



A Note from the Pastor

As we continue to witness forced starvation of the people of Gaza and continued attacks on the people of the West Bank in Palestine, I wanted to share with you parts of the recent statement by The Rev. Jihyun Oh, PCUSA Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, as my message to you this month.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to stand in the deepest places of suffering, to speak when silence enables harm, and to act wherever human worth is disregarded. Christ walked among the sick, the hungry and the sorrowful. He reminds us still: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me” (Matthew 25:40)...

We must name what we are witnessing. The deliberate targeting of civilians and the systematic erasure of Palestinian life demand urgent accountability. Increasing numbers of international legal scholars, Christian denominations, human rights organizations, and genocide experts, including Christian, Jewish, and Israeli voices, have warned that the unfolding destruction in Gaza meets the criteria of genocide under international law...

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long-standing ties to the Holy Land and decades of policy affirming the rights of both Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace, security and dignity...

Our General Assembly has consistently argued for peace in the Holy Land. We have:

- ◆ Recognized that Israeli laws and practices toward Palestinians meet the international legal definition of apartheid.
- ◆ Called for an end to military occupation and systemic discrimination.
- ◆ Opposed the blockade of Gaza and the use of collective punishment.
- ◆ Urged the U.S. government to ensure that its aid does not contribute to violations of human rights.
- ◆ Condemned all acts of violence and targeting of civilians.
- ◆ Supported divestment from companies profiting from the occupation and boycotts of settlement products.

As human dignity is systematically denied, we lift our voices in lament, outrage and urgent moral witness. At the same time, we acknowledge that we are called not only to weep but also to act. Our actions are expressions of a commitment to moral accountability — a core commitment of our Reformed tradition. As Reformed Christians, we believe that faith must be expressed through justice. This is a call to conscience, a moral demand rooted in our commitment to human rights, international law, and the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

Scripture compels us: “Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute” (Psalm 82:3). And: “Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18)...

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Happy Anniversary!

Curt & Victoria Vollman

September 6, 1992

Chris & Maria Hansen

September 3, 2016

Nicholas & Annamarie Hansen

September 7, 2019

Happy Birthday!

- 11 Ann Lucareli
Lincoln Bohman
- 12 Debby Capener
- 14 Vi Shufelt
- 16 Taylor Moulds
- 18 Ellen Easley
- 25 Kathi Wilson
Shelley Maurer
- 26 Curt Vollman
- 27 Dave Nichols
- 29 Larry Dickerson

Requests by Theresa!

- ◆ Please check the lost & found area in the hallway going from the atrium to the sanctuary. Anything still there by 9/20 will be donated out.
- ◆ If you are going to use prior years' envelopes, please put your last name on the envelope-numbers may change from one year to the next.
- ◆ If you haven't paid for your per capita, please do so by November, if possible. I have to make the final payment in December.

Greeters

- 7 Bev, Ginny
- 14 Bud, Vi, Linda
- 21 MacCaugheys
- 28 Nancy & Jerry

Ushers

- 7 John & Linnea, Jeff
- 14 Larry, Sharon, Alan
- 21 Steve, Ken S
- 28 Nancy, LuAnn

Liturgists

- 7 Ken S.
- 14 Evelyn
- 21 John
- 28 Larry

Fellowship

- 7 Jen, Ken S
- 14 Jeff & Georgia
- 21 Jerry & Nancy
- 28 John & Linnea

*Thank you to ALL who provide
the coffee and treats for
fellowship time!*



Candlelight Vigil



In recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025

6:00-7:00 p.m.

1st Presbyterian Church of Racine

716 College Ave. Racine, WI



Join us for a night of fellowship and sharing
Bring a picture or memory item of your loved one
Krinkle and coffee will be served
You are welcome to bring a dessert item to share

Vigil is secular



Before and After Pictures are above!

*Tuesday August 12th, Grounds Crew started pulling weeds in the Atrium Garden.
Wednesday August 13th, Larry Dickerson and Dave Holle trimmed the Russian Sage
and two of the Barberry bushes.*

*A lawyer/judge who rents one of the churches parking spaces and who owns
a pick-up truck, hauled about 8 bags of compose to the compost site.*



Mission Initiative - August Update

FOOD PANTRY—As of this submission, with August not yet completed, our Food Pantry served over 140 guests, many of whom represent larger family units. It is such a blessing that we can provide emergency food to so many people in our community each month.

Since the resignation of the pantry's long-time dedicated director, LuAnn Hansen, we have continued this vital program. The Session asked the Mission Committee to bring the food pantry under their umbrella, and a committee of church members and community volunteers has assembled to help manage operations. We have divided up the tasks of ordering and reporting, inventory, hospitality, and distribution among this team and people are continuing to get much needed food.

We are grateful for wonderful community volunteers who show up every Wednesday like John Corcoran, Van Carson, and the gentlemen Van brings to volunteer. We thank Nancy Kelly who has used her engineer's brain to help manage the inventory as well as all of the other box-packers and food-sorters who work tirelessly in the basement pantry area.

Huge thanks are due to the Buildings and Grounds guys who are a Godsend helping with the deliveries on the first and fourth Tuesdays of month. As the saying goes "It takes a village" and we are so grateful for our First Pres village who come together in the spirit of Christ's love and commitment to care for those whom society often deems "the least of us". Thank you to ALL who continue to provide donations of time, money, muscles, food, prayers and compassion.

Please see below for some items that we are having a hard time keeping in stock:

- ◆ PASTA: Noodles or boxed dinners that include pasta (e.g., macaroni and cheese)
- ◆ SHELF-STABLE PROTEIN: (canned or foil pouch) Tuna, Chicken, Ham
- ◆ HEARTY SOUPS

We also invite any vegetable gardeners with over-abundance to bring fresh produce on Wednesdays by 3:30^{PM}. This is a wonderful seasonal extra which is so appreciated by food pantry guests.

If you would like to be involved, please email Meg (megprefersthephone@icloud.com) or Jennifer (jenniferleatman6@gmail.com). There are many ways in which folks of all abilities can participate.

With love and gratitude on behalf of The Food Pantry Committee,
Meg Daniels and Jennifer Eastman

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR JULIAN THOMAS ELEMETNARY—Now through September 21st we are collecting supplies for Julian Thomas School classrooms and students. There is a collection box in Irhman Hall for donated items. Monetary donations can be made with a check to First Presbyterian Church with Julian Thomas in the memo line and either mailed in or dropped in the Sunday offering collection. Thanks to all who are already filling the box!

- ◆ FACIAL TISSUE- KLEENEX
- ◆ SANITIZING HAND WIPES or BABY WIPES
- ◆ NOTEBOOKS
- ◆ BINDERS
- ◆ MARKERS AND CRAYONS

Stay tuned for upcoming Mission activities including the October Apple Sale.

Gratefully submitted on behalf of Mission Initiatives,
John Brooke, Meg Daniels and Georgia Herrera

Awakening | © Harriet Kofalk (1937-1996)

Awakening in a moment of peace
I give thanks
to the source of all peace
as I set forth
into the day
the birds sing
with new voices
And I listen
with new ears
and give thanks

nearby
the flower called Angel's Trumpet
blows
in the breeze
and I give thanks
my feet touch the grass
still wet with dew
and I give thanks

both to my mother earth
for sustaining my steps
and to the seas
cycling once again
to bring forth new life
sun-fire
the dewdrops
become jeweled
with the morning
sun's fire
and I give thanks

you can see forever
when the vision is clear
in this moment
each moment

I give thanks



Choral ARTS Society

Gospel Fusion

Saturday, October 18, 2025 • 7:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

716 College Avenue, Racine, WI 53403

Pre-Concert Event Included with Admission:
5:45-6:30PM "Harmonious Reunion" with *Gospel Fusion* Guest Artists



Greater Mount Eagle Praise Ensemble



D'AYCH & The Next Level Band

TICKET PRICES

Adult \$25 • Senior \$25 • Student \$15

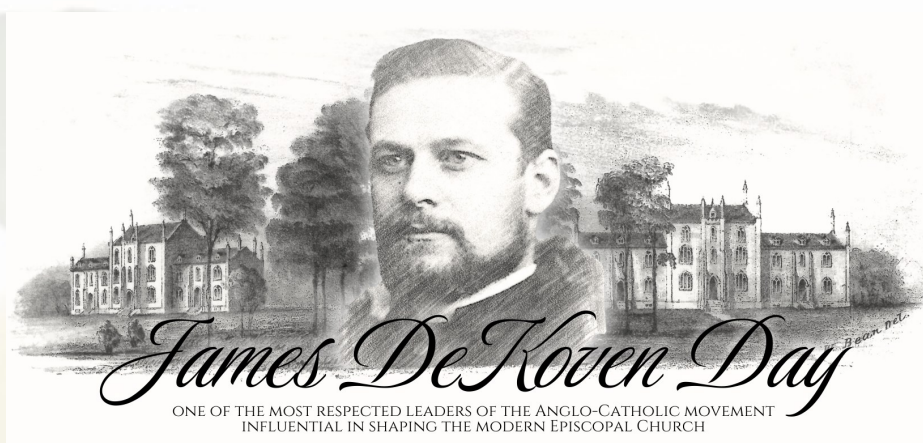


Advance tickets available at:

Personal Touch by Julie Florist in Racine – 5445 Spring Street – with cash or check,
online at www.choralartsonline.org, or by calling (262) 634-3250.

This season is supported in part by a grant from the Racine Community Foundation, a grant from the Racine Arts Council's ArtSeed Grant Program funded by the Racine Arts Council and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin, and a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.





All are invited to attend this year's DeKoven Day celebration on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, honoring the life and legacy of the Rev. James DeKoven—one of the most respected leaders of the Anglo-Catholic Movement and influential in shaping the modern Episcopal Church. This year's event will feature a special focus on the newly released biography by John E. Magerus, *James DeKoven: Biography of a Famous Yet Forgotten Man*.

John Magerus, former university professor and administrator, has, since retirement, actively pursued his passion for history. He has spent eight years immersed in the archives of the DeKoven Center, serving as head archivist. That work became the foundation for the first full-length biography of James DeKoven in over 125 years. The resulting book offers a compelling look at the life and legacy of this influential 19th-century Episcopal priest and educator in Wisconsin.

Perched on the bluffs of Lake Michigan and framed by nationally recognized architecture, the DeKoven Center stands on the historic campus of Racine College. When the Rev. Dr. James DeKoven arrived in 1859 from St. John's Hall in Delafield to serve as Warden, he brought with him a bold vision. Inspired by the design of English colleges, he reimagined the campus as a residential quadrangle where students and faculty would live, learn, and worship together—a close-knit academic community rooted in shared purpose.

Under his leadership, Racine College flourished into a respected institution of higher learning, drawing distinguished educators and students from across the country. DeKoven himself became a national figure — a gifted preacher, writer, and educator, and a leading voice in the Anglo-Catholic movement. Today, he is commemorated with a feast day in the Episcopal Church on March 22.

The legacy of education that James DeKoven began has continued across generations. This campus has since been home to the Racine Military Academy; the Cove School, the nation's first residential special education program; Racine Montessori School; and Spectrum School of the Arts. Today, the tradition of formation lives on through a growing teaching kitchen that provides hands-on job training in a working commercial kitchen. The historic quadrangle continues to host retreats, workshops, joyful weddings, and events. Through it all, the DeKoven Center remains a place that welcomes all who seek rest, reflection, and reconnection.

DeKoven Day begins on Tuesday, September 23rd at 1:00 p.m. a Eucharistic service in St. John's Chapel, followed by a reception and book signing in Taylor Hall featuring John E. Magerus. Admission is free, and copies of the book will be available for purchase.



Music & MORE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MUSIC & MORE SUMMER WRAP-UP

It was a lovely evening of music and community outreach at the 32nd Season Finale concert on Friday evening, August 15. We were entertained during the first half by Nancy Maio, violin; Erik Haasler, cello; and Ronnie Quella, piano. Their program was a nod to romance and included some beautiful salon-style pieces. Thank you to Nancy for arranging this trio and program on very short notice after the mariachi trio had to cancel their appearance.

The Lynda Schlitz Ensemble performed an outstanding Tribute to Celine Dion during the second half. Ensemble members: Lynda Schlitz, vocals; Brian Dale, drums and vocal; Chris Kringel, bass; and Lou Cucunato, piano. Representatives from Health Care Network and the Racine Literacy Council accepted checks for \$2,200 each—proceeds from the ten noontime concert freewill offerings. From the very first season 32 years ago, Music & More has given back to the community in the form of unrestricted grants to support the work of local non-profit service agencies. We estimate \$87,000 has been dispersed to date to more than 30 organizations, and Health Care Network has received more than \$25,000!

Youth Music Scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to three youth musicians. Randy Bush presented a scholarship from his Fund to pianist Ben Menzhuber. Victoria Mahl Vollman gave the Mearl Mahl award to vocalist Victoria Rivera. Ed Guion gave the Mia Guion scholarship to bassoonist Faith Weigand. As has become our tradition, Mark Paffrath sang one of Mia's favorite songs, "Humble and Kind."

The 50/50 Raffle was won by Ben Menzhuber and he took home \$169 in addition to his \$500 scholarship award. Many attendees stayed for the after-concert reception.

Music & More continues to be a positive community outreach program that brings joy to many concert attendees, provides an acoustically superior venue for musicians to perform, raises money for service agencies, and shines a bright light on our historic downtown church. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this exceptional 2025 season: donors, concert attendees, community agencies, M&M volunteers, and the more than 100 talented musicians who performed during the summer—solos, duets, trios, and in ensembles large and small.

Save The Dates:

- ◆ Fri. Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. – M&M Bonus Concert with Zachary Scot Johnson & Friends – Tickets are \$15
- ◆ Sat. Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. – "A Candlelight Concert" in collaboration with The Choral Arts Society – Tickets are \$20 (purchase from CAS)
- ◆ Sat. May 9, 2026 at 7 p.m. – "Spring Sampler Concert" – Early Bird Tickets are \$15; \$20 after 05/02/26
- ◆ Thurs. June 4 thru Aug. 6, 2026 at 12 p.m. – Season 33 – Ten FREE Concerts
- ◆ Fri. Aug. 14, 2026 at 7 p.m. – Season Finale Concert – Early Bird Tickets are \$15; \$20 after 08/07/26