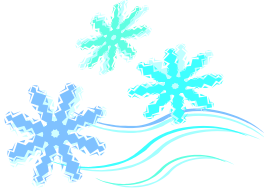




First United Methodist Church
 Canton United Methodist Church
 1221 Wesley Drive, Rice Lake, WI 54868

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January 2015

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 (Resumes Jan. 4)
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
 (715) 234-3919
 Email: ricelake@wisconsinumc.org

Sunday School: 9:00 am (every other Sunday)
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

- 4 Adrianna & Adyara Hanaman// Dave & Rayne Semple
- 11 Paul & Shirley Toft // Jerry & Shirley Olson
- 18 John & Lori Rae // Cecil & Sally Deutsch
- 25 Mike & Dawn O'Brien // Bill & Nancy Zabel

Counters

Nancy Zabel and Nancy Kahl

Greeters

- 4 Candy Bandli
- 11 Betty O' Flanagan
- 18 Pat Moin
- 25 Gwen Rettenmund

Liturgists

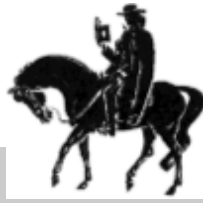
- 4 Lisa Mink
- 11 Pat Asuma
- 18 Paul Toft
- 25 Nancy Zabel

Committee of the Month

- **Bernie & Gladys Daniels
- Laurie Campbell
- Ava Schwartz
- Herb & Mary Jane Melbye
- *Mary Pautsch
- Kathy Wagenbach
- Lorraine Gustafson

Acolytes

- 4 Taylor Maki
- 11 Elliot Morse
- 18 Taryn Maki
- 25 Bella Wallin



Reverend Jim Altman

January 2015

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

New Year's Message

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

A New Year?

When the angel Gabriel told Mary that she was with child, she asked "How can this be?" If we say, "Happy New Year!" we might also ask, "How can this be?" Everything looks pretty much the same as it did last year, December 31st. You and I probably don't feel all that different either. So, how can this be . . . a New Year?

Well, let's think about Mary. Even though she became the Mother of God, was she still a teenager? Our Catholic brothers and sisters would also have us believe that not only did Mary remain a teenager, even though she had given birth, she also remained a virgin her entire life. This becomes even more remarkable when we consider that the Gospels indicate that Jesus had a number of brothers and sisters. "How can this be?" When Saul became Paul was he any less the zealous, uncompromising, pharisaic grump than he was the day before? How do we become new creations in Christ? How will our New Year be new?

A few years ago I was a guest at a wedding and as the bride processed to the altar my date muttered, "Boy, she has a lot of nerve wearing white." Yes, this was not her first marriage, and yes she may have had something of a reputation, but I said, "Every bride deserves to wear white on her wedding day." How can that be? Maybe I'm a little more Catholic than I realize. But maybe I remember Gabriel's answer to Mary: "With God, nothing is impossible." With God, amazing grace is always a possibility.

I've come to the realization over the past several decades that we human beings always represent a number of different potentialities at the same time. We're a great deal like those cartoon people with a little white angel sitting on one shoulder and a little red devil sitting on the other. Martin Luther said we were "*simul justus et peccator*" meaning that we are at the same time both righteous and sinners, potentially either or both. The good news in that is that even though we may look the same on the outside, and misbehave the same as we did before, we can still be transformed or transforming into new people on the inside. And, even though we may act the same today as we did yesterday, God's grace allows us to act differently the next time. The proof is in the pudding. It what's we make of the opportunities to be the saint, the virgin, the righteous one that will prove us to be new creations. As Jesus said, "By our fruits, others shall know us." Our New Year will only be a new year if we make good use of grace's potential to make it better than last year.

Scriptures & Sermons

January 4th

Epiphany Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12
"The Magi"

January 11th

Baptism of Our Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Mark 1:4-11
"Out of the Depths"

January 18th

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
John 1:43-51
"Under the Fig Tree"

January 25th

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Mark 1:14-20
"An Offer We Can't Refuse"





January 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Office Closed 	2	3
4 9:00 RL Sunday School	5 Dartball @ RL UMC	6 9:00 Pastor's Meeting 7:00 Choir	7 12:00 Memorial 1:00 UMW Meeting 3:15 FUMY-outh Group	8	9 	10
11 9:15 Choir After service- Worship Mtg	12 Dartball @ RL UMC	13 9:00 Pastor's Meeting	14 3:15 FUMY-outh Group	15 10:30 Prayer Shawl	16	17 
18 9:00 RL Sunday School 9:15 Choir	19 Newsletter Deadline Dartball @ St. Joes	20 9:00 Pastor's Meeting 7:00 Choir 8:00 Trustees	21 1:00 Finance Meeting 3:15-5:30 FUMYouth Group	22	23	24
25 9:15 Choir	26 Dartball @ RL UMC	27 9:00 Pastor's Meeting 9:00 Newsletter Folders	28 9:00 Men's Breakfast 3:15-5:30 FUMYouth Group 7:00 Ad Council	29	30 	31

Canton United Methodist Church News



January Birthdays

- 2- Dan Siewert
- 5- Rick Boortz
- 9- Paul Doeden
- 18- Doddie Bidinger
- 30- Stacey White



“The Helper of the Strays”

Tax collectors and the lame,
blind and mute and lepers came.
Those with thirst and many sores,
came to Jesus by the scores.
“Help me, heal me, Lord,” they
prayed.
Jesus knew that all had strayed.
So he took their sins and loss
on his shoulders to the cross —
helping, healing all the strays,
always giving God the praise.

—MaryAnn Sundby

Our "A can for Canton" turned into an overflowing grocery cart! Thanks to Glen and Bev Berger for taking the food to the Cameron Food Pantry. We will continue this much needed project. Because of the zip code, future donations will go to the Rice Lake Food Pantry.

Charge Conference was on Sunday, December 7th. Canton UMC's highlights included joint lenten soup-supper services with 1st UMC, a community-outreach chili-feed, a community-outreach pie and ice cream social, and a member-written Biblical skit. Under Mary BQ's direction, both churches have come together to start a handbell choir. The youth have been making mosquitoes for a future service centered on "NO MORE MALARIA". Luke 1:37 For there is nothing that God cannot do.

Christmas in a child's mind.....: Sunday school children were asked to draw their rendition of the Christmas story. Most of the kids drew manger scenes to include the shepherds, angels, the star, the baby Jesus in the manger as would be expected. Little Jimmy proudly showed his picture of a jetliner. There were 4 distinct faces looking out the windows.

When the Sunday school teacher asked Jimmy to explain the drawing, he said it was the "flight out of Egypt." He pointed to the one face and said "that is Joseph", another face was Mary, the little face of course was Jesus.

The teacher asked him who is the face in the front of the plane. Jimmy replied, "It's Pontius, the pilot, of course."

The apostle Paul wrote to Titus, a young pastor: "Remind the people...to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone". Titus 3:1-2 Our lives may be the only Bible some people read. The world knows that Christians are supposed to be different. If we are cantankerous, self-absorbed, and rude, what will others think about Christ and the Gospel we share? **Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15**



January 2015

Growing in Generosity with Children

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#15-1 The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; Those who help others are helped. Proverbs 11:26-27 The Message

God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, and the wisdom to know it's me.

-Author Unknown

January is the season for New Year's resolutions. We want to start out the New Year on the "right foot," taking care to improve ourselves and our habits. Getting out of debt and saving money are generally two of the top ten resolutions made each year. Cuts in income seem to be the norm these days, so how do we remain faithful and generous as we set priorities in the New Year?

It seems counter-intuitive but it begins by giving. Generosity breeds a positive, "can-do" attitude in us. It's good to say thank you, even in tough times. Therefore as you make moves toward financial freedom from debt, consider:

1. Making the first payment from your check every week or month a "thank you" gift for the many blessings you've received.
2. Save an equal amount in an emergency savings account you can use when you truly need to overspend your regular budget for medical needs, car repairs, house repairs or emergency family travel.

Some folks find that giving 5% of their income to the church and saving another 5% each week or month in an emergency fund can be a helpful spiritual tool as they take responsibility for their finances.

If you'd like help in meeting your financial New Year's resolution, sign up today to attend the two-hour **Freed Up From Debt Workshop** sponsored by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation on Monday, **January 26th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm** in Room 305 of the Conference Center in Sun Prairie. Cost is \$8.00. Everyone is welcome! For more information, visit us at wumf.org.

A Quart of Coins by Rev. Jean Ehnert Nicholas

We keep a quart jar in a prominent place in our bedroom and put our loose change into it on a regular basis. When it's almost full we take it to the bank and are surprised to discover there's about \$100 that has magically accumulated!

It's also amazing to me that for about \$100 per member/year we are able to fund the worldwide mission and ministry of the entire United Methodist Church! We may have loose coin offerings for a number of very worthy ministries in our churches throughout the year, but what are we teaching our children if we don't meet our primary commitment to the ministry, done in our name here in Wisconsin and throughout the world, through our apportionments?

I invite you to start now – at the beginning of the year – to find a way to fund your share of the church's apportionments. Maybe you can write a check for the full amount upfront. Or you may be like many folks who are struggling to make ends meet and the most you can give are a few coins each week. Start now and when that jar is full, you'll be amazed at how much you've saved!

If you don't have children or grandchildren at home, invite a child or two from your church to help you count it. And, if you wish, involve those children in giving the gift the following Sunday in a special envelope marked for apportionments. For many wonderful stories of how these gifts are used for the ministry of Christ and the glory of God, go to www.umcsgiving.org. For more resources to help you and yours meet your financial goals this year visit:

www.sharesavespend.com - Family Money Talks, Mind Your Money -

for adults, and Money Sanity Solutions Book and DVD

www.moneypurposejoy.com – click on "Resources," "Calculators," and then "Accelerated Debt Payoff Calculator"

www.threerules.org – a simple, easy to use budget book

http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/good_sense.asp

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
750 Windsor Street, Suite 305
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
1-888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org



Help Wanted

A few months ago, our FUMY (youth group) volunteered to paint the two upstairs Sunday School rooms. As they began to tape rooms to paint, it became evident that this was going to be a bigger job than they first imagined. So, FUMY is looking for help. Plans are to paint on Friday evening, January 2nd (6 PM - ?) and Saturday morning (10 AM - ?)

Can you make it, if even only for an hour?

In the Spirit, Rev Jim

Committee Members that are finished at the end of the year. Thanks for serving these committees!

Larry Neve as Ad Council Chairperson

Russell Rindsig as Ad Council Secretary and Trustees Chair

Pat Moin, Bonnie Starkey, Margaret Maust as Ad Council Members at Large

Bill Zabel as SPRC Chair and on Finance

Carolyn Kaupanger as Memorial Chair

Paul Toft on Finance

Bernie Kahl on Trustees and Nominations

Sally Deutsch on Memorial

Fran Drabek on Stewardship

David Bandli and Pat Moin on Missions

Rayne Semple, Mary Lynn Cherry, Harold Quarderer on Worship

Dawn O'Brien on SPRC

Kathy Wagenbach on Evangelism

Dianne Barkley and Laurie Campbell on Education

Becki Lindeman on Nurture

United Methodist Women

The UMW Program for January 7th, 1:00 p.m. will be "A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial: A Gesture of Gratitude"

God's welcome is to every person in every location and circumstance. This year's Call to Prayer and Self-Denial focuses the lens of faith on welcoming.

It is easier to welcome friends than unknown persons we perceive to be strangers. Some scriptural guidance can be found in 1 Peter 4:9-10, Colossians 4:10, Romans 12:13 and Hebrews 13:2.

Our offering will support the Retirement Benefit Fund for retired missionaries and deaconess for whom UMW is responsible. Please help us to be models of Christian hospitality by sharing our gifts and extending welcome.



Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate are available at UMW meetings or contact Kathy Wagenbach

FUMY

FUMY has been up to quite a lot over the last month. We went to the Kalahari Resort at Wisconsin Dells, where we participated in a convention about ending malaria in Africa. FUMY will conduct a presentation in the new year for the parish. While at Kalahari the youth had the opportunity to meet Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. Bishop Jung is a gentle, funny man, who openly welcomed and greeted us all.

The youth also decorated the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, after Paul Toft, David Bandli, Russ Rindsig, and Pastor Jim set up the tree and put up the lights.

On the 21st of December we will be caroling in the community, with a possibility of doing "commando caroling," ask us about how it was!

Finally, we will be painting a Sunday school room. We look forward to having a wonderful new year.



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
- 8- Jason Morse
- 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

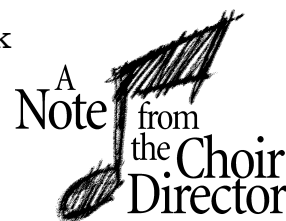
Missions Committee

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, the Mitten Tree and our gifts for Heritage Manor. We were able to take 44 items and \$595 for haircuts to 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



I cannot thank you enough for all your work on our cantata as well as our other music this fall. I thank you too for the gift card you gave me. Rest assured that I always use gift cards for myself. I may not spend it quickly but I will put thought into my purchase or purchases and I will think of your generosity.



After the weather surprises of November it's hard to know the best plan for scheduling rehearsals. At this time our schedule will probably look like this:

Tuesday, January 6	7:00
Sunday, January 11	9:15
Sunday, January 18	9:15
Tuesday, January 20	7:00
Sunday, January 25	9:15

If there are last-minute changes I will let you know. Thank you again for all you do and Happy New Year.

The Faith Journey

Faith is better understood as a verb than a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going, but going anyway. A journey without maps.

—Frederick Buechner

