



Pastor's Corner

"The Beauty of Spring"



"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it **springs** up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise." (Isaiah 43:19-21 NIV)

Wishing you all a Happy Spring! Enjoy the beauty of the season with God's bountiful blessings. I love the spring season because it's a season of new beginnings and growth. I really enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the season. One of the most remarkable features of spring is the way in which plants and trees come back to life. The flowers begin to bloom, the grass turns a rich green, and trees sprout fresh leaves. This explosion of new life symbolizes growth, renewal, and nature's power to regenerate itself. The scent of flowers and fresh grass fills the air, and the sounds of birds chirping and bees buzzing become common once again. It's generally a very pleasant time of the year. Spring is a highly symbolic time of year, with many symbols representing the season.

In the Bible, spring symbolizes renewal, rebirth, hope, and the promise of new beginnings. The season serves as a powerful metaphor for spiritual transformation and revitalizing power.

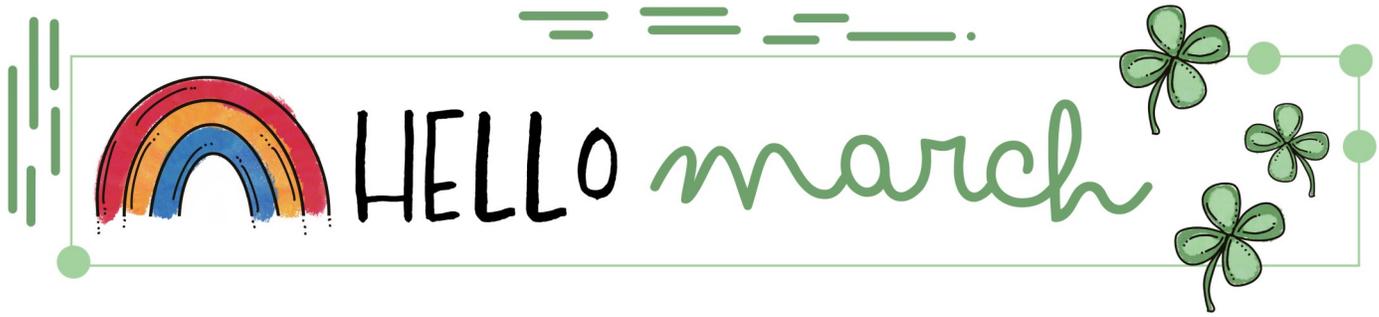
Isaiah 43:19 resonates with the themes of renewal and divine intervention. The phrase "*I am doing a new thing*" signifies God's intention to initiate change and bring forth something extraordinary. This newness is not simply a change in circumstances; it embodies the promise of spiritual rejuvenation and transformation.

The passage invites us to reflect on our own lives. Are we ready and open to the new things God wants to bring into our lives? It's a call to awareness and challenges us to be attentive to the signs of God's presence and movement. The Prophet Isaiah encourages us to cultivate an expectation of new beginnings and faith in God's power to bring about unexpected blessings.

Yes, the spring season signifies renewal and rebirth throughout the Bible. Ezekiel 36:26 says, "***I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart.***" God promises to give us a new heart and spirit, reflecting profound change. The imagery of new life parallels the physical rebirth seen in nature. Just as trees sprout fresh leaves and flowers blossom, our faith can awaken and flourish too. Isaiah 43:19 reassures us that God is doing a new thing. Everyone can experience personal renewal through faith, mirroring nature's cycles of growth, fostering hope and rejuvenation.

So, as we reflect on the promise of Isaiah 43:19, let it inspire us to embrace transformation and renewal. In doing so, we align our hearts with God's vision for our lives, fostering a spirit of hope that can illuminate even the darkest paths. In our journey of faith, may we always remain alert to the new beginnings God is orchestrating in and around us. Yes, spring is a season that encourages us to embrace change, celebrate new beginnings, and appreciate the beauty and vitality of the world around us. It reminds us that after every cold and challenging period, there is always the potential for growth, renewal, and joy. **God bless everyone!**





| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|-----|
| 1 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9am RL Adult SS | 2 <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Fellowship Hosts: Cheryl Hedgecock Ron & Jeanne Parker </div> | 3 | 4 1:15 pm Office Closing 4pm Confirmation Class 5:30 Lent @ RL UMC | 5 | 6 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> World Day of Prayer | 7 |
| 8 <i>Daylight Savings</i> 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS Cake after RL Service | 9 1:30 Brentwood | 10 3:30 Worship | 11 1pm Star Circle 4pm Confirmation Class 5:30 Lent @ Canton UMC | 12 1pm Trustees Meeting | 13 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 14 |
| 15 9am RL Adult SS | 16 4pm Newsletter Deadline | 17 1pm Game Day! 3:30 Invitation & Member Care | 18 4pm Confirmation Class 5:30 Serving BH 5:30 Lent @ RL UMC | 19 10:30 Prayer Shawl | 20 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 21 |
| 22 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS | 23 | 24 9am Folding the newsletter 2pm Woodstone Worship | 25 8:30 Men's Breakfast 2pm Church Council 4pm Confirmation 5:30 Lent @ Canton UMC | 26 | 27 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:30 Lunch Bunch | 28 |
| 29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9am RL SS LOUD Offering 5th Sunday Potluck after service | 30 | 31 | April 1 4pm Confirmation | 2 5:30 Maundy Thursday Service @ RL | 3 5:30 Good Friday Service @ RL | 4 |

Canton Service is at 9:00 am– Sunday School also at 9:00 am on March 8th and 22nd.
 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 March:

- ◆ **Celebrating March Birthdays!**- Cake following service on March 8th.
- ◆ **Game Day!**- March 17th at 1:00 pm. Bring your favorite game or try one of ours. Due to low participation it will be decided whether to continue Game Day or not.
- ◆ **Invitation & Member Care** meeting after Game Day! Bring your ideas.
- ◆ **Lunch Bunch**– is March 27th at 11:30 am the place to be determined. Lunch Bunch is a casual gathering at various restaurants in the area. Please call the office to let us know if you are coming by 3pm on the Thursday prior.
- ◆ **5th Sunday Potluck**– in coordination with the Worship committee we will hold a finger food/appetizer potluck after service on March 29th. Please bring a dish to share and join us for some fellowship! Canton is welcome to join us!



- 3– Barron West
- 5– Anson Frye
- 6– Penelope Fischer
- 6– George Swanson
- 8– Pam Forrester
- 9– Zachary Toft
- 10– David Moin
- 21– Travis Rae
- 21– Molly Rae
- 23– West Dufner
- 23– Maggie Maust
- 26– Tabi Zegarowicz
- 30– Sylvia Fischer
- 30– Elizabeth Frye
- 30– Shirley Olson
- 31– Dale Gonyea

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

Thursdays @ the U

This series, partly funded by the UW-Barron County Foundation, will explore topics in the arts, sciences, public affairs, literary fields and cultural areas. These lectures are free and open to the public every Thursday from 12:30-1:30 and are held in our Blue Hill's Lecture Hall, BRRH234.

Details of the Spring 2026 Thursday@U Presentation Lineup can be found at <https://calendar.uwec.edu/barron-county/>

- 5-Mar Emily Cole [Bats of Wisconsin](#)
- 12-Mar Major Kristin Walukas [Civil Air Patrol: "Wings of Service"](#)
- 26-Mar Doug Haverson [Beer Barrons: Brewing in Rice Lake and Northwest Wisconsin](#)

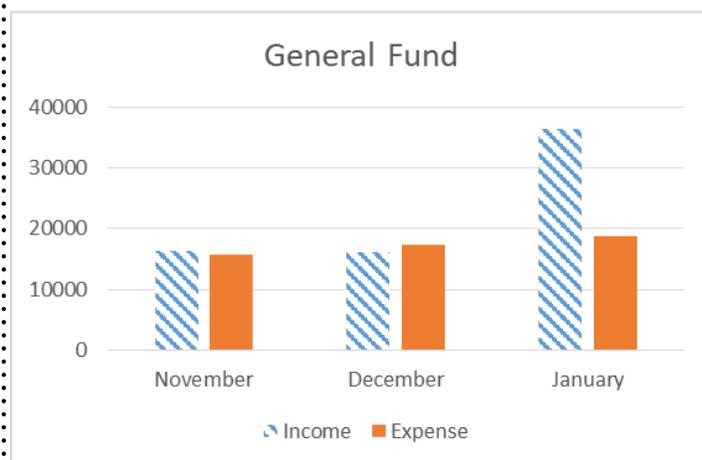
If viewing the newsletter online, you can click the links for more information.

Cookbooks
Only \$17
each!



Do You Want to Fast this Lent? (In the Words of Pope Francis)

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



January income includes \$16,270 transferred from Money Market account.



United Women in Faith

Star Circle meeting is March 11th @ noon at Lehman's.
Next UWF meeting is May 6th @ 1pm.

A Call to Prayer & Self-Denial 2026 program theme--- The Future is Now: Invest in Our Children (reference Matthew 18:3-5)

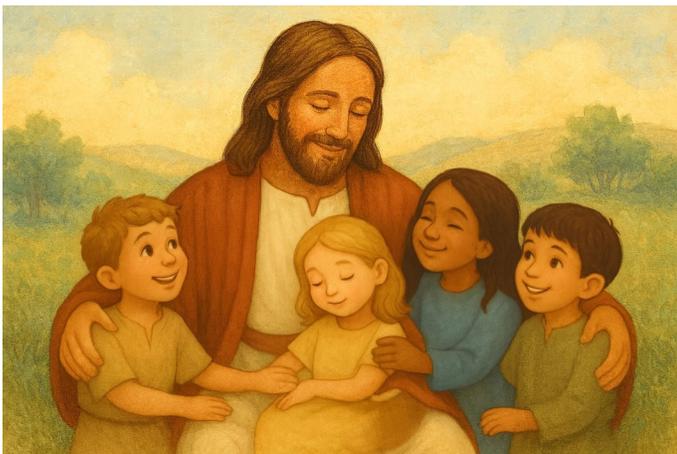
This year's offering will support the work of United Women in Faith's National Mission Institutions, which help our most marginalized and vulnerable children through low-cost early-childhood education, afterschool programs with a hot meal and caring mentors and enrichment programs and many other supports. Let us give generously to help create a more just world for all children and their families. Donations are accepted thru March 31 and may be dropped at our church office. Check the January/February 2026 issue of Response magazine for the complete study.

Children Learn What They Live by Rachel Harris, (partial) copyright 1998 Workman Publishing

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.



SAVE THE DATE - ZOOM EVENT

SOCIAL ACTION DAY

Sat., April 11, 2026 from 9:00-noon

“RESPONDING IN LOVE”

As United Methodists, we believe that God has given us principles for how to live in a community. Central to Jesus’ teachings, life, death, and resurrection is the Great Commandment: we must love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34)

“We declare that all individuals, no matter their circumstances or social standing are entitled to basic human rights and freedoms... As a church, we will work to protect these rights and freedoms within the church and to reform the structures of society to ensure that every human being can thrive.” The UMC 2025-2028 Social Principles: The Political Community, Government Responsibilities, Basic Rights and Freedoms.

SPEAKERS

- Attorney Grant Govern- “Immigration in Wisconsin” – Standing Up for Due Process
- Rev. Breanna Illéné- “How Congregations Can Take Action on Immigration in Their Own Communities”

In coordination with the Church & Society Committee we will be holding a watch party at Rice Lake UMC. \$10 registration fee. We will have coffee, juice, and muffins around 8:30 with sign in.

World Thank Bank Suggestions for 2026

We can be grateful for everyday joys. Add coins to your Thank Bank in March for- Enjoying a morning cup of coffee or tea.

SAVE the DATE

Spring Day of Enrichment will be on Saturday, April 18 in Menomonie. Watch your April newsletter for more info.

Canton UMC



Birthdays

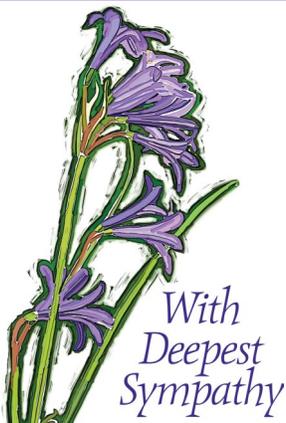
2– Laura Harmony
7– Adelyn MacDonald
8– Arlene Ciulla
25– Aolani Davis
25– Micah Halvorson

Please call the office (715-234-3919) if we are missing any of your important dates.

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.



- Prayers for the Turgeson family. Ron's sister, Norma passed away in February.
- Shirley Peterson passed away February 7th.
- Pat Moin and Kathy Robarge's brother David passed away.

Church

The Mingle, Learn, and Share gathering before service on Sunday morning is an enjoyable addition to our Sunday morning together. If you can come by 8:40, you can be part of this mini bible study.

Remember the March Lenten services will be held at Canton on March 11th & 25th @ 5:30 pm.

UWF

Several of our ladies are planning to attend the Spring Day Of Enrichment on April 18th in Menomonie. This is day of wonderful fellowship and speakers that inspire us in our mission work. All women are invited! If you would like to go, call Michele @ 458-4294. We will be carpooling.

Sunday School

Sunday School will be held on March 8th & 22nd. We are planning to take the pop cans to recycling in March. If you have some and need them picked up, please call Arlene @ 715-205-3656.

5th Sunday Potluck in Rice Lake on March 29th – Rice Lake's Invitation & Member Care Committee and the Worship Committee will hold a finger food/ appetizer potluck after service on March 29th. Please bring a dish to share and join us for some fellowship! Canton– come join us!

Faith That Blooms Anew

“Why are you anxious?” asked our Lord. Then He said, “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” (Matthew 6:28–29, NIV)

Jesus' words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.



People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter's gray. God's reliability is woven into creation itself.

As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote:

God does not send strange flowers every year,
When the Spring wind blows o'er the pleasant places,
The same dear things lift up the same fair faces,
The violet is here.

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.

Celebrate UMCOR Sunday, March 15

In 2025, UMCOR responded to 115 humanitarian crises around the world. These responses were strengthened by gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering, which helps to cover administrative costs so that donations given throughout the year go directly to those in need.

Ingathering 2026: Let's Fill the Truck!



The Wisconsin Conference Mission Motivation Committee invites local churches to participate in Ingathering 2026: Let's Fill the Truck! at WI Annual Conference, supporting Midwest Mission's disaster response and relief efforts. This year, the focus is on Personal Dignity Kits and Home

Care Kits, though donations of any approved Midwest Mission items are welcome. All items must be new and follow kit guidelines. Donations may be dropped off at Annual Conference in Middleton on Friday, June 5 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.), at designated temporary sites, or at permanent collection locations throughout the year. Monetary donations are also accepted. Midwest Mission distributes all supplies free of charge to people in need locally, nationally, and globally.

NEEDED ITEMS TO COLLECT

(You may make complete kits or donate any of the items from these kits)

Personal Dignity Kits

- 1 Hand Towel - No kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - No dishcloths
- 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multi-packs
- 1 Bar Soap - 3 - 4 oz
- Shampoo - 12 - 19 oz (tape lid shut)
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
- 1 Lotion – 8-10 oz (tape lid shut)
- 1 One gallon resealable plastic bag

All items must be NEW & placed in the one-gallon resealable plastic bag.

\$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag, per kit. Please give the donation to volunteers at Annual Conference, and do not place cash in the resealable plastic bag.

Home Care Kits

- Liquid Household Cleaners - 58 - 80 oz. total - no spray bottles
- Dish Soaps - 42 - 64 oz total
- Liquid Laundry Detergents - 100 - 150 oz total
- 1 Scrub Brush - with or without handle
- 1 - 5-gallon round bucket with resealable lid

All items must be NEW & placed in the bucket.

March 2026 Stewardship Newsletter Grace That Keeps Moving

There's a difference between grace that stops with us and grace that keeps moving.

Grace, at its core, is a gift we didn't earn and can't repay. God offers love, forgiveness, mercy, and belonging not because we've checked the right boxes, but because that's who God is. And while receiving grace can be life-changing, one of the most faithful responses to grace is letting it flow through us to someone else.

The 2000 movie *Pay It Forward* explores this idea through a simple, hopeful premise. A middle-school student is given an assignment to come up with an idea that could change the world. His solution is disarmingly small: instead of paying someone back for a kindness, you "pay it forward" by doing something generous for three other people; something they couldn't easily do for themselves. Those people then do the same for others, creating a ripple effect of generosity and compassion.

The film isn't naïve about the difficulty of living this way. Not everyone responds. Some people stop the chain. Others are changed deeply. But the idea at the heart of the story rings true: grace grows when it's shared.

That's how God's grace often works in the real world. We receive forgiveness and choose to forgive someone else. We experience generosity and become more generous. We are shown patience and learn to extend patience to others. Grace doesn't lose power when it's shared – it multiplies.

Stewardship, at its best, is not about extracting resources or enforcing obligations. It's about helping people recognize the grace they've already received – and inviting them to pass it along. When generosity is rooted in gratitude and grace, it stops being a burden and becomes a joy.

Worship Committee

Lenten services at 5:30 pm:

Feb 25th: Lenten service at Canton
 March 4th: Lenten service at RL
 March 11th: Lenten service at Canton
 March 18th: Lenten service at RL
 March 25th: Lenten service at Canton
 (No phone service, just Facebook.)

April 2nd: **Maundy Thursday Service** and communion at Rice Lake at 5:30

April 3rd: **Good Friday Service** also at Rice Lake at 5:30

April 5th: **Easter Sunday** — Canton Service at 9:00 am
 Rice Lake Service at 10:30 am



WEEKLY READINGS



March 1
Holy Communion
 Genesis 12:1-4
 Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17

March 8
Birthday Cake
 Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-11
 John 4:5-42

March 15
 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 23
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

March 22
 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 130
 Romans 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45

March 29
Palm Sunday
LOUD Offering
5th Sunday Potluck
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Matthew 21:1-11
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:9-11
 Matthew 26:14-27:66

5th Sunday Potluck— in coordination with the Invitation & Member Care committee we will hold a finger food/appetizer potluck after service on March 29th. Please bring a dish to share and join us for some fellowship!

Order Your Easter Lilies Now!!

We would like to decorate our worship area with lilies for this year's Easter Worship. The form below gives you an opportunity to order a lily that you can dedicate in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one. Only lilies are available this year.



Please fill out the form and return it to the church office by March 3. Checks should be made payable to: First United Methodist Church.

If you bring flowers of your own, please have them to the church by noon on Tuesday, March 31 to be listed in the bulletin. Don't forget to let us know in whose honor or memory they are for.

Please make sure that you take your lily home following the Easter service on April 5th. Thank You!



_____ I would like to donate \$14 for a lily for Easter worship services.

_____ I will bring my own flowers.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____

RL March Liturgists

1: Kate Blount
 8: Dennis Blount
 15: Imelda De Los Santos
 22: Jeim De Los Santos
 29: Jehiel De Los Santos

RL March Greeters

1: Pat Turgeson
 8: Joyce Foster
 15: Heather Madison
 22: Dawn O'Brien
 29: Maggie Maust

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

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March 2026 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
Coffee Fellowship: 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am

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: March 8th & 22nd 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 appmt

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.”

Youtube— you can find the latest Sunday services on our Youtube page: First UMC of Rice Lake Media. Facebook is deleting the videos after 30 days so I am moving them to Youtube weekly.

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.



We are looking for more updated pictures for our website. Please email these with a note of who, what, where and why to the office. Thanks!