



## PASTOR'S CORNER

### *"Rejoice! Jesus Is Alive!"*



On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! (Luke 24:1-6a).

Alleluia! Christ is risen! People of God, I'm wishing you a joyful Easter celebration. May the blessings of Easter be upon you and your loved ones.

At Easter, we Christians believe that Christ Jesus is not only alive but also lives with each of us. The message of Easter is that God has come to us through Jesus Christ. He is always ready to hear our prayers. He is always there to turn our tears of sadness to tears of joy. We may see but fail to believe because we want to see with our eyes and not our hearts. Frustrations sadness, and hopelessness are swallowed up in victory when we see the Lord Jesus Christ through our tears. Only then, does Christ Jesus emerge victorious and our tears of sadness turn to tears of joy and we truly see Him through our tears. The Lord Jesus Christ will be with us when we establish a personal relationship with Him by walking in His way, seeking His will, and showing His love. The miracle of Easter is a testament to God's love and power. Praying that you experience this amazing love in your life. Rejoice, for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is alive!

Easter is not only a commemoration but it's a joyful celebration of what God has done to us – in our life as individuals, as a family, as a church and community. To celebrate the first Resurrection Day is to experience "the dawning of a new day"; to experience a new life event in one life. It is to live and give meaning at the present of a glorious event that happened in the past. It is to live a new life as did the disciples. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ brought a living hope and a bright tomorrow for His disciples and followers. Yes, it was a wonderful experience of the first disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

Praise God, if there is sorrow, there is also joy; when there's sadness, there's also gladness, when there's darkness, there is light; when there is sunset, there's a new day dawning; if there is nighttime, there comes a new morning; when there is despair, there is hope; when there is doubt, there springs a strengthened faith; when there is failure, there is victory.

Beloved in Christ, may this Easter celebration be an amazing to you, be a real to you, be a powerful to all of us because we are already rejoicing! Hallelujah, we have a Risen Savior! Jesus Christ is alive forevermore! Happy and Blessed Resurrection Day!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>RL Greeter</b>            April 6: Linda Dufner            April 13: Barbara Burdick            April 20: Pat Turgeson            April 27: Maggie Maust</p>		1	2 1pm UWF  5:30 Lenten Service @ RL	3  4pm Choir	4 Pastor's Day Off	5
6 <i>Holy Communion</i>  9am RL SS 9am Canton SS	7  10am Lenten Bible Study	8	9 Star Circle?? 3:30 Church & Society  5:30pm Lenten Service @ Canton	10  4pm Choir	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 9am UWF Social Action Day– Zoom
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i>  9am RL SS  RL Celebrating April Birthdays after service with cake	14 10am Lenten Bible Study  1:30 Brentwood Service  2pm Memorial	15  1pm Game Day!	16  5:30 pm Serving Benjamin House	17 Office Closed  10:30 Prayer Shawl  5:30 Maundy Thursday Service	18 Pastor's Day Off  5:30 Good Friday Service	19
20 <i>Easter Sunday</i>  8am Canton Cont. Breakfast  9am RL SS	21  4pm Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24	25 Pastor's Day Off  11:30 Lunch Bunch	26
27  9am RL SS	28	29  9am Newsletter Folders	30 8:30 Men's Breakfast  1pm Woodstone	<p><b>Fellowship Hosts:</b> Kathy Duerkop and Cheryl Hedgecock???</p>		<p><b>RL Liturgists</b>            April 6: Lisa Mink            April 13: Heather Madison            April 20: Candy Bandli            April 27: Nancy Zabel</p>

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

## Lunch Bunch!

4th Friday of the Month  
@ 11:30. Place TBD  
Call the office to save your seat.

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. Thank you!

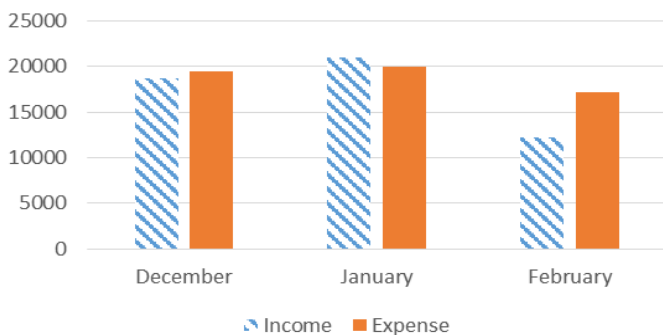
### Thursdays @ the U- March 2025

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.

- Apr 3 Jessica Michna, Mrs. Charles Dickens
- Apr 10 Nicole Muschinske, What's in a Name?
- Apr 17 Alex Wiedenhoef, Casework in Forensic Wood Anatomy
- Apr 24 Lauren Finch, Crex Meadows Part II: Wisconsin Wetland Species

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

General Fund



### My Final Wishes

Not many people relish the idea of planning for their funeral however there might be certain scriptures, hymns, special readings or music that you want so why not make sure it's known? Fill the form out with as much info as you want. Share it with your family, your church, or legal rep. Forms can be found in the church office or <https://ricelakeumc.org/funeral-wish-form/>

And... don't forget to get your Advance Directives completed.



- 3- Steven Aune
- 4- Shirley Peterson
- 5- Gene Johnecheck
- 6- Dave Semple
- 8- Jake Zegarowicz
- 9- Debbie Wille
- 13- Lukas Zegarowicz
- 18- Amber Kraczek
- 22- Dana Bundgaard
- 23- Tricia Smith
- 29- "Pudge" Kohel



- 1- Tabitha & Jake Zegarowicz

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

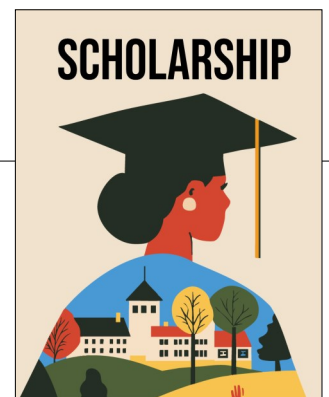


1pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month

### Starkey Memorial Scholarship

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

Scholarship applications are available through our website [www.ricelakeumc.org](http://www.ricelakeumc.org) or the church office of the First United Methodist Church, 1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake WI 54868. Deadline is May 29 by 4pm.

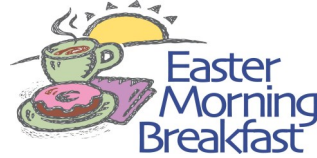


# Canton UMC

## Church:

The Lenten service on April 9 will be held at Canton at 5:30. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are @ 5:30 in Rice Lake.

There will again be a continental breakfast at Canton on Easter starting at 8:00 am with Easter service at 9:00. With Easter being a little later this year, we may be able to shed our winter coats & boots!



Pastor Jess would like to know your 3 favorite hymns. On the 5th Sunday months, hymns will be selected from those lists.

## UWF:

The UWF will meet once more at the Rice Lake Family Restaurant on April 3 at 1:30. Please mark your calendars and bring a friend. The N.W. District Spring Day of Enrichment is on May 3 in Cumberland. If you can attend this inspiring day of fellowship, learning and fun, please call Michele @ 458-4294 before the Apr.25th registration deadline.

**UWF Spring Day of Enrichment- Saturday, May 3, 2025** at Cumberland United Methodist Church. Call Michele if interested in going.

## Sunday School:

The pop cans that were collected have been cashed in for \$30.80! The Sunday School children thank all who contributed. They will put this money toward the Heifer project mission. The pop can collection will continue.

Sunday School will be held on April 6th. There will be no Sunday School on Easter, but we will be having an Easter egg hunt after church!



## Birthdays

- 12- Greg Hagberg
- 29- Dale Crisler
- 30- Don Halvorson

## Anniversary

- 12- Micah & Jennifer Halvorson

Please call the office if we are missing any important dates. Thanks!

## **Canton Liturgists**

- April 6: De Los Santos Family
- April 13: Lexi Halvorson
- April 20: Halvorsons
- April 27: Kristie Kringle

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

## **Worship Music**

We're making a list of favorite hymns to use on the 5th Sunday. Fill out your form and turn it in with the offering, put it in the lock box outside of the office, or drop off in the office. You can even email your list to the church. Thanks!

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
- Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

This is to inform you that during the months with 5 Sundays we will have "Worship Thru Music" instead of our typical sermon. We will learn the background of the hymn selected.

## Church & Society

A member of our church asked if Church & Society could look into “down-lighting.” After some research we found that down-lighting is part of the solution to the bigger problem of light pollution. In honor of Earth Day and with some help from Google here is some info to share as well as some interesting links to checkout.

And if you don't know what Earth Day is... Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally through earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

Down-lighting can help reduce light pollution, but it may not eliminate it completely. Light pollution is a global issue that affects wildlife, ecosystems, and human health. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] "Down-lighting pollution," or light pollution, refers to the negative impacts of artificial light, especially when it's directed upwards or sideways, rather than downwards, which can disrupt natural ecosystems, human health, and stargazing.

### How down-lighting can help [1]

- Shields: Prevent light from escaping upward
- Directed downward lighting: Keep light from spilling into the sky
- Energy efficient LED bulbs: Use less energy and emit a more focused light

### Other ways to reduce light pollution: [1]

- Use motion sensors or timers to turn off outdoor lights when not needed [1]
- Plant trees to create natural barriers that block light from spilling into the sky [1]
- Encourage your community to adopt responsible lighting practices [1]
- Buy exterior lights that have been certified by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) [6]

### Light pollution's effects: [4, 6, 7]

- Disrupts wildlife feeding and breeding patterns
- Kills migrating birds and shorebirds
- Increases the risk of harmful algae blooms
- Reduces the body's production of melatonin, which has been linked to cancer
- Erodes access to the wonder of beautiful night skies

**Sources to check out.** (If viewing online you can just click on the links.)

[1] [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ndo1DmCU\\_OU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ndo1DmCU_OU)

[2] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2023/glaring-problem-how-led-lights-worsen-light-pollution/>

[3] <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/light-pollution/>

[4] <https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/light-pollution-solutions/>

[5] <https://www.jmu.edu/planetarium/light-pollution.shtml>

[6] <https://landscapeforlife.colostate.edu/reduce-light-pollution/>

[7] <https://www.lightingcompany.co.uk/blog/dark-skies-the-art-of-lighting-downwards/>

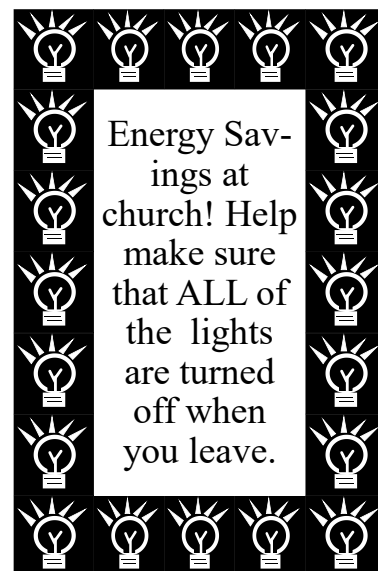
**Lights Out Program**– providing safe passage for night-migrating birds.  
<https://www.audubon.org/our-work/cities-and-towns/lights-out>

### Did You Know?

- Americans throw away 81.5 lbs of clothing yearly.
- The average U.S. household owns 300,000 items.
- We buy 5x more clothes than in the 1980s.
- 25% of people with two car garages can't park cars inside.
- De-Clutter ---a great Earth Day activity!

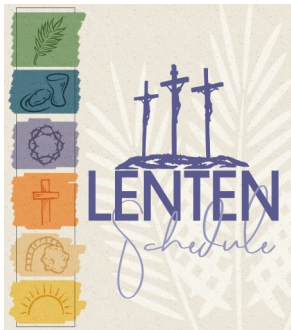
By taking small, intentional steps to de-clutter, we can improve our mental clarity, reduce stress, and promote overall well-being.

(Journey Well, spring 2025 health newsletter)



## Lenten Services

Pastor Jess will be looking for Canton and Rice Lake volunteers to participate in the Lenten services as readers. The Lenten services are at 5:30 pm. We alternate the services with Canton. See the following schedule:



- Wed., March 26<sup>th</sup> @ Canton
- Wed., April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ RL UMC
- Wed., April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 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.



### April 6 Holy Communion

- Isaiah 43:16-21
- Psalm 126
- Philippians 3:4-14
- John 12:1-8

### April 13 Palm Sunday Birthday Cake

- Isaiah 50:4-9
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Luke 22:14-23:56

### April 20 Easter Sunday

- Acts 10:34-43
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
- John 20:1-18

- ### April 27
- Acts 5:27-21
  - Psalm 150
  - Revelations 1:4-8
  - John 20:19-31

Did you know you can find the weekly scriptures on our website calendar?

Just click whatever Sunday you want to look at like Easter and it will list the scriptures, click on the scripture and it will take you to the reading.



### BIBLE QUIZ 2025 (2) HOLY WEEK

Shade the box of the correct answer. Cut the page, then drop the answered sheet in the pink box placed in the narthex.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the Jewish feast which was being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?

- Passover    Pentecost    Feast of Trumpets    Day of Atonement

2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry, what animal was He riding on?

- Camel    Donkey    Horse    Lamb

3. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?

- John    Judas    Peter    James

4. How many times did Peter deny Christ after he abandoned the Lord?

- 7    40    12    3

5. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?

- 20    50    30    10

6. Who was surprisingly released before Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death?

- Ananias    Barabbas    Dismas    Gestas

7. The name of the garden where Jesus prayed on the night of His betrayal and arrest.

- Garden of Gethsemane    Garden of Eden    Rock Garden

8. A man named \_\_\_\_\_ was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus.

- Thaddeus    Simon    Samson    Philip

9. In John 19 two men helped prepare the body of Christ for burial. One is said to have been a secret disciple and another secretly came to Jesus early in His ministry to ask question. Who were these men?

- James & John    Peter & Andrew    Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus

10. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?

- Martha    Joanna    Tabitha    Mary Magdalene





# United Women in Faith

## Unit meeting Wednesday, April 2 @ 1pm

**Prayer for Earth Day** (from a Bible study about UWF social priority on climate justice)

God of Life, we pray to you today with the same wind in our lungs that drives ocean currents, erodes rock, and disperses seeds.

Sustaining God, we pray to you today with feet grounded on the same earth that nourishes forests and crops, filters water, and helps regulate the planet's temperature.

God of Hope, we pray to you with tears made from the same water that grows our plants, houses our ocean life, and provides nutrients to sustain our lives.

God of Love, we ask you to draw near that we may find space for our sorrow, solidarity in our community, and hope for the work to be done. Amen

## United Women in Faith's new mission statement....

We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

**World Thank Offering Suggestion for April-** If you have or had a cherished pet in your life, drop some coins into your Thank Bank.

**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](http://www.facebook.com/dailyprayerguide)

## UWF Social Action Day– Zoom Event

April 12, 2025 9:00 - Noon

"For Love and Grace - Resisting Oppression and Hate" Opening Our Doors to All God's Children

Register by April 7th <https://wisconsin-reg.brapp.com/UWinfaihtsocialactionday2025>

Questions-- Barb Diener-Blumer 920-379-8450 or email [crabar0408@gamil.com](mailto:crabar0408@gamil.com)

## UWF Spring Day of Enrichment

**Saturday, May 3, 2025** at Cumberland United Methodist Church. The theme for the day is 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun.' Registration forms on the UWF board or in the church office.

## Blood Mobile

A lifesaving public service opportunity has come our way again. Pattye Miller has recruited us previously to serve refreshments for the Bloodmobile at the Blue Hills Masonic Center. We haven't done it for more than a year and the need is even more urgent this year. Pattye had a major heart attack, (and broke her arm,) and she is in Madison with her daughter undergoing therapy.

We are scheduled for Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6 PM. We need sandwich spread, dessert bars, and workers to make the sandwiches and keep the dessert plates filled.

Because Pattye isn't there, she said it would be nice if we could have someone to greet people and check them in on the computer. The work hours on April 24<sup>th</sup> are 12-3 and 3-6 PM. Some people on the second shift might be able to go home a little earlier because it slows down a little at the end.

If you are not able to furnish food or work at the canteen, you could try to encourage people to donate blood on the 24<sup>th</sup> or Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Thanking you in advance, Nancy Zabel



## Let Laughter ‘Spring’ Forth!

“Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.” (Doug Larson)

“Easter is the only time when it’s perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket.” (Evan Esar)

“Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade.” (Charles Dickens)

“The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful.” (e.e. cummings)

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” (Margaret Atwood)



We would like to decorate our worship area with a beautiful variety of flowers for this year’s Easter Worship.

The form below gives you an opportunity to order the type of flowers you would like to dedicate in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one.

Please fill out the form and return it to the church office **by March 31**. Make sure to include payment with your order form. Checks should be made payable to: First United Methodist Church.

If you bring flowers of your own, please have them to the church by 12:00 noon on Monday, April 14 to be listed in the bulletin. Don’t forget to let us know whose honor or memory they are in.

Please make sure that you take home the type of flowers you ordered following the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!



I would like to donate flowers for Easter worship services.

Lilies \$14  
 Tulips \$13  
 Hyacinths \$13  
 Cyclamen \$14  
 Kalanchoes \$14



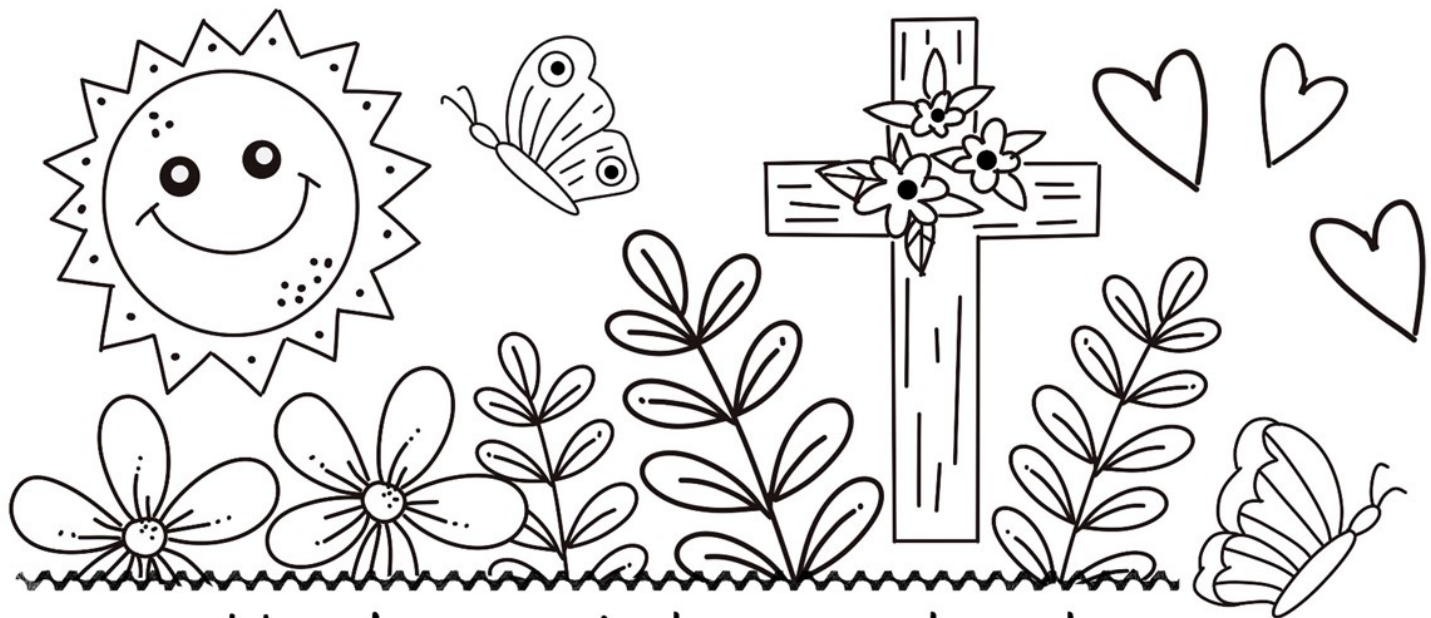
I will bring my own flowers.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_  
Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_





He is not here; he has



Luke 24:6, NIV



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

**Address Service Requested**

NON-PROFIT ORGAN.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
RICE LAKE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 17

## April 2025 The Circuit Writer



### **First United Methodist Church**

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

**Worship Service: 9:00 am**  
**Sunday School: April 6 at 9am**

**Pastor: Rev. Jess De Los Santos**

**Email:** [pastorjess@ricelakeumc.org](mailto: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.