

Hello Church,

In small groups, people find support and encouragement to grow closer to God, meet life's challenges, and learn more about scripture.

- THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

This is another example of a thriving church following Jesus' example of providing small groups in order to develop deeper spiritual relationships that lead to health and strength.

I've read a very interesting book lately, *Simple Church*. It tells the story of researching many churches across the land to find what makes thriving churches thrive. As the jacket states: *The simple revolution is here. From the design of Apple products to Google's uncluttered homepage, simple ideas are changing the world.*

But simple doesn't mean simplistic. The Google search engine is simple in that it provides an uncluttered home page with only a few choices in which to access an immense library of information. And, it doesn't mean dumbing-down. What it means in the church is providing an accessible entry into the world of faith, of following the Christ.

The upshot is that churches that have been found thriving on these principles focused on a simplified process of **loving God in worship, loving others in small groups, and serving others in outreach**. Anything that doesn't fall within that focus is pared down into something manageable.

Here at Racine United Methodist Church, we are good at outreach, and hopefully you find yourself loving God more through worship. How are we doing at small groups?

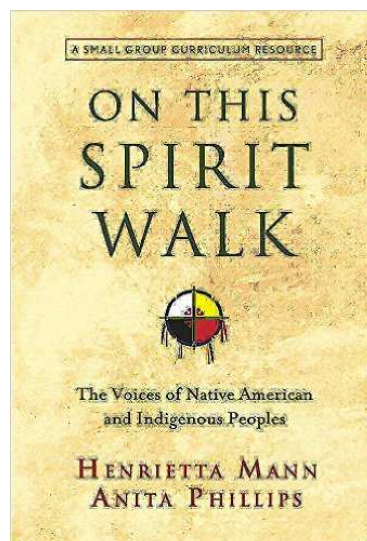
A small group in the service of the Christian Gospel isn't determined merely by size and activity. It's determined by reflecting on the wisdom of our tradition, typically through reflection on scripture. There's usually some kind of devotional. And there's an opportunity to give and offer support to others on our journey together as followers of Jesus.

Small groups may focus on a wide range of subjects. But, they always are there to encourage and support one another on our common faith journey.

What small group would interest you?

Keep the faith,
Pastor Glen

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



On This Spirit Walk Retreat December 4-5, 2015

*Koinonia Retreat Center
South Haven, MN 55382*

Registration:

https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/Spirit_Walk_Retreat

Register By: November 30, 2015
Cost: \$85: book, lodging & 3 meals.



Observance
5:30pm

Choir

"All God's Creatures got a Place in the Choir".
Do you enjoy singing? Do you enjoy fellowshiping with other people? Do you enjoy glorifying God with music? Then the choir is the place for you. We practice one night a week and sing one or two Sundays a month. Our practice nights and Sundays that we sing vary based on peoples work schedules. Watch the announcement slides for practice dates.
The choir would love to have you join us.



Christmas Baking December 5th



Would you like to get together to make some of your Christmas goodies with fellow church members? We will be doing Christmas baking during the "Open Doors" time on **Saturday, December 5th from 9-11** or until we decide to be done. You can bring your dough already mixed or you can bring the ingredients and there will be mixers available to use at the church. Last year we made 2 different kinds of cut outs, a few types of candies and rosettes. If you are going caroling on Sunday it would be a great time to make your treats. When we are done baking everyone takes home an assortment of goodies for the holidays. If you are interested in baking with us please let Norma Kenning know by December 2nd so that arrangements can be made for the items we need. We can also accommodate if there are food allergies that we need to be aware of.



December 6

It is time to spread some Christmas cheer. Please join us for caroling on **Sunday, December 6th**. We will meet at church at **2:45** to carpool to the places that we will be caroling at. After caroling we will return to church for a **pot luck dinner around 6:30. Please bring 2 paper plates with 6 Christmas treats on each that can be left with the people that we are caroling for.** Seeing the delight on the recipient's faces is priceless. We hope you will join us; we welcome all levels of singers or non-singers as we have some jingle bells available if you enjoy spreading cheer but are not into singing. If you have any questions contact Deb Goeldi.

Christmas Breakfast - join us **December 13th** for Christmas breakfast **during worship at 8:30**. This is Racine UMC's version of a Christmas Tea. Tables will be decorated and hosted by members of our church and the service will be centered around a special Christmas story. Come to church hungry as breakfast will be served as a part of worship service on this day. If you are interested in decorating and hosting a table please contact a member of the choir or Deb Goeldi.

Community Wood Fire Oven

You may have noticed that there is a project going on next the church. A group of dedicated individuals have been working hard since mid July to bring the wood fire oven to fruition. We were able to have the first fire in the oven on Halloween night during the Trunk or Treat event. As winter closes in we probably won't be able to finish the oven completely until next spring but we may get far enough to have a baking event before it is completely finished. We have been very fortunate to have several companies and community members make donations to help keep the cost down. Dale Meldahl Construction purchased the concrete and poured the pad. Lagit Services donated the hauling of the gravel, Weiser Precast donated wire mesh and rebar, Levy Milling donated the lumber for the roof & rafters, North Star Concrete donated the bricks for the chimney and other areas on the oven, and Degues Tile donated the granite for entry to the oven and the side table. Our church has been blessed with the show of support for the community oven both from our congregational members and community members. If you haven't done so yet check out the oven blog at www.umcracinemn.org/wood-fire-oven-update-blog or visit the church website at www.umcracinemn.org and find the link there. You can see the progress from ground breaking to where we are now. You can also send the Go Fund Me site to any of your Facebook friends from the website. Watch the church calendar for work dates and event dates for the oven. We always welcome anyone's help and participation.



Movie Nights

Have you heard about a Great Movie you would like to see with a group of your closest community friends? We are looking for more suggestions for free community movie nights. We get together and view movies about once or twice a quarter. Free popcorn is always provided and great company is always around. Please keep your ears and eyes open for our next movies. If you come across some ideas please let Jeff Goeldi know and he will check on the availability and try to get it scheduled



Winter Clothing Drive

Winter clothing needed for new refugees: The Minnesota Church Center Refugee Services is in need of new or gently used warm coats, hats, mittens, and gloves for refugees arriving from warmer climates. We will have a collection container at church so bring in your donations and we will make sure they are given to our Refugee Brothers and Sisters as they make Minnesota their new safe home.



Caring Cars

Once a quarter a group of caring individuals gets together to do a kind act. The event is usually a surprise to everyone who is involved except for the organizer. In the past we have done yard work for individuals, participated in Feed My Starving Children or done a project that needs to be done for someone in need. If you have an idea for the next caring cars event please let Deb Goeldi or Karen Goldsmith know.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

We believe that living a life inspired by God's love compels us to offer help, hope, and healing to those looking for more meaning in their lives. We believe God's grace is available to all people, no matter where you're from, what you look like, or who you love. We believe in welcoming others into our lives, but also in taking action to serve our neighbors, next door and around the world. I would like to thank all the who have opened their hearts, minds and the doors of the church to make it possible for us to offer many opportunities for support, nurture and fellowship. Please take this opportunity to ask yourself if I could be the person that gives some time to come and open the doors of the church to make the food shelf available to a family looking to feed their family until the next pay check. Am I the one who can open the doors of the church so that a child or adult looking for something to challenge or entertain their mind can come and get a book or movie. Am I the one who could open the doors of the church and bring a craft I enjoy doing to share my knowledge and enjoyment with a fellow member of the community. Am I the one who could open the doors of the church and shoot basketball with children or other adults from the neighborhood. Am I the one who could open the doors of the church and choose to bake cookies at church and maybe share your skill of baking with someone who has never baked before. I know all of you have already done the harder part of these three by opening your hearts and opening our minds now we are asking everyone to take a turn and OPEN the DOORS of our church. **OPEN DOORS times are every Thursday evening from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and the First and Third Saturdays of the month from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.** By making yourself available to do the simple act of unlocking the doors of the church you make all we have to offer available for the community at large. You don't need to be a Librarian to unlock the doors to enable a child to unlock the adventure in a borrowed book or movie, You don't have to be Food Nutritionist to unlock the doors and allow people to unlock the hold of poverty and circumstance by allowing them to utilize the food shelf. You do not have to be Martha Stewart to unlock the doors and unlock the possibility of new friendships and shared experiences. Please consider signing up for OPEN DOORS time on Thursdays or the 1st and 3rd Saturday.

SMALL GROUP KIOSK

In keeping with Wesley's notion of small group nurture and support in your Christian faith, Pastor Glen has set up a kiosk in the church office with some subjects your group might be interested in. Please check out and return any curriculum you choose. Pastor Glen is happy to help you get started and provide support. There are video and print resources provided.

Subjects available include:

- *From Jesus to Christ*
- *The Holy Grail*
- *Luther*
- *Who Was Paul?*
- *Christianity the 2nd Millennium*
- *Roman Empire: 1st Century*
- *Christmas Unwrapped*
- *Peter: Jesus' Fisherman*
- *Quest for the Lost Ark*
- *Mary: The Mother of Jesus*
- *Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture*
- *Surprise Me: A 30-Day Faith Experiment*

Wesley's method for making followers of Jesus is still relevant to our church and the world we are facing. Robust churches exhibit the following characteristics. They have people who:

- Worship regularly
- Work toward tithing
- Are involved in accountable small groups
- Are involved in outreach ministry



Readers

November

- 1st – Robin Vrieze
- 8th – Dawn Vrieze
- 15th – Tracy Hoover
- 22nd – DeeAnn Byrne
- 29th – Norma Kenning

December

- 6th – Jeff Goeldi
- 13th – Vicki Schroeder
- 20th – Alysha Bleifus
- 27th – Helen York

Greeters

November

- 1st – Del & Sandy Schatz
- 8th – Darrel Clark
- 15th – DeeAnn Byrne
- 22nd – Steve Wessenberg
- 29th – Mark Marburger

December

- 6th – Deb & Jeff Goeldi
- 13th – Helen York
- 22nd – Austin & Gina Schatz
- 27th – Steve & Kari York

Oven Workday Potluck

Sunday, November 22, 11:00 am

All are Welcome!



Main dish provided.

Bring a dish to pass.

Fellowship followed by work
on the oven project.

(you don't have to work on the
project to join in on the potluck)

Come Check it Out!

Earn. Save. Give.

You're probably used to hearing people in church talk about giving. But when was the last time in church that you talked about earning or saving? Is it unchristian to earn money? Is it wrong to save for ourselves and our families?

John Wesley didn't think so. Wesley, the Christian evangelist and founder of the Methodist movement, gave a remarkable sermon called "The Use of Money." In it, he said that the important thing isn't money itself but how we use it. Wesley's surprising advice still rings true today: earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.

During the month of November, our church will experience an exciting new stewardship program, *Earn. Save. Give.: Wesley's Simple Rules for Money*, developed by popular author and pastor James A. Harnish. The program centers around a book and DVD, in which Harnish describes Wesley's surprising advice and introduces us each week to faithful Christians who, like all of us, struggle with money.

There will be opportunities in worship, in small groups, in youth and children's classes, and in devotions for use at home.

November 22nd is Commitment Sunday. Please commit to praying each day for God to guide you in the decision you will make about your financial stewardship for the ministry of the Gospel in our church. Commitment Cards will be provided.



Wesley's Simple Rules for Money

Loyalty Sunday

Loyalty Sunday is **November 22, 2015** this year. Once again, we invite you to reaffirm your baptismal covenant as members of the church on an annual basis. This will be our fourth year.

Annual Membership is different than what we've done in the past. Typically, we only observed our baptismal covenant when we were baptized as infants, or less frequently in our tradition, as older children or adults. If on the occasion we use Wesley's Covenant Service we also reaffirm our baptism. And, we reaffirm our baptism when Confirmed, or when we transfer our membership.

Annual Membership places the burden of who decides who a member is on the shoulders of each individual. It asks, "*Are you willing to faithfully own what you say when you claim the sacred oath of the Covenant of Baptism with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness?*"

Annual Membership moves us away from the notion of membership toward the practice of discipleship. We believe this is truly Jesus' intention for baptism, a commissioning for ministry by all of the baptized.

If you cannot attend worship on November 22nd a certificate of your intention to reenroll as an active member is included in this newsletter. You can mail it in or drop it in the offering plate when you attend worship. We'll keep copies handy for you.

Annual membership determines active membership.

Annual Membership Card

I am/was unable to attend worship on Loyalty Sunday, November 22, 2015. I claim my baptismal covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of Racine United Methodist Church by *my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service and my witness.*

Signed:

RACINE

UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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



Nov/Dec 2015

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.umcracinemn.org

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