

August 2020

Racine UMC Newsletter

401 East Main St., Racine, Mn 55967

Worship: Sundays

Online Worship Services are available at this time of Crisis
*link shared through Racine UMC Facebook Page or you may email
the church if you prefer to receive the Worship service via email*

Pastor Bridget Sheely

Cell: 507-438-1352 bridget@countrywidecarriers.com

Racine UMC Office hours Thursdays 5-7pm

Office Phone: 507-378-4801 rsumc@hmtel.com



Grace and Peace in the Name of Jesus Christ:

If you have items you would like to be published in the newsletter, please contact our church secretary, Norma Kenning, by the 3rd Thursday of the preceding month by emailing your information to: **Racine UMC**

(rsumc@hmtel.com) Or by bringing your information to Norma during office hours (Thursdays, 5-7)

Pastor's Notes...

As I contemplate these last few months and think of how we have had to learn to be a community united yet separate I think of how many times there is reference to biblical persons going "out in the wilderness" in solitude to find their spiritual strength.

1 Kings 19:8 ESV

And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

Exodus 4:27 ESV

The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.

Isaiah 40:3 ESV

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Matthew 4:1 ESV

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Why did these prophets, these persons of God, have to "go into the wilderness?"

I believe it was (as is today) the way of removing themselves/ourselves from the distractions of life.

Before Jesus started his ministry, he went into the wilderness to find his focus, his strength, his confirmation in God. He prayed and reflected on God's word. He was tempted, beaten down and brought to the brink of starvation. No food, water, companionship or shelter.

Think about that for a moment.

Where are your emotions leading you today?

Do you feel isolated? Abandoned? Defeated? Hungry?

Do you feel the temptation of throwing your arms in the air and saying:

"That's it! I can't live in this restrict environment because of the pandemic! I am going to live my live and do what I please."

I get it the frustration of restrictions is overwhelming. But we must remember this is only a season, a moment in time. This is our moment to "Go out into the Wilderness" to find our spiritual strength. This is our time of digging deep within ourselves to find that resolve, that foundation of faith we hold dear.

Do you truly live a life of Thy will be done and not a life of my will be done?

I encourage you to take this opportunity which has been given to re-adjust your lenses. Clear your mind of the distractions. Open your heart to studying the Word. Find your peace. Grow in your wisdom. And, most importantly establish a more personal relationship with our Lord and Savior.

For it is written, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me...I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

God be with you 'til we meet again.

The Way to Start your Day...

Go outside and face the East and greet the Sun with a blessing, chant or song that you made yourself and keep for early mornings. Do not fret if you do not know how to make a song it is very simple. First, don't try to think what words to use until you're standing there alone. When you feel the Sun, you'll feel the blessing, chant or song too. Just open your heart and release it. You see, a morning needs to be greeted. A new day needs to be honored. It is our responsibility to welcome the Sun and create a good day for it. We must also make a good world for it to live in one day at a time. So, as you rise out of bed tomorrow remember to look to the East and offer your blessing. And if you are very lucky there may be a time when the sky thanks you back with colors of beauty and magic. **Now that's the way to start a day!** *Special thank you to Bonnie Hotopp for sharing this.*

Calendar of Events

(subject to change and/or be added to as the need arises)

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Online Worship "Communion" National Sisters Day	3	4	5	6 Food Shelf Open 6-7pm ----- Office Hours 5 – 7 pm	7	8
9 Online Worship	10	11	12	13 Food Shelf Open 6-7pm ----- Office Hours	14	15
16 Online Worship	17	18	19	20 Food Shelf Open 6-7pm ----- Office Hours	21	22 National "Be an Angel Day" today we are encouraged to do acts of kindness, and to help others.
23 Online Worship	24	25 National Banana Split Day 	26	27 Food Shelf Open 6-7pm ----- Office Hours	28	29
30 Online Worship	31					

****If you do not have access to the internet and would like a weekly DVD copy of Worship Service, please call Pastor Bridget @ (507)438-1352 and you will be sent a weekly DVD of the worship services. A DVD player can also be supplied if need be.**

Annual Conference

Please save these dates:



- **Clergy Session:** Afternoon of Friday, Aug. 28
- **Virtual Annual Conference: Saturday, Aug. 29**

Registration is now open! Fee is \$25.00 If you are interested in attending this virtual conference go to minnesotauhc.org click on Annual Conference on the right side of page and you will receive information to register

A preconference webinar for the River Valley District will be held via zoom on August 11th

(More information on this webinar is offer on the conference website as well)

The theme of our 166th Annual Conference is "Be the Light: Live Hope!" and centers around our gospel imperative to heal a broken world. We are already living out this theme through our [COVID-19 Compassion Campaign](#).

the Love Offering, and the legislation will appear here as it becomes available.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Dakotas-Minnesota Area
Resident Bishop Bruce R. Ough bishop@dkmnareumc.org

Dear Members and Friends of Minnesota United Methodist Churches, Grace and peace to you.

On August 29, 2020, we will meet virtually for the 166th Session of the Minnesota Annual Conference. While an online platform will create a different type of gathering than we've experienced in the past, we will still participate in powerful worship and celebrate the ways in which we are reaching people, serving our communities, and furthering Christ's mission. Our theme for this conference session is Be the Light, Live Hope!, centering around Jesus' missional imperative to heal a broken world.

Again this year, we will receive a Love Offering as an expression of our gratitude for God's extravagant blessings and to advance our mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." It will be received online in the coming weeks at <https://tinyurl.com/2020loveoffering> and celebrated at our virtual Annual Conference. I encourage each of our 350 congregations to begin praying and preparing to participate in yet another miraculous expression of the abundant life we have in Christ Jesus, even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and social upheaval. Jesus' teaching about our being the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16) serves as the principle scriptural inspiration for our conference's theme.

Jesus instructs us to "let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven." The 2020 Love Offering provides the opportunity to be the light and living hope for those crying out for love, grace, compassion, and social and racial justice in their lives. Your support of the following mission projects will help our light shine brightly for all to see. Let us join our hands and hearts with each of these ministries, not only with our financial gifts, but also by volunteering and lifting them in prayer as they reach out to heal a broken world.

Simpson Housing Services (40 percent): Simpson Housing Services' mission is to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness. It began as an emergency overnight shelter in the basement of Simpson UMC in 1982. Simpson has since become a leading nonprofit providing assistance to people experiencing homelessness. In response to unmet community needs, its programs have grown to include emergency shelter, supportive housing, and developmental and educational services for children. It works across the Twin Cities metro area, partnering with landlords and developers to find affordable housing for all families and individuals. At any given time, Simpson provides supportive services to 100 individuals and 210 families. Its services have been in particularly high demand since the

COVID-19 pandemic hit Minnesota in March. The Love Offering will support the construction of a new, modern, and dignified shelter on the property of the old Simpson UMC building.

Emma Norton Services (40 percent): Emma Norton was founded in 1917 in St. Paul through a gift that Mrs. Emma Norton from Winona, Minnesota gave to the United Methodist Women. Today, Emma Norton's mission is to provide transformational housing for women and families on their journey of recovery. It serves homeless women, individuals, and families who have the additional challenges of Dakotas-Minnesota Area mental health, chemical dependency, and/or a chronic health condition. Emma Norton provides safe, affordable housing with wrap-around services to facilitate stability, self-acceptance, empowerment, and wholeness for all. In the time of COVID-19, having a safe, affordable home is more important than ever. Emma Norton helps nearly 300 individuals and children each year through its permanent housing facilities in St. Paul and Maplewood, a scattered-site housing program in the community, and its Social Security Outreach, Access, and Recovery Technical Assistance Program. It also serves nearly 80 children through home visits, after-school programming, social emotional learning, and tutoring. Emma Norton is undergoing a major renovation of its family townhome community in Maplewood and launching a capital campaign for a new building in St. Paul that will better serve its clients.

Joyce Uptown Foodshelf (10 percent): Joyce Uptown Foodshelf is committed to serving anyone experiencing food insecurity in a large area of South Minneapolis. Its mission is to distribute food to those in need with respect and dignity, as an expression of the love of God. The foodshelf, started 50 years ago by the former Joyce UMC, is now a ministry of Lake Harriet UMC and relies on its many partners who donate time, food, and money. In 2019, Joyce Uptown Foodshelf served 12,684 individuals, 4,358 of whom were children, and distributed 239,556 pounds of food. The economic challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have created great need, and the foodshelf has been struggling to keep up with demand. Today, the foodshelf is focused improving its physical space for its clients. Part of living out its mission of serving with respect and dignity is becoming a fully accessible space. An improved space will also provide participants the ability to choose their own food options, as they might at a grocery store.

Committee on Native American Ministry Diaper Drive (10 percent): The Minnesota Conference Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM) is coordinating a diaper drop that will provide diapers to families on each of the 11 reservations in Minnesota. Due to the COVID-19 shutdowns, many Native American people have lost income. For families that were already struggling, the pandemic has exacerbated economic hardship. This drive will help native families meet a vital need during this worldwide health crisis. Love Offering funds will be used to purchase diapers, store them, and travel to each reservation to distribute them in partnership with tribal governments and leaders. A video and PowerPoint to promote this offering can be found at www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering. Please invite the members and friends of your congregation to experience the joy of participating in this miraculous expression of Christ's light in the world. Jesus sent the Twelve out "to proclaim God's Kingdom and to heal ..." (Luke 9:2). Let us also go forth to bring healing to a broken world. Thank you, in advance, for your extravagant generosity, your passion to reach others for Christ, and your courage to Be the Light, Live Hope!

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Bruce R. Ough Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area
The United Methodist Church

If you would like to participate in donating to the 2020 "Love Offering". Please make check payable to Racine UMC and mail to:

**Racine UMC
401 East Main St.,
Racine, Mn 55967**

Mark your check in the memo as "2020 Love Offering"

The North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops issued the following press release Tuesday regarding episcopal oversight in 2021.

NCJ announces interim leadership for 2021; Bishop Bard to lead Minnesota

Today the North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops announces the plan proposed to and approved by the Council of Bishops for episcopal leadership for 2021 in light of the vocational retirements of Bishops Sally Dyck and Bruce Ough (§408.2b), and the inability to gather and engage in episcopal elections during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The retirements of Bishops Dyck and Ough have been approved by the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy and become effective January 1, 2021.

To serve the Northern Illinois Conference, Bishop John Hopkins, retired, will be appointed from January 1, 2021, until another bishop is assigned, but no later than December 31, 2021 (§409.3).

To serve the Dakotas/Minnesota Area, Bishop Laurie Haller, Iowa, and Bishop David Bard, Michigan, will be assigned as a team. Bishop Haller will assume primary supervisory responsibility for the Dakotas Conference, and Bishop Bard will assume primary supervisory responsibility for the Minnesota Conference. This assignment begins January 1, 2021, and continues until another bishop is assigned, but no later than December 31, 2021.

"The team of Bishops Bard and Haller will serve the Dakotas-Minnesota Area well," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough. "Our respective conference leadership and staff teams are strong and well positioned to work with Bishop Bard and Bishop Haller to carry our strategic and missional efforts forward during this unprecedented season of pandemic, social unrest, and the postponement of General and Jurisdictional Conferences. I am appreciative of the bishops' servant hearts and look forward to working with them and our Area leadership to facilitate a smooth and purposeful transition by the end of this calendar year."

In devising this plan to fill episcopal vacancies, and in accordance with §407 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, the NCJ College of Bishops consulted with our retired colleagues, and with retired colleagues outside our jurisdiction. We have consulted with our jurisdictional committee on the episcopacy, the area committees on the episcopacy for the two areas needing bishops for 2021, as well as cabinet

leadership in those conferences. We offer a plan we think is deeply responsive to the missional needs of these areas, of our jurisdiction, and of the missional and fiduciary needs of The United Methodist Church in this unprecedented time.

The NCJ College of Bishops asks for your prayers as we implement this rather unique plan for Episcopal oversight.



Bishop David Bard

Bishop David Alan Bard is the presiding bishop of the Michigan Area. Prior to arriving in Michigan in September 2016, Bishop Bard was serving at First United Methodist Church in Duluth, Minnesota since 2005. He was elected to the episcopacy on July 13, 2016 at the North Central

Jurisdictional Conference held in Peoria, IL. He has been in ministry for more than 30 years and served in many roles within both the Minnesota Annual Conference and the General Church.

Bard was a General and Jurisdictional Conference delegate in 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012. He was an episcopal nominee in both 2004 and 2008.

Within the Minnesota Conference, Bard was chair of the Episcopacy Committee and the Higher Education Ministry Team, and he served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Congregational Response Team. He was also the conference parliamentarian. He was a district superintendent from 1998 to 2005 and spent three years on the Commission on Religion and Race. Within the General Church, Bard serves on the Study on Ministry Commission, the Committee on Faith and Order, and the North Central Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy. He has also previously served on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the Commission on General Conference, and the Commission on Theological Education.

Bishop Bard received a BA from the University of Minnesota, Duluth in 1981; his Master of Divinity was earned at United Theological Seminary, Twin Cities 1984; and in 1994 he received a Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University with a focus on Christian ethics. Bishop Bard has a wife, Julie, and three adult children. In his free time, he enjoys music, reading, baseball, and walking outside.

Tips on Reading the Bible Daily

Plan Length: 365 days

Estimated Completion Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Now don't get discouraged! We are in this together.

You will receive the reading plan each month and before you know it, we will have completed reading the whole bible. If you miss a few days no worries, you can catch up at your own pace.

Below is the reading schedule for August

1. Start reading the Bible today -- there is no
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your great, but feel free to use any time that works
3. Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not a short prayer to God before you begin, asking understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!



better time, and there's no reason to wait. schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are consistently for you. simply to accomplish your next reading. Say the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and

Day 1 - Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1

Day 2 - Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2

Day 3 - Genesis 6-8; Matthew 3

Day 4 - Genesis 9-11; Matthew 4

Day 5 - Genesis 12-14; Matthew 5:1-26

Day 6 - Genesis 15-17; Matthew 5:27-48

Day 7 - Genesis 18-19; Matthew 6

Day 8 - Genesis 20-22; Matthew 7

Day 9 - Genesis 23-24; Matthew 8

Day 10 - Genesis 25-26; Matthew 9:1-17

Day 11 - Genesis 27-28; Matthew 9:18-38

Day 12 - Genesis 29-30; Matthew 10:1-23

Day 13 - Genesis 31-32; Matthew 10:24-42

Day 14 - Genesis 33-35; Matthew 11

Day 15 - Genesis 36-37; Matthew 12:1-21

Day 16 - Genesis 38-40; Matthew 12:22-50

Day 17 - Genesis 41; Matthew 13:1-32

Day 18 - Genesis 42-43; Matthew 13:33-58

Day 19 - Genesis 44-45; Matthew 14:1-21

Day 20 - Genesis 46-48; Matthew 14:22-36

Day 21 - Genesis 49-50; Matthew 15:1-20

Day 22 - Exodus 1-3; Matthew 15:21-39

Day 23 - Exodus 4-6; Matthew 16

Day 24 - Exodus 7-8; Matthew 17

Day 25 - Exodus 9-10; Matthew 18:1-20

Day 26 - Exodus 11-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Day 27 - Exodus 13-15; Matthew 19:1-15

Day 28 - Exodus 16-18; Matthew 19:16-30

Day 29 - Exodus 19-21; Matthew 20:1-16

Day 30 - Exodus 22-24; Matthew 20:17-34

Day 31 - Exodus 25-26; Matthew 21:1-22

Congratulations! You finished your first Month

Bible Quiz: Who Said That? New Testament

1. **"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."***(Acts 26:28)*
 - King Agrippa
 - Ponteus Pilate
 - Saul
 - King Herod
2. **"Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years."***(Luke 1:18)*
 - Mark
 - Peter
 - Joseph
 - Zacharias
3. **"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire...."***(Matthew 3:11)*
 - Matthew
 - Peter
 - James
 - John the Baptist
4. **"If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."***(Matthew 4:3)*
 - Satan
 - a Pharisee
 - a Samaritan
 - a Sadducee
5. **"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."***(Matthew 4:19)*
 - Peter
 - John the Baptist
 - Satan
 - Jesus
6. **"Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"***(Luke 18:18)*
 - Simon Peter
 - a rich ruler
 - a Sadducee
 - a publican
7. **"Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."***(Luke 23:40)*
 - a Samaritan
 - Martha
 - Lazarus
 - one of the thieves that was crucified with Jesus
8. **"Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw."***(John 4:15)*
 - the good Samaritan
 - Andrew
 - Mary Magdalene
 - the Samaritan woman at the well
9. **"Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water"***(Matthew 14:28)*
 - James
 - Timothy
 - Simon Peter
 - Matthew
10. **"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"***(Matthew 23:37)*
 - Paul
 - Peter
 - King Herod
 - Jesus

**RACINE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

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E-Mail:
rscumc@hmtel.com

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

Online 9:00am

Church Website

<https://www.umcracinemn.org/>



2020

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