



The First Word

August 2026

First United Methodist Church, Racine

745 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403

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<https://www.firstumcracine.org>

Pastor

Rev. Christal Bindrich

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

As I begin my third month of being your pastor, my reflection this month is based on my first impressions of the people who are the church who worship as First Racine UMC. This is a friendly, welcoming church family. The roots of heritage run deep in families who have attended, led, and served for generations. There is a deep sense of commitment to a long history of being in Racine. There is pride associated with such deep history. Rightfully so.

For over 190 years, this church has provided the community of Racine with a profound commitment to help those in need of food, clothing and the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Everyone has worked hard to keep this ministry fluid.

There is a commitment to providing meaningful worship which includes music that touches people's heart and spirit. Contemporary and traditional are included every Sunday. The streaming of our worship service is an important part of the outreach ministry.

There are those committed to book and Bible study. There is a willingness to stretch our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ in today's context.

There is a reality of the cost of keeping the building. It is a beautiful building with many wonderful memories. The wooden sculptures, stained glass windows provide a warm, welcoming sanctuary. The style of the sanctuary is like the church I grew up in and so it has felt like I have come home.

The growing edge, as I see it, is identifying the mission of the current church. What and who are the community we wish to serve, care for, and reach for the next five years? What do we want to proclaim as our reason for being a church? How can we be faithful stewards of our resources? My challenge to each member is to pray for answers to the tough questions? Sit with the questions. Listen for the answers. Together we will be able to discern the next step to answer God's call personally and collectively. See you in church, Pastor Christal

Confirmation Inquiry

An interest in having a confirmation class has been raised. If you have a child or grandchild that would like to explore their faith thru a confirmation class, please talk to Pastor Christal. She is open to having this be an intergenerational offering should any adult like to also participate. The time and duration will be explored once the group is formed.

AUGUST SCRIPTURES AND THEMES

August 2 - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Matthew 26: 26-29 "Come to the Table"

August 9 - Philippians 4:10-13, John 14:1-4 "Blessed Assurance"

August 16 (Worship In the Park) Theme TBD

August 23 - Exodus 1:8-2:10, Matthew 16:13-20 "Power"

August 30 - Exodus 3: 1-15, Matthew 16:21-28 "Acceptance"

Pastor on Vacation: Pastor Christal will be on vacation August 16 to 21st. Please contact Carol Feest for any pastoral emergencies.

The First Word

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First United Methodist Church

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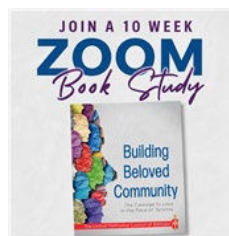
Pastor's office hours – Wednesday and Friday

9:00 am - Noon

Pastor – Rev. Christal Bindrich

Editor – Carol Feest

BOOK STUDY - Join Pastor Christal for a book study in the Reep Room on Fridays at 10:00 am. We are reading "Building Beloved Community – The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny". This book was written by the United Methodist Council of Bishops. If it has been difficult to join Pastor Christal on Fridays, please checkout the zoom class being offered by the Wisconsin Conference.



Building Beloved Community
Zoom Book Study

You are invited to participate in a 10-week Zoom book study exploring ***Building***

Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny. Written by the United Methodist Council of Bishops, this timely resource encourages United Methodists to "test the spirits" and faithfully live out our baptismal and membership vows in today's world.

To make participation as accessible as possible, the study will be offered on **Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings**, as well as **Tuesday mornings** each week. Sessions will begin the week after **Labor Day** and **conclude the week before Thanksgiving.**

Participants are encouraged to purchase a copy of the book before the study begins.

For More information or to register:

Contact Josie at josiegobel@charter.net or call 920-988-0705.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – We will have worship and a picnic in the park at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 16th at Crawford Park, 5199 Chester Lane, Caledonia (behind Pick-n-Save on Douglas and Four Mile Road). Meat will be provided. Bring a dish to share.

5TH SUNDAY IN AUGUST – Plan to remain after worship on August 30 as we celebrate "Sundae Sunday" during fellowship time. Enjoy an ice cream sundae and fellowship.

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR AUGUST will support SAFE Haven of Racine, a multifaceted nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the lives of children, youth and families across the community. Through a continuum of interconnected programs, SAFE Haven addresses immediate needs while building long-term pathways to stability, self-sufficiency and success.

SAFE Haven's impact extends well beyond shelter services. Through housing and supportive services for young adults, the organization helps individuals ages 18–24 secure and maintain stable housing while developing the skills needed for independence. Simply place your loose change or more in an offering envelope and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your continued support of our outreach ministries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN AUGUST!

4 - Judy Kara
10 -Wendy Toutant
Nancy Cook
27 - Beth Michael
29 - Elissa Pischke

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN AUGUST!!

4 - Rodney & Nancy Cook
5 - Ed & Melanie Guckenberger



FOOD PANTRY

In August we will be collecting cans of pork & beans. Place your donations in the crates located near the church entrances. Patti

Walker will deliver the items to the food pantry. Thanks for your continued support.

Did you know? During his ministry John Wesley rode over 250,000 miles on horseback, a distance equal to ten circuits of the earth.

SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Members of the church council are encouraged to attend an important meeting following morning worship on Sunday, September 13 at which time several important items will be addressed. Please make every effort to attend.



Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus Christ, as a child, you increased in wisdom and stature, you listened to your teachers and asked them questions. Bless those who learn that they may grow in the knowledge of their Maker, Redeemer, Life-giver, and your glorious world. Bless those who teach, that they may share the wisdom they have received from above and that they may do their work with patience and love that reflect your mercy that endures forever. Amen

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP SCHWERIN

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

On behalf of Bishop Schwerin and the Personnel Committee, we are pleased to announce that Karyn Saemann has been hired as the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church's new Communications Manager.

In her new role with the Wisconsin Conference, she will direct statewide communications initiatives that aim to tell the story of Wisconsin's more than 300 UMC congregations, to connect conference leaders, church members, and community partners, and to advance the conference's mission of sharing a welcoming and inclusive message of Christ's love for all.

**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!**