



Pastor Jess De Los Santos

May 2025

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

PASTOR'S CORNER

“Mothers Are God’s Precious GIFT”



“She is strong and respected and not afraid of the future. She speaks with a gentle wisdom. She is always busy and looks after her family’s needs. Her children show their appreciation, and her husband praises her. He says, “Many women are good wives, but you are the best of them all.” Charm is deceptive and beauty disappears, but a woman who honors the Lord should be praised” (Proverbs 31:25-30 GNT).

I would like to greet all mothers around the globe A HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY! Mothers like you are God’s precious gifts to your families, and the value of a godly mother is beyond measure.

On Mother’s Day, many children will try to do something special for their moms like giving them a personal letter or card, flowers or any token just to express their love and appreciation. Proverbs 31:28a says, *“Her children show their appreciation.”* How could you define a godly mother? A godly mother is a woman of faith, have a godly spirit – she has made Jesus Christ as her Lord in her heart and home. She has a generous spirit – uses her talents and time to take care of the needs of her family and others. She has a gentle spirit – she is careful with what she does, she is careful with what she says and careful to think about the feelings of others. Top of Form-Bottom of Form

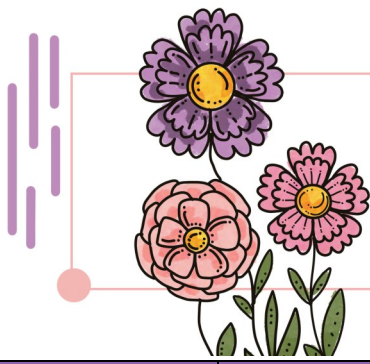
I want to share with you the acronym of the word G-I-F-T that I borrowed from an author.

G – Graciousness. A “precious gift” mother is one who is more concerned with the needs of others than she is for her own needs. She puts her family first; she puts those in need second and herself last. She is gracious and self-giving, not only in the words she speaks, but also in the deeds she does. *“She gets up before daylight to prepare food for her family. She is a hard worker, strong and industrious. She is generous to the poor and needy. She doesn’t worry when it snows, because her family has warm clothing.”* Yes, a godly mother is gracious to her household, she is gracious to her family, she is gracious to the needy. She is a woman of grace – a precious gift from God!

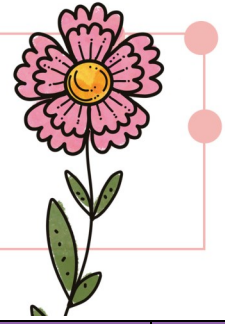
I – Intelligence. A “precious gift” mother is not just gracious, she is also intelligent, wise, and industrious. She not only manages her family well, but also, her finances, all their means of living, and most of all their spiritual life. *“She knows the value of everything she makes, and works late into the night. She is strong and respected and not afraid of the future. She speaks with a gentle wisdom.”* This is a description of a strong, responsible, industrious and intelligent woman/mother, who balances her family and work responsibilities well; she is an accomplished seamstress, chef, vineyard keeper and fashion designer. She is a woman of INTELLIGENCE – a precious gift from God!

F – Faithfulness. A “precious gift” mother is gracious, intelligent and faithful. She is faithful to her husband, her family and her God. *“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”* Faithfulness is one of the most important qualities to God. The greatest words anyone could hear from God’s lips are, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21). It is not our ability that counts with God, but our availability. Do we use the gifts and abilities we have to faithfully serve God and others? A godly mother is a woman of FAITHFULNESS – a precious gift from God!

T – Tenderness. A “precious gift” mother is tender-hearted, overflowing with love and kindness. She thinks tenderly, speaks tenderly, and acts tenderly. Her tenderness is described in the New Testament this way: *“Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal”* (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a GNT). Kindness or tenderness is such a way of life for her, that it has become a law. A godly mother is a woman of TENDERNESS – a precious gift from God!



HELLO *may*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>RL Greeter May 4: Shirley Toft May 11: Donna Cook May 18: Gwen Rettenmund May 25: Cheryl Hedgecock</p>	<p>RL Liturgists May 4: Paul Toft May 11: Candy Bandli May 18: Lisa Mink May 25: Mary Mattson</p>	<p>Fellowship Hosts: Maggie Maust and Helen Anonich</p>	<p>1 4pm Choir 6:30 National Day of Prayer @ Maranatha</p>	<p>2 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>3 1pm Art Bishop Visitation & Prayer Service at Brentwood</p>	
<p>4 <i>Holy Communion</i> Birthday Cake 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 3:30 Worship Meeting</p>	<p>7 1pm UWF 5pm SPRC</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Muffins for Moms No Adult SS</p>	<p>12 1:30 Brentwood Service</p>	<p>13 7pm Finance</p>	<p>14 1pm Star Circle</p>	<p>15 10:30 Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>16 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Graduation Recognition 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS</p>	<p>19 4pm Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>20 1pm Game Day 3:30 Invitation & Member Care</p>	<p>21 5:30 Serving Benjamin House</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9am RL Adult SS</p>	<p>26  Office Closed</p>	<p>27 2pm Trustees</p>	<p>28 8:30 Men's Breakfast 9am Folders 1pm Woodstone 2pm Church Council</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Pastor's Day Off 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ Denny's</p>	<p>31</p>

Canton Service is at 9:00 am– Sunday School is the 4th & 18th at 9:00 am
 Rice Lake Service is at 10:30 am with Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am.

Invitation and Member Care



What's Happening in May?

- 1st Sunday in May (May 4th) we will do **birthday cake** to celebrate everyone born in May since Mother's Day falls on the 2nd Sunday.
- 2nd Sunday in May (May 11th) is Mother's Day in honor of mothers everywhere, would like to invite you to join us for "**Muffins for Moms**" at RL UMC. We will have a variety of muffins out for everyone (not just the moms) to enjoy during the coffee fellowship.
- 3rd Sunday (May 18) will be **Graduation Recognition Sunday**.
- 3rd Tuesday in May (May 20th) is **Game Day** from 1-3pm. Bring yours or play one of ours. If you don't like playing games- feel free to join us just for the fellowship and laughter!
- May 30th we will have **Lunch Bunch** at Denny's Restaurant at 11:30am. Please call the office by 3pm the Thursday before to let Stephanie know if you are coming.



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!



- 2- Amy Jacobson (George)
- 2- Braydon Larson
- 2- Sheila Lindloff
- 4- Kelsey Manley
- 4- Brooks Nelson
- 5- Larry Neve
- 12- Hadley Owen
- 14- Wilson Hying
- 14- Curtis Kemnitz
- 14- Heather Madison
- 18- Tyler Kilcoyne
- 18- Ty Rettenmund
- 19- Kristy Babineau
- 21- Fran Drabek
- 21- Bailey Wallin
- 23- Justin Kilcoyne
- 25- Stevie Hampton
- 28- Jordan Turgeson
- 29- Porter Manley



- 2- Pete & Candy Bandli
- 3- Pastor Jess & Imelda
- 23- Ron & Pat Turgeson
- 25- Marvin & Donna Heidenreich

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



Canton UMC

Canton Liturgists

May 4: De Los Santos Family
May 11: Lexi Halvorson
May 18: Halvorsons
May 25: Kristie Kringle

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



A Mother's Day Hymn

Sing praise to our Creator God!
Earth prospers from the way
God "mothers" each new child into
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood
A channel from above
That longs to share with every
child
God's comfort, grace and love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,
Who "mothers" us from birth!
Providing what we truly need
Throughout our lives on earth.



Birthdays

6- Emma Gifford
6- Michele Halvorson
8- Paisley Alton
12- Greg Hagberg
18- Craig Healy
19- Glenn Berger
25- Lexi Halvorson
25- Stevie Hampton
26- Marilyn Rowe

Anniversary

3- Pastor Jess & Imelda
26- Kristie & Steve Kringle

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

SCHOLARSHIP



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 or the church office of the First United Methodist Church, 1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake WI 54868. Deadline is May 29 by 4pm.

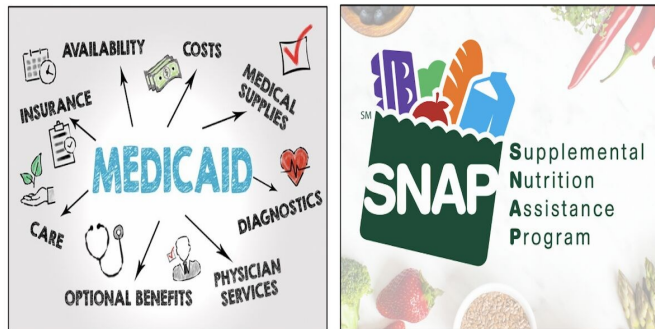
Camping Opportunities

There are camps available for all ages and abilities again this year. There are weekend retreats of fun and sun. Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne are the beautiful main camp sites. A few camping brochures are available in the narthex but it is easy to plan your summer adventure online at www.WIUMCamps.org. You can find scholarships there and our church has scholarship funds as well - just let the office know you have registered. Be sure to make your reservation as soon as you can, since the camps will fill up quickly. Directions to the camps are in the brochure and online. Happy Camping!! If you have questions call Candy Bandli 715-736-3412



Take Action: Tell Congress to Protect Medicaid and SNAP

As United Methodists, we continue to affirm that “health care is a basic human right.”



As United Methodists, we continue to affirm that “health care is a basic human right” and understand that accessible and quality food systems contribute to healthy outcomes (Social Principles, 163.A).

Our Social Principles “endorse policies and practices designed to ensure access to healthy nourishment (Social Principles 160.C).” Contact your congressional leaders now to urge that this vision of equity in health and nutrition is upheld in budget reconciliation.

The budget resolution passed by the House of Representatives requires that the Energy & Commerce Committee, the committee that gives oversight to Medicaid, identify at least \$880 billion to cut from programming.

As policymakers have repeatedly stated that cuts to Medicare are not an option, the only way to achieve the level of cuts that have been proposed is to make significant changes to Medicaid.

Similarly, the budget resolution calls for the House Committee on Agriculture to cut \$230 billion for its programs – indicating that funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will also be severely reduced.

In the coming weeks, the House and Senate will work on a compromise budget resolution that would need to pass each chamber to unlock the reconciliation process.

Act now to let your congressional leaders know that drastically cutting Medicaid and SNAP cannot be an option in the budget reconciliation process.

<https://www.umcjustice.org/latest/take-action-tell-congress-to-protect-medicaid-and-snap-5158>

With some of the budget cuts the government is making or trying to make think of how the load will increase for places like our local food pantries. Steph talked to Dave Swanson of the We Share Food Panty who shared the following information: for the 1st quarter of 2025 they have already served 352 families that consists of:

Age 0-17 yrs.	266
Age 18-59 yrs.	517
Age 60 + yrs.	218

For a total of 1001 people. In March alone they had 14 **new** families.

In 2024, they has 1548 households consisting of 4157 people served. 534 had extra visits.

As the needs increase so does their budget. In 2022 their budget was \$24,000, in 2023 it was \$43,000, and 2025 is estimated to be \$48,000-\$50,000.

In March, they lost their source for free fruit and vegetables.

Summer also sees an increase of people visiting the food pantry, some are seasonal workers, some are families with kids home for the summer but they get approximately 12 new families a month during the summer.

Just a reminder that there is a basket for collecting food in the narthex and checks can be made out to the We Share Food Pantry and left in the church lock box, offering plate, or with Stephanie in the office. She will definitely pass it on. Thanks



Food Collection

Worship Committee



Join us for Graduation Recognition on Sunday, May 18th to celebrate Bella Wallin and Kaylie Kraczek's high school graduation. We will have cake following the service.

Worship Reminders:

- Don't forget that there are prayer cards in the attendance pads as well as on a table in the narthex. These can be shared with the Pastor for during service or privately.
- You can purchase altar flowers or bulletins. There is a clip board outside the office door. Recommended donation for flowers are \$30 and \$10 for bulletins. Just make sure Steph knows who they are in honor or memory of.

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.

- May 1 Lauren Ritters, Why do Birds Sing?
May 8 Bill Jamerson, Dollar-a-Day Boys

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 holdenlk@uwec.edu.

Preparation for Worship

“Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5, NIV). Whatever emotion each of us is feeling right now, may this time of worship grant nourishment. Amen.

* * *

Thank you, God, for the special women in my life [mom, grandmas, aunts, nieces, friends, wife, daughters]. I pray for their well-being.

* * *

Jesus, you are the stable rock on which I stand, the warm water in which I float peacefully, the fragrant air that energizes my being. In you I rest and am strengthened for faithful living.

* * *

Jesus says: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27, NRSV).

Published in: May 2025 in churchart.com

WEEKLY READINGS



May 4

Holy Communion

Birthday Cake

Psalm 30

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

May 11

Mother's Day

Muffins for Moms

Psalm 23

Acts 9:36-43

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

May 18

Graduate Recognition

Psalm 148

Acts 11:1-18

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

May 25

Psalm 67

Acts 16:9-15

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

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

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





United Women in Faith

"So we do not give up. Our physical body is becoming older and weaker, but our spirit inside us is made new every day." 2 Corinthians 4:16 (ICB)

Taking the recovery journey after my hip surgery lead to obvious comparisons to my faith journey: impatience, frustration, gratitude, discomfort, humility....a wide range of feelings and emotions. The healing process for this surgery is short compared to my life long faith journey. And blessedly, our faith journeys overlap the many other journeys we go on in our lives. It helps us to move forward on this up and down existence when we get tired or fearful. UWF inspires and supports me on my trek. All women of our congregation are welcome to connect with the opportunities offered, locally and beyond. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 7th at 1 pm. Join us for fellowship and learning.

Kathy Wagenbach, President

We would like to thank everyone for their support, cards and memorial gifts after the passing of Pete's Dad, Jim Bandli, and Candy's Dad, Art Bishop. We appreciate you all.



Unit meeting Wednesday, May 7 @ 1pm with Dave Swanson from the We Share Food Pantry

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

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.

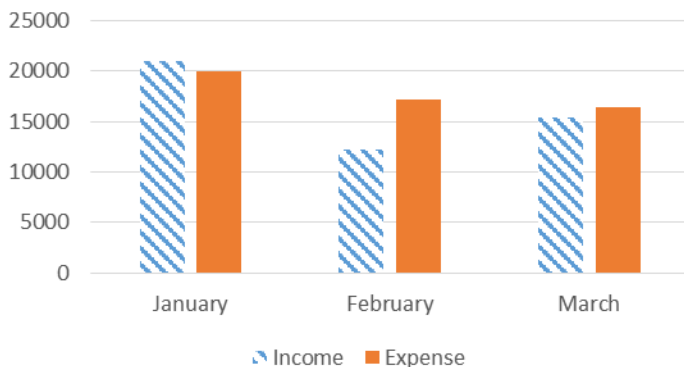
World Thank Offering Suggestion for May- Add a coin for events or activities you have planned for this month.



To the family of Rose Snyder. Rose passed away April 19th. A funeral service will be

held Friday, June 6, at First United Methodist Church in Cumberland at 10:00 am. A celebration of life will follow at Hilltop Retreat in Cumberland from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will be celebrating the lives of both Lloyd and Rose Snyder.

General Fund



Office Update: The office will be closed the week of June 30th to July 3rd. Steph is taking the whole week off! The mail, email, and answering machine will be monitored. Please plan accordingly. Thanks!

**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

May 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: May 4 & 18 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.