



The First Word

April 2026

First United Methodist Church, Racine

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Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in this Easter season. As we move beyond the celebration of Easter Sunday, we now enter what the Church calls Eastertide—a season where we are invited not just to remember the resurrection, but to live in its hope and joy each day. I want to encourage you to carry that Easter light with you into your homes, your conversations, and your daily routines. Beginning April 12, we will journey together through a new sermon series called **Stories That Matter. In this series, we will reflect on the stories of those who encountered the risen Jesus—ordinary people who wrestled with doubt, fear, and hope, and whose lives were transformed by His presence. These are stories that remind us that resurrection is not just something we believe in, but something we are invited to experience.**

So what does it mean for us, here at Racine First United Methodist Church, to be Easter people? First, it means we are people of hope. Because Jesus is alive, we trust that God is still at work—even in the places of our lives and our community that feel uncertain or heavy. Second, it means we are people of light. We are called to reflect the love, grace, and compassion of Christ in the way we care for one another and serve those around us. My prayer is that we would not leave Easter behind, but carry it forward—that together we would grow in faith, encourage one another, and be a visible sign of God’s resurrection power right here in Racine. I look forward to walking this season with you.

**With gratitude and hope,
Pastor Temo**

APRIL SERMON SERIES

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday - "A New Start"

Jeremiah 31:1-6 & Matthew 28:1-10

Stories That Matter

(6-week sermon series - April 12 - May 17 2026)

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, is a time of embracing the promise and hope of Resurrection. It is a time of leaning into the stories that matter. Come and gather around the stories of those who wrestled with the Easter event and some of the words of preparation that Jesus gave to help us live the reality of eternity now. As a bonus, we've added some resources for Ascension Day, which you could use in place of the Seventh Sunday of Easter, or have a special midweek Ascension Service. It is clear from these stories that Jesus wanted to equip us to thrive in a season of Easter promise. This season, we hope you'll engage in stories that matter.

April 12 - "Unless I See"

1 Peter 1:3-9 & John 20:19-31

April 19 - "Amazed Us"

1 Peter 1:17-23 & Luke 24:13-35

April 26 - "Knowing That Voice"

1 Peter 2:19-25 & John 10:1-10

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the passing of our dear friend Chuck Bragg on Sunday, March 1, 2026. May God grant his family peace in knowing he is with the Lord.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN APRIL!!

4 – Jeanne Whiteside

5 - Samantha Fernholz

9 - Evelyn Schnaare

20 – Rodney Cook

28 - Courtney Johnson



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The "Food Bank Item" for April will be jams and jellies. Bring your donation any time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 5 –

FFRANC Breakfast at 8:30 am

Each Sunday –

Morning Worship at 9:30 am

Casa de Dios Worship at 5:00 pm

Each Wednesday –

Bible Study at 10:00 am

Wednesday, April 15 –

Finance Meeting at 11:00 am

Thursday, April 30 thru Saturday May 2

Kicks Crank-In in the Social Room

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR APRIL

- The WI Annual Conference is supporting Midwest Mission's disaster response and relief efforts. This year, the focus is on Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits. Our loose change offering for April will be sent to Annual Conference to assist with this project. The United Women of Faith will match any funds collected during April. Simply place your offering in one of the envelopes found in the pew racks and indicate "Mission Project" on the envelope. Thank you for your continued support of our mission projects.

SIGN UP TO PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS

There is a sign up sheet on the refreshment table where you can volunteer to provide the light refreshments on any given Sunday. Let's all enjoy the fellowship around the table!



WISCONSIN UNITED
METHODIST FOUNDATION

Starting with What We Have

In a Lenten devotional I read recently, Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail reflected on the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. When the disciples saw the crowd gathering, they immediately began doing the math. There were simply too many people and far too little food. Their focus was on the problem.

But Jesus started somewhere else. Instead of beginning with what was missing, Jesus began with what was already present: five loaves and two fish. What seemed impossibly small to the disciples became the starting point for a miracle in the hands of God.

Churches can fall into the same pattern of thinking. We sometimes begin by naming everything we lack — too few volunteers, tight budgets, or not enough people in worship. Scarcity can shape the way we see our future. But the Gospel story reminds us that God does not begin with scarcity. God begins with what we have.

I once heard a pastor describe stewardship this way: imagine placing everything your church has on a table — your people, your ministries, your building, your finances, your passion for serving others. It might not look like much compared to the needs of the world.

But that is exactly how the miracle of the loaves and fishes began. The miracle did not start with abundance. It started with a small offering placed into Jesus' hands. And that is often where God's work begins today as well.

This reflection was inspired by a devotional by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail in the Sanctified Art Lenten devotional *The Good News Is... Together, the Impossible Is Possible*.



CAMP REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!!

This year Grandparent/grandchild camp will take place June 18-21 at beautiful Lake Lucerne. Visit WUMCamps to register. Look under the "Retreat" section of the page. All are welcome.

The First Word

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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!**