

Racine UMC Newsletter

401 East Main Street, Racine, MN 55967

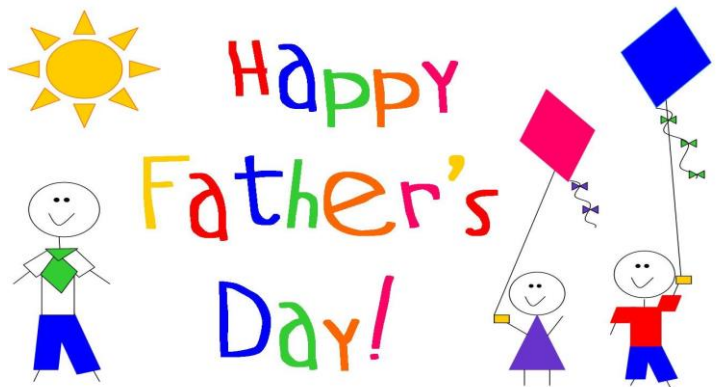


OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

Pastors' notes... On June 18th we honor all the "Dads" who have blessed our lives. Psalms 127 says: "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them." And our 5th commandments says to: "Honor your father and mother" - Honor means to love and respect them. When you honor your parents, you love and obey them because they are wiser. God wanted homes to be happy, so he made this an important rule.

With honor in mind and celebration of our Fathers and Father figures in heart, today I share with you some "Dad Jokes" that I hope will not only make you smile but will give you some fun to share with your dad on his special day.

- **What did one plate whisper to the other plate?** Dinner is on me.
- **Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants?** In case he got a hole in one.
- **Did you hear the rumor about butter?** Well, I'm not going to go spreading it!
- **What's Forrest Gump's password?** 1forrest1
- **What state is known for its small drinks?** Minnesota.
- **What does a nosey pepper do?** It gets jalapeño business.
- **I love telling Dad jokes.** Sometimes, he even laughs.
- **Can a kangaroo jump higher than a house?** Of course, houses can't jump.
- **Why did the scarecrow win an award?** He was outstanding in his field.
- **What are the strongest days of the week?** Saturday and Sunday. All the others are weekdays.
- **What did the seal with one fin say to the shark?** If seal is broken, do not consume.
- **How do you measure the mass of an influencer's following?** By Instagrams!



**Worship:
Sundays
In Sanctuary at 8:30am
&
Racine UMC Facebook
Page
FM Radio 89.7 @8:30am
Sunday's**

**Pastor Bridget Sheely
Cell: 507-923-6247**

bridget@countrywidecarriers.com

**Racine UMC Office hours
Thursdays
5-7pm**

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) 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)

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Food Shelf 6-8pm	2	3
4 Combined Worship Service Racine UMC @10am Meal to follow.	5 Food Shelf 9-11 am	6	7 All Church Conference @ Grand Meadow United church 7pm Final vote concerning Prairieland Parish	8 Food Shelf 6-8pm	9	10
11 8:30 am Worship  Faro Family Baptisms	12 Food Shelf 9-11 am	13 Ad Council Meeting 6:30pm	14  FLAG DAY	15 Food Shelf 6-8pm	16	17
18 8:30 am Worship 	19  Food Shelf 9-11 am	20	21  SUMMER SOLSTICE	22 Food Shelf 6-8pm	23	24
25 8:30 am Worship	26 Food Shelf 9-11 am	27	28	29 Food Shelf 6-8pm	30	

June is the official month for National Dairy Month. Here are some interesting facts to celebrate National Dairy Month.

- **Did you know...** According to a study, eating cheese after a meal can help prevent tooth decay.
- Eating just 2 slices of cheese a day can help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes by 12%.
- Milk has long been called “nature’s most nearly perfect food.” It contains a long list of essential vitamins, minerals, fats, sugars and proteins, for maintaining health.
- Fresh milk will stay fresher longer if you add a pinch of salt to each quart.
- Dairy cows produce more milk when listening to REM's 'Everybody Hurts', Simon & Garfunkel's 'Bridge Over Troubled Water', or Lou Reed's 'Perfect Day'.
- Cows can smell something up to 6 miles away!
- Cows can munch their way through 70 kilos of grass and drink more than 70 litres of water a day

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

JUNE 4TH WILL BE OUR FINAL CONSOLIDATED WORSHIP SERVICE AT THIS TIME.

BEGINNING IN JULY WE WILL RETURN TO OUR TRADITIONAL 3 CHURCHES

INDEPENDENT WORSHIP SERVICES FOR COMMUNION SUNDAY!

June 4, 2023

- **First @ 10 am** (First Sunday of the Month 10 am Service)
- Racine, Wykoff and Sumner Center UMC's
 - consolidated worship service

• **Worship Service hosted by Racine UMC @10am**



Fellowship Meal

- Worship
- Communion
- **Mission focus**

THE **MISSION FOCUS** FOR THIS

FINAL GATHERING WILL BE COLLECTING FOOD AND/OR MONITARY GIFTS FOR THE RACINE FOOD SHELF.

YOU MAY BRING YOUR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY MORNING AND OUR OFFERING THAT DAY WILL DEDICATED TO OUR LOCAL FOOD SHELF MISSION AT RACINE UMC

- **A MEAL WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER ONCE MORE WITH YOUR FRIENDS OF FAITH FROM THE OTHER CONGREGATIONS TO:

PRAISE HIS NAME

SHARE IN THE WORD

GATHER AT HIS TABLE

AND

FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER

ANNOUNCING THE RENEWAL OF PRAIRELAND PARISH

Brownsdale UMC
Dexter UMC
United Church of Grand Meadow
Racine UMC
Sargeant: Zion UMC
Sumner Center UMC
Wykoff UMC

Starting July - These 7 churches
will reunite with the purpose of
re-establishing a hybrid version
of what was once
Prairieland Parish.

This parish will be served by the following:

Pastor Bridget Sheely and Pastor Jon Marburger as the primary leads.

Pastor Abigail Ozanne will provide administrative oversight and pulpit supply.

Other preachers will be brought in as pulpit supply as needed for one church each Sunday.

On any given Sunday morning: Pastor Bridget would preach at 3 churches - Pastor Jon would preach at 3 churches - Pastor Abigail or a local pulpit supply pastor, retired or active, would preach at the 7th church.

It is Pastor Jon and Pastor Bridget's goal to keep our rural ministry strong, and the doors to each church in each community open. We firmly and truly believe in the Godly mission of working together to keep the bright light of Jesus Christ shining in each community through the dedication of the United Methodist Disciples of each community congregation so that all who live and pass through our amazing towns and byways may know and find comfort in the knowledge that the foundation of Christ is alive and active – read to offer His open arms of love to all God's children.

With this leap of faith for our future we believe the Benefits to be:

- Stability and sustainability for all the churches involved
- Variety of preaching for the churches
- Variety of worship experience for the clergy
- Clergy get to lean on their strengths and share them with the parish
- Different clergy skill sets are available to more churches
- Everyone stays in their own church
- Every church retains financial independence
- No church pays more than they are currently paying
- Opportunities arise for joint mission, music, and study
- Long term viability is enhanced
- Increased pastoral care is available
- Increased options for confirmation
- Shared and enhanced Lent experiences are possible
- Connecting with area communities is more viable
- Clergy are from the area, dedicated to rural ministry, and invested in the communities

WILL YOU COMMIT TO SUPPORTING GOD'S MISSION AND THE FUTURE STABILITY OF YOUR CHURCH TODAY? COME, LET US UNITE IN THE POWER OF PRAISING HIS NAME AS WE JOIN IN WORSHIP EACH WEEK!

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!

**ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT
UNITED CHURCH OF GRAND MEADOW
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH @ 7PM
CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF THIS
COLLISION (ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE WELCOME)**

Bishop Lanette Plambeck announces leadership transitions

Revs. Carol Zaagsma and Fred Vanderwerf have



been appointed to new leadership roles within the Minnesota Conference. Prior to Bishop Lanette Plambeck's assignment to the Dakotas-Minnesota

Episcopal Area, Rev. Cindy Gregorson indicated her intention to transition out of the roles of director of connectional ministries and clergy assistant to the bishop at the end of the 2023-2024 appointment year.

To allow ample time for onboarding, Bishop Lanette has announced her intention to appoint Rev. Carol Zaagsma assistant to the bishop for connectional ministries, effective July 1, 2024. Rev. Zaagsma's responsibilities will include stewarding the mission, vision, and values of the Minnesota Annual Conference through administrative leadership; aligning the work of our Annual Conference boards, agencies, and commissions; and strengthening the connections between local, district, annual conference, and general church ministries.

Bishop Lanette has also announced her intention to appoint Rev. Fred Vanderwerf assistant to the bishop for transitions and development in a part-time capacity beginning July 1, 2023; he will serve in this position for up to three years. Following the 2022 Minnesota Annual Conference, Interim Bishop David Bard formed a Transitional Table to explore how to best position the Minnesota Conference for the future in terms of staffing, structure, and resources. Team members will submit their report at the 2023 Annual Conference and hand off their research and recommendations to a newly forming Bishop's Leadership Council. Vanderwerf will play a key role on that council and in guiding the system and strategy to position the conference for long-term vitality.

The right people for the roles - Rev. Carol Zaagsma will become assistant to the bishop for connectional ministries, effective July 1, 2024. Rev.

Carol Zaagsma currently serves as lead pastor at Good Samaritan UMC in Edina. She has served in several leadership roles within the larger church, including as co-chair of the Minnesota Conference Sessions Planning Team, chair of the Minnesota Episcopacy Committee, and a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Bishop Lanette noted that Zaagsma's administrative skills will be invaluable as various leadership teams work to assess and align the personnel, programs, policies, and resources of the conference.

"Carol is the right person for this role," she said. "Not only does Carol possess a keen mind for strategic and organizational leadership; she also leads from a posture of humility, integrity, and faithfulness. She will be a fine partner in ministry. Further, her vision for beloved community and identity as a Christ-follower in the Wesleyan way will be a great blessing."

Zaagsma looks forward to the opportunity to serve the conference as assistant to the bishop.

"Before ordained ministry, I worked in the financial services industry, which is highly regulated," she said. "While there, I came to understand that *how* you do something is just as important as the end result. In my experience as clergy in the local church, I discovered the importance of identifying the clear *why* we do what we do. Of course, both are critical because the *hows* and the *whys* ultimately have an impact on the people. I am excited to work on aligning our processes and procedures (how) with our mission, vision, and values (why). I believe this will make a difference for all the people of the Minnesota Conference." Rev. Fred Vanderwerf will move into the role of clergy assistant to the bishop for transitions and development, effective July 1, 2023.

For the past eight years, Rev. Fred Vanderwerf has served the conference as Southern Prairie District superintendent. He considers himself a missionary at heart and previously spent nine years as a missionary in Ukraine. In addition to serving the conference in a new capacity, he will work in a

part-time role for the General Board of Global Ministries as coordinator for “In Mission Together—Ukraine.” In that position, he will develop and expand global partnerships with Ukraine, tell the story of what is happening there, connect the geographically dispersed Ukrainian church, and equip its United Methodist leaders for planting and evangelism.

“Fred has been serving as the dean of the Appointive Cabinet and has a beautiful commitment to the now and future United Methodist Church,” said Bishop Lanette. “His leadership as a superintendent has been very effective and as we vision a new way of superintending and supporting clergy and faith communities in the conference, I believe he will guide well the system and strategy that will be stewarded by the Bishop’s Leadership Council. Further, I am overjoyed to be able to model for the greater connection what partnered ministry can look like in our worldwide United Methodist Church. The United Methodists of war-torn Ukraine will benefit from Fred’s presence and leadership. I certainly didn’t imagine forming a two-point charge



of such a commute—but this is connectional ministry at its very best.”

Vanderwerf is eager to live into both of his new roles and to continue to serve the conference.

“When I go to a conference and sign up for breakout sessions, I don’t look at the topic—I look at the leader,” he said. “I’ve signed up for this because I believe we have a great leader in Bishop Lanette. I believe in her desire for us to enter into new ways of doing church together, while leaning into the old core of who we are as people in the Wesleyan movement.”

Forming a new team - Bishop Lanette, Zaagsma, and Vanderwerf will work closely together as a team—and both Zaagsma and Vanderwerf are excited to learn from and with each other. Rev. Cindy Gregorson has announced her intention to step out of her roles of director of connectional ministries and clergy assistant to the bishop, effective July 1, 2024.

“I have always admired Fred’s evangelistic heart and down-to-earth way of talking about Jesus,” Zaagsma said. “The experience Fred brings as a missionary and a district superintendent is crucial as he steps into these two new roles. Our styles and perspectives often differ, but we share the same love of Wesleyan theology and commitment to The United Methodist Church. I wholeheartedly embrace this opportunity to work and collaborate with Fred, as I believe we complement one another in ways that will help usher our annual conference into an exciting future.” Vanderwerf echoed that sentiment.

“I’ve known Carol to be incredibly thoughtful and generously active in her desire to listen and understand others,” he said. “That has blessed me personally. And I believe it’s blessed our conference as she has been integral in shaping the now well-articulated values of the conference—rooted in Jesus, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all, and engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation. I’ve seen these same values imprinted on her heart. Carol and I share a common desire for a conference that leans into the possibility of healing and hope in Jesus. I am so grateful to work near her in the coming years.”

Bishop Lanette expressed deep gratitude for Gregorson’s 12 years as director of connectional ministries and 22 years on the conference staff.

“As you consider Cindy’s institutional memory, her commitment to all levels of ministry, and her deep love for the conference, I am in awe and wonder of all that she holds in her roles and the effectiveness at which she does her ministry,” said Bishop Lanette. “She is gifted, called, and committed and has genuinely been the best partner in these early months of my assignment to Minnesota. I am grateful to have her guiding these transitions and I know she will serve the conference well in these next 14 months and beyond. Even as I celebrate her many accomplishments, I also take advantage of every opportunity to learn from her. There is no doubt in my mind that Cindy will encourage and resource Carol effectively and efficiently to the many nuances of her ministry.”

Father's Day

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proud
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giving
encouraging
supportive
handy
best
hilarious
cool

wise
positive
special
handsome
protective
funny
helpful

understanding
loved
smart
strong
caring
loving



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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 June