

November 2020

Racine UMC Newsletter

401 East Main St., Racine, Mn 55967

Worship: Sundays

Church Parking Lot Service @9am

Online Worship Services available *through*

Racine UMC Facebook Page or via email



Pastor Bridget Sheely

Cell: 507-438-1352 bridget@countrywidecarriers.com

Racine UMC Office hours Thursdays 5-7pm

Office Phone: 507-378-4801 rsumc@hmtel.com

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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 (rsumc@hmtel.com) Or by bringing your information to Norma during office hours (Thursdays, 5-7)

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Pastors Notes... *As the year 2020 comes to its final days and we reflect on all we, as a nation, and as a world, have endured this past year. One cannot help but ask the question. Exactly what DO we have to be Thankful for this year?*

From impeachment, to pandemic, to lock downs, to protests, to primaries, to election day. Boy, folks we have been put through the ringer! And that doesn't include our personal struggles we all have been living through, living with, and/or not living the life we expected this year. So, here we are – November – the month of celebrating the plentiful harvest. Yet I don't see the signs of festivities instead I see the pain of frustration and I say to myself –

Self, exactly what are you frustrated with? You better take another look cause there is joy to be had, yet you are so busy mumbling and grumbling you are missing it!!!

Spring *showed up on time and it was beautiful! The sun warmed our flower beds and the rain watered our fields. Friends you haven't spoken with for years reached out in new ways just to say "hey, how you holding up through this pandemic?" Our churches moved from contentment with tradition into trying new innovative ways to reach the lost and guess what – the people joined in! We have actually had fun learning to "zoom", creating worship media productions, and sharing our "bread of life" by going*

door to door and sharing a moment with our faith friends and community.

Summer *blessed us with a more relaxed atmosphere where we all could bring it down into a lower gear and create family gatherings instead of solo travel.*

Autumn *has brought with it the beauty of the season fully showing off its splendor and color. Our children are experiencing family meals instead of scheduling conflicts. Our churches are creating a great new form of "Drive in" Worship. Which I must say is really kinda fun and awakens an inner enthusiasm that has been dormant for some time.*

What has 2020 brought us? –love, empathy, compassion, kindness, happiness, new births, milestone birthday's, community celebrations with a new spin, and family unity.

Folks, we can allow the noise of the world and the stress of politics drag us to the depths of despair or we can take a deep breath, live in our blessings and understand what ever happens we have God, and He will carry us through.

*Because for every pain there is a blossom and for every fear there is faith. Our "2020" Christian vision will show us the clear path to peace. No matter who is in the Oval Office or how we come together to Worship or when a vaccine will be available. We love each other and God loves us! Let us take time to **GIVE THANKS** this season!*


The Way to Start your Day...

Go outside and face the East and greet the Sun with a blessing, chant or song that you made yourself and keep for early mornings. Do not fret if you do not know how to make a song it is very simple. First, don't try to think what words to use until you're standing there alone. When you feel the Sun, you'll feel the blessing, chant or song too. Just open your heart and release it. You see, a morning needs to be greeted. A new day needs to be honored. It is our responsibility to welcome the Sun and create a good day for it. We must also make a good world for it to live in one day at a time. So, as you rise out of bed tomorrow remember to look to the East and offer your blessing. And if you are very lucky there may be a time when the sky thanks you back with colors of beauty and magic. **Now that's the way to start a day!** *Special thank you to Bonnie Hotopp for sharing this.*

Calendar of Events

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

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Online Worship "Communion"  Church Parking Lot worship @ 9 am Daylight saving time ends.	2  All Souls Day	3  EVERY VOTE COUNTS VOTE AMERICA	4	5 Food Shelf Open 6-7pm ----- Office Hours	6	7
8 Online Worship Church Parking Lot worship @ 9 am	9	10	11  VETERANS DAY	12 Food Shelf Open 6-7pm ----- Office Hours	13  WORLD KINDNESS DAY	14
15 Online Worship Church Parking Lot worship @ 9 am	16	17	18	19 Food Shelf Open 6-7pm ----- Office Hours	20	21
22 Online Worship  CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY Church Parking Lot worship @ 9 am	23	24	25	26  Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29 Online Worship  First Sunday of Advent Church Parking Lot worship @ 9 am	30					

Tips on Reading the Bible Daily

Plan Length: 365 days

Estimated Completion Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Now don't get discouraged! We are in this together.

Fourth month of daily biblical connection. If you would like to start now no worries, it is never too late to begin connecting with the Word.

Below is the reading schedule for November

1. Start reading the Bible today -- there is no
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your great, but feel free to use any time that works
3. Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not a short prayer to God before you begin, asking understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!



better time, and there's no reason to wait. schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are consistently for you. simply to accomplish your next reading. Say the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and

Day 93 - Judges 10-11; Luke 9:1-36

Day 108 - 1 Samuel 25-26; Luke 16:19-31

Day 94 - Judges 12-14; Luke 9:37-62

Day 109 - 1 Samuel 27-29; Luke 17:1-19

Day 95 - Judges 15-17; Luke 10:1-24

Day 110 - 1 Samuel 30-31; Luke 17:20-37

Day 96 - Judges 18-19; Luke 10:25-42

Day 111 - 2 Samuel 1-3; Luke 18:1-17

Day 97 - Judges 20-21; Luke 11:1-28

Day 112 - 2 Samuel 4-6; Luke 18:18-43

Day 98 - Ruth 1-4; Luke 11:29-54

Day 113 - 2 Samuel 7-9; Luke 19:1-28

Day 99 - 1 Samuel 1-3; Luke 12:1-34

Day 114 - 2 Samuel 10-12; Luke 19:29-48

Day 100 - 1 Samuel 4-6; Luke 12:35-59

Day 115 - 2 Samuel 13-14; Luke 20:1-26

Day 101 - 1 Samuel 7-9; Luke 13:1-21

Day 116 - 2 Samuel 15-16; Luke 20:27-47

Day 102 - 1 Samuel 10-12; Luke 13:22-35

Day 117 - 2 Samuel 17-18; Luke 21:1-19

Day 103 - 1 Samuel 13-14; Luke 14:1-24

Day 118 - 2 Samuel 19-20; Luke 21:20-38

Day 104 - 1 Samuel 15-16; Luke 14:25-35

Day 119 - 2 Samuel 21-22; Luke 22:1-30

Day 105 - 1 Samuel 17-18; Luke 15:1-10

Day 120 - 2 Samuel 23-24; Luke 22:31-53

Day 106 - 1 Samuel 19-21; Luke 15:11-32

Day 121 - 1 Kings 1-2; Luke 22:54-71

Day 107 - 1 Samuel 22-24; Luke 16:1-18

Day 122 - 1 Kings 3-5; Luke 23:1-26

Food Shelf

Thursdays 6 pm - 7 pm

PLEASE

VOLUNTEER



We are very thankful for the dedicated volunteers that have kept the doors to the food shelf open these past months. Let us show our appreciation to them by offering our time so they may have the opportunity to step back and take a very necessary break.

**If you are available on
Thursday from 6-7pm
contact Tracy Hoover
(sunshine2002tj@aol.com)
(507)254-0928**

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As an Organization that receives Government assistance through our food shelf, we are required by Minnesota state Law to provide information about voter registration.

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

VOTE 2020

To register at your polling place on Election Day, bring one proof of residence listed below.

① ID WITH CURRENT NAME AND ADDRESS

- Valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or ID; or a receipt for any of these.
- Tribal ID with name, address, photo and signature.

② PHOTO ID PLUS A DOCUMENT WITH YOUR CURRENT NAME AND ADDRESS

Approved photo IDs

Choose one. Can be expired.

Driver's license, state ID
or learner's permit
issued by any state

U.S. Passport

U.S. Military or Veteran ID

Tribal ID with name,
signature and photo

Minnesota university, college
or technical college ID

Minnesota high school ID

Approved documents

Choose one. Can be shown on
electronic device.

Bill, account or start-of-service
statement due or dated within
30 days of the election for:

* Phone, TV or internet

* Solid waste, sewer,
electric, gas or water

* Banking or credit card

* Rent or mortgage

Residential lease or rent
agreement valid through Election
Day

Current student fee statement

continued on back...

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
mnvotes.org • 1-877-600-VOTE

November

(this will not be mailed separately this month)

Weekly Worship studies



November 1, 2020

Read Revelation 7:9-17

The Great Multitude in White Robes

9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

“Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

14 I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

The author of Revelation draws on a lot of images from the Old Testament that would have been familiar to his audience.

Read Isaiah 4:2-6 and Isaiah 40:10-11 before reading the passage from Revelation one more time.

How do the Isaiah passages help illuminate the Revelation passage? [They connect Isaiah’s vision with John’s vision. This is the work that God has continued to do.]

What is similar? What is different? [Similarities include the image of God as a shepherd providing refuge for those going through difficulty. Differences include that Isaiah was writing to give hope to the Jewish people. John includes a vision that encompasses the whole world (7:9).]

How would you define a “saint”?

How might this passage contribute to your definition? [From verse 9: “standing before the throne and the lamb” = focus on what is important; robed in white = having been cleansed by the forgiveness offered through Jesus; palm branches = also a symbol of cleansing, victory, and celebration; from verse 10: tell about God’s salvation; from 12: they sing about all that God has done; from verse 15 and following: they look forward to experiencing God’s abundance.]

It is common to think about “saints” as holier-than-thou and as the rare few. By virtue of our baptism, we are all called toward being saints.

Do you think of yourself as called to be a saint? Why or why not?

What difference would it make if you thought of yourself as a saint?

How would washing robes “in the blood of the Lamb” (v. 14) make their robes white? [It wouldn’t! It is just another hint

that throughout the book John is using symbolism to convey his message.] Blood, as indicated in Leviticus, represents life. These “saints,” as represented by their clothing, are those who have “put on” Jesus to use the apostle Paul’s words.

What might it mean to put on Christ?

What might it look like to live as those who “wear white robes” in our everyday lives today?

On this All Saint Day, who do you remember who put on Christ for you or displayed the life of Christ?

How might you continue to live into your call to be a saint?

Let us Pray:

God of our fathers and mothers in the faith, you have been a refuge to those in distress. Through your Holy Spirit, many have been empowered and strengthened to praise you when all else seemed dark and chaotic. May that same Holy Spirit breathe new life into us, that we might be your witnesses to those we come in contact with this coming week. Amen.

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November 8, 2020

Read Matthew 25:1-13

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

25 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they

all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 "No," they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

In this parable, Jesus is using a common scene from a wedding ceremony. Bridesmaids would leave the bride at night, to meet the groom. They would then accompany the groom, whenever he decided (perhaps shouting his intentions at midnight), back to the bride's house. They would then travel back to the groom's father's house for a ceremony, and festivities that could last up to a week with many in the village in attendance.

With those considerations, do you understand the response of the bridesmaids in verse 9? [Besides just missing the wedding ceremonies, these bridesmaids are also risking public shaming. It would be very risky not to have the oil needed for the lamps.]

Have you ever had friends or family members do something so embarrassing that you didn't want to identify with them? How do you think that same dynamic is in the words of the reply in verse 12? [It is not that the speaker didn't actually know them by name; their actions were so foolish that he did not recognize why they had acted so foolishly. This added to their shame. In addition, they missed out on all the festivities.]

As Christians, we are taught to be generous. In Acts 2:44-45, we see a model of the church where believers share with one another.

Why don't you think the bridesmaids were chided for not being more generous? Why do you think the bridesmaids were wise for not sharing? [If they had, there wouldn't have been enough for any of them.]

How does the last verse help us interpret the parable? [It makes Jesus' point for telling the parable clear: Disciples are called to be ready at a moment's notice and are to make proper preparations.]

A "shout at midnight" is a surprise announcement. What does it look like to be prepared spiritually?

What habits might help you be more prepared spiritually?

How can this group help you be more prepared?

Let us Pray:

Gracious God, we trust that you are at work reconciling the world to yourself even now and even when we may not see it. Give us the eyes of faith to see and continue empowering us to be prepared to be your witnesses to all we may encounter this coming week. Amen.

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November 15, 2020

Read Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' 23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Does the master in this parable seem fair? Or does he seem harsh? Why is that the case?

Since wealth was not easily obtained in those days, people who did have wealth had an easier time making a profit. It

would have been fairly easy to turn a profit even with small amounts of resources.

Why do you think the last person portrays the master the way he does? [Notice the master is fairly generous by entrusting the slaves with lots of resources, and he invites them to enter his joy. The last slave is the only one who portrays the master as harsh.]

Does this change your assumption about the fairness of the master in the parable? Why or why not?

What might it mean to “enter into the joy of the master” in verses 21 and 23?

How does this passage connect to last week’s passage?

[Both are about acting wisely. Last week’s passage was about acting wisely with our time. This passage is about acting wisely with our stewardship.]

It is an oversimplification to equate talents and money in this parable. Certainly, Jesus is not equating the amount of wealth one has or doesn’t have with being blessed.

Why do you think we often connect those? [It is easy to focus on material objects.]

What do you think truly being blessed looks like? [Being blessed concerns relationships and fruit of the spirit.]

How does the world define joy? [Accumulating things; financial success] **How would you define joy?**

How might you be intentional in looking for joy this week?

Let us Pray:

God of joy, we confess the temptation to look first at what we are lacking instead of seeing your abundance. Help us to be more aware of how you have provided for us that we might experience joy in unexpected places. Guide our thoughts that we might focus on your grace, your beauty, and your mercy. Amen.

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November 22, 2020

Read Matthew 25:31-46

The Sheep and the Goats

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in

prison and you came to visit me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ 44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ 45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ 46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

What would it feel like to hear verse 34 spoken over you?

What is the difference between the sheep’s and the goats’ responses in verses 37 and 44? [Notice that the first response is longer and always positive; whereas, the second is shorter and in the negative – “did not take care of you?”.]

What was the difference between how the “sheep” lived compared with how the “goats” lived? [The preaching notes observe that the goats lived in a way more about passing the test; whereas, the sheep lived a life of servanthood to any in need.]

How does this passage connect with the previous two week’s passages? [The first week’s passage was about acting wisely with our time; the second week’s passage was about acting wisely concerning stewardship. Generally speaking, this passage is about seeing the needs of others (seeing all the people) and responding (wisely and responsibly) to the needs of all. It also connects with the first passage by the invitation of the master - entering into the joy of the master. Here the invitation is to enter the glory of Christ. In the second week’s passage, those who invested wisely were rewarded. In today’s passage, those who invest their lives wisely are invited into the glory of the kingdom.]

Let us Pray:

Compassionate God, we give you thanks for your abiding presence with us. Guide us to be more aware of opportunities to see you in the face and needs of those we encounter. Empower us to be focused on being your servants with and to all people that we might experience your glory. Amen.

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Sunday November 29th will be the beginning of the Advent season! December newsletter will offer Advent opportunities in lieu of our monthly worship study.

RACINE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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Racine, MN 55967

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E-Mail:

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

Parking Lot -Online

9:00am

Church Website

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

November



2020

Racine United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 127

Racine, MN 55967

