

CIRCUIT



WRITER

Pastor Jess De Los Santos

September 2025

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Pastor's Corner

"The Race of Faith"



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV)

The author of Hebrews chapter 12 refers to the **"great cloud of witnesses"** who surrounded the believers. These witnesses are the men and women whose faith stories were chronicled through chapter 11. Having told these stories from the past, the author shifts to focus on the Christians in his own time and refers to the faithful people who have gone before them as a word of encouragement. Their faith stories are our faith stories today; their God is our God. The kind of witnesses and services they had are the same as ours today. The witnesses are examples, or better, they are testimony to the reality of faithfulness; they are not spectators or judges watching and monitoring the performance of the believers. The believers are to look for witnesses who are proof of the reality of a life of full devotion to God. The witnesses are examples; they are testimony to the reality of faithfulness; they are not spectators or judges watching and monitoring the performance of the believers. The believers are to look for witnesses who are proof of the reality of a life of full devotion to God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - encourages believers to run the race of faith with endurance, shedding the weight of sin and focusing on Jesus Christ. It emphasizes the importance of perseverance, even when facing hardship, by remembering the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him.

*Once upon a time, in a forest, there lived a speedy **hare** and a slow but steady **tortoise**. The hare loved to brag. "I'm the fastest animal in the forest!" he would say, hopping around. "No one can beat me in a race!" The tortoise was friendly and quiet and didn't like showing off. He calmly replied, "Maybe I'm slow, but I'd still like to race you." The hare burst out laughing. "You? Race me? This will be the easiest win of my life!"*

All the animals gathered to watch. "Ready, set, go!" shouted the fox, and the race began. The hare zoomed ahead so fast. The tortoise moved slowly, with its short legs and heavy shell. The hare reached a shady tree and looked back. He didn't see the tortoise anywhere. "This is too easy," said the hare. "I'll take a little nap. He'll never catch up anyway." So, the hare curled up under the tree and quickly fell asleep.



Meanwhile, the tortoise kept going - slow and steady. He didn't stop to rest. He didn't stop to snack. He just kept moving, one small step at a time. After a while, the hare woke up and stretched. "It's time to finish the race," he said. But when he looked down the path, he couldn't believe it! The tortoise was almost at the finish line! The hare ran as fast as he could, his feet thumping the ground, but it was too late. The tortoise crossed the finish line first!

All the animals cheered. "Hooray!" The animals shouted happily. "Tortoise, you have won! You are the winner. Hooray!" The tortoise smiled kindly and said, "Slow and steady wins the race." But the hare looked surprised, and a little embarrassed. From that day on, the hare learned not to brag, and he always remembered the lesson from his slow and steady friend.

In the Christian race, you don't need to run rapidly. As believers, we must run the race with perseverance, faith, and hope to win the prize. [Hebrews 12:1](#) reminds us to run our race with perseverance and never give up. Keep trying, keep moving, even when things seem hard.

Yes, the Christian life is a race. The writer of Hebrews said that if we are going to run the Christian life with no distractions and not get off track, we must keep our eyes carefully focused on Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith. **God bless everyone!**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Fellowship Hosts:</u> Linda Dufner/ Ed & Pam Forrester	1 <i>Labor Day</i> Office Closed	2	3 1pm UWF Meeting	4 10am Bible Study	5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	6
7 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS	8 1:30 Brentwood	9 3:30 Worship Mtg 7pm Finance	10 1pm Star Circle	11 10am Bible Study	12 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	13
14 <i>UWF Sunday</i> 9am RL Adult SS Birthday Cake after Service	15	16 1pm Game Day! 3:30 Invitation	17 3:30 Church & Society 5:30 Serving Benjamin House	18 10am Bible Study 10:30 Prayer Shawl	19	20
					Pastor at Continued Ed Conference	
21 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS	22 1pm Card Making Workshop 2pm Newsletter Deadline 2:30 Office Closing Early	23	24 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1pm Woodstone 2pm Church Council	25	26 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ RL Fam Rest.	27
Pastor at Continued Ed Conf.						
28 <i>Christian Education Sunday</i> 9am RL Adult SS	29	30 9am Newsletter Folders	<u>RL Liturgists</u> Sept. 7: Lisa Mink Sept. 14: Larry Neve Sept. 21: Mary Mattson Sept. 28: Paul Toft		<u>RL Greeter</u> Sept. 7: Eleanor Falkner Sept. 14: Pat Turgeson Sept. 21: Donna Cook Sept. 28: Dawn O'Brien	
Pastor at Continued Ed Conference						

Canton Service is at 9:00 am– Sunday School also at 9:00 am on September 7th and 14th
Rice Lake's Adult Sunday School is at 9:00 am, Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 am, and Service is at 10:30 am.

Invitation and Member Care

What's Happening in September?

- We will do **birthday cake on September 14th** to celebrate September birthdays after the Rice lake service.
- 3rd Tuesday of the month (Sept. 16th) is **Game Day** from 1 -3pm. Bring your game or play one of ours. If you don't like playing games— feel free to join us just for the fellowship and laughter!
- Monday, September 22nd at 1:00 pm we will hold another **card making workshop**. Bring your own supplies or use ours. Thank you to Nancy Kahl for holding this and supplying the supplies!
- September 26th at 11:30 am we will have **Lunch Bunch** at the Rice Lake Family Restaurant. Please call the office by 3pm the Thursday before to let Stephanie know if you are coming. Hope to see you there!
- At our last meeting we talked about some upcoming activities we could do and one was holding another craft event and possibly some kind of themed potluck and movie. If you have some ideas, feel free to share them with Steph in the office or one of the other Invitation & Member Care members.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4-Mary Lynn Cherry
- 5-Marvin Heidenreich
- 7-Kristine Fischer
- 14-Nancy Kahl
- 14-Leila Smith
- 14-Katrina Wille
- 15-Sarah Wittak
- 15-Kenna Rhode
- 16- Mary Mattson
- 19-Eleanor Falkner
- 29-Rod Thome



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1- Mary & Roger Pautsch
- 11- Steph & D Hampton
- 15- Tom & Dianne Barkley
- 18- Gene & Darlene Johncheck
- 19- Joe & Margie Haines
- 22- Amber & Tim Kraczek
- 28- Julie & Chris Buergi

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed then please call the office 715-234-3919 to update your info. Thanks!



Cards for sale in the narthex. Many to choose from. Only \$1 per card. Proceeds go to the General Fund.

The Prayer Tree branches are looking a little bare. If you would like to be added to the prayer tree, please call Stephanie in the office at 715-234-3919 or shoot me an email. We will mail out a new Prayer Tree poster after we add a couple more people. Thanks!

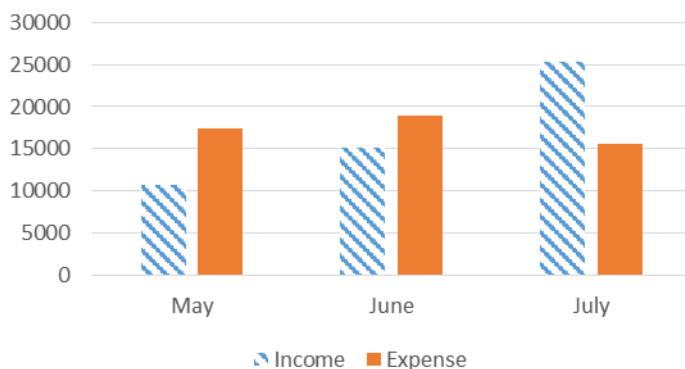


PRAYER TREE



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Farmer's Market sale a success. It may not take a village but it did take everyone to make beautiful tables full of goodies. Total earnings were \$947.75 for our General Fund. Your help was really appreciated.

General Fund



Canton UMC

SEPTEMBER



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

3-Dave Gifford
8-Nohea Davis
10- Kristie Kringle
11-Olivia Gifford
13-Josh Gifford
16- Brayden Alton
17-Marilyn Putnam
26-Zach Gifford
28-Lily Gifford
30-Andy Gifford

Anniversaries

19- Dale & Carole Crisler

Please call the office if we are missing any important dates. Thanks!

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER

22

Deadline

Newsletter Deadline Change for September

Please note the newsletter deadline will be September 22nd at 2pm and newsletter folding will be Tues., Sept. 30th at 9:00 am. Thanks!

Church

The service at the Canton ballpark on August 17th was attended by a larger crowd than anticipated, and we were blessed with dry weather. Adding to the service were two new songs we sang accompanied by Jeim and Jehiel on the keyboard and guitar. Fellowship followed with a continental breakfast.

Confirmation

There are plans being made for a confirmation class this fall. Please call the church office if you have not registered your child (12 or older) and would like them included.

UWF

Save the date: The annual spaghetti supper will be October 11th. More information will be in the October newsletter.

Sunday School

With Sunday School resuming on September 7th, the teachers are making plans for some fun new activities and more exploration of the Bible. If you have children who will be joining us, please call Michele Halvorson at 715-458-4294 if possible.

Canton Liturgists

1st Sunday: De Los Santos
2nd Sunday: Arlene Ciulla
3rd Sunday: Halvorsons
4th Sunday: Kristie Kringle

If you're interested in being a liturgist, please let Kristie know.

Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God's faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God's ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God's steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.



Church & Society

The Church and Society Committee has decided to enter a team in the Barron County Walk to End Alzheimer's event on Oct. 4th at the UW-EAU-Claire Barron Campus in Rice Lake.



We know most of us wouldn't walk for miles but we won't have to, we can walk what we are able to and that would be helpful. A few of us have already expressed interest in doing what we can. So plan to join us for The Walk at 10am on Oct. 4th at the Barron Campus: 1800 College Dr. Rice lake.

Registration starts at 8:30am followed by a kick off presentation before the walking begins. We all know the terrible impact of Alzheimer's in the lives of so many families. If we can help in some way, let's go for it.

Adult Sunday School

After an August break, Sunday School for adults will start up again on September 7. We'll be using an Adam Hamilton study that a few of you may remember from **several years** ago, Half Truths, subtitled God helps Those Who Help Themselves and other things the Bible Doesn't Say.

Some of the statements we'll examine sound like they might come from the Bible and they might have some element of truth, but they can lead us away from the gospel truth of Jesus. Expect lively discussion as we spend six weeks with the book and accompanying DVD.



All are welcome at 9 AM on Sunday mornings. Books will be available ahead of time so you can get started on the first chapter.

The United Methodist Church has consistently stated its intent through church and community witness to advance the cause of peace and justice.

If viewing online, just click the links below if not then go to the website <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/take-action-2025>

CURRENT ACTION ALERTS

Take action and make sure your elected officials hear from you! All current and relevant advocacy actions can be found below.

GRACE OVER GREED

- [Tell Congress to Prioritize Grace Over Greed in Budget Reconciliation](#)
- [Tell Congress to Oppose the “Nonprofit Killer” provision in the budget reconciliation package](#)
- [Tell The Senate to Prioritize Social Safety in Budget Reconciliation](#)

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- [Protect Immigrant Families and Communities. Support Sensitive Locations Act - H.R. 1061](#)
- [Protect The Sacred Right To Vote.](#)
- [Urge Your Senator to Support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools.](#)
- [Tell Congress to Support The Religious Workforce Protection Act.](#)

ECONOMIC, HEALTH AND GENDER JUSTICE

[Tell Congress to Protect Medicaid and SNAP](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

[Urge Congress to Fully Fund The EPA and NOAA](#)

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

- [Support Nuclear Arms Control -Block Weapons Sales Fueling Conflict in the Middle East](#)
 - [Urge Your Representative to Support Peace in Korea](#)
 - [Urge Your Representative to support House Resolution 317 \(H.Res.317\) to Pursue a World Free of Nuclear Weapons.](#)
 - [Tell Congress to Support Gun Violence Prevention Legislation](#)
 - [Tell Congress to Support The No War with Iran Resolution](#)
- [Block the Transfer of Lethal Weapons to Israel](#)

Be a professing member of the United Methodist Church



Join

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2025-2026

FOR AGES 12-17

Register through the church office or see/email Deaconess Imelda at imeldadgdl5768@gmail.com on or before September 7, 2025.

Class starts in FALL.

Further details to follow....



WEEKLY READINGS

September 7

Holy Communion

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 14

UWF Sunday

Birthday Cake

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalms 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 21

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalms 79:1-4

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 28

Christian Ed Sunday

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

Did you know you can find the weekly scriptures on our website calendar? Just click whatever Sunday you want to look at and it will list the scriptures, click on the scripture and it will take you to the reading.

From the Worship Committee

****Liturgist Volunteers Needed!**** We're looking for anyone interested in leading parts of our Sunday service. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, please have them get in touch with Barbara Burdick – she'll find a Sunday that works perfectly.

****Confirmation Classes This Fall!**** Pastor Jess is running confirmation classes this fall and would love to have more kids from our congregation participate. If you know any children who might be interested (and are the right age), please let Pastor Jess know so they can sign up!



****Share Your Musical Talents!**** We had such a wonderful time with Donna Larson's music in July! If you (or anyone you know!) plays an instrument or sings and would like to share their talent with the congregation, let us know – we'd love to hear from you!

I want to thank everyone for helping me celebrate my Recognition of becoming a Certified Lay Minister, both by being at the Recognition Service and by joining me in the wonderful pot luck Lunch. So much food!

I really felt all the love everyone was sending me. Everyone was a blessing to me.
Mary Mattson





United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith's mission is to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education. This is done so they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. They aim to be a powerful force driven by God's love, united in sisterhood, and focused on women, children, and youth, acting for justice and transforming communities.

Rice Lake UWF Unit Meeting- Sept. 3rd at 1 p.m.

United Women in Faith Sunday, September 14

This year our guest speaker will be Rev. Carolyn Saunders. I know she will inspire us to live the UWF Purpose.

If you have been awarded a Special Mission Recognition pin, please wear it that day as a sign of 'Carrying Your Faith Forward'.

We want your worn, holey, mismatched SOCKS!

Clean out your sock drawer and bring those washed socks to the blue round tub in the Narthex. Our district continues to collect socks to ship to Terracycle. By doing this, we keep those socks out of the landfills and we earn financial support for Northcott Neighborhood House.

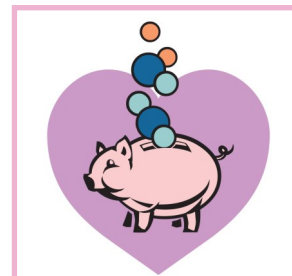


2025 Budgets

It's budget time again! Forms will be in your trays for planning next year's budget. Please turn them in to the office by the end of September. Thanks!

World Thank Offering Suggestion for September:

Did you have an inspirational teacher? Add some coins.



HELPFUL UWF LINKS

- Get news, resources, and more here: <https://uwfaith.org>
- Hear the latest podcasts and webinars: <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>
- Mission Resource Center: www.umwmissionresources.org

UWF North West District Annual Fall Gathering

Saturday, September 27 at Medford UMC. It will be all about mission and our relationship to God and to the Earth. There will be an update from retired missionary, Paul Webster.

Registration forms available in our church office and on the UWF bulletin board.



Restock the SHELVES

Food Pantry basket is still located in the narthex.

**First United Methodist Church
Canton United Methodist Church
1221 Wesley Drive, Rice Lake, WI 54868**

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September 2025 The Circuit Writer

First United Methodist Church

1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake, WI 54868
Phone: (715) 234-3919
Email: office@ricelakeumc.org
Website: www.RiceLakeUMC.org

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am

All our worship services can be heard on your phone by dialing 1(855)788-3919 or watch us on Facebook.

Canton United Methodist Church

2408 15 3/8 Ave., Rice Lake, WI 54868
Office: 1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake, WI
Phone: (715) 234-3919
Email: office@ricelakeumc.org

Worship Service: 9:00 am

Sunday School: resumes Sept. 7th at 9:00 am

Pastor: Rev. Jess De Los Santos

Email: pastorjess@ricelakeumc.org

Cell: 1-757-761-2735

Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 9:30am-12:30pm & by appt

Office Manager: Stephanie Byrnes-Hampton

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am-4:00 pm



Facebook— search for First United Methodist Church of Rice Lake, make sure to “Like” us and Facebook should notify you when we go “Live.”

You-tube— you should be able to find the latest Sunday services on our You-tube page: First UMC of Rice Lake Media. Facebook is deleting the older videos so I am trying to move them over here.

Over-the-Phone— Call 1-855-788-3919 and sign up for it to call you automatically any time we go “live” by pressing 1 when it asks you to, or you can call or email the church office to manually add you to the list that is called automatically, OR you can just call in every week. If you call before the service “goes live” you will hear some of last week’s service but it will switch over automatically to the new service. Just hang on the line.

