



Pastor Jess De Los Santos

March 2025

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

PASTOR'S CORNER

“The Power of Music”



“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations” (Psalm 100).

The Psalmist called for a song with musical instruments as an expression of what the Lord has done for us in the past, as well as what He is doing for us in the present, and He will do for us in the future. The psalmist realized how important to give thanks to the Lord with singing during worship time for He is good, His steadfast love endures forever.

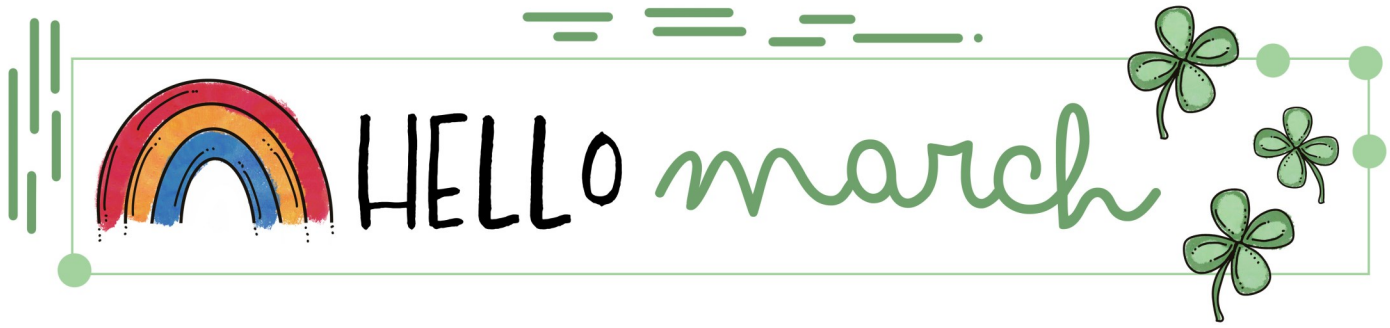
And even Apostle Paul knows the importance of music in the Christian life. He gave his exhortation to all the believers – including us. **“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”** (Colossians 3:16-17).

Music (psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, and instrumentals) has the power and ability to bring us joy and comfort, to motivate us and to help us relax. It has the power to transport us back in time, to calm our worried minds or boost our moods. There really is a hymn or song for every emotion. Research findings have demonstrated that music supports our physical, mental, and emotional health. It can help in regulating our emotions, improving our mood, enhancing productivity and concentration, and it can even help us sleep better. Have you realized that when you are inspired and full of gratitude, you can't help but sing? Apostle Paul said, **“Be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts”** (Ephesians 5:18b-19).

“Music is universal, it brings people together from all walks of life. It doesn't really matter what language you speak or where you are from, music is a language that all of us can understand. It brings people together at places of worship and celebrations.” Yes, music is very important to God, because it gives Him praise, honor, and glory. Music is powerful, it can transform lives. It brings vigor and victory. In the Old Testament, musicians were part of the victory during wars. (Judges 7:22, 2 Chronicles 20:22). In the New Testament, Paul and Silas were freed from prisons while they were singing psalms. What instance in your life when you can say, “Jesus is my music” because you were victorious? Praise God for the power of music! Praise Him for the power of His Word!

Today, we tend to look to external things to enhance our worship. The true quality of our worship, however, rests within us. If we have not allowed God to purify us first, our worship will be empty of His presence. If we do not have a pure heart, we may give offerings, but they will be unacceptable to God. If you are not satisfied with the quality of your worship, don't be too quick to blame your environment. But quick to look first your own heart! Allow God to refine your hearts until it is pleasing to Him, and you will be free to worship God as He intends.

I am delighted to say, **“I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord”** (Psalm 104:33-34 NIV). God bless everyone!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>RL Liturgists March 2: Lisa Mink March 9: Larry Neve March 16: Pam Forrester March 23: Imelda De Los Santos March 30: Paul Toft</p>		<p>RL Greeter March 2: Joyce Foster March 9: Mary Mattson March 16: Pat Moin March 23: Rayne Semple March 30: Shirley Toft</p>		<p>Fellowship Hosts: Ron & Jeanne Parker and Mike & Dawn O'Brien</p>		1
2 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9am RL SS	3 2:45 Office Closing Early 7:30 Dartball	4	5 1pm UWF Mtg 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	6 10am Bible Study	7 Pastor's Day Off World Day of Prayer	8
9 9am RL SS 9am Canton SS RL Cake after service	10 10am Office Opening Late 10am Lenten Bible Study 1:30 Brentwood Service	11 2pm Trustees Meeting 7pm Finance	12 No Star Circle 5:30 Lenten Service in Canton	13 10am Bible Study	14 Pastor's Day Off	15
16 9am RL SS	17 10am Lenten Bible Study 4pm Newsletter Deadline	18 1pm Game Day!	19 5:30 Lenten Service in RL 5:30 pm Serving Benjamin House	20 10:30 Prayer Shawl	21 Pastor's Day Off	22
23 9am RL SS 9am Canton SS	24 10am Lenten Bible Study	25 9am Newsletter Folders	26 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1pm Woodstone 5:50 Lenten Service in Canton	27	28 Pastor's Day Off 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ Applebees	29
30 9am RL SS	31 10am Lenten Bible Study					

Canton Service is at 9:00 am– Sunday School is the 12th & 26th at 9:00 am
 Rice Lake Service is at 10:30 am with Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am.

Invitation and Member Care



UMC Lunch Bunch

Has moved to the 4th Friday of the month at 11:30am. In March we will meet at Applebees. Everyone is invited and you can bring a friend too!

Please call the office before 3pm on the Thursday before to let Stephanie know if you are coming.



- 3- Barron West
- 5- Anson Frye
- 6- Penelope Fischer
- 6- George Swanson
- 8- Pam Forrester
- 9- Zachary Toft
- 10- David Moin
- 21- Travis Rae
- 21- Molly Rae
- 23- West Dufner
- 23- Maggie Maust
- 26- Tabi Zegarowicz
- 30- Sylvia Fischer
- 30- Elizabeth Frye
- 30- Shirley Olson
- 31- Dale Gonyea



Game Day

The 3rd Tuesday of the Month (March 18) from 1pm-3pm. Bring your favorite game or play one of ours. Please join us for some fun, fellowship, and laughter. If you don't like playing games- feel free to join us just for the fellowship and laughter!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the chili dinner! Even though it was not well attended we still made some money to go to the general fund. Special thanks to Thrivent for the gift card which, with the help of toppings donations, covered all of the expenses. We made \$370 at the dinner and had \$100 donation come in this past Sunday. The left overs have been frozen and will go to Benjamin House in April. Thanks again!



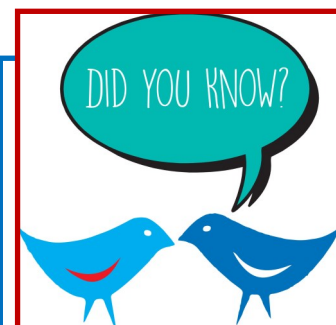
If your birthday or anniversary is not listed then please call the office 715-234-3919. Thanks!

Thursdays @ the U- March 2025

These lectures are free and open to the public every Thursday from 12:30-1:30 and are held in our Blue Hill's Lecture Hall, BRRH234.

- Mar 6 Robin Miller, Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life
- Mar 13 Sarah Turner, Alisa Lammers, Jennifer Jorgenson Community Connections to Prosperity Coalition
- Mar 27 Gina Rivard, Fraud Protection

Most talks are livestreamed at www.ricelaketv.com; most are also archived for later viewing at uwec.ly/Thursdays. For more information, call the campus at 715-788-6244 or email holdenk@uwec.edu.



If you, a family member, or someone within our church community experiences a hospital stay, death, or any kind of accident, please promptly contact the office via phone or email to let us know.

Bible Quiz

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of _____."

- A. flowers
 - B. sheep
 - C. rocks
 - D. bones
- Answer: See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV.



Canton UMC

Church

Canton church will be hosting Lenten services on Mar. 26th, Apr. 2nd & 12th @ 5:30. In preparation for these services, if you can help with some housekeeping duties, please contact Kristi @ 715-418-0318. Saturdays work well, since the heat is turned on.



- 2- Laura Harmony
- 7- Adelyn MacDonald
- 8- Arlene Ciulla
- 25- Aolani Davis
- 25- Micah Halvorson

Please call the office (715-234-3919) if we are missing any of your important dates.

UWF

At the last meeting which was at Rice Lake Family Restaurant, it was decided to have our March meeting there again. You do not need to be a UWF member to join in this time of mission planning, fellowship, and pie! Please call Michele if interested as we need to firm up the date yet.

We will serve Benjamin House again in March, June, August, and October. Please contact Michele if you are able to help.



Sunday School

As the Lenten season approaches, we will be learning more about Jesus and his disciples time together, and what Easter means for us. Parents, as you plan ahead for Sunday School, we would

like to know if you could have your child(ren) at church on Palm Sun. to again participate in "Jesus's entry into Jerusalem " & handing out the palms. Please contact Michele @458-4294 before Mar 23rd, if possible.

Canton Liturgists

- March 2: De Los Santos Family
- March 9: Lexi Halvorson
- March 16: Halvorsons
- March 23: Kristie Kringle
- March 30: TBD

If you're interested in being a liturgist, please let Kristie know.

Love That Moves Us

One of the things I love most about the Good News is its message that God loves us just as we are, right where we are. That is the most fundamental message of grace — that “God loved us while we were yet sinners” (Romans 5:8). God sent His Son into the midst of a world that would ultimately put Him to death. And God continues to reach out to those who are the least, the last, and the lost. Without that message of Good News, it wouldn't be the Gospel.

But there is another part. Yes, God loves us just as we are, but He also loves us too much to let us stay where we are. God's desire for us is to grow in all ways to become more like Jesus.

So, how do we become more like Jesus? By growing as disciples —through devotion, prayer, generosity, following Jesus' teachings, and being open to where God might lead us. Grace is free, but holiness and godliness require discipline — the spiritual work to which we are called as disciples. In fact, the word “disciple” shares its root with “discipline.” Those who seek to grow in faith and spiritual maturity respond to the Good News of God's love by committing to prayer, study, worship, and service.

This Lenten season, let's renew our commitment to make room in our lives for God through all the means at our disposal.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Fasting and Feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

Church & Society

I'll bet we are all aware of the multitude of things happening in the political world today. I'd also bet you have an opinion about the many moves taking place, whether you feel them to be good, bad, ugly or nice.

One thing is certain. We should express our opinions not just to each other but even more important is to express them to our representatives. It may even be considered our civic duty to let them know our opinions.

It's not easy because we might feel we don't know enough about the details or we feel we can't argue our point well enough. We need not be an expert and whomever answers probably won't be the representative but most likely an assistant so you won't get an argument. They will just listen, take notes and Thank you for calling.

To help you, here is the contact information:

Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Senator

Phone: 202-224-5653 - Washington D.C ofc.

715-832-8424 - Eau Claire, WI ofc.

Website: www.baldwin.senate.gov

Ron Johnson, U.S. Senator

Phone: 202-224-5323 - Washington D.C. ofc.

920-230-7250 - Oshkosh ofc.

Website: www.ronjohnson.senate.gov

Tom Tiffany, U.S. Representative

Phone: 202-225-3365 - Washington D.C. ofc.

715-298-9344 - Wausau ofc.



WEEKLY READINGS



March 2

Holy Communion

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36

March 9

Birthday Cake

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 23

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

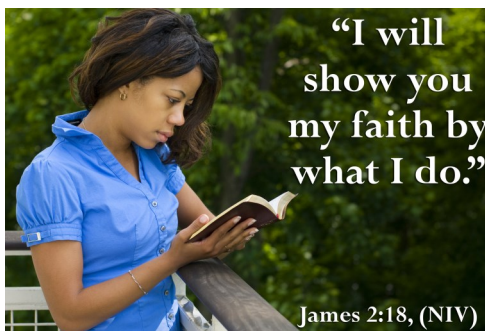
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Did you know you can find the weekly scriptures and more on our website calendar? Just click the links and it will take you to ministrymatters.com.

Action Alert: Prioritize Grace Over Greed in Budget Reconciliation General Board of Church and Society- February 4, 2025

As the federal budgeting process continues, our call remains the same – to advocate for the prioritization of grace over greed.

The United States 119th Congress has officially begun the budget reconciliation process, which is a special way to fast-track legislation concerning policy choices in the annual budget resolution. Like the budget resolution, a reconciliation bill cannot be filibustered and therefore needs only a simple majority to move to a final vote. As the federal budgeting process continues, our call remains the same – to advocate for the prioritization of grace over greed. Go to <https://www.umcjustice.org/latest/action-alert-prioritize-grace-over-greed-in-budget-reconciliation-4003> for the rest of this article. At the end there is a part to fill out with a form letter that you can personalize. When you hit submit it automatically goes to the our representatives listed above.



Lenten Services

As the Lenten season quickly approaches, Pastor Jess will be looking for Canton and Rice Lake volunteers to participate in the Lenten services as readers. The Lenten services will be held at 5:30 pm starting with Ash Wednesday service on March 5th in Rice Lake. We will alternate the services with Canton.

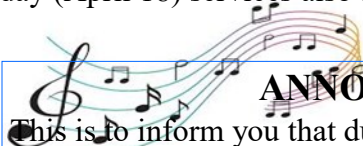
See the following schedule: Wed., March 12th @ Canton
 Wed., March 19th @ RL UMC
 Wed., March 26th @ Canton
 Wed., April 2nd @ RL UMC
 Wed., April 9th @ Canton



Please contact Pastor Jess to let him know which services you are interested in being a reader. Looking forward

to seeing your participation! Thank You!

There will also be Maundy Thursday (April 17) and Good Friday (April 18) services also at 5:30 pm in Rice Lake.



ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform you that during the months with fifth Sundays (March, June, August, and November), we will have a "Worship Thru Music". Instead of our typical sermon, we will learn the background of the hymn selected. Anyone is free to offer his/her gift of music by contacting the Pastor or the Office Manager for the inclusion in the liturgy. Also, groups can be assigned - e.g. UMM, UWF, family, or friends. Thank you!

Worship Music

We are going to try and change it up a bit. The 1st & 3rd Sundays the De Los Santos Family will sing. The 2nd & 4th Sundays will be the congregation or choir. The 5th Sunday will be Worship through Music (starting March 30).

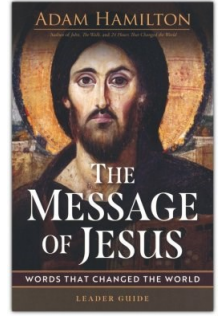
We're making a list of favorite hymns to use during these future services. Fill out your form and turn it in with the offering, put it in the lock box outside of the office, or drop off at the office. You can even email your list to the church. Thanks!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name (optional): _____

Sunday Morning Lenten Study

Enrich your Lenten journey with the Adult Sunday School Class as we go back to basics and study the words of Jesus. We will be using Adam Hamilton's new book and DVD, "The Message of Jesus – Words that Changed the World" to explore six themes in Jesus' teaching and how they matter to us today. Hamilton is a great teacher and witness – easy to understand and learn from. All are welcome to join in reading, watching, and discussing on Sunday mornings at 9 AM, beginning on March 9. Contact Lisa Mink if you have questions.

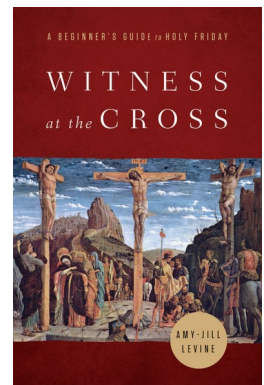


Monday Morning Lenten Study

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross. Bible study will be 6 Monday's at 10:00 starting March 10, 2025.

I will have 6 books. Others can be bought from Amazon for \$15.99 paperback or \$9.99 Kindle. Cokesbury also has paperbacks for the same price.





United Women in Faith

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 5th at 1:30pm

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, and reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I no longer used childish ways." 1 Corinthians 13:11

In keeping with this year's theme, Carrying Our Faith Forward, we'll do some self-reflection on how our faith was formed, how it has changed over the years, and some significant rituals of faith. My mom told of her grandmother's recollections of childhood. Sundays in 1860s Norway were strictly a day of rest and worship which proved difficult for her so she played with her dolls while sitting on the floor under their kitchen table, thinking God couldn't see her there. This shows my great-grandmother's innocence but also that our faith path is a push and pull that we deal with throughout our journey, even starting at a young age. At UWF, we can learn from other's as we move forward in faith.

~Kathy Wagenbach

Do You Want to Fast this Lent? (In the Words of Pope Francis)

- : Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- : Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- : Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- : Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- : Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- : Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- : Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- : Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- : Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- : Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- : Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

World Thank Offering Suggestion for March- Did you read a good book this winter? Add some coins.



UWF Day of Giving, March 23rd

Help build a future filled with hope and support for women, children, and youth by making a gift to The Legacy Endowment Fund.

For more information visit uwfaith.org/dayofgiving

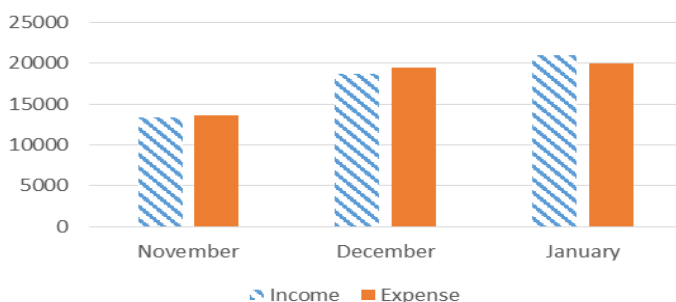
UWF Daily Prayer Guide lets you know what's happening in mission and moves you to put love in action. It is a public page and available at www.facebook.com/dailyprayerguide

Spring is Coming, Time to Clean Out Those Drawers!

We continue to support the Holy Socks project. There is a large blue plastic tub in the narthex where you may drop off old worn out or single socks, just make sure they are washed. Over 900 pounds of socks have been sent to TerraCycle from our district alone! Money is given to Northcott Neighborhood House located in Milwaukee (our conference designated charity) for each pound received. Information on this and other free recyclable programs can be found at terracycle.com. Their mission is to eliminate the idea of waste and to keep trash out of our landfills and incinerators.



General Fund



Thank You! from the Missions Committee we collected 60 rolls of toilet paper to go to the food pantry.

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

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March 2025 The Circuit Writer

First United Methodist Church

1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake, WI 54868
Phone: (715) 234-3919
Email: office@ricelakeumc.org
Website: www.RiceLakeUMC.org

Worship Service: 10:30 am
Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am

All our worship services can be heard on your phone by dialing 1(855)788-3919 or watch us on Facebook.

Canton United Methodist Church

2408 15 3/8 Ave., Rice Lake, WI 54868
Office: 1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake, WI
Phone: (715) 234-3919
Email: office@ricelakeumc.org

Worship Service: 9:00 am
Sunday School: March 9 & 23 at 9am

Pastor: Rev. Jess De Los Santos

Email: pastorjess@ricelakeumc.org
Cell: 1-757-761-2735
Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 9:30am-12:30pm & by appt

Office Manager: Stephanie Byrnes-Hampton
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am-4:00 pm



Facebook— search (top left) for First United Methodist Church of Rice Lake, make sure to “Like” us and Facebook should notify you when we go “Live.”

Over-the-Phone— options:

- You can call 1-855-788-3919 and sign up for it to call you automatically any time we go “live” by pressing 1 when it asks you to.
- You can call or email the church office to manually add you to the list that is called automatically.
- You can just call in every week; dial the number and just wait. If you call before the service “goes live” you will hear some of last week’s service but it will switch over automatically to the new service. Just hang on the line.

If you need assistance call Stephanie in the office.