics and cultural activities, since 1848.

**~Who is Austin L. Kellogg?** His name is on 2 identical cards with drawings of the new 1870 church building. See the card in the first case of the Michael History Display cases. *But who is he? (He was not a pastor*

.....  
**~ CORRECTION:** in the Sept. 2015 history pages: 1937 Post Card story: Katy Meissner was not a member of *Grange Av* Methodist Church, but was of Sussex Methodist. Correctly told: While working at Osters and living in Racine with her Aunt & cousin she attended Grange AV with them. Her father and grandparents were members at our church who transferred to Grange when Grange was founded. So

she is a descendant of 3 of our past members!

## ~ VERY OLD NEWS ~

### **1870 June 23 Racine County Argus Newspaper**

NO PERFORMANCE- Racine Dramatic Club, for reasons best known to themselves, have decided not to give a performance on the Fourth of July as has been announced, and have re-let Bell City Hall to the M.E. Church Society, who intend to hold a festival during the day and evening, at which strawberries, ice cream, and other articles incidental to such occasions, will have to be served up to their friends and persons. The proceeds are to be donated to the fund for the building of the new church, corners of Main and Eighth streets.

*(Where and what was Bell City Hall? Help us find out.)*

Judy Madsen helping with exhibits & tours



### **Historic Fun was offered at the outdoor FUN Fest:**

the First United Neighborhood Party held in our church parking lots, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2015. Judy

& Andy Madsen, Sandy Koleske and Judith Schulz had a display table with photos, albums and displays of copies of items found in the 1870 cornerstone box. ~~~~We also had skill-toy Kendamas for people to try out for playful fun, which drew people to the exhibit table. The table was near the entrance to the North East church door because just inside that door *is where the 1870 cornerstone stone and metal box had been placed in the wall in 1913!* ~~~~~Visitors to the Fun Fest party were able to step inside and see the original stone and reach into the opening where the small metal box was found. The displayed copies include the list of 1870 subscribers (donors to the new building fund), trustees, stewards, officers; the 1870 Methodist Almanac, 1870 Racine Advocate newspaper, and more. ~~~~Everyone found this *opening in the wall* and its story intriguing. We also gave 2 tours of the sanctuary and church museum display cases with historical materials and stories. Word got out about the "opening in the wall" and I learned that some people who had been on the **tours were now taking others on their own to see the opening!** Our history is interesting!

### **Rev. Spielman served here 1968 - 1987**

A recent donation from him & his family include leather-bound copy of "The Methodist Church and Early Racine," 2 wooden carved figures of Christ, china plate with picture of the church, and silver tray inscribed "25 years in the Ministry 1955-1980 WALLACE SPIELMAN June 8, 1980 Congregation of First United Methodist Racine" ~Thank-you to them.

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

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## **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.**