



First United Methodist Church
 Canton United Methodist Church
 1221 Wesley Drive, Rice Lake, WI 54868

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January 2014

The Circuit Writer

First United Methodist Church

1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake, WI 54868
 (715) 234-3919
 Fax: (715) 434-5848
 Email: ricelake@wisconsinumc.org
 Website: www.RiceLakeUMC.org

Sunday School: 9:00 am (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am

All our Rice Lake worship services can be heard on your telephone by dialing (715) 458-3604.

Canton United Methodist Church

2408 15 3/8 Ave., Rice Lake, WI 54868
Office: 1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake, WI
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Sunday School: 9:00 am (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Worship Service: 9:00 am

Pastor– James Altman

Cell#– 715-864-6165 In Case of Emergency

Office Manager- Stephanie Byrnes-Hampton

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

January Volunteers

Ushers

5 Neil & Sue Tollander // Cecil & Sally Deutsch
 12 George & Ruth Landis // John & Lori Rae
 19 Paul & Shirley Toft // Mike & Dawn O'Brien
 26 Bill & Nancy Zabel // Pat Turgeson & Donna Cook

Counters

Nancy Zabel and Nancy Kahl

Greeters

5 Margaret Maust
 12 Mary Pautsch
 19 Helen Anonich
 26 Pat Asuma

Liturgists

5 Nancy Zabel
 12 Helen Anonich
 19 Mary Pautsch
 26 Matt Hanaman

Committee of the Month

*Bernie & Gladys Daniels *Mary Pautsch
 Laurie Campbell George & Ruth Landis
 Bev Ricci Lorraine Gustafson
 Mike & Heather Madison

Acolytes

5 McKenna Maki 19 Taryn Maki
 12 Taylor Maki 26 Anna Taylor



Reverend Jim Altman

January 2014

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

New Year's Message

F R O M T H E P A S T O R

“Hiding in Plain Sight”

It has been said that the best place to hide something is in plain sight. Steganography is the art and science of encoding hidden messages in such a way that no one, apart from the sender and intended recipient, suspects the existence of the message. It is a form of security through obscurity. Generally, the hidden messages will appear to be (or be part of) something else: images, articles, shopping lists, or some other cover text. For example, the hidden message may be in invisible ink between the visible lines of a private letter. Digital steganography includes steganographic coding inside of a transport layer, such as a document file, image file, program or protocol. Media files are ideal for steganographic transmission because of their large size. For example, a sender might start with an innocuous image file and adjust the color of every 100th pixel to correspond to a letter in the alphabet, a change so subtle that someone not specifically looking for it is unlikely to notice it.

Wikipedia says the earliest uses of steganography date back to 440 BC, but I believe, in truth, God has been at it for a lot longer. The apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians of “the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.” But something has changed and now this mystery can be revealed to everyone. The change that reveals the mystery of God’s plan, hidden in plain sight, is Jesus Christ’s coming into the world. “To all who receive him, who believe in his name,” he reveals the plan of God, the glory of God. (John 1) It was right here in plain sight, all along, but until Jesus was born, we lacked the essential cipher to decipher God’s plan hidden in the creation.

What Paul is telling the Ephesians is that if they want to solve the mysteries of life, they should learn about Jesus. If we believe in Jesus and we’re still confounded by some of the mysteries of our lives, maybe we might need to learn more about Jesus. “Lord I believe, help my unbelief.” I know that I don’t have all the answers, so, for me, learning about Jesus never gets old. There are so many things about life I still don’t understand. Thank God I can return to the cipher, over and over again. It doesn’t self-destruct in five seconds. It doesn’t get out of date as the technology changes. Jesus 1.0 is the only version we’ll ever need. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) I welcome the opportunity to join with you in learning more about Jesus in 2014.

Scriptures & Sermons

January 5th

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

“The Eternal Purpose of God”

January 12th

Isaiah 42:1–9

Matthew 3:13-17

“Fulfilling Righteousness”

January 19th

Psalms 40:1–11

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

“Not Lacking in Any Spiritual Gift”

January 26th

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

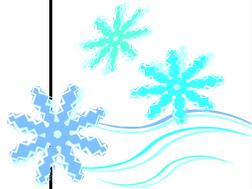
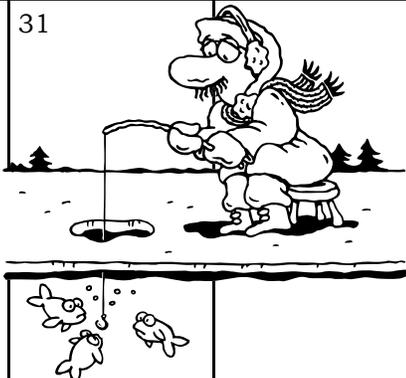
“Of Whom Shall I Be Afraid?”





January 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed 	2	3	4
5 9:00 RL Sunday School	6 Dartball @ Stanfold	7 9:00 Pastor's Meeting 7:00 Choir	8 1:30 UMW Meeting 3:15-5:30 FUMYouth Group	9	10	11 Chippewa District UMW Mission Team Meeting
12 9:15 Choir	13 Dartball @ RL UMC	14 9:00 Pastor's Meeting	15 3:15-5:30 FUMYouth Group	16 	17 	18
19 9:00 RL Sunday School 9:15 Choir	20 Dartball @ Our Saviors	21 9:00 Pastor's Meeting 7:00 Choir 8:00 Trustees	22 3:15-5:30 FUMYouth Group 7:00 Finance	23	24	25 Caring Connection Retreat
26	27 Dartball @ Trinity	28 9:00 Pastor's Meeting	29 9:00 Men's Breakfast 3:15-5:30 FUMYouth Group 7:00 Ad Council	30	31 	

Canton United Methodist Church News



January Birthdays

- 2- Dan Siewert
- 3- Ted Alton
- 5- Rick Boortz
- 9- Paul Doeden
- 18- Doddie Bidinger

Is Your Light Shining?

Thanks to Carole and Dale Crisler who braved -25 temperature, struggled through waist high snow to pick a Christmas tree for our Church. Naturally every tree was totally covered with snow! As God looks at the inside of our hearts, they too, had to look deep into the center of the tree to select the perfect one. When they placed the tree in the church and the lights and ornaments were in place, the branches seemed to be reaching skyward. You could almost hear God speaking, "If this tree can survive for years, so too, can the Canton Church". Jesus continues to knock, when will we open the door and see His light?

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, he would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need is forgiveness, He sent us a Savior! What a gift! Let your light shine, and be a blessing to everyone today!



Thank you for all the expressions of sympathy shown to us in the loss of our loved one.

The people in the kitchen, Pastor Jim's special care and our church family couldn't have been more comforting.

Bless You, The Family of Norman Cox

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your hard work and dedication. I think our cantata went very



well and I so appreciate all your time and effort. Thanks also for the Christmas gift. You may be sure I will use it wisely and I will get something for myself.

With the winter we have had so far I think we will plan a quieter January. At this time the schedule will be as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, Jan. 12 at 9:15 am

Sunday, Jan. 19 at 9:15 am

Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7:00 pm

We will schedule more rehearsals in February when the days are a bit longer and hopefully warmer.

Humor to Break Up the Winter Blahs

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world.

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#297 *How Much is Enough?* “Philip answered, “Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be **enough** to buy bread for each person to get a piece.” (John 6:7 *The Message*)

When I was a child, it was a big treat to go to McDonald's. Our family rule was that everyone paired up to share a shake and a small order of fries to go along with their hamburger or fish sandwich. The one who divided the shake allowed their partner to choose first and my brother (now a math teacher) would often count out the fries! Almost every time we went I remember thinking, “This isn't enough. I'm *really* hungry.” The reality was that my perceived scarcity often turned to abundance as I forced myself to eat those last few fries that were mine!

As we begin a new year, we're facing new challenges of perception in the church. Do people really have enough money to go around? It's already been a cold winter and some find themselves choosing between heat and food or medicine. The stock market is still unstable and interest income is still incredibly low.

While the experts say unemployment numbers are down, many people are still unemployed or under-employed. Yet, God is good – all the time. And, all the time – God is good. We say this. We encourage our children and youth to repeat it with great enthusiasm. Yet, do we believe it? How does it become real in our lives? God is calling us to rework our priorities and, perhaps, re-imagine our ministry.

When times get tough – financially or emotionally – it's very tempting to withhold our money from God because we're convinced we don't have enough. When we remember that everything we have is a gift from God, it's easier to give the first check or the first payment of every week or month to the ministry of Christ through the church. And whether our gift is enough to buy a half-order of fries or feed the multitudes, we know it will be used to proclaim the Good News. Praise God! Happy New Year!
-Rev. Jean Ehnert Nicholas

If you have a stewardship story or idea to share, please send it to us today. The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation reserves the right to edit all submissions. Authors also grant permission to the Foundation to share their writing in this forum with other U.M. churches.

Money is value neutral. But people attach lots of meaning to it. With all the advertising and all the “stuff” out there to buy, it should come as no great surprise that the average consumer debt is about \$13,000. We have a hard time distinguishing our “needs” from our “wants.” Personally, right now a new computer at home looks pretty good to me. I'm tempted to spend some of what I don't yet have in order to buy one.

It's hard to see the abundance we already have. It's easier to think that, with just a little more, we'll have what we need. Amazingly, no matter what income level people are at, studies have shown that they will usually say that their financial problems would be solved by adding about 10 percent to their current income.

Is it any wonder then, that the church can get stuck in the “*we don't have enough money*” mode? We can look at the church and think, “If we only could afford this program or that ministry, we would be fine.” It's called an attitude of scarcity.

The reality is different. It's not the money that leads the way. Money follows mission. If we are faithful in doing what God really wants us to do – if we have a vision and are excited about it, the money will follow. Now that doesn't mean that we can come up with any exciting idea and God will bless it. No, we need careful visioning. We need to look to the future, consider where God is leading, and take practical steps.

We need both visionaries and stewards. We need visionaries that seek together to increase the fruitfulness of what God is doing among us. What new ministry is God calling us to? We also need faithful stewards of the resources that God has given us. Careful is good; but overprotective is not. We need to be thoughtful, practical, and protective of resources without overdoing it.

Fortunately, every church seems to have both visionaries and stewards. We need both in order to do the will of God. Isn't it wonderful that God provides us with both?

-Rev. Jim Cotter, Columbus UMC



United Methodist Women

Special Mission Recognition was awarded to Cecil Deutsch and Dawn O'Brien for their ongoing faithful service to our church community. Cecil ensures that we have ushers and acolytes for every worship service, puts out the event signs for Bazaar and Strawberry Social and polished the cross and candle holders on the altar until they look like new again.

Dawn is currently secretary for UMW, Star Circle and the Staff Parish Relations Committee and will be our church treasurer in the coming year. A monetary gift has been given to undesignated mission in their honor through United Methodist Women.

We would also like to thank Debbie Wille, who presented the framed certificates and pins, Pat Turgeson and Karen Rindsig who presented the program, the 8 men who dared to have a meal with us, and Nancy Kahl for her gift of music December 11th.

Green Cleaning Recipes

Drain Opener

½ cup baking soda

½ cup vinegar



Pour baking soda down the drain and follow with vinegar. Cover and let sit for at least 30 minutes. Flush with boiling water.

The next UMW meeting is scheduled for January 8th at 1:30 pm.

Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate are available at UMW meetings or contact Kathy Wagenbach 715-458-0011 for more info.

UMW Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 9am to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a pilgrimage to the River Jordan and to the Last Supper as we reflect on our call to know God through Jesus Christ. It will be a time of fellowship and meditation. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend but please leave your name with the church office so we can plan accordingly. Hope to see you there! UMW Missions Coordinators Helen Bennett, Pat Turgeson, and Kathy Wagenbach



Winter is a marvelous time for reading when you are all snug and warm in a comfortable chair, at a table, or even in bed. We have a few new books for the United Methodist Women Reading Program and I would like to highlight three of them.

This Will Be Remembered of Her: Stories of Women Reshaping the World was given in memory of Jeanette Werveby by the women of Star Circle. Stories from Scripture, stories of select women from around the globe, and stories from religious and folk traditions are woven together to show how life can be more compelling and just for all people. The book is in the Leadership Development category from the 2013 list and one of the best read books in the Chippewa District. It is full of thoughtful bits and even though it is only 200 pages long, you will want to take some time to read it.

Jesus: A Biography of a Believer is a large print book in the spiritual growth category. It is amazingly readable. It is clearly written in an almost conversational tone and relates well to scripture.

Lord, I Love the Church and We Need Help is a book with very readable print in the Leadership Development category and we thank Arlene Hougas for gifting it to our library. The review of the book says that it will give you the opportunity to ponder questions from within yourself. You are encouraged to embrace the questions – not wrestle with the answers.



January Birthdays

- 1- Laurie Campbell
- 2- Pam Petry
- 3- Evelyn Mommsen
- 4- Effie Arnold
- 4- Lauren Falkner
- 5- Dedrick Hampton
- 5- Kari Chafer
- 6- Ann Cox
- 6- Jyllian Grady
- 7- Marvin Nielsen
- 11- Rayne Semple
- 12- Jacob Weaver
- 12- Marilyn Rice
- 13- Gwen Rettenmund
- 17- Brock Buergi
- 22- Michael Breitzman
- 23- Jenay Thome
- 25- Travis Moin
- 26- Lynda Etlicher
- 27- Hayden Falkner
- 27- Rowan Falkner
- 27- George Landis
- 27- Kathy Nielsen

January Anniversaries

- 1- James & Sharon Campbell
- 31- Charlie & Lin Strong

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed then please call the office to update your info. If you would like to **make sure** your birthday or anniversary is listed just call me and we'll look it up. ~Steph

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee would like to thank the congregation for your continued support. We have had a number of projects this year among them our Chicken Dinner, Haiti Bags, the Paste, Paper and Pencil Project, the Blanket Project, Bread for the World, the Mitten Tree and our gifts for Heritage Manor. Together we have helped many people through these projects ; it would have never happened if not for you. Thank you.

Your Missions Committee



The Mitten Tree Project was successful once again this year. With the generous gifts from our congregation and church friends we were able to give a total of 147 items to the Moose Club for Operation Santa Claus. Thanks to Bruce Kaupanger and Bargain Bills for the great shopping trip and send off to our project, and to the Zabels for doing the deliveries and helping with the final count, also to the men who did clean up after the bazaar and made sure that a Christmas tree was left out for the Mitten Project, and to pastor Jim for putting the tree aside when it was no longer needed, this was a wonderful, greatly appreciated community experience, heartfelt thanks and New Years.



Blessings to all,
Pat T.

Nurture & Membership Care Committee

The Nurture and Membership Care Committee is sponsoring a one-day retreat 9 AM, January 25th at the 1st United Methodist Church. The morning session will be led by Karen Kaufman, licensed therapist and hospice trainer, and deal with comfort and confidence issues and healthy boundaries. The afternoon session will have a more spiritual focus, a "mindfulness training," a way to improve the quality of the way we spend time with each other in visiting. Attendance at either session is free of charge. A brunch will be served around the noon hour. A love offering will be accepted to defray some of the costs of the food.

