



# *The First Word*

*May 2026*

*First United Methodist Church, Racine*

745 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403  
262-633-7632  
[1racineumc@gmail.com](mailto:1racineumc@gmail.com)  
<https://www.firstumcracine.org>

*Pastor*  
*Temo Rios*

*Carol Feest*  
*Administrative Assistant*

*Jan Rosellini*  
*Financial Liaison*

*Beth Michael*  
*Financial Secretary*

*Judith Schulz*  
*Church Historian*

*Nancy Cook*  
*Organist*

*Jeanne Whiteside*  
*Media Coordinator*

*Joy McClelland*  
*Custodian*

*Fellowship host*  
*August Grulich*

**Dear First Church family,**

**It is with a mixture of emotions as I write this final article for our May newsletter. I am so blessed to have served here and to get to know all of you on Sunday mornings and Bible Studies. My hope is that First Church continues to walk faithfully through this Eastertide with resurrection expectations as we continue our sermon series, *Stories That Matter* (April 12 – May 17, 2026). During this season, we embrace the promise and hope of the Resurrection by gathering around the powerful stories of those who encountered the risen Christ and wrestled with the life-changing reality of Easter morning. Together, we are exploring how Jesus prepared His followers—and prepares us still today—to live in the hope, courage, and eternity-shaping power of His resurrection. These weeks have been an opportunity to reflect deeply on the stories that continue to shape our faith and remind us that the risen Jesus is still present, still leading, and still calling His people forward, even when major shifts happen in our lives.**

**As we move toward the close of May, our journey together will also enter a meaningful season of transition. Following the conclusion of *Stories That Matter*, the final two Sundays in May will be dedicated to farewell messages as I conclude my appointment at Racine First UMC on May 31, 2026. These final sermons will serve as a time of reflection, gratitude, and encouragement as we celebrate our shared ministry and look ahead to the future God is preparing for this congregation. While transitions can be bittersweet, we trust in the Holy Spirit's continued guidance and in the faithfulness of God, who has sustained this church throughout its rich history and will continue to lead it into its next chapter. I won't say goodbye, but a grateful see you later!**

**In the hope that only Jesus gives, Pastor Temo Rios**

**SERMON SERIES FOR MAY**

**May 3 – Holy Communion**

**“You Know The Way”**

**Scriptures: 1 Peter 2:19-25 & John 14:1-14**

**May 10 – Mother’s Day**

**“The Story Abides”**

**Scriptures -1 Peter 3:13-22 & John 14:15-21**

**May 17 - “So That They May Be One”**

**Scriptures - 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 &**

**John 17:1-11**

**May 24-31 – Pastor’s Farewell Messages**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY POT LUCK AND FAREWELL  
TO PASTOR TEMO**

**Be sure to join us on Sunday, May 31 as we come together to share a meal and wish Pastor Temo and his family a blessed farewell. Bring your favorite dish to share and remain after worship for this special occasion.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MAY!!**

**2 - Jeff Fernholz**

**8 - Kay McClelland**

**12 - Jayne Dresen**

**13 - Kim Doonan**

**14 - Jane Bragg**

**24 - Lenore Creuziger**

**28 – Morgan Taylor**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN MAY!**

**14 - John & Judy Kara**

**25 - Jeff & Marcia Fernholz**

**28 - Stan & Debra Johnson**



**FFRANC BREAKFAST**

All are invited to join us in the social room on the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate FFRANC breakfast. Bring a dish to pass as we fellowship together while celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events in the lives of our members. Join us at 8:30 am on Sunday, May 3rd!

**FOOD BANK ITEM FOR MAY**

The item for May is a small bottle of dish soap. Thank you for helping this great mission! Every small act of kindness goes a long way.



**LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR APRIL  
WILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:**

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**. Your donations to our Loose Change Offerings in April totaled \$63.21. Our United Women of Faith will match those funds and a check will be forwarded to the conference for this Ingathering Mission program.

**The Loose Change Offering for May** will benefit the Wisconsin United Methodist Camps at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne. There is always a need for additional funds to keep our camps up and running smoothly and your contributions are very much appreciated. Simply place your donation in an envelope found in the pew racks and indicate “Mission Project” on the envelope. Thank you for your continued support of our mission projects.

# Peace with Justice Sunday, May 31, 2026



## What is Peace with Justice Sunday?

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. One this day, we come together to support ministries that work for peace and fairness around the world. It's a day when the church speaks out against violence and inequality and renews its commitment to be peacemakers—just as Jesus taught.

## Why Does It Matter?

The world is full of conflict, division, and injustice. Peace with Justice Sunday reminds us that the church has a role to play in making things right. United Methodists believe that working for peace means addressing the deeper causes of conflict—like poverty, racism, and oppression. It's not just about ending war, but about building a world where everyone is treated with dignity.

Peace with Justice Sunday matters because it equips United Methodists to advocate for change and support ministries that challenge systems of inequality and

## What Does My Giving Support?

Special Sundays give us a chance to focus our prayers and support on important ministries all year long—uniting our gifts to multiply our impact. Your generosity supports real change—both in your own community and around the world. Here's how the money is used:

- Annual Conference Ministries (50%)
- Ministries and Grants (50%)

You'll find a special offering envelope in the bulletin on May 31. Thank you for your donations.



May 10<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day! On this special day be sure to remember those people who have been

motherly figures in your lives, whether it's your mom, grandmother, aunt, friend, teacher, etc. We all have special women who have made an impact on our lives. Celebrate them on this special day!

### *The First Word*

is published monthly by  
First United Methodist Church  
745 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403  
Phone: 262-633-7632 - (414) 852-3722 (Pastor)

[lracineumc@gmail.com](mailto:lracineumc@gmail.com) or  
[temorios@Icloud.com](mailto:temorios@Icloud.com)  
<https://www.firstumcracine.org>

Pastor's office hours – Wednesday and Friday

8:00 until 3:00  
Pastor – Temo Rios  
Editor – Carol Feest



*First United Methodist Church*  
*745 Main Street*  
*Racine, WI 53403*

---

## **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!**

