

# Racine UMC Newsletter

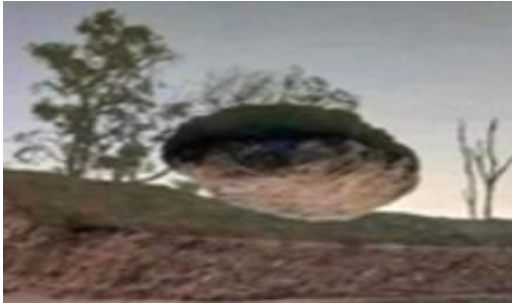
401 East Main Street, Racine, MN 55967

## September 2022



Grace and Peace in the name of Jesus Christ:

**Pastors' notes...** This photo is real and was not edited. The stone is real, the trees are real, the soil is real and the sky is real.



Now, the only thing you have to do is change your point of view. Look at the photo, upside down!

I came across this photo experiment while scrolling through my Facebook page the other day. What a simple message. It got me thinking - have we, as a society, become a culture of people who are so set in our own views that we have selectively chosen not to explore every angle of interpretation and understanding any longer? Have we gotten so caught up in our own perceptions we have lost sight of the whole picture? Hmm? If so is there any hope of changing the narrative of this narrow minded cycle of thought that has mesmerized a whole community, country, and world? I believe the answer is Yes. One steppingstone at a time.

I believe the more important questions we need to be asking ourselves are these-  
Are you ready to turn your world upside down and take the risk of changing your point of view?  
Are you up for exploring new possibilities that might rock your world?

If so, then the Lord can make that happen! He has invited you to come to His house and take on the adventure of a lifetime!  
Come and be a part of something that will not only flip you over but will raise you to new levels of hope, happiness and love like you have never experienced before.

Just take His hand, he will guide your way.



**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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the preceding month by emailing your information to: Racine UMC ([rscumc@hmtel.com](mailto: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)

## September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 6:30 Book Study Via Zoom  Food Shelf 6-8 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Worship 8:30am 	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1 pm Book Study	<b>8</b> 6:30 Book Study Via Zoom  Food Shelf 6-8 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Worship 8:30 am 	<b>12</b> Food Shelf 9-11 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1 pm Book Study	<b>15</b> 6:30 Book Study Via Zoom  Food Shelf 6-8 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Selichot
<b>18</b>  Worship 8:30am	<b>19</b> Ahoy Matie's, it's...  Food Shelf 9-11 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1 pm Book Study  International Day of Peace	<b>22</b> 6:30 Book Study Via Zoom  Food Shelf 6-8 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Worship 8:30 am  Blessing of the Backpacks	<b>26</b>  Food Shelf 9-11 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Food Shelf 6-8 pm	<b>30</b>	

**Rosh Hashana History** - Rosh Hashanah (Hebrew: ראש השנה) is the Jewish New Year. Rosh Hashanah literally translates to the Head of the Year. It is a two day festival. In the Bible, it is called Yom Ha-Zikaron, the day of remembrance or Yom Teruah the day of the sounding of the shofar (Leviticus 23:24-25). Jews start Rosh Hashanah festivals with lighting of the candles and synagogue prayers. On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Jews eat an apple dipped in honey to signify a sweet new year to come. They also place a fishes head at the table to commemorate 'being a head and not a tail'.

**Selichot History** - Selichot (Hebrew: סליחות) means sorry/forgiveness prayers. Selichot are recited from the Sunday before the Jewish New Year until the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). Selichot are aimed for both the individual and communities to atone their sins between man and God. They are intended for Jews to reflect on their actions of the past year and to refrain from committing the same sins in the next New Year.

# SEPTEMBER EVENTS

## HEY KIDDO'S!!!

*It's that fun in faith time of Year again!*



Children's Church:  
Sunday  
September 18<sup>th</sup>  
8:45 am  
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Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

If you are aware of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in our faith community, please contact Pastor Bridget so, she may add them to the 3rd grade honoree's  
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Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

**CALLING STUDENTS OF EVERY AGE!!!**

Bring your backpack to Church this Sunday to Receive a special blessing For a safe and fun-filled Year of School!

### Summer Book Study

- (Final sessions in September)

**In person or zoom!**



**Zoom scheduled Thursdays**

Sep 1, 2022 06:30

Sep 8, 2022 06:30

Sep 15, 2022 06:30

Sep 22, 2022 6:30

Meeting ID:12 9103 9103

### In Person Scheduled

Sep 7, 2022, 1:00 pm

Sep 14, 2022, 1:00

Sep 21, 2022, 1:00

### Weekly Session Topics:

How to Overcome the Enemy  
When All Hell Breaks Loose  
The Promises of Heaven

**You won't want to miss this**

**Year's Wykoff Fall Fest!**

September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

Parade Saturday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>

Beginning @ 11am

**Wykoff UMC**

**German Dinner September 25<sup>th</sup>**

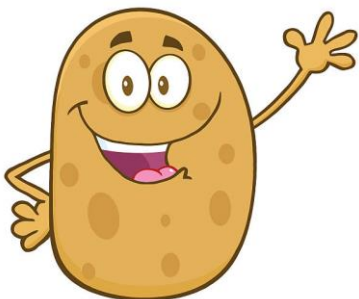
11:00 am – 3:00pm

Menu to includes

*Our World-Famous Potato Salad*

*Pulled Pork Sandwiches*

*Homemade Pie - Beverages*



### CHILDREN'S CHURCH CELEBRATION!!!!

Special fellowship Sunday on September 18<sup>th</sup>

In celebration of the First day of Children's Church. Plus, Weston Vrieze & Arica Lawson receiving their Bibles!

We will be serving Ice Cream and extra's!





# News From the: **Minnesota** **Annual Conference** of the United Methodist Church

NCJ recommendation:  
Return to 9 bishops, 1  
shared by DK-MN  
August 08, 2022

Over the past two years, Minnesota and the Dakotas have each been served by an interim bishop. Both of these bishops also serve and reside in other annual conferences: Bishop David Bard in Michigan, and Bishop Laurie Haller in Iowa. Delegates to the Special Called North Central Jurisdictional Conference (NCJ) in 2021 voted to reduce the number of active bishops from nine to eight. But the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy is now recommending returning to nine active bishops in 2023 and going back to having the Dakotas and Minnesota served by one bishop as part of the same episcopal area, which NCJ delegates will be asked to vote on when they meet in November. The following press release provides background and explains the reasoning behind the recommendation:

The North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) will convene in Fort Wayne, Indiana, November 2-5, 2022 with the theme *We Press On*. This Jurisdictional Conference will gather delegates (lay and clergy) from across Illinois (Northern Illinois, Illinois Great Rivers), Indiana, Iowa, Ohio (East Ohio and West Ohio), Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin for a momentous time filled with worship and collective discernment regarding the election of episcopal leadership and receiving episcopal assignments.

During the Special Called NCJ Conference in 2021, the delegates affirmed the recommendation from the Committee on Episcopacy to reduce the number of active bishops in the North Central Jurisdiction from nine to eight. This recommendation came from the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy, who, with the NCJ College of Bishops, had determined the prudence of anticipating a GCFA-announced reduction ahead of the 2020 General Conference. The recommendation was made prayerfully and proactively, using the data and information we had at that time.

However, as the NCJ has attempted to live out the experiment of reduced episcopal leadership, with Bishop Laurie Haller and Bishop David Bard assuming oversight of additional annual conferences for what has become a 24-month "interim," multiple medical leaves among our bishops, the uncertainty triggered by the pre-General Conference launch of the Global Methodist Church, etc., we are finding such a reduction impractical at the present moment. We acknowledge that such a reduction will likely be both necessary and inevitable following the transitions facing the UMC in 2024. But for the present moment of transition and uncertainty, we believe this approved reduction will not now help our jurisdiction "press on" into the future.

We have been offered flexibility by the recent Judicial Council ruling and GCFA affirmation: "Absent General Conference action, the formula and number of bishops for each jurisdiction approved by the 2016 General Conference remain legally binding and effective until replaced by a new formula."

Therefore, the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy, after consultation with the NCJ College of Bishops, proposes the following:

**1) The North Central Jurisdiction will reverse the decision of NCJ 2021, thereby returning the total number to nine active bishops, beginning January 1, 2023, until the next General Conference declares otherwise.**

**2) Additionally, the NCJ will be asked to reaffirm the Dakotas and Minnesota returning to a single episcopal area, being served by one (1) bishop.**

These proposals are presented for the short-term, in order to help us navigate the uncertainty of the present time. We anticipate that the Jurisdictional Conference Session of 2024 may bring new developments and circumstances, including several mandatory episcopal retirements. We anticipate that a return to nine active bishops for the interim will provide greater "breathing room" to help prepare for those decisions at that time.

More information will be found after September 1 in the Advance. We encourage delegations to begin conversation regarding this important legislative recommendation. We encourage all United Methodists across the North Central Jurisdiction to begin praying for the conference, the delegates, and the important decisions that will be made in November.

## Transitional Table begins work, identifies 5 key areas

August 18, 2022 By: Rev. Cindy Gregorson

The 14 members of the Transitional Table were named and introduced at the 2022 Annual Conference in St. Cloud.

Thinking about the future is exhilarating and exhausting! After two days of immersing themselves in the current reality of the Minnesota Annual Conference, and seeking to build some initial consensus on where God might be calling us in the next 10 years, there was a palpable sense at this inaugural meeting of the Transitional Table that its members were engaged in holy work. They left mentally tired and yet excited to see what was emerging.

In June, the Transitional Table was named by Bishop David Bard from a slate of over 50 nominees. It was challenging to narrow down the group to just 14! These leaders, from all over our annual conference, have committed themselves to a year of listening, discerning, and researching in order to consider how to best position the Minnesota Conference for the future in terms of staffing, structure, and resources. They will meet four times over the next year as a full group and engage in work teams between sessions. We have contracted with [Laura Johansson](#) to design and facilitate our process; I provide staff support to the Transitional Table and work with the consultant on shaping the design of the process.

At our first meeting, we spent time building community and naming our guiding values for our work together, such as making room for diverse voices, turning conflict into shared exploration, and engaging in ongoing evaluation of our work, to name a few. Each team member had conducted five interviews with a variety of stakeholders in the Minnesota Conference before arriving at the meeting, asking each one about our strengths, our opportunities, what they value, their thoughts about the role of the district superintendent, and where we invest ourselves in staffing and resourcing clergy and congregations.

From that listening, we did a deep dive into the current reality of the Minnesota Conference, naming what we would like to keep and build on, what we would like to keep but needs re-imagining, and what we are ready to let go of. We had strong agreement about our [2019 vision and the values named within that vision](#): rooted in Jesus, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all persons, and engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation. We want to keep and build on our annual conference session gathering. While we value superintending, the appointment system, and our work in church planting, it seems there is an opportunity to re-imagine these to carry us into the future. We wondered about how we outsource non-central work. We value our staff and there is recognition that staff need to lead our ministry initiatives while having more robust

teams to partner in ministry areas that represent diverse voices across the state. We acknowledged there were big questions about the role of laity as that seems to be an area in which we need to grow.

In order to have a solid proposal about staffing and structure, we need to know where we want to go. Therefore, it was time to consider the future. We asked ourselves: What is changing about how people are finding their spiritual home these days?



What are the cultural and societal trends that we need to respond to if we are going to be relevant? And we considered what we would like to see in the Minnesota Conference in 2032 if we are faithful to our mission and God's calling. Through lots of conversation and consensus work, we named five areas that we would like to commit to building and putting in place in the next five to 10 years: Better equipped to resource Gen Z and Gen Alpha through life changes

Defined roles and responsibilities that support mission-shaped structure

Collaborative models of ministry

Have engaged in the work of confession, repentance, and repair toward becoming the beloved community, with particular attention to racial and LGBTQI justice

Accountable, relevant, iterative ministries based in Wesleyan practice

These are just beginning glimmers, and those five areas have many ideas beneath each one. We formed two work teams to go out and field test these ideas. One team, the stakeholder team, is creating a list of people from which to gather input about these ideas. Are we on track? What else should we consider? What would be important to know as we seek to move forward in these initiatives? Meanwhile, another team, the research team, is exploring: Who else is working in this space? What can we learn from them?

When we gather on Nov. 9, we will take that data and refine our vision of the future, asking ourselves: Is this clear and aimed in the right direction so that we can now explore the question, "How do we staff and organize ourselves to move into that future?"

We value your perspective as we continue our work. We're asking you to respond to a [brief survey](#) to share your input on what has been developed so far. And you can always speak directly to any member of the Transitional Table (I am not a member but provide staff support):

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Go to the Minnesota Annual Conference Website at:

[www.minnesotaucmc.org](http://www.minnesotaucmc.org)

choose the article: Transitional Table begins work, identifies 5 key areas

Scroll to bottom and click on the survey button to participate in the survey

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# Outreach & Mission



Learn about the mission and outreach efforts that the Minnesota Conference is involved in. We encourage you to get involved too.

**OC Ministries:** OC Ministries is a mission arm of the United Methodist Church in Minnesota. The organization works in partnership with children and their families in developing countries. Mission focuses include churches, classrooms, curriculum, clinics, crops, clean water, clear vision, cut & sew, and connection.

**Hands-on:** Learn about Volunteers in Mission (VIM) and find opportunities to serve locally, nationally, and internationally.

**Disaster Response:** When a disaster occurs—such as a tornado, flood or fire—the Minnesota United Methodist Early Disaster Response Team is ready to respond! Learn how to get trained to be part of this team, or make a financial donation.

**Financial Support:** Find a list of Conference Advances—Advance projects that have specific ties to Minnesota.

**Missionaries:** The Minnesota Conference has direct relationships with UMC missionaries across the world. Learn how you can support a missionary through a covenant relationships with your local church.

**Special Sundays:** The UMC has six special denominational Sunday offerings each year. They are received for various ministries and recommended for certain times of the year, although they can be received at any time.

**Advocacy:** These ministries and organizations, many of which are affiliated with the United Methodist Church, work toward public support or recommendation of a particular cause or policy.

*What's In Your Closet!*

# *Wykoff Community Clothing Drive*



October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> are right around the corner!

Don't hesitate, start filling those boxes now.

And what better way to re-purpose those outfits, then to donate them to

**The 2022 Clothing Drive!**

YOU MAY DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS AT THE WYKOFF UMC OR RACINE UMC BY OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

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## **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**



## **Racine UMC has many opportunities for volunteer work!**

**Sunday School Teachers** (need a few people "men and women" to sign up and teach our young disciples, we are a safe sanctuary participate which means we always need 2 adults in the classroom. The weekly lesson plan is put together by Pastor and ready for you to step in and lead. If you would like to volunteer contact Pastor Bridget)

**Food Shelf volunteers:** Food shelf is open on Mondays 9-11am and on Thursdays 6-8pm (contact Tracy Hoover for info)

**Ice Cream Machine Point person or Persons:** Tasks include - Set up, Supply purchasing, seeking volunteers to operate machine during functions, and cleaning machine after events, *Anyone willing to take charge of this please know you will be trained in, and you will have help with any questions that may arise. This is a very easily learned job. Having a designated point person or persons makes our church planning of events more organized and less stressful (for more information, speak with Tracy Hoover)*

# Labor Day Word Search - Free Printable Wordsearch

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K J X V K T F M J J U E P D O A P T U L T L R G V S Q D D V L A  
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ORGANIZATION  
COMPENSATION  
INSTITUTION  
TRADE UNION  
ACCOUNTING  
INTERVIEW  
PART TIME  
TREASURER  
ARBITRATE  
FULL TIME

WORKHOUSE  
OFFICIAL  
CONTRACT  
LABORDAY  
ASSEMBLY  
ACTIVITY  
EMPLOYER  
BENEFIT  
RETIREE  
PAYMENT

BESECH  
SOCIETY  
WELFARE  
FALLACY  
WORKERS  
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ANNUAL

PLEDGE  
SALARY  
LEGAL  
JOINT  
UNITE  
VALUE  
MONEY  
QUALM  
MERIT  
ROLE  
FUND



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](mailto: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>

2022

