

# Racine UMC Newsletter

401 East Main Street, Racine, MN 55967

## July 2023

**Pastors' notes...** This summer we are diving into a worship series centering on discipleship. As you journey through your summer plans, I encourage you to make one of your destinations be at worship service. Here are six Ways Going to Church Can Benefit Your Life because there will always be obstacles to attending church. Maybe you work or have sports practice on Sundays, you don't think church is necessary, or you just want to relax after a stressful week. Whatever obstacles you face, you will be blessed for choosing to follow God's commandment to worship at church.

### 1 - Worshipping God is a commandment

As one of His Ten Commandments, God commanded that we keep the Sabbath day holy (see Exodus 20:8-11). One of the ways we keep this commandment is to meet together on Sundays to worship God and give Him thanks. We are also strengthened when we are around other believers, see their faith, and hear their experiences and testimonies.

### 2 - The Sacrament helps us remember Jesus

At church, we partake of the sacrament (or Communion). Jesus commanded, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me"

### 3 - God's Church relies on you

In the Bible, the Apostle Paul compared the church to a body, with Jesus as the head. He said for a body to work, every member is important and must do its part (see Ephesians 4:16). Participating in church and offering your time and talents will improve and strengthen both you and the people around you.

### 4 - Church services teach and uplift

What we learn at church gives us guidance on how to follow God, improve our spirituality, and live better lives. You can be uplifted by fellow believers and by the opportunity to serve and worship. You can also feel the Holy Spirit who brings "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, [and] faith" (Galatians 5:22).

### 5 - You gain a sense of belonging

Church is a community where we can socialize and support each other. You can make friends, feel a sense of belonging, and build a support network that you can rely on. The church community helps us to "mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort" (Mosiah 18:9).

### 6 - God can speak to you

You can find answers at church. Maybe you're struggling with a specific question or need some direction in your life. Maybe you just need to feel God's love and know that He is there. As you listen to sermons and study God's teachings, you will have opportunities to receive insight from God. He wants to communicate with you, and church is a good place to hear His voice in your heart and mind.

**Finding strength in community is a true blessing!**



***The Lord has reserved a pew just for you!***



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](mailto:bridget@countrywidecarriers.com)

Pastors cell # 507-438-1352

Pastor Jon Marburger

Email: [marburgerjon@gmail.com](mailto:marburgerjon@gmail.com)

Cell #507-227-6711

Pastor Abigail Ozanne

Email: [pastorabigailo@gmail.com](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

***Thank you for your dedication and love!***



# Calendar of Events

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

## July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 8:30 am Worship Pastor Bridget 	<b>3</b>  Food Shelf 9-11 am	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Food Shelf 6-8pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 am Worship Pastor Bridget	<b>10</b>  Food Shelf 9-11 am	<b>11</b>  Ad Council Meeting 6:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Food Shelf 6-8pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>AT THE RACINE LIONS DINNER</b> Beginning @4pm
<b>16</b> 8:30 am Worship Pastor Jon	<b>17</b>  Food Shelf 9-11 am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Food Shelf 6-8pm	<b>21</b>  <small>An inspiring concert featuring students from around the world!</small> Friday, July 21 7:00pm <small>at Stewartville United Methodist Church</small>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30 am Worship Pastor Jon	<b>24</b>  Food Shelf 9-11 am	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Food Shelf 6-8pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30 am Worship Guest Speaker	<b>31</b>  Food Shelf 9-11 am					

**Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> Racine UMC will be hosting National Night out. Serving Pizza and Ice Cream from 5-7pm**

# July Worship Schedule



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 2, 2023**

**Pastor Bridget Sheely Leading**

**Communion Sunday**

Today our focus is on hospitality. Jesus sees hospitality as central to our discipleship and our Gospel text relating to hospitality is short and sweet, straightforward and to the point. Jesus is preparing his disciples to go out and tell the good news. It is their first mission trip. But instead of driving nails and cleaning up disaster areas, they are to knock on doors and ask if it would be all right to talk about Jesus. Hear the words from our Lord this day.



**6th Sunday of Pentecost**

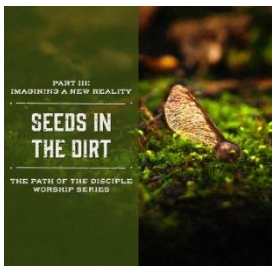
**July 9, 2023**

**Pastor Bridget Sheely Leading**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Who was Jesus talking to? Well, Jesus was talking to the people of the day who were weighed down by the rules put in place by the Jewish religious authorities. They couldn't possibly live up to the expectations set before them and they are weary from trying. Then comes Jesus and what an incredible invitation he extends to them.



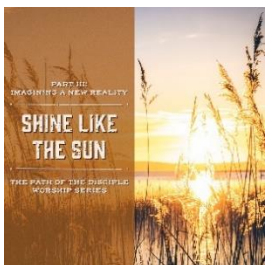
**7th Sunday of Pentecost**

**July 16, 2023**

**Pastor Jon Marburger Leading**

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer and invite God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, we are engaging in an act of imagination and visioning. Any time that we claim something of the prophetic vision or embrace a kingdom image of how we could be living in beloved community together, we are imagining a new reality. This is a disciple's task. We are called to see more than simply what is — not that disciples ignore the world as it is. We are not called to be "so heavenly minded that we are not earthly good"! No, we do live in the world that is. But we also hold out hope, a living, driving, motivating hope for what could be. For what is promised. We lean into the promises of God with joy and with confidence, even as we

recognize how far we still must go to reach that mountaintop.

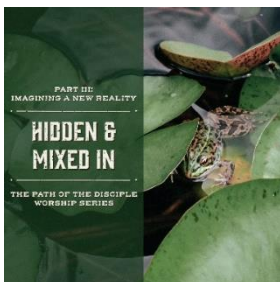


**8th Sunday of Pentecost**

**July 23, 2023**

**Pastor Jon Marburger Leading**

Sometimes we may think that perfection is acquired by becoming aware of our faults and working to root these out. However, when we become more familiar with Jesus' attitude to the limited and sinful side of ourselves, we learn to accept our limited and sinful self just as Jesus did with Zacchaeus. If we don't accept this side of ourselves, we tend to become fixated with it and fail to appreciate the fullness of life Jesus has already given us. So Folks, today we are reminded to be with Jesus and let him teach us to let the weeds grow with the wheat lest seeking to root them or we might fail to appreciate all that is good and even beautiful about our life.



**9th Sunday of Pentecost**

**July 30, 2023**

**Guest Speaker Sunday**

Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that faith "is the conviction of things not seen." Not seen? Like a treasure hidden in a field, or like yeast mixed in the flour, hidden and mixed in. That's how grace works.

So how do we find it and how do we celebrate it?

By telling the stories, by pointing it out. Glory sightings, some call them. Sharing with the whole body the moments of joy and grace that we experience day by day. Often, our prayer time is one of petitions, requesting more of the Spirit in our lives or in the lives of those we love or the world as a whole. An important and necessary part of our ongoing prayer life, to be sure. But we can also give thanks and praise for all that has and is happening in our lives of faith.

**Come! For all God's children are invited each week to gather in His name and Worship Him who loves us!**

## Pie Sale @ the Racine Lion's Chicken Dinner

On Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, we will again be selling pie at the Racine Lion's Chicken Dinner.



We are asking each family to donate one double crusted fruit pie (or a donation of \$20) for the event.

Please bring your pie to the Racine council room between 12:00 noon and 2 pm.



If you are able to help cut and box the pie slices between 12:00 noon and 2 pm or can help sell the pie starting at 4 pm until all are sold, please contact

DeeAnn Byrne at 378-4911.

Thank you for your help with this project.



**Your participation is greatly appreciated!**



# *Songs of Hope*

An inspiring concert featuring students from around the world!

**Friday, July 21**

**7:00pm**

**at Stewartville United Methodist Church**



**Free will offering with proceeds benefitting Songs of Hope**



Sounds of Hope  
245 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55102 USA  
Tel: (651) 225-4179



**STEWARTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
900 John Wesley Ave NW  
Stewartville, MN 55976  
*open hearts • open minds • open doors*

# 2023 conference highlights



**The 2023 Theme:** Drawing on Luke 24:13-35, the theme of this year's gathering is "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience." This post-resurrection story where everything has changed and the implications still seem a bit cloudy mirrors the time and space we are living in as a church. We, like the two disciples, are on the road, asking deep questions, and trying to make sense of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. And we, too, are finding that we encounter Christ in transforming ways when we do.

**Bishop's Episcopal Address:** In the Emmaus Road story, the impossible becomes possible as the world is made right again through encounters with the resurrected Christ who brings healing, reconciliation, and hope. Bishop Lanette Plambeck, in her inaugural Episcopal Address, reminds us that this story for the two disciples on the road is our story too. During this challenging time in The United Methodist Church, she invited those of us in the Minnesota Conference to lean in to one another and declare that there is enough love for all of us, and she reminded each person: You are loved. You are a child of God and a person of worth. There are no exceptions. (Watch or download Episcopal Address.)

**Milestones in ministry:** Those gathered honored and thanked 14 clergy entering retirement, and they celebrated four pastors ordained as elders, two commissioned as provisional members, three local licensed pastors who completed their five-year course of study, and 13 people authorized to serve as local pastors in the congregations and ministry areas in which they are appointed.

**Fresh expressions with Michael Beck:** Rev. Dr. Michael Beck is co-pastor of two Florida churches and a network of "fresh expressions" led by laity that gather in various community venues and public spaces around shared interests and hobbies. He talked about fresh expressions as a new movement of Christian communities where people with no connection to the church are finding life and encountering Christ. Dinner church whereby people gather to share a meal is an easy starting point for a fresh expression, Beck said. Some of the other fresh expressions he's involved with take place in a tattoo parlor, at a restaurant, in a virtual reality space, at dog park, and even at Tesla charging stations.

**Love Offering:** Conference members, on behalf of their churches gave just over **\$40,000 to the 2023 Love Offering**. Sixty percent of it will fund a new grant to support churches that have partnerships with mental health services offered in local schools or communities, 30 percent will go to three Minnesota nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy, and 10 percent of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants. You may continue to donate throughout 2023.

**Legislation:** Hundreds of voting members in attendance at Annual Conference approved all pieces of legislation before them, including resolutions opposing assault-style weapons, addressing the Israeli detention of children, and supporting both a U.S. Regional Conference and the removal of all discriminatory policies and harmful language related to sexual orientation from the Book of Discipline.

**Disaffiliating churches:** members ratified the terms of disaffiliation agreements made between the conference Board of Trustees and 14 local churches that have discerned that their path goes a different direction from the Minnesota Annual Conference. After the vote, Bishop Lanette asked Minnesota United Methodists to keep these congregations in their hearts and to pray that even as we part ways, they may continue to live out their faith and serve as a beacon of light and hope for all.

Akeley UMC  
Central UMC  
First United UMC of Ortonville  
UMC of Raymond  
UMC of Hawick  
UMC of Hewitt

Olivet UMC  
Salem UMC  
UMC of Sebeka  
Verndale UMC

Villard UMC  
First UMC of Windom  
Korean Evangelical UMC  
Money Creek UMC

## 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

RokoPuzzles.com

E S S R A T S A C Y Y N K V H W V O  
B R R T A W I I A I O D E I S F I F  
G E T E I C T M F I R E W O R K S I  
J M V C L O A N T L S E P I R T S D  
B M D K I K W A T P A J L O V L I S  
N U L R N A R S L H E G V A E K D E  
L S T F H B G A J L J C C V N N C T  
G A V I E O I A P J G A A K S N A A  
P D T L D K R O H S T R E R E T Y T  
A I E T D B M D V I T U E D J C A S  
R C O U N T R Y O E C G N O A K H D  
A H I K J V H N L E R E C R Z B N E  
D J C R L N H C B U P I C N I C L T  
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AMERICA

BANNERS

BARBECUE

BEACH

CELEBRATION

COUNTRY

DEMOCRACY

FIREWORKS

FLAG

HAMBURGERS

HOT DOGS

ICE CREAM

INDEPENDENCE

JULY

PARADE

PATRIOTIC

PICNIC

SPARKLERS

STARS

STRIPES

SUMMER

TRAVEL

UNITED STATES

VACATION



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

**RACINE  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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507-378-4801

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[rscumc@hmtel.com](mailto: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>

**JULY** 2023