



The First Word

October 2026

First United Methodist Church, Racine

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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

From the Pastor's Pen

Our leadership team has been faithfully and thoughtfully considering the future direction of our ministry. Because it has been several years since our church last considered this question together, I have asked the Council to begin with a defining question: What is the missional reason for First UMC Racine to exist?

The question may feel challenging, but it invites all of us into an important time of discernment. What is our purpose as a church? Why are we here, and how is God calling us to serve now?

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18–20 gives us a foundation for that reflection: ***“Jesus came to them and said: I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you.”*** This calling directs our attention beyond preserving the institution and toward making disciples, serving others, and sharing the life of faith. Our decisions about ministry must begin there.

Our church has a long history of community outreach and service. At the same time, our congregation has become smaller over the last ten years, leaving fewer people and resources for the work before us. As we discern our future, we will need to decide how to balance our ministry priorities with the demands of maintaining our building so that our resources support our mission as effectively as possible.

Whatever the future holds, this work will require the participation of our whole church community. I invite each of us to pray about our mission and reflect on three questions: Where is God already at work in our community? Which needs are we especially equipped to meet? How can we contribute our time and gifts to the work ahead and to the betterment of God's kingdom?

See you in church,

Pastor Christal

October Scriptures

October 4, 2026 “Holy Communion”

Ephesians 4: 1-6, Luke 22: 14-20

October 11, 2026 “You Are Invited”

Acts 8: 14-25, Matthew 22: 1-14

October 18, 2026 “Worship is Our Response”

Acts 10: 34-43, Matthew 22: 15-22

October 25, 2026 “Love One Another”

Acts 10: 44-48, Matthew 22: 34-46

Confirmation Class Begins

Four students will join with their mentors beginning on October 4th to study the basic tenets of our faith in a confirmation class. Pastor Christal will lead this class. Please hold all involved in prayer as this journey begins. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for April 18, 2027.

Save the date:

Charge Conference November 5th at 6:00 pm. Rev. InSun Lee, our District Superintendent will be facilitating. All interested parties are welcome to attend as we report on the past year and look ahead to the future.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER

8 – Grayson Feest
25 - Rick Michael

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN OCTOBER

2 - Pete & Tracie Feest
14 – Harv & Carole Randecker
17 – Dean & Brittany Piliouras
18 - Ben & Amanda Schnaare
24 - Rick & Beth Michael
26 – Jean & Keith Whiteside



FOOD PANTRY ITEM FOR OCTOBER

will be tooth paste. Bring your contributions to the church

anytime. Your continued support of the food pantry is essential in serving members of our community.



WHAT IS IN YOUR HEALING BASKET?

Join Pastor Christal in exploring your spiritual gifts through art on Saturday, October 24th. We will meet at 10:00 am and finish at 2:30 pm. **NO PREVIOUS ART EXPERIENCE**

NECESSARY. Canvas, brushes, acrylic paints and lunch will be provided. Sign up on Sundays or email Pastor at PastorchristalUMC@gmail.com so we can make sure ample supplies are on hand. We are asking for \$10 donation to offset costs. Come join in the fun. Invite a friend. All ages welcome.



FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who attended the Administrative Board meeting last Sunday.

It was an excellent

opportunity for all of us to get together and discuss our Church's future. We covered many topics so here is a summary of our Financial position: We are blest with a large and gorgeous house of worship that includes a large yearly operating budget of \$200,000...60% comes from Foundation Funds and 40% from Giving.

Unfortunately, this is not sustainable.

Therefore, what is the best path forward?

Are we being good stewards of our funds?

Are we honoring the labor and sacrifice of the people behind these generous gifts?

With a glad heart, may we ponder, reflect and pray going forward.

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

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING FOR OCTOBER WILL BENEFIT THE RACINE FIRE BELLS



The Fire Bells are a community oriented group of citizens who have banded together in support of the fire service. This is done through two distinct areas of interest: Firehouse 3 Museum, and Fire Bells Emergency Service Rehab. Both areas have equal focus, although Rehab is our most visible, and often spoken about area of service.

The Fire Bells provide rehab coverage in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties serving approximately 50 fire departments and various law enforcement agencies. This is done with two vehicles - one based in Racine and the other based in Lake Geneva.





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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!**