

Racine UMC Newsletter

401 East Main Street, Racine, MN 55967

October 2024



Pastors notes...Get this: You are ALREADY loved by God. Full Stop. No conditions. No qualifications. No ifs, ands, or buts about it. You are ALREADY a beloved child of God.

In the church world we have a word for this love – we call it *grace*.

Grace Defined

The bible is a great starting point for better understanding what grace is all about. According to New Testament lexicographer, Dr. Spiros Zodhiates grace is:

...that which causes joy, pleasure, gratification, favor and acceptance. A favor done without any expectation of return, the absolute free expression of the love of God finding its only motive in the bounty and benevolence of the giver... It changes the individual to a new creature...

In other words, grace is a no-strings-attached gift of love given to us by God that we may be transformed and made new.

The experience of grace is the foundational Christian experience. It's both the starting point of faith and the thing that keeps even seasoned Christians walking in the way of Jesus.

What is this experience like?

It's like being met with a hug when you expected to be locked out of the house. It's like being told you're forgiven when you know the thing you did was totally unforgivable. It's like being crushed with debt and living paycheck to paycheck only to be told you no longer owe a thing. The experience of grace is like all that and more.

Over the millennia much has been written trying to capture its breadth and depth, and yet theologians have yet to find its limits. But one thing is for sure: the experience of this embracing, forgiving, debt-relieving love is where the Christian journey begins.

This transforming Love carries on the ancient theological work of expanding and expounding on what the grace of God is like. My prayer is that you may find inspiration this beautiful time of year to connect with your Lord and feel the unconditional realization that God's love is for YOU. Just as you are. Just as God made you. No prerequisites. And may the Grace of God keep you and hold you close with a renewed commitment that having Christ as your center your daily steps will forever be strengthened in His Grace!

GRACE

**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

Pastors cell # 507-438-1352

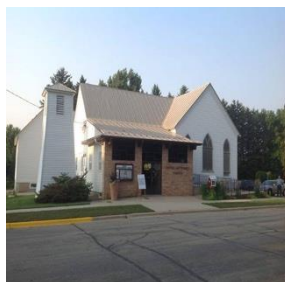
Pastor Jon Marburger

Email: marburgerjon@gmail.com

Cell #507-227-6711

**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 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.

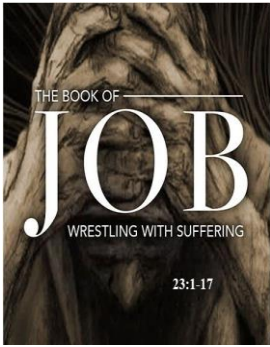
Calendar of Events

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

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Food Shelf 6-8 pm	4	5
6 8:30 am Worship  WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	7	8 Ad Council Meeting 6:30pm	9	10 Confirmation Zoom class 6:30pm Food Shelf 6-8 pm	11	12
13 8:30 am Worship 	14 Noon Potluck At Brownsdale UMC 	15	16	17 Confirmation Mission Project @ Wykoff Commons 5:30-7pm Help with clothing drive set up Food Shelf 6-8 pm	18	19
20 8:30 am Worship  Laity Sunday	21	22	23	24 Food Shelf 6-8 pm	25	26
27 8:30 am Worship 	28	29	30	31 	Friends and family of all ages are invited to stop by the Racine UMC on Halloween night from 6-8pm for community woodfire oven pizza and ice cream. Plus some fun activities for the kids!	

October Worship Schedule



October 6, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

Compounding the experience of suffering is the feeling that one has been abandoned by God. In our text this week, Job gives voice to this pain. "Oh, that I knew where I might find him," he declared in bitterness. Our tendency is to search for solutions, to proscribe actions that can bring us through this moment to a happier existence. Lament often makes us uncomfortable. We'd rather present a stoic face to the world, even in the face of extreme difficulties. "I'm all right," we'll declare, even when we clearly aren't all right.



October 13, 2024

Pastor Bridget Leading

What ought we expect when we come to worship? To ease into some comfortable bubble protected from the difficult world out there. Or to be shaken to the core by the awesome majesty of the God we worship? One thing that is clear throughout the biblical witness is that no one encounters God and comes away unchanged. The question is, "Are we ready to be transformed by meeting God in worship?"



October 20, 2024

Church Laity Leading

Today is Laity Sunday which is a day set aside to remember and lift up a constant reality: the priesthood and ministry of all. Every person on the planet is invited to share in God's community of healing, love, justice, and world repair.

So, as we gather on this special Sunday, let us unite under the definition of what the General conference calls a day "to celebrate the ministry of all Christians" Because Laity Sunday is one way we have opportunity to express the core Christian conviction that all are called to participate in God's mission to create healthy, flourishing life in the world.



October 27, 2024

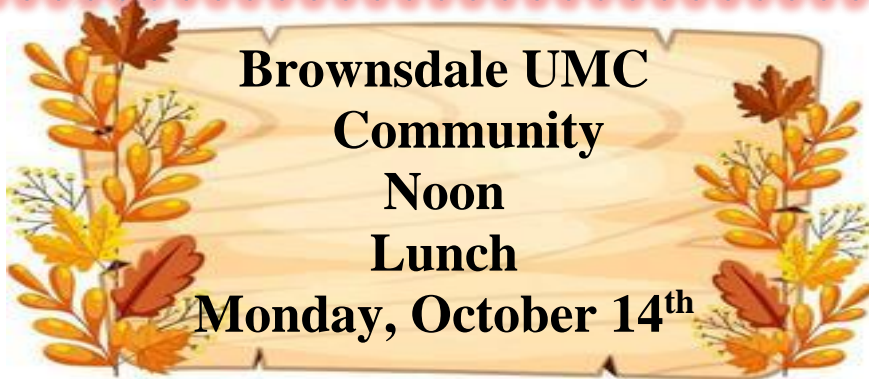
Pastor Jon Leading

Today Jesus is in Jerusalem and the pressure against him continues to rise. The religious authorities bring a series of controversial questions to Jesus in an effort to discredit him in the eyes of the people. But today we look at a question brought by a scribe. Unlike the other questions posed to Jesus so far, this one appears to be sincere and yet given the context it too was likely meant as a trap for Jesus. And so he asks Jesus: Which commandment is the most important of all? It all boils down to love. The summary of the law is love. -Love for God and love for others are not separate items.

October Prairieland Parish Events

Thursday, October 10th: First zoom meeting for our Confirmation class via zoom 6:30pm

Thursday, October 17th: Confirmation Mission project (Wykoff clothing drive 5:30pm – 7pm)



October 20th – Laity Sunday – This is a great opportunity to invite your family, friends and neighbors to come to church and enjoy a full participation of church members leading worship!



Friday, October 25th: Pastor Jon and Bridget will be attending a conference clergy meeting 9-5pm @ Hennepin Ave UMC



Thursday, October 31st

**Racine UMC will host their annual Spooktacular Community Halloween Event
Stop in and enjoy-Woodfire Oven Pizza
Ice Cream
Fun activities for all the little goblins
6-8pm**

The Laity Collaborative to equip, empower lay people

By: Christa Meland & Jody Thone

All are called, and laity play an integral role in making new disciples of Jesus and sharing God's love with the world. The Minnesota Conference has developed a robust new opportunity to engage and empower laity to live into their unique calling.



What is The Laity Collaborative?

The Laity Collaborative is a brand new learning community focused on equipping laity and unleashing the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the Minnesota Conference. The Laity Collaborative includes an opening kick-off event this fall, followed by a virtual learning series that's included in your registration fee and online-accessible resources that we'll continue to curate on [MNSource](#), our online resource sharing platform.

What is the commitment?

The Laity Collaborative's inaugural series starts with a kick-off event Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Hennepin Avenue UMC in Minneapolis and offers virtual learning opportunities for participants over the subsequent four months. The series will conclude with a special day where all participants will reconvene for learning and celebration. After this first Laity Collaborative series concludes, the hope is to offer another series every year that welcomes new participants.

Who is involved?

Jody Thone, Minnesota Conference director of ministry development, is coordinating The Laity Collaborative and will do some of the teaching. The conference is partnering with Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois; Rev. Becky Eberhardt, vice president for strategic initiatives and partnerships at the seminary, is part of The Laity Collaborative planning team and will develop and present some of the content.

How can I participate?

Although this series is designed to equip laity, both laity and their clergy leaders are welcome and encouraged to attend together. [Register online](#), and then plan to attend the event on Oct. 26! The cost is \$75 for the entire four-month experience (or \$50 per person if you come as part of a group of three or more).

Why The Laity Collaborative?

"Laity are cornerstone to the Methodist movement," said Thone. "Nearly all the leaders of the early Methodist societies were lay people. John Wesley established a system to develop and empower them by organizing them in small groups for accountability and support for living the Christian life. We believe the clergy-lay partnership is vital to our mission, and The Laity Collaborative aims to equip laity in partnership with our local congregations for ministry in our evolving church."

Why is it so critical to equip and unleash laity within our Methodist movement?

"One of the powerful gifts of the Wesleyan way is engaged and equipped laity who lead," said Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay, lead pastor at Hennepin Avenue UMC and a member of The Laity Collaborative planning team. "The health of the church is dependent upon the empowering of and partnership with laity. Any other way of doing ministry robs the pastor, the church, and the larger movement of vitality, meaning, mutual blessing and joy...Laity and clergy need each other!"

What is the hope for the Laity Collaborative?

Bobbi Nichols, a longtime member of Christ UMC in Rochester who is part of The Laity Collaborative planning team and will teach one of the virtual learning sessions, articulates it this way: "I hope..."

- We see real value in the opportunities offered via the Laity Collaborative.
 - We encounter new ideas that are exciting and relevant to us.
 - We feel empowered to share ideas gained from our own experiences.
 - We feel more confident and supported as we go about our work.
- We continue to learn more about ourselves and what God calls us to be.
 - We forge new relationships across the conference.
 - We have fun!"

What are the virtual learning opportunities?

After the Oct. 26 kick-off event, there will be multiple virtual sessions to continue the learning; The Laity Collaborative attendees can attend whichever ones they'd like. Among the topics for those sessions are:

- **Finding & Keeping Your Practices**
- **Holy Gatherings: How To Effectively Facilitate Small Group Discussions**
- **Scripture Circles Taste and See**

15 Beautiful Fall Bible Verses for the Autumn Season

Here is a collection of heart-warming Bible verses about autumn and harvest. These Scriptures are perfect for a time of reflection during the fall season. May you be inspired by these fall scripture quotes which evoke gratitude and hope in the Lord. Find your favorite Bible verses here to share with family and friends and pass along the encouragement! The fall season is the time of harvesting crops and preparing for winter, related to the biblical phrase "reap what you sow." In spiritual terms, we reap the benefits of our faithful labor of prayer, love, and humility.

2 Corinthians 9:10

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Luke 10:2

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart, yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Psalms 85:12

Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

James 3:18

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9:6

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Habbakuk 3:17-18

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Proverbs 3:9

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops

Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Hebrews 12:11

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Jeremiah 29:11

"[For I know the plans I have for you](#)," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

James 5:7

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.



Autumn Word Search

by Craftideas.info

OSUVIJASVDHYGNQSELNMASIEKUMOOONERWWTVDITG
 ACRANBBERRISAISETUKNREHTKHFDTNCNDTDRCSOELLEODN
 ZVTRGUVSDROAPGTHGKPIEPIEONSIPUMPSKITAHSABWTSIHRZDDBRJOVI
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 JCBRNCHOPREPTWOLFHQDOGD AEKSOJALNROCJHST
 BZOXVKECJUQASEMKUNKSELIPFAELYNAOHTAROVN
 PUMPKINPATCHMOUGLDCHDUFDATEAVDITWSJLAND

Acorns
 Back To School
 Chrysanthemum
 Cornucopia
 Falling Leaves
 Haystacks
 Leaf Piles
 Pecan Pie
 Raking Leaves
 September
 Turkey

Apple Pie
 Blackberries
 Colorful Leaves
 Cranberries
 Fog
 Indian Summer
 Moon
 Pine Cone
 Rain
 Spooky
 Walnuts

Apples
 Black Cats
 Cool Weather
 Cranberry Sauce
 Halloween
 Jack o Lantern
 November
 Pumpkin Patch
 Raincoat
 Squash
 Winds

Autumn
 Bounty
 Corn
 Crows
 Harvest
 Kite Flying
 Nuts
 Pumpkin Pie
 Scarecrows
 Thanksgiving
 Yams

Autumnal Equinox
 Chestnuts
 Corn Fields
 Fall
 Harvest Moon
 Kites
 October
 Pumpkins
 Season
 Trick or Treat

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

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Phone:
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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>



2024