



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

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March 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 (1st, 3rd, 5th 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
 (715) 234-3919

Email: ricelake@wisconsinumc.org

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

March Volunteers

Ushers

- 1 Mike & Heather Madison and Paul & Shirley Toft
- 8 Mike & Heather Madison and Jerry & Shirley Olson
- 15 Mike & Heather Madison and John & Lori Rae
- 22 Mike & Heather Madison and Cecil & Sally Deutsch
- 29 Mke & Heather Madison and Russell & Karen Rindsig

Counters

Sally Deutsch and Shirley Olson

Greeters

- 1 Pam Petry
- 8 Larry Neve
- 15 Eleanor Falkner
- 22 Pat Krall
- 29 Pat Asuma

Liturgists

- 1 Russell Rindsig
- 8 Lisa Mink
- 15 Candy Bandli
- 22 Heather Madison
- 29 Karen Rindsig

Committee of the Month

- *Wes & Linda Dufner
- * Ed & Pam Forrester
- Jim & Sharon Campbell
- John & Lori Rae
- Pat Moin
- Mark Berger
- Dave Bandli
- Barb Schullo
- Laura Rettenmund
- Bev Taft

Acolytes

- 1 Bella Wallin
- 8 Taylor Maki
- 15 Lily Rettenmund
- 22 Taryn Maki
- 29 Justin Morse



Reverend Jim Altman

March 2015

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Sigmund Freud believed that a person's dreams had a great deal of influence on every aspect of their lives. Through the interpretation of one's dreams, that person might find healing and a better life. On a social and cultural level the nature and types of things we day-dream about have a great deal to say about the character and quality of the worlds we live in. In a society where people consistently dream of victories and conquests and are always obsessing about success and failure, it shouldn't be surprising that a sub-culture of violence emerges. My old mentor, Frank Weathersby used to say, "Rasputin! (That was me.) Grandiosity is a dangerous thing!" Our culture of triumphalism and our materialistic addiction to conspicuous excess have a dark side, an undercurrent culture of violence. Because, if we can't win, and we can't have it all, we get angry, we get annoyed, and irritated. And all of that anger, annoyance, and irritation builds up and then we blow. And the world we live in is so often a world enraged. What if we could dream about something different?

Poet Adrienne Rich believed the world could be a better place if it dreamed more from a different perspective. In "The Dream of a Common Language" she writes about dreaming "a universe of humble things" like collections of ribbons and scraps of cloth to make quilts and doll clothes, and snapshots and scrapbooks, and table settings, and so on. It's not unlike the Book of Proverbs, a wisdom book that ends with a meditation on a universe of humble things; those domestic duties of the good wife which are more precious than fine jewels. It does us good to think about why God chose to enter the world through the person of a lowly handmaiden. The Quaker and Shaker and Mennonite and Amish movements have all seen the healing benefits of dreaming of humble things. The famous Shaker song:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right

During this season of Lent, we have the marvelous opportunity to simplify our worlds and bring healing into our lives. Maybe a way to accomplish this might be by meditating on all those simple basic domestic chores we have to perform all of the time; consciously dreaming about cooking and cleaning and all the little things that make a house into a home. "To turn, turn will be our delight, till turning, turning we (turn out) right."

Scriptures & Sermons

March 1st

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

"How Will It Profit Us?"

March 8th

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

"The Simple Truth"

March 15th

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

"The Two-Snake Service"

March 22nd

"Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath"

Genesis 8:13-22

John 2:13-22

"Never Again"

March 29th

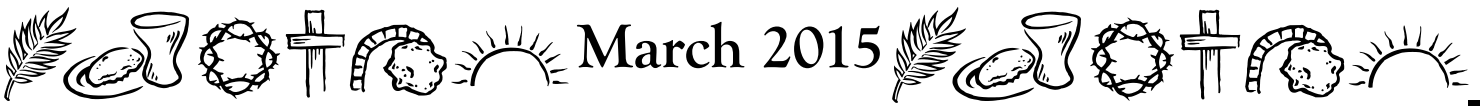
Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11

"The Tale of Two Crowds"





March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am RL Sunday School 9:15 Choir	2 6:30 Bells Dartball Tourney @ RLUMC	3 9:00 Pastor's Meeting 7:00 Choir	4 1:00 UMW 3:15 FUMY 6:00 Lenten Soup & Service @ RL	5	6 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> at 1:30 at Bethany Lutheran	7 8-3 UMW District Ladies
8 <i>Daylight Savings</i> 9:15 Choir	9 6:30 Bells Dartball Tourney @ RLUMC	10 9:00 Pastor's Meeting	11 3:15 FUMY 6:00 Lenten Soup & Service @ Canton	12	13	14
15 9:00 am RL Sunday School <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	16 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Bells	17 9:00 Pastor's Meeting 8:00 Trustees	18 3:15 FUMY 4:30 Youth 6:00 Lenten Soup & Service @ RL 6:30 FUMY TUF Concert	19 10:30 Prayer Shawl	20	21
22 9:15 Choir	23 6:30 Bells	24 9:00 Pastor's Meeting 9:00 Newsletter Folders 7:00 Choir	25 9:00 Men's Breakfast 3:15 FUMY 6:00 Lenten Soup & Service @ Canton	26	27	28
29 9:00 am RL Sunday School 9:15 Choir	30 6:30 Bells	31 9:00 Pastor's Meeting	April 1 1:00 UMW 3:15 FUMY	2 8:00 Tenebrae Service at RL	3 <i>Good Friday</i> 12-8 Stations of the Cross Walk-Through	4

Canton United Methodist Church News



March Birthdays

- 2- Laurie Gifford
- 8- Jim Pannier
- 8- Arlene White
- 11- Amy Schmidt
- 20- Inger Scanlon
- 25- Micah Halvorson
- 30- Teri Tatroe

Taken from the UPPER ROOM Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:6-7 (NRSV) God said, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds injustice...? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house?"

I have always thought of Lent as time of fasting in the sense of "giving up" something, either a lunch or some daily treat such as candy or coffee. The customary question in my faith community is, "What are you giving up for Lent?" I had never thought about doing anything else as a Lenten practice until one morning when I read the passage above from Isaiah, then later that same morning encountered a divine example of that passage.

While I was driving to work I noticed a drably dressed, bearded man standing at a busy intersection. He held a sign that read: "Homeless Veteran, need help!" Instantly, I recalled the words of Isaiah about what kind of fast God desires: "to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house." I gave what help I could to that man.



My Lenten practice changed that very day. Now during Lent, my practice is not to *give up* something but to give something to someone in need.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us during this Lenten season to look beyond ourselves and give to those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WUMF Offers Scholarships for Students



The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is pleased to announce that scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and current undergraduate

students attending vocational/technical, two-year or four-year higher education programs. Numerous additional scholarships are available for general studies, as well as seminary and ministry careers. Scholarships are granted each year from scholarship endowment funds established through generous gifts from individuals and families. All applicants must be members of a Wisconsin United Methodist Church. Recipients are selected based upon academics, leadership and involvement in church, school, and community life. Additional information can be found by going to <http://www.wumf.org/grantsScholars.html>, or contact the Foundation at 888-903-9863. The deadline for application for the majority of these scholarships is April 1st.



Starkey Memorial Scholarship

Once again a Starkey Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 is being made available to United Methodist 4-year college students whose residence is in Barron County. This includes entering freshmen through returning seniors. Selection will be based upon financial need and demonstrated academic potential.

Scholarship applications are available through our website www.ricelakeumc.org or the church office of the First United Methodist Church, 1221 Wesley Dr, Rice Lake WI 54868. Application deadline is April 30th.

March 2015

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#15-3 Giving is Putting God First. *“The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they’ll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn’t afford – she gave her all.”* (Mark 12:43-44, *The Message*)

Jane grew up attending church almost every Sunday and receiving some coins from her parents each week to add to the offering. In her first leadership position in the church as a young adult, Pastor Dick asked her to lead the “gifts” portion of the confirmation lesson. The class was studying our United Methodist vows to support the church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. She responded, “I’m not sure you want me to lead that one. I want to give, but I’m saving for graduate school. I just give what I can.” Pastor Dick quickly asked her to cover a different aspect of the lesson that day!

That was a pivotal moment in her decision to begin putting God first in all aspects of her life. In that moment she realized her thinking had been, “Who me? Why should I give something of my own back to God?” From that moment on she felt called to begin giving something back to God on a regular basis from her own income. Her goal was to give at least enough to pay her fair share of the apportionments her church paid every year and whatever else she could.

Eventually, Jane grew in her faith and increased her giving to 5 percent of every paycheck as often as she could. Years later some crises in her life helped her to see the miracles of God’s mighty love more clearly and her offerings shifted from dues she thought she owed to gifts of thanks. Ultimately, she gave to express her hope and belief in the miracles of God’s love and took the risk of asking what God was calling her to give. Now, she is “Putting God First” and having her full tithe (10%) deposited to the church electronically on the first day of every pay period. What is God calling you to give?

Helps for the Stewardship Chair

Biblical Stewardship Principle:

Giving is Putting God First

I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week.

- *John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937)*

Money is like manure. You have to spread it around or it smells.

- *J. Paul Getty*

When you cease to make a contribution you begin to die.

- *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Could it be that we have not truly given our hearts to God? Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- *Arthur Simon, Founder of*

Bread for the World

Give me five minutes with a person’s checkbook, and I will tell you where their heart is.

- *Billy Graham*

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
750 Windsor Street Ste 305, P.O. Box 620
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620
1-888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org

United Methodist Women

Jean Kissack will be our guest speaker at the March 4th UMW meeting at 1:00 PM. This article comes from the Weaver, the Chippewa District UMW newsletter:

This past year The 2014 Charter for Racial Justice Program was put together by our Wisconsin Conference. Bev Maser and Billie LaBumbard are members of this Wisconsin UMW Racial Justice Committee, and I think we should thank them for this wonderful document. Based on situations this past fall in Ferguson, New York, Cleveland and elsewhere, I can't believe how timely and relevant this program is! We need to take this document out and use it in discussions in our UMW Meetings, churches and communities. The focus statements from the Charter for Racial Justice that APPLIES is: WE BELIEVE #2 racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ and WE WILL #2 create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with existing racist attitudes and social distance between members, deepening the commitment to the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together. It has a definition of racism and white privilege from Tim Wise: "Racism is a system of inequality, based on race. White privilege refers to any advantage, opportunity, benefit, head start or general protection from negative societal mistreatment, which persons deemed white will typically enjoy, but which others will generally not enjoy. White privilege is the flip side of discrimination against people of color."

Our Racial Justice Charter News letter from December 2014 also gives a definition of institutional racism: "it is the use of power for maintaining privilege and systematic discrimination through institutions and structures of society. Institutional racism is racial prejudice plus the misuse of power by systems and institutions." Racism (and protests against it) are occurring everywhere including the Mall of America. It is a northern Wisconsin thing, whether we openly recognize it, and discuss it, or not. I handed out the 2014 Racial Justice program at our Spooner UMW Christmas Tea in December and it led to a really sincere, caring discussion about experiences of racism in our lives. Eli Weizel, Nobel peace prize winner, says "Wherever there is silence this connotes agreement". He was referring to the extermination of Jews by Germans during the Holocaust, but couldn't it still apply to these racial occurrences in America today? Silence connotes agreement.... SO speak up when you have the opportunity. Jean Kissack jeankissack@yahoo.com



March Birthdays

- 2- Barron West
- 6- George Swanson
- 9- Zachary Toft
- 10- David Moin
- 11- Emily Skrypek
- 12- Frank Hougas
- 14- Caleb Morse
- 15- Jonathon Moin
- 17- Joe Haines
- 20- Jase Scalzo
- 21- Travis Rae
- 21- Molly Rae
- 23- West Dufner
- 25- Anna Rettenmund-Waters
- 30- Elizabeth Frye
- 30- Shirley Olson

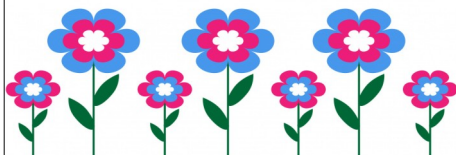
March Anniversaries

- 28- Bob & Joyce Foster

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed then please call the office to update your info. ~Steph

Easter Flowers

Watch upcoming bulletins to order your Easter flowers to decorate our worship area for Easter Worship. This will give you an opportunity to order a flower and dedicate it in memory or honor of a friend or loved one.



Walk Today Where Jesus Walked

One thing the experiences of countless Christians over the last two thousand years tells us is that there is something mysterious and wonderful to be gained in the guided meditation upon the final hours of the life of Jesus. You don't have to go to Jerusalem to experience it, but, in these last few weeks before Easter, you might take some quality time to follow the ancient path. There might be something mysterious and wonderful in it for you. We invite you to our own version of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 3rd, between the hours of Noon and 8:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church, 1221 Wesley Drive, Rice Lake. We are also looking for volunteers to serve as tour guides (call Sue Tollander, 354-7934) as well as folk who might be interested in constructing one of the 14 stations (call Rev Jim, 234-3919).

The Scriptural Way of the Cross: 1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (*Matthew 25:36-41*), 2. Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested (*Mark 14: 43-46*), 3. Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin (*Luke 22: 66-71*), 4. Jesus is denied by Peter (*Matthew 26: 69-75*), 5. Jesus is judged by Pilate (*Mark 15: 1-5, 15*), 6. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns (*John 19: 1-3*), 7. Jesus takes up his cross (*John 19: 6, 15-17*), 8. Jesus is helped by Simon to carry his cross (*Mark 15: 21*), 9. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (*Luke 23: 27-31*), 10. Jesus is crucified (*Luke 23: 33-34*), 11. Jesus promises his kingdom to the good thief (*Luke 23: 39-43*), 12. Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other (*John 19: 25-27*), 13. Jesus dies on the cross (*Luke 23: 44-46*), 14. Jesus is laid in the tomb (*Matthew 27: 57-60*).

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stations_of_the_cross

2 [The Stations of the Cross with Pope John Paul II](#)

Rice Lake UMC's Library

Please visit our library. You may check a book or magazine out or sit and read it there. There is a table, 2 couches and chairs. There are Bibles, bible stories, women stories, children's books, books about Jesus or others from the Bible, et. We have a good selection and should use it. It is located straight back of the overflow room on the east side of the church.



Choir will continue to work on music for lent and Easter. Rehearsals for March are as follows:

Sunday, March 1 at 9:15 am

Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 8 at 9:15 am

Sunday, March 22 at 9:15 am

Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm

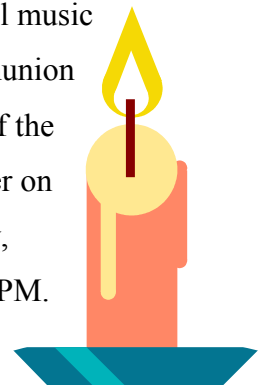
Sunday, March 29 at 9:15 am



Tenebrae Service

(Latin for 'shadows' or 'darkness') is a Christian religious service celebrated by the Western Church. The distinctive ceremony of Tenebrae is the gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and psalms are read recalling the last days of Jesus' life before his crucifixion and burial. The service

will feature special music and include communion in remembrance of the Lord's Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, at 8:00 PM.



Lent: Filled with God for a Purpose

Many of us are familiar with the old hymn (398 in our UM Hymnal) with words by Cecil Alexander, *“Jesus Calls us... O'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea.”* That song comes to mind as the season of Lent approaches once again, and we are invited to respond to the great mystery of life. How is it that only when we empty ourselves, we can be filled with God? *“As of old, the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus sake.”*

As Wisconsin United Methodists, I invite us to take together the path of self-emptying and continuous journeying with God, who is the source of grace and wholeness. As congregations, let us gather for learning, prayer, and worship in small groups or larger gatherings. As individual followers of Christ, let us make time for self-examination, solitary walks, and personal retreats, where we will encounter Christ in much the same way that Jesus walked the roads of Palestine on his solitary journey to the Cross.

This Lent, as we gather together, or when we find our times of solitude, and as we empty ourselves so God can fill us, let us remember for what purpose we are on the spiritual journey. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all. The purpose of our journey is to find ourselves and our Church in obedient service - obedient service, as we seek to live out the invitation of Jesus Christ to share the love and light of God; living and giving, while touching the lives of others in mercy and healing.

Recently, Nicole Wilken, our Field Coordinator for the Wisconsin Conference Imagine No Malaria Campaign, wrote a letter about her dream of what can happen when we as believers empty ourselves, become filled with God, and find ourselves in obedient service. Nicole says, “In the fight against malaria, the lives of women and children and their families are being saved every day because the people of the United Methodist Church decided it was time to act.” You can [read her entire letter here](#). I invite you to do so as part of your Lenten journey.

Jesus calls us to a journey as congregation, and as individual believers, from our life's wild restlessness to the presence of God and by the power of God launched to the world in service for Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,



Hee-Soo Jung, PhD
Bishop



Prayer Shawl Mission

Our prayer shawl group meets every month for about a hour and a half. We welcome anyone to visit or join. You can crochet or knit shawls or afghans at home and come to the meetings, or just at home and bring it to us. We bless them together or at home if one is finished and ready to be delivered or mailed. We don't turn anyone down for one. It can be health reason, for comfort, or just as a friend. They have been mailed as far as Afghanistan! We need more knitters or cricketers. Please think about it- you may call Shirley Toft at 715-434-8086. We meet every 3rd Thursday at 10:30 am in the library. Everyone is welcome to come check us out!

The Lorica of St. Patrick

Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was a unique servant of God who led thousands into Christianity. He was born in 387 and died in 493. Here is a small portion of St. Patrick's statement of devotion to God:

I bind to myself today
God's Power to guide me,
God's Might to uphold me,
God's Wisdom to teach me,
God's Eye to watch over me,
God's Ear to hear me,
God's Word to give me speech,
God's Hand to guide me,
God's Way to lie before me,
God's Host to secure me,
Against the snares of demons,
Against the seduction of vices,
Against the lust of nature,
Against everyone who meditates injury to me,
Whether far or near,
Whether few or with many.

