

Racine UMC Newsletter

401 East Main Street, Racine, MN 55967

December 2023

In the Still of the Night

By Kathy Hawkins

A little white country church so peaceful and still
Surrounded by bare fields in the long winter chill

The people that gather come from near and far
To share the joy of the child born under the star

The tree decorated by hands with tender loving care
Topped with an angel who looks to be fluttering in the air

Garland boughs framing the sanctuary so green
With bright red bows spreading cheer for all to see

Wreaths hanging from the balcony on high
Expressing a circle of love that makes my heart sigh

The sanctuary is ready to tell the story of old
Sharing the love of a father worth more than gold

A long and weary path they did travel that night
Mary and Joseph knew this was a needed plight

The birth of this babe so precious and small
As he lay near the animals in the tiny stable stall

The angels were a glorious sight to behold
Appearing in the field to the shepherds it's told

Leaving their flocks on the hillsides alone
Traveling to see the glorious king with no throne

God's son was born to save you and me
Hold the spirit of Christmas each day is my plea

The love you feel from your family so dear
Extends to those in this little church so near

A little white country church so peaceful and still
Surrounded by bare fields in the long winter chill



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

***Worship on Sundays:
In Sanctuary at 8:30am
&
Racine UMC Facebook
Page
FM Radio 89.7 @8:30am
Pastoral Support Team***

Pastor Bridget Sheely

Email: bridget@countrywidecarriers.com

Pastors cell # 507-438-1352

Pastor Jon Marburger

Email: marburgerjon@gmail.com

Cell #507-227-6711

Pastor Abigail Ozanne

Email: pastorabigailo@gmail.com

Cell #507-607-0779

***Racine UMC Office hours
Thursdays
5-7pm
Office Phone: 507-378-4801***

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 \(rscumc@hmtel.com\)](mailto:rscumc@hmtel.com) Or by bringing your information to Norma during office hours (Thursdays, 5-7)



The light of God remains to shine bright in the community of Racine only by your generous giving heart! If you would like to donate a gift, you may send donations to the address above or deliver it in person during Sunday morning worship services.

Calendar of Events

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

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30 am Worship  Second Sunday of Advent	4	5 Advent In person Bible Study @ Grand Meadow 2pm	6 Confirmation 6:30 pm	7 Advent Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm  Food Shelf 6-8 pm	8	9
10 8:30 am Worship  Third Sunday of Advent	11	12 Advent In person Bible Study @ Grand Meadow 2pm	13	14 Advent Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm Food Shelf 6-8 pm	15	16
17 8:30 am Worship  Fourth Sunday of Advent	18	19 Advent In person Bible Study @ Grand Meadow 2pm	20	21 Advent Bible Study Zoom 6:30pm  Food Shelf 6-8 pm	22	23
24  Christmas Eve Service 8:30 am	25 	26	27	28 Food Shelf 6-8 pm	29	30
31 8:30am Worship  Happy New Year						

December Worship Schedule

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Pastor Beth Perez Leading



Everything this time of year feels necessary. Important. Like it won't be Christmas unless I make it to every party, every sale, every program. Many of us experienced a Christmas season (or two or three) where it didn't feel safe to gather, which lends even more import to the opportunities we get to gather and celebrate now. I must say, though, it feels like the only thing not on my schedule or my to-do list right now is time to breathe. Today as we gather, we find our center by focusing on peace. Peace for our world, peace for our country, peace for our community and peace in our lives. It's time to stop and take a moment to enjoy the peace this season offers us.

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Renee Wilson Leading



Today we gather in our 3rd Sunday of Advent which is also sometimes called Rose Sunday

This is the day we focus on Joy! Joy of the Good News. Joy of His promise to come again. To honor this special Sunday it is our tradition to light pink candle on the Advent wreath.

Come, Let us praise our loving and living God!

4th Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Pastor Bridget Leading



Advent is all about getting ready. But what are we to be ready for? Was Mary ready for the angel Gabriel to appear to her? How about an angel in your living room? Would you be ready? Mary is the model for what it means to be a follower. She shows us what surrendering to God is all about. She is the quintessential disciple of the one to whom she is about to give birth. But it wasn't an easy "yes." It wasn't just a "sure, whatever you say" kind of thing. It was startling; it was an angel in the living room, for heaven's sake!



December 24, 2023

Pastor Jon Leading

**A Service of Word, Carols, and Communion
to be held at the
Regular worship time 8:30 am**



December 31, 2023

Pastor Jon Leading

On this first Sunday after Christmas, as we gather with exhaustion of the season still fresh upon us. Let us gather this day with the beautiful and inspiring words of the great Apostle Paul. Written in Colossians 3:12-17

December Announcements

Annual Advent Community Mission



Collect these food items or others at your choosing at home in a basket then each week or by Christmas Eve worship bring items to church and place them at the alter to be blessed before they are distributed to our area food shelves.

This is a fantastic Advent mission that will help our Racine food bank re-stock its shelves after the holiday depletion of items.

Christmas Eve Worship Service Opportunities to fit your schedule.



Morning Services

Racine @ 8:30 am
Sargeant @ 9:00 am
Brownsdale @ 10:30 am

Late Afternoon Services

Grand Meadow @ 4:00 pm
Dexter @ 5:30 pm

Evening Services

Sumner Center @ 7:00pm
Wykoff @ 7:00 pm.

Christmas Bible Reading Plan



20 DAYS | OrganicChristianLiving.com

Preparing The Way

DAY 1: JOHN 1:1-5, 14-18

DAY 2: LUKE 1:1-12

DAY 3: LUKE 1:13-25

DAY 4: JOHN 1:6-9 + LUKE 1:76-80

DAY 5: JOHN 1:19-34

The Christ is Born

DAY 11: LUKE 1:46-58

DAY 12: LUKE 2:1-7 + MICAH 5:2

DAY 13: LUKE 2:8-14

DAY 14: LUKE 2:15-20

DAY 15: MATTHEW 1:1-17

Christ's Birth Announced

DAY 6: LUKE 1:26-38

DAY 7: ISAIAH 7:14

DAY 8: MATTHEW 1:18-25

DAY 9: ISAIAH 53

DAY 10: LUKE 1:39-45

The Three Wise Men

DAY 16: MATTHEW 2:1-12

DAY 17: MATTHEW 2:13-15 + JOB 42:2

DAY 18: MATTHEW 2:16-18

DAY 19: MATTHEW 2:19-23 + PROVERBS 19:21

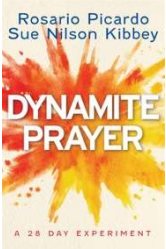
DAY 20: 1 JOHN 4:9-11



*For unto us a Child is born....
and His name will be called
... Prince of Peace*



Dynamite Prayer Initiative to kick off 2024



By: Christa Meland

Ready to see what God can do when we come together in prayer and ask God's Spirit to unleash in us?

Begin 2024 by joining a breakthrough prayer movement across the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area! Join us from Jan. 14-Feb. 10 for our area-wide Dynamite Prayer initiative. Throughout this period, Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites you to read "Dynamite Prayer," a 28-day devotional guidebook by Rev. Dr. Rosario Picardo and Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey. The book will help you incorporate a surrendered prayer practice into your daily life following Christ, and help you cultivate your capacity to discern, to notice, to respond to God's guidance, and to live by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"All around us, we see and experience division, anger, violence, and polarization," said Rev. Dan Bader, superintendent for the Dakotas Conference's Southwest District. "If we are going to respond with the heart of Jesus, a heart of grace and love, in ways that address the needs, the hurt, the brokenness, then we need to lean deeply into the heart of God. That is done as we commit ourselves to prayer." Bader and Rev. Michelle Hargrave, superintendent for the Minnesota Conference's River Valley District, are organizing this initiative across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area, and they are excited for us to collectively experience God's Spirit moving in us and bear witness to God's transformative power. "This is an important moment for us in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area to do something that's grounded in our deeply shared connection and beliefs," said Hargrave. "Doing a prayer initiative together can connect us across theological differences, urban and rural settings—all the things that might still divide us."

Each day's entry in the guidebook is divided into five key parts:

- a personal scripture reading that emphasizes God's dynamic power
- a personal devotional insight about some unique aspect of the Holy Spirit
- prompts to assist you in cultivating your own honest and authentic reflection, journaling, or discussion with others
- a short breakthrough prayer to keep your mind and heart aligned and focused God-ward throughout the day (and space for you to craft your own breakthrough prayer)
- a prayer-hold—a short phrase or word from a scripture verse you can use throughout the day, every hour or whenever you become aware that you're feeling inadequate, uncertain, or tempted to slide off track spiritually

Both Bader and Hargrave have led breakthrough prayer initiatives in congregations they have served—and they have been powerful experiences. Hargrave said she appreciated the practical ways breakthrough prayer helped focus her church's prayer life. Bader, meanwhile, said he witnessed how it revitalized and birthed ministries and how it transformed an attitude of "no, not now, we don't have the resources" to doing, becoming, taking risks, and experiencing joy, promise, hope, and life. "God wants to do incredible things in and through our lives and the lives of our churches, and yet we often neglect seeking the unleashing of God's Spirit in leading us," he said. "God is not done with us! It is vital that we don't simply sit back and worry about surviving, but rather we should be asking, listening, preparing for God so that we might transform our thoughts and hearts to what it means to be thriving for God, for God's people." Ready to see what God can do when we come together in prayer and ask God's Spirit to unleash in us? Join us and let's find out! You may register on the conference webpage: minnesotaumc.org. Books are available via amazon or other online stores.

Christmas

N Z Q E O T E L T S I M M S I L V E R B E L L S
 X I D C A R D S W R D V M S W O B C O A L A H Z
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Ally	Angel	Bethlehem	Bows	Candles	Cards	Carols
Chimney	Christie	christmas	Coal	Dancer	Dancing	Dasher
Debbie	December	Decoration	Eggnog	Elves	Faith	Flo
Garland	Gingerbread	Grinch	Holiday	Holly	Hope	Icicles
Jolly	Kringle	Liz	Mistletoe	Nativity	noel	Nutcrackers
Ornament	Poinsettia	Prancer	Reindeer	Santa	Scrooge	Silver bells
Sleigh	Snowman	star	Stockings	Three Kings	Tinsel	Toys
tree	Trimmings	Vacation	Vixen	Wise Men	Workshop	wreath



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

RACINE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
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Phone:
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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

8:30 am in person
Online
Radio 89.7 FM

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



2023