

Racine UMC Newsletter

401 East Main Street, Racine, MN 55967

March 2023



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

Grace and Peace in the name of Jesus Christ:

Pastors' notes... Have you ever gotten stuck in traffic and become super frazzled and then gotten home and you shout at your kids and kick your dog?

Okay, maybe you didn't kick the dog, but you get what I'm saying. You get frazzled by a day of work or the commute or just your daily routine in general and then the next thing in your day is negatively impacted because of it.

One of the ways to remedy that natural occurrence is to build a transition into your schedule where you can finish the one thing, then have a moment to refocus and recenter and only then move into the next part of your day. Finding a moment to give yourself personal time to pray and decompress.

This is what the Lenten season gifts us – 40 days to ready ourself for a fresh season.

Easter is about 40 days away. To be exact, Easter is April 9th. Easter is a season of hope. It's a season of new life. It's a season of celebration. But after all, we have been through, I think we need to take some time to "walk around the block" before we march into Easter hurried, tired, and discouraged. The "walk around the block" that I'm referring to is what Lent is all about.

Lent is to Easter what Advent is to Christmas. It's a season of preparing ourselves for the celebration of Easter. Traditionally, Lent is a time for prayer and fasting. It starts with Ash Wednesday with a time of confession and repentance. Throughout the season of Lent, followers of Jesus will often fast from something, food, or an activity. The "sacrifice" serves as a reminder of what Jesus endured for us when He went to the cross. One of the goals of giving something up is that the time would be replaced with prayer.

I don't know about you, but I am feeling the need to participate in Lent this year. I need a "reset" of sorts. Will you join me? It doesn't matter if you missed Ash Wednesday, prayerfully consider joining our Lenten services on Wednesday evenings for a time of centering and prayer so that we can enter into the Holy season of Easter with a proper focus on the One who gave His All to allow us to be a part of His family and experience the forgiveness of sins.

**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
Office Phone: 507-378-4801**

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)

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Week 1 - Lenten practice focus – Prayer Hosted by: Racine UMC 6:00 pm	2	3	4
5 Combined Worship Service at Racine UMC @10am Meal to follow	6 Food Shelf 9-11 am	7	8 Week 2 – Lenten Practice Focus – Giving of Alms Hosted by: Dexter UMC 6:00pm	9 Food Shelf 6-8pm	10	11 Spring forward Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday. 
12 8:30 am Worship 	13 Hamburger Night @ Wykoff Community Center 4:30-7pm Food Shelf 9-11 am	14 Ad Council Meeting 6:30pm	15 Week 3 - Lenten Practice Focus - Lectio Divina Hosted by: Sumner Center UMC 6:00pm	16 Food Shelf 6-8pm	17 	18
19 8:30 am Worship 	20  Food Shelf 9-11 am	21	22 Week 4 – Lenten Practice Focus - Daily Examen Hosted by: Grand Meadow UMC 6:00pm	23 Food Shelf 6-8pm	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship 	27 Food Shelf 9-11 am	28	29 Week 5 – Lenten Practice Focus – Hostis Hosted by: Wykoff UMC 6:00pm	30 Food Shelf 6-8pm	31	
<p>April 2nd - 1st (Sunday of the Month) @ 10 am Worship Service will be hosted by Sumner Center UMC</p> 						

MARCH HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

Sunday, March 5, 2023

First @ 10 am (First Sunday of the Month 10 am Service)

Racine, Wykoff and Sumner Center UMC's

Will consolidate all 3 worship services into:

Worship Service hosted by Racine UMC @10am

Worship

Communion



Mission focus – Donations will be collected for UMCOR Cleaning Kits

Fellowship Meal

A MEAL WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP

March Mission Project focus will be to collect Monetary Donations that

will be sent to UMCOR for the purchase of:
Cleaning Kits. These kits have a Value of \$75.00 per kit



Below is a list of items **that UMCOR will purchase** with your generous donations.

- One five-gallon round bucket with lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
- One 32–64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16–40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner
- One 16–34 oz. bottle liquid dish soap
- One 4–8 oz. pump spray air freshener
- One 6–14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10–20 wipes also acceptable)
- One scrub brush
- 18 re-usable cleaning wipes
- Five scouring pads

- 36–50 clothespins
- One 50–100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33–45-gallon sizes)
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1–3 mm thickness)
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
- One pair work gloves

We will not be collecting the supplies but will be collecting donations for UMCOR to purchase above said supplies.



UMCOR

Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

Lent



**Gathering as Christ's community (5 church connection)
Each week - A light meal starting a 6pm
Followed by an informal worship/study.**


**Week 1 - Lenten practice focus – Prayer
Weds - March 1, 2023
Hosted by: Racine UMC**


**Week 2 – Lenten Practice Focus – Giving of Alms
Weds - March 8, 2023
Hosted by: Dexter UMC**

**Week 3 - Lenten Practice Focus - Lectio Divina
Weds - March 15, 2023
Hosted by: Sumner Center UMC**

**Week 4 – Lenten Practice Focus - Daily Examen
Weds - March 22, 2023
Hosted by: Grand Meadow UMC**

**Week 5 – Lenten Practice Focus – Hostis
Weds - March 29, 2023
Hosted by: Wykoff UMC**

 **Palm Sunday – 1st (Sunday of the Month) @ 10 am service hosted by Sumner Center
Sunday – April 2nd**

Good Friday – April 7th 
6:00pm Joint Worship @ Racine UMC

Easter Sunday Worship

Racine UMC 8:30 am
Wykoff UMC 9:45 am
Sumner Center UMC 11am

 **He is
RISEN**

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our risen savior Jesus Christ,

It is a privilege to write to you again. I continue to feel incredibly blessed and honored to be your pastor as God leads us into a new season of life and ministry together. Today, I am writing on behalf of the Racine UMC financial position, as Lent brings us to the time of the year when we each have the opportunity to pledge our level of financial support to the church.



In preparing this letter, I prayed that God would give me scriptural guidance to focus us on this endeavor. Immediately I thought of: "Choose today whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."-Joshua 24:15

Dear friends, your offerings have a sustaining impact for our church, for our community, and for the work of the kingdom of God. **Through your gifts, we, grow, and pursue excellence in worship, Christian education, and missions.** We exist to serve the Lord! We are also able to maintain our facility, which is not only a blessing to our congregation, but also to the community at large. Most importantly, through your generosity, people come to know the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and learn to follow him as disciples. As we move forward into this new year, I want to ask you to prayerfully consider your financial investment in the impactful work of our church.

There is a financial truth to keeping the strong spirit and multi-generational connection of Racine UMC thriving in our community.

Thoughts on faithfulness, renewal, and life-giving spiritual strength have been essential to the Church Council as we meet to plan the actives of 2023. As a family of faith, we have weathered these past pandemic years as best we could, and through it all God has been faithful.

We have now come to a season of renewal, a season of hope. We invite you to consider how God has accompanied you this past year. When have you seen God's faithfulness at work in your life? When have you struggled? How has your faith informed the choices and decisions you've made? Will you choose to serve the Lord today, tomorrow, and all the days after that? What might that look like for you?

Joshua is reminding the people of God that faithfulness is about choices – the things we choose to do or choose not to do. We make clear what matters to us most fully through all our choices. And through our choices, our beliefs become actions. In the church, we are called to be a people who show up, who care, who serve, and who give. God is so generous to us, and we are called to respond with all we have and all we are.

The church relies on your choices through your giving which provides the resources that allow this church to build faith, worship, community, and Christian service to our neighbors and beyond. Your generosity enables our church to continue to be a meeting place for the community and help bring much-needed support to all the missions we support.

Today, we are asking that you please prayerfully consider how you might give to support the mission and ministries of Racine United Methodist Church this year. You can make your donation now by mail or by attending Worship on Sundays at 8:30 am.

God Bless your generous heart!

Shalom to you - Pastor Bridget Sheely

Lenten Bible Reading Plan

Journey to the Cross

Matthew 21:1-11

John 12:1-11

John 12:12-19

Mark 11:12-26

Matthew 21:23-32

Mark 12:1-12

Matthew 22:1-14

Luke 20:9-26

Luke 20:27-40

Matthew 22:34-46

Matthew 23:1-39

Mark 12:41-44

Mark 13:1-13

Matthew 24:15-35

Matthew 24:36-51

Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew 25:31-46

John 12:20-50

Mark 14:12-26

John 13:1-17

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:18-38

Luke 22:24-38

Matthew 26:31-35

John 14:1-31

John 15:1-27; John 16:1-4

John 16:5-33

John 17:1-26

Matthew 26:36-56

John 18:1-18

Mark 14:32-72

Luke 22:39-62

John 18:19-40

John 19:1-16

Matthew 27:27-44

Luke 23:26-49

John 19:16-27

John 19:28-42

John 20:1-31



Lent

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

Halleluia
 James son of Alphaeus
 Peter
 Mark
 Lord
 Communion
 Pray
 Roman soldier
 Lent

Judas
 Thomas
 James son of Zebedee
 Matthew
 Resurrection
 Holy Week
 tree
 Martha
 Easter

Simon
 Bartholomew
 John
 parade
 Stones
 Palms
 cross
 Mary

Thaddeus
 Philip
 Luke
 Good Friday
 Reflect
 Maundy Thursday
 weeping
 Disciples



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

**RACINE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

401 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 127
Racine, MN 55967

Phone:

507-378-4801

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  **March**  