



The First Word

November 2025

First United Methodist Church, Racine

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Jeanne Whiteside

Media Coordinator

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Custodian

Fellowship host

August Grulich

Dear Church Family,

As we turn the page into November, we enter a season that invites us to pause, remember, and give thanks. The air is crisp, the leaves have fallen, and soon the scent of Thanksgiving meals will fill our homes. But before the busyness of the holidays overtakes us, we are reminded that gratitude is more than a day—it's a way of living.

This month at Racine First United Methodist Church, we begin a new sermon series titled **"The Days Are Surely Coming."** As the liturgical year draws to a close, we are not looking toward an end, but toward **God's unfolding promise**—a promise of renewal, restoration, and hope. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God's faithfulness continues even when the days grow shorter and the world seems uncertain. "The days are surely coming," he says, when God's purposes will be fulfilled and Christ's kingdom will have no end.

We begin this month by remembering the **saints**—those who have gone before us in faith—on **All Saints Sunday** (November 2). These are the people who taught us to pray, to sing, to serve, and to love. They remind us that we stand on the shoulders of those who trusted in God's promises long before us. Their faith still guides us today, and their love continues to increase in our hearts as we carry their legacy forward.

As the month continues, we will reflect on what it means to live in **"The Now Glory,"** to **"Rejoice Forever in God's Creation,"** and to stay faithful even when **"Woe to the Shepherds"** warns us to return to God's care and guidance. Through it all, we are invited to see that God is still at work—creating, restoring, and calling us into deeper faith and gratitude.

And of course, this month we also celebrate **Thanksgiving**. It's a time when we give thanks for the visible blessings in our lives—family, food, friends—but also for the unseen blessings: the grace that sustains us, the peace that calms us, and the love of Christ that binds us together as a family of faith. True gratitude doesn't come from having everything we want—it comes from recognizing that, in Christ, we already have more than enough.

As we move through November, may our hearts overflow with gratitude for all that God has done, is doing, and will continue to do among us. Let us be a community known for our thanksgiving—not only on one Thursday in November, but every day, in every act of love, service, and worship.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.” —Psalm 107:1

With gratitude and hope,
Pastor Temo Rios

NOVEMBER SERMONS

NOVEMBER 2, 2025 (All Saints Sunday)

Theme: “Love Increasing”

**Scriptures: Psalm 119:137-144 &
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12**

SERMON SERIES: “The Days Are Surely Coming” (3 week series)

As the liturgical year draws to a close, we look not to an ending but to God’s unfolding promise — a new reality where Christ reigns, hope is restored, and creation is made whole. The days are surely coming when God’s promises will be fulfilled, and Christ’s kingdom of justice and joy will have no end.

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Theme: “The Now Glory”

**Scriptures: Haggai 1:15b-2:9 & 2
Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17**

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Theme: “Rejoice Forever in God’s Creation”

**Scriptures: Isaiah 65:17-25 & 2
Thessalonians 3:6-13**

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Theme: “Woe to the Shepherds”

**Scriptures: Jeremiah 23:1-6 & Colossians
1:11-20**

“People do not live by bread alone.”

Deuteronomy 8:3

Besides spiritual nourishment alongside physical sustenance, this verse highlights that true life comes from a relationship with God and His word.

As a mission of God in feeding his people, let us consider these two ideas. People are hungry, food is expensive and many are laid off from their jobs. This month, I suggest several ideas to worship God.

1. The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner by Dan and Ray is again providing the Thanksgiving free meal for the Racine community. You may donate through the loose change offering or write a check to the church with Thanksgiving free meal on the memo line for a table that costs \$75 each. Methodist women will supplement the collection amount so that we contribute at least one table, we hope to do more.

2. Also, you may donate to the Northside Food Pantry by bringing food to church or just write a check to church with Northside Food Pantry on the memo line. Both food and money will go to the pantry. We usually serve about twenty-five families, but we are serving more people and last month, we had to close early because of lack of food.

Thank you for thinking of others and contributing when you can. Your help is much appreciated and the volunteers who represent our church on the third Thursday of each month appreciate your kindness.

Blessings,

Steve, Patti, Jayne, Ane, Cheri, Kathy, Aida

All Saints Day Celebration

All Saints Day Celebration will be Sunday November 2, 2025, as part of our Worship Service. Please invite family and friends to this time of remembrance and celebration of our Faith journey together. You're invited to stay after service to enjoy some coffee and refreshments. We will be celebrating the lives of Joseph Sens, Mark Buhler, Betty Oakley and Betty Brooks-Lipor.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER

1 – Peggy Nejedly
4 – Carole Randecker
9 – Willard Nettles
15 – June White
18 – John Kara
19 – Alexandra Feest
28 – Scott Toutant

FOOD BANK ITEM

Food bank item for November will be cake mixes. Bring your donation to church any time and place it in the crate near the entry doors. Thank you for your support of our food pantries.

CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE SET

Our Annual Charge Conference will take place on Wednesday, November 19 at 6:00 pm in the social room. All members are invited to attend as we review our past year and look forward to the upcoming year. The meeting will be led by District Superintendent InSun Lee.

Reminder for employees:

Tax time is approaching. If your address has changed, please let Jayne Dresen know so your tax documents will be mailed properly.



Jabez Elementary & Junior High School
Gordodin LPRC Community
Ganta City, Nimba-Liberia
Blessed to be a Blessing. Genesis 12:2

UPDATE ON "LITTLE JAKES"

I'm Carol, one of the Board members OF Jabez Elementary and High School, and I had the privilege of talking with Jakes on a video chat using WhatsApp (a very popular free messaging service).



Meet Jakes Mileakeh Quayle. Jakes completed the 8th and 9th grades at Jabez. He studied English, Math, Science, Civics, Physical Education, and his two favorite subjects Geography and History. His

extra curriculum subjects including tailoring which did not generate a lot of interest on his part and the computer class which he thoroughly enjoyed. He learned many functions in Word including how to create documents.

When asked what were the initial adjustments he had to make when he started the 8th grade in a new country, he was quick to reply that he had to wear a uniform and cut his hair short in order to conform to the school dress code. He was also challenged to understand Liberian English. There are significant differences in pronunciation, accent, and vocabulary compared to American English. He is much more comfortable now with the language of the environment and can make friends more easily.

Food is important to all teenagers, of course. His breakfasts in Wisconsin might be pancakes, waffles, or bacon and eggs. He mentioned, without a great deal of enthusiasm,

that he now has rice for the morning meal just like his counterparts!

Comparing teachers/classes between Wisconsin and Jabez, he remarked that in the US there were more students in class and the school day was longer. At Jabez he definitely had more homework even with a shorter school day. The language challenge was present in the classroom as well.

Even though the school day at Jabez is from 8 am to 1 pm, it actually begins at 7:30 with devotions. The children sing gospel music, pray, and each class contributes a Bible verse followed by a teacher who preaches. Jakes enjoys music and is learning to play the keyboard. He brought it with him to Liberia as music is an important part of his life. He does play the keyboard for their family devotions at home.

His secondary school education will take place at St. Lawrence Catholic School and he looks forward to being a passenger on a motorbike as his primary means of transportation to school. We of the Jabez Board wish Jakes and the other 9th graders who finished Jabez on July 7th a wonderful first year of high school.

I found Jakes to be a young man of faith and courage and determination as he crossed cultures during these formative years. He was delightful to chat with and I wish somehow I could send him a waffle/pancake/bacon and egg breakfast!

Urgent: Hurricane Melissa Makes Landfall in Jamaica — You Can Help

Midwest Mission is responding to Hurricane Melissa — and **we need your help**. Hurricane Melissa, now a Category 5 storm, **made landfall on the island of Jamaica this morning**. With sustained winds over 200mph, torrential rain that could reach 40 inches, and storm surges up to 13 feet, this

could be one of the most destructive hurricanes ever recorded in the Atlantic.

Midwest Mission has pre-staged items in Jamaica through our trusted partner Food For The Poor, who is on the ground in Jamaica. Supplies will be released as soon as the storm passes. And, we are preparing a shipment of emergency supplies to send as soon as possible.

Together, we will send:

Student Kits
Tarps
Disposable Diapers
Bed Packs
Mattresses
Feminine Products
Empty Buckets and Lids

The list continues to grow as more requests come in from Food For The Poor. A truck will depart this Friday, heading to Miami for shipment by boat as soon as it's safe to travel after the storm.

But to send as much help as possible — and respond quickly to urgent needs as they arise — we need your support.

How You Can Help

PRAY

Pray for the storm to weaken. Pray for those in its path — that they find shelter, safety, and peace in the midst of chaos. Pray for first responders and for God's protection over every person affected.

GIVE to the Hurricane Relief Fund

The best way to help right now is with a monetary donation. Financial gifts allow us to respond immediately to changing needs and purchase critical supplies in bulk. Your gift helps us act quickly when every hour counts.

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First United Methodist Church

The Vision statement:
Inspire all to live faithfully in Jesus Christ

The Mission statement:
Gather, Equip, and Serve our community and the world in the name
Jesus Christ!