

Hello Church,

Welcome to the new program year. There's a lot on hand to begin our new season of learning and building our spiritual muscles.

This summer, we've been hearing a lot from John's Gospel about the *Bread of Life*. It's telling us that our soul's nourishment comes from relationship with Jesus, being involved in his teaching and his following. That *Bread* is our daily discipline of prayer and reflection on what it means to be part of the Body of Christ. It means we look to the principles of Jesus' teaching to guide our everyday small and large decisions.

John Wesley had a lot to say about that discipline. He required small groups and daily reflection about every aspect of life. It's the kind of discipline that fed many souls. It worked well.

This program year we begin with a focus on the Apostle Paul in a six-week series entitled *The Call*. It traces the life and ministry of what some think is the second most important person in the Christian faith after Jesus, Paul of Tarsus. This series begins September 20.

Our Fall Season begins with Rally Sunday September 13. It coincides with an Animal Blessing during worship at 9:00.

We also are building a wood fire oven. It looks like it'll be operational in October. Talk about *Bread of Heaven*, this is a new venture of sharing *bread* and *Bread*, a double entendre that would make John proud in his gospel understanding of that word. The oven is intended to create community over its baking crafts, as Jesus would have us do. Any proceeds from the oven are intended for outreach ministry.

Another iron in the fire, so to speak, is the creation of a permanent endowment fund. This fund is intended for long range legacy giving. Its focus is to provide funding for our ministry into the future. It augments the hope that our future will be bright. Hopefully, our best days are ahead of us.

Keep the faith,
Pastor Glen

Meet Paul, Christ's follower & messenger.

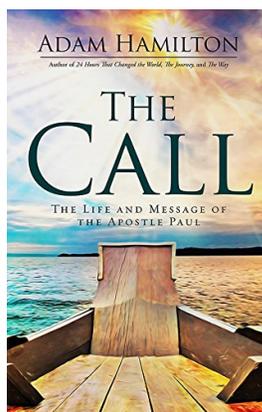
Paul's life is an example of how God can change people's hearts and use them to do God's work. ⇒⇒⇒⇒

The Call

September 20 – October 25

Follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early church sites and explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. In this six-week study, you are invited to experience faith through Christ's greatest teacher and missionary.

It could reasonably be argued that no other human, apart from Jesus himself, has had a greater impact on the world than Paul of Tarsus. His theological reflections on the meaning of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection have had a profound impact upon every branch of the



Christian faith. His missionary journeys took the gospel across the Roman world. He mentored many second-generation Christian leaders. Thirteen of the New Testament's twenty-seven books are attributed to him, and one-half of the Acts of the Apostles is devoted to telling his story. Today, one-third of the world's

population look to his writings for inspiration, spiritual direction, and ethical guidance, more than follow the teachings of Muhammad, the Buddha, and Confucius combined.

Anyone interested in a copy of the book, please contact Pastor Glen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome Back!! Rally Sunday Sept. 13

What will we be learning?

Adam Hamilton – *The Call: The Life and Learning of the Apostle Paul*

What we will be doing in 6 lessons:

- 1. Called to Follow Christ: Acts 9**
- 2. Called to Go: Acts 13-14**
- 3. Called to Be Faithful: Acts 16**
- 4. Called to Love: Acts 18 & 1 Cor. 13**
- 5. Called to Give: Acts 19**
- 6. Called to Have Courage: Acts 27-28**

We will be taking a break from Chicken Pie Supper this year. Although this function created a great fellowship gathering both for our church family as well as our local community, it was felt that the effort to put on an event of this nature was significant. There is still a desire to continue with functions that create fellowship. We encourage you to channel your energies toward one of our church's current projects or make a suggestion for something new.

The Chicken Pie Supper Committee

Thank you!!

JoAnn Osterhus



**RALLY SUNDAY & ANIMAL BLESSING
SEPTEMBER 13
Christian Formation Classes Begin
10:15 September 20th**



A Note on Poverty

The ability for individuals to participate and receive assistance from the county programs (welfare), such as SNAP (food stamps), WIC, Medical Assistance, Emergency Assistance, and housing assistance is dependent on an individual's income. If the individual's income is below what is called the Poverty Line, the individual then qualifies for county funded program assistance. It is important to note that this poverty line has not been updated in over 50 years. For instance, for a household of 1, the individual must make \$11,770 or below for their annual income to be able to receive medical assistance. A family of 2: \$15,930 a year, family of 3: \$20,090, family of 4: \$24,350, family of 5: \$28,410, and so on. As a result, low-income Americans who need county program assistance fall slightly above the current line are not able to obtain it. I personally have a client who makes \$12 to much to receive SNAP and Medical Assistance. This client is expected to obtain adequate housing, food, and medical insurance, making less than \$15,000 a year without assistance, while employed. The current poverty line has been in effect since 1964; reflecting an antiqued food budget of that time, not taking into

account the rising costs of living. So, keep this in mind when reading statistics about impoverished Americans, as that number is greatly larger than the number you read in statistics. It is estimated that 45.3 million Americans are in poverty (meet the poverty line). In Minnesota, the number of individuals who meet the poverty line is increasing and is at 12% of all Minnesotans who fall BELOW the poverty line. In Mower County, 16.3% of individuals fall BELOW the poverty line, that is just under 6,500 people of all ages. Unfortunately the only politician that has enough power to update this outdated measure, is the President and those politicians who educate and persuade the President. It is our public and Christian duty to help try to alleviate the stress of families trying to make ends meet with little to no means of achieving this.

Nicole Lanz, LSW

Serving Fillmore County

Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center

Final Exam – Mt. 25:44

Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"

- 1 in 16 verses in the Bible refers to the poor
- 1 in 10 verses in the Gospels refer to the poor & forgotten



Ryan's new address:

Ryan Schroeder

ID# 18376-041

Federal Correctional Institution

PO Box 1000

Milan, MI 58160

SMALL GROUP KIOSK

In keeping with Wesley's notion of small group nurture and support in your Christian faith, Pastor Glen has set up a kiosk in the church office with some subjects your group might be interested in. Please check out and return any curriculum you choose. Pastor Glen is happy to help you get started and provide support. There are video and print resources provided.

Subjects available include:

- *From Jesus to Christ*
- *The Holy Grail*
- *Luther*
- *Who Was Paul?*
- *Christianity the 2nd Millennium*
- *Roman Empire: 1st Century*
- *Christmas Unwrapped*
- *Peter: Jesus' Fisherman*
- *Quest for the Lost Ark*
- *Mary: The Mother of Jesus*
- *Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture*
- *Surprise Me: A 30-Day Faith Experiment*

Wesley's method for making followers of Jesus is still relevant to our church and the world we are facing. Robust churches exhibit the following characteristics. They have people who:

- Worship regularly
- Work toward tithing
- Are involved in accountable small groups
- Are involved in outreach ministry



Wood Fire Oven

Take a look at our blog for latest news: <http://www.umcracinemn.org/wood-fire-oven-update-blog>

We estimate completion of construction around mid-October.

Thanks to all who contributed to building this landmark of outreach ministry to our community.

We've heard a lot from John's Gospel this summer about "The Bread of Life." We believe this ministry will foster fellowship as it bakes its way into the hearts, minds and souls of those we touch with its bake goods and the money it raises for outreach in helping those in need. We will keep in mind what this oven would produce, and for whom, if it were Jesus' kitchen.

May God richly bless the soul food it provides.



The Right Question

*Leaders do not need answers.
Leaders must have the right questions.*

Robert Schnase suggests that we may be asking new participants in our churches the wrong questions. Instead of asking them on which committee they would like to serve, better questions might be:

- *Tell me about a ministry you have felt God calling you to fulfill.*
- *What difference do you feel God is calling you to make?*
- *What gifts and skills and passions do you have for ministry?*

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 9AM

Held in Racine Memorial Park

Come and share the Spirit of blessing with our animal brothers and sisters of God's Kingdom.

We ask only that you bring animals that will do well in a public place to join us for this worship. We encourage you not to bring your animal if you think that this is likely to be a problem. If your animal cannot attend, feel free to bring something that represents your animal: a picture, stuffed animal, collar or blanket that your animal likes and we will bless that instead.

We ask that dogs are on short leashes or in carriers, and that all cats and any other animal that may try to scurry away be in carriers.

Blessing of the Animals



RALLY SUNDAY & ANIMAL BLESSING
SEPTEMBER 13

Rally Sunday!



Greeters

September

6th – Bob & Tracy Hoover
13th – Alden & Elsie Marburger
20th – Marian Johnson
27th – Bryan & Dawn Vrieze

October

4th – Scott & Joann Osterhus
11th – Ron & Robyn Vrieze
18th – Bruce & Vicki Schroeder
25th – Alysha Bleifus

November

1st – Del & Sandy Schatz
8th – Darrell Clark
15th – DeeAnn Byrne
22nd – Steve Wesenberg
29th – Mark Marburger

Readers*

September

6th – **Norma Kenning**
13th – Dawn Vrieze
20th – Jessica Warren
27th – Alysha Bleifus

October

4th – **Mark Marburger**
11th – Karen Goldsmith
18th – DeeAnn Byrne
25th – JoAnn Osterhus

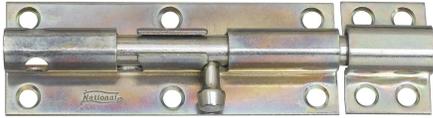
November

1st – **Robin Vrieze**
8th – Dawn Vrieze
15th – Tracy Hoover
22nd – Steve Wesenberg
29th – Norma Kenning

* If you cannot read on your appointed date, please find your own replacement. Thank you.

A heart-felt “Thank You” from the leadership of Stewartville School District to our congregation for providing backpacks of food for students. It makes a difference!

**Slide Bolt Drive
Fillmore Community Advocates
A Local Satellite of Women's Shelters Inc.**



National Hardware N162-388 V831
6" Heavy Barrel Bolt

Women's Shelter, Inc. was started by and has been sustained by survivors of domestic abuse. It began in the late 1970's as a task force by three survivors and the Rochester Chapter of NOW who were determined to give other abused women something they didn't have: a safe and secure place to live and help in learning how to live independently. Over the years, Women's Shelter, Inc. has expanded to provide more space to safely house women and children.

In addition, Women's Shelter, Inc. has added children's advocacy, an International Shelter with programming specific to immigrant battered women and their children, Transitional Housing, and a multi-lingual staff. We also have satellite offices in Dodge, Fillmore Olmsted and Wabasha Counties. Women's Shelter, Inc. continues to grow and adapt to the needs of our community while following our mission and vision for a domestic violence-free future.

We have been in conversation with Anne Detlefsen at the satellite office in Preston. She has stated that an immediate need that is not currently funded for their clients is the simple sliding barrel bolt that is used to help secure the home for the women and children from an abusive situation. Currently when these are needed to secure a safe place for the women and children Anne who is the only staff person at the Preston office is paying for them herself. Let's band together and help in this small way to make a safer place for the women and children of our surrounding community.

Currently the Slide Bolt that they have found that has nice long screws and ten holes to secure it is available online at Walmart.com for \$7.46 with free shipping (normally \$8.36). I would like to challenge us to see how many of these we can provide.

Anne Detlefson has told us that she would be happy to come and share with our church the work of Fillmore Community Advocates and how the locks are used. We will set up a time for her to share with us in the near future

Permanent Endowment Fund Proposal

Racine United Methodist Church is in the process of setting up an endowment fund to provide financial resources for our present and future ministry endeavors.

The Permanent Endowment Program is established for the purpose of providing members and friends opportunities to make charitable gifts to Racine United Methodist Church that will become a permanent endowment of financial support and a living memorial. The Permanent Endowment Program is intended for purposes that are not generally a part of the church's established programs, which are funded through the annual operating budget of the church and the regular giving of its members. The Permanent Endowment Program is meant to help carry out the mission of the church to make Disciples of Christ.

The Endowment Fund creates a principle sum of money that earns interest. A portion of that interest can be used to fund various ministries described in the fund. The principle is never touched unless extreme circumstances and a 2/3 vote of a Charge Conference of Racine UMC allow it. This is a long-term legacy.

Donors would give to this Fund to provide a legacy of hope for the ministry of our church. It's primarily for long-term funding of our mission to make Disciples of Christ. But, donors may also choose to provide a portion of their gift to the Endowment Fund for immediate use.

Some items for funding consideration include: Administrative Assistant, improved internet service, Musicians, music supplies & audio/video equipment.

Please prayerfully consider what God is asking you to do.





**RACINE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
ENDOWMENT
FUND**



Build your endowment

*Building a local church endowment fund today is one of the best stewardship decisions your church can make. Endowment funds benefit churches by offering members opportunities to provide a future legacy for the church and their families. An endowment fund is a permanent fund. It is like a savings account where only the interest and/or earnings can be spent.

A permanent endowment fund serves the church into perpetuity. While the original gifts may grow through prudent investments, the church can use the earnings each year to enhance church ministries, outreach and care of facilities.

Here is a chart of possible ways to give a legacy gift

YOUR GOAL	YOUR GIFT	HOW TO GIVE	YOUR BENEFITS
Make a quick and simple gift	OUTRIGHT GIFT	Donate cash, securities or personal property	Income tax deduction; avoidance of any capital gains tax
Defer a gift until after your lifetime	BEQUEST IN WILL	Name your church or favorite ministry in your will	A donation exempt from federal estate taxes
Make a large gift with little cost to yourself	LIFE INSURANCE GIFT	Give an old or new policy with your church or favorite ministry named as beneficiary	Current income tax deduction, possible future deductions
Avoid the twofold taxation on retirement plan assets	RETIREMENT PLAN GIFT	Name your church or favorite ministry as beneficiary of all or part of the remaining assets after your lifetime	Avoidance of heavily taxed gift to heirs
Avoid capital gains tax on the sale of a home or other real estate	REAL ESTATE GIFT	Donate the property or sell it at a bargain price	Immediate income tax deduction and avoidance of capital gains tax
Secure a fixed and often improved income	CHARITABLE REMAINDER ANNUITY TRUST	Create a charitable trust that pays you a set income annually	Immediate income tax deduction and fixed income for life
Create a hedge against inflation over the long term	CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST	Create a trust that pays a percentage of the trust's assets, valued annually	Immediate income tax deduction, annual income for life that has potential to increase
Supplement income with fixed annual payments	CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY	Enter into a contract that pays you fixed payments annually	Current and future savings on income taxes; fixed payments for life
Reduce gift and estate taxes on assets passing on to heirs	CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST	Create a trust that pays a fixed or variable income to your favorite ministry for a set term and then passes to heirs	Reduced size of taxable estate; keeps property in family, often with reduced gift taxes
Make a gift that allows flexibility and your input on how funds will be used	DONOR ADVISED FUND	Create an agreement where the Foundation manages assets; you suggest beneficiaries	Immediate income tax deduction, option to provide input on how funds will be used



RACINE
UNTIED METHODIST CHURCH
401 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 127
Racine, MN 55967
Phone:
507-378-4801
E-Mail:
rscumc@hmtel.com



Sept/Nov 2015

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus
Christ for the transformation of the world

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship 9:00
Learning 10:15

We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
www.umcracinemn.org

Racine United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 127
Racine, MN 55967