



Pastor Jess De Los Santos

April 2026

"Love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously"

Pastor's Corner

"Hallelujah! Jesus Is Alive!"



After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to go and anoint the body of Jesus. ²Very early on Sunday morning, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³⁻⁴On the way, they said to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (It was a very large stone.) Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back. ⁵So they entered the tomb, where they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe—and they were alarmed. ⁶"Don't be alarmed," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here—he has been raised! Look, here is the place where he was placed. ⁷Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: 'He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you.'" (Mark 16:1-6 GNT)

Hallelujah! Christ is risen; He is alive! Beautiful people of God, it is my great joy to greet you, A Happy Easter Celebration. May the blessings of Jesus' resurrection be upon you all.

The women purchased the burial spices on Saturday evening after the Sabbath had ended so they could go to the tomb early the next morning and anoint Jesus' body as a sign of love, devotion, and respect. Bringing spices to the tomb was like bringing flowers to a grave today. In the Philippines, it is our practice to bring flowers to a tomb for our loved ones who have gone before us, especially during All Saints' Day/All Souls' Day.

These women mentioned in our text faced an overwhelming problem as they set out to honor the Lord Jesus Christ's body: the huge stone in the tomb's doorway. They were asking each other, *"Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"* But they saw the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, indicating His resurrection.

Praise God, the huge stone was rolled away. There's no more hindrance, no more problem. In every problem, there is a solution, there is a source of strength. The stone was not rolled away so Jesus could get out, but others could get in and see for themselves that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, just as He said to the disciples He would.

Mark 16:1-7 stands as a poignant reminder of the resurrection's profound significance. It offers hope in times of despair, faith in times of doubt, and assures us of God's power to bring about miraculous transformations in our lives. As we reflect on this passage, may we find solace in the enduring message of Christ's Resurrection - the triumph of life over death, light over darkness, and hope over despair. The Resurrection provides the substance of the church's witness to the world. We do not merely tell lessons from the life of a good teacher; we proclaim the reality of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"The relevance of our text extends beyond its historical context, speaking directly to people today. In a world marked by uncertainty and challenges, the message of hope and renewal embedded in the resurrection narrative resonates deeply. It encourages individuals to hold onto faith in Christ, even in the face of trials and adversity, and to trust in God's promises of redemption and transformation." The image of the stone being rolled away serves as a powerful metaphor for overcoming obstacles through divine intervention, inspiring all believers (including you and me) to persevere in our faith journey.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p><u>RL Liturgists</u> April 5: Lisa Mink April 12: Mary Pautsch April 19: Heather Madison April 26: Larry Neve</p>		<p><u>RL Greeters</u> April 5: Pat Turgeson April 12: Pat Asuma April 19: Barb Burdick April 26: Donna Cook</p>		1 4pm Confirmation Class	2 Office Closed 5:30 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion	3 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	4
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9am RL Adult SS 10am Canton Egg Hunt	6 Office Closed	7	8 1pm Star Circle 4pm Confirmation Class	9 1pm Trustees	10 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	11 8:30 Registration 9-12 "Responding in Love" Watch Party	
12 Cake after RL service 9am RL Adult SS	13 1:30 Brentwood	14 3:30 Worship Meeting	15 4pm Confirmation Class 5:30 Serving Benjamin House	16 10:30 Prayer Shawl	17 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	18 UWF Spring Day of Enrichment	
19 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS	20 1pm Card Making 4pm Newsletter Deadline	21	22 4pm Confirmation Class	23	24 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	25	
26 9am RL Adult SS	27	28 9am Newsletter Folders 2pm Woodstone	29 8:30 Men's Breakfast 4pm Confirmation Class	30	<p><u>Fellowship Hosts:</u> Carolyn Kaupanger and Mari Spear</p>		

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 April:

- ◆ **Celebrating April Birthdays!**- Cake following service on April 12th.
- ◆ **Game Day**— has been cancelled.
- ◆ **Lunch Bunch**— will be April 24th at 11:30 am, the place is 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.
- ◆ ***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!***

With Mother's Day fast approaching how about a church cookbook! It's more than just recipes its also memories of your friends and family. Only \$17 each.



- 3- Steven Aune
- 5- Gene Johncheck
- 6- Dave Semple
- 8- Jake Zegarowicz
- 9- Debbie Wille
- 13- Lukas Zegarowicz
- 18- Amber Kraczek
- 22- Dana Bundgaard
- 29- "Pudge" Kohel

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/>

- 2-Apr Annie Jones [Indigenous Ways of Knowing About Wisconsin's Tribal Nations](#)
- 9-Apr Thomas Wayne King & Debra King [Raising Icelandic Sheep](#)
- 16-Apr Mark Sherman [A Few Observations on Perennial Agriculture](#)
- 23-Apr Jessica Michna [Molly Brown: Hard Scrabble to High Society](#)
- 30-Apr Richard Mills, Dayn Leonardson [Making Modern Audio Drama](#)

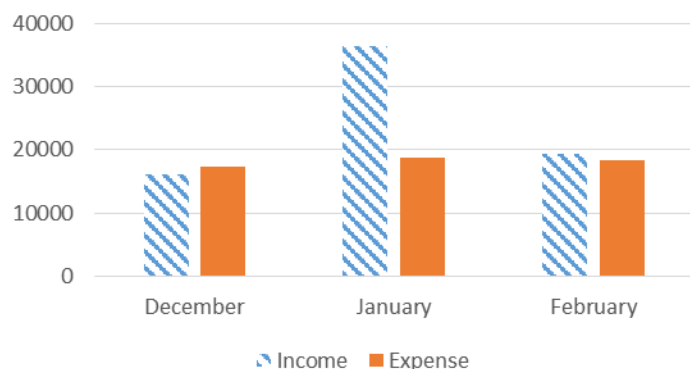
If viewing the newsletter online, you can click the links for more information.



- 1- Tabitha & Jake Zegarowicz

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

General Fund



Yes, I can!

I cannot end poverty, but I can feed one hungry person. I cannot stop war, but I can offer peace to my neighbor. I cannot prevent death, but I can hold the hand of someone who is dying.

These may seem like small acts, yet they are far harder—and far more meaningful—than any grand plan for social change. Christ reminds us of their worth: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40, NIV).

Canton UMC



Birthdays

- 6- Glen Kohls
- 12- Greg Hagberg
- 29- Dale Crisler
- 30- Don Halvorson

Anniversary

- 12- Micah & Jennifer Halvorson

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

Church News

Spring is here, and it brings a need for spring cleaning of the church. The sign up sheet is on the music stand awaiting sign ups! Remember, you can volunteer for 1 job or several. If you need the church opened, call Del @ 715-458-4294.

United Women in Faith

The registration deadline for the Spring Day of Enrichment at Menomonie is April 10th. The Theme for the day is "Creation Care". The gathering starts at 8:30 and concludes @ 2:15. If you would like to join us, call Michele @ 725-458-4294. We will be car pooling.

Sunday School

Sunday School will be held on April 19. Although we will not be having Sunday School on Easter, we will have our annual Easter Egg hunt following the church service.

Canton Liturgists

- 1st Sunday: De Los Santos
- 2nd Sunday: Arlene Ciulla
- 3rd Sunday: Halvorsons
- 4th Sunday: Lexi Halvorson



Easter is the proof that evil men never have the last word about the things of God. —C. Neil Strait



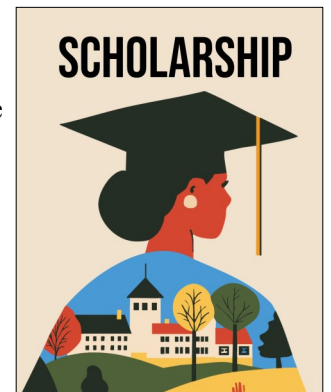
Camping Opportunities

There are camps available for all ages and abilities again this year. There are weekend retreats of fun and sun. Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne are the beautiful main camp sites. A few camping brochures are available in the narthex but it is easy to plan your summer adventure online at www.WIUMCamps.org. You can find scholarships there and Rice Lake UMC has scholarship funds as well—just let the office know you have registered. Be sure to make your reservation as soon as you can, since the camps will fill up quickly. Directions to the camps are in the brochure and online. Happy Camping!! If you have questions call Candy Bandli 715-736-3412



Starkey Memorial Scholarship

The Starkey Memorial Scholarship is being made available to any United Methodist 4-year college students whose residence is in Barron County. This includes entering freshmen through returning seniors. The amount of the scholarship is \$500.00. Selection will be based upon financial need and demonstrated academic potential.



Scholarship applications are available through our website www.ricelakeumc.org or the church office of the First United Methodist Church, 1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake WI 54868. Deadline is May 28 by 4pm.



United Women in Faith

Spring Day of Enrichment 2026

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Menomonie United Methodist Church

Our Theme for the Day is "Creation Care"

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. Gen. 1:31 RSV"

Speaker: Heather Phelps, Heather is a Student Resource Specialist at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, where she develops and lends out hands-on kits for educators to teach about environmental topics. As a passionate climate advocate, Heather attended the global climate conference COP28 in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, in 2023 and serves on the Stevens Point Sustainability Commission. She also works to connect faith and climate action, leading the Eco-Justice Team at St. Paul's United Methodist Church and speaking at churches around the state about the Christian response to climate change.

Our Spring Day will start at 8:30 a.m. with registration and refreshments. Our agenda will include devotions by Menomonie UMC Pastor Wendy Slaback, two presentations by our main speaker Heather Phelps, unit awards, book reviews, a delicious lunch and more. We will conclude our time together by 2:15 p.m. with a prayerful send off. As we journey home, we can continue to celebrate this time together and live forward to engage an ongoing mission of Creation Care.

We are inviting attendees to bring a "picture" of nature that they cherish. The picture can be a photo, painting, drawing or any other form of portable media. We invite you to write a short description of why this picture is so meaningful to you and to place it in front of your item. All of these pictures will be on display for attendees to view. If you choose, you may also stand by your item and speak with viewers as they come by.

Outreach Mission will be Stepping Stones of Dunn County. It is a homeless shelter, food pantry and provides supportive services for those in need. Donations of non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items for men & women or a monetary donation.

Early Registration deadline is April 10th otherwise you can register the morning of event. Reg. fee is \$15. Form on UWF board.

World Thank Bank Suggestions for 2026

We can be grateful for everyday joys. Add coins to your Thank Bank in April for the sound and smell of the rain.



Our newsletter is going digital!

You can still find it in your inbox, on our website, or pick up a copy at either church. For those without digital access, we'll continue to send copies via regular mail. We still need our wonderful monthly folders, too! If you have concerns or need to update your email address, please contact the office at office@ricelakeumc.org or give us a call.

We're making this change to save over \$300 a year! Since we are currently running short of the 200-letter minimum required for bulk mail, we've decided to let our permit expire and streamline how we get news to you. This shift helps our budget go further.

Make the Switch to Digital

Email us your email address or turn in this form to church:

Name: _____

Email: _____

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.

SAVE THE DATE - WATCH PARTY

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 Sovern- “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 United Women in Faith we will be holding a watch party at Rice Lake UMC. Pre-registration is appreciated but you can also register that morning from 8:30-9:00. Muffins, coffee, and juice will be served during registration period. Forms can be found in the narthex and can be turned into the church office. Registration is \$10.

Worship Committee



Holy Week Services: A Journey of Faith and Renewal

Experience the depth of God's love through our Holy Week services:

- **Palm Sunday, March 29th** – Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we lift our voices in praise and prepare our hearts for the journey to the cross and the empty tomb. Potluck following service.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at Rice Lake UMC** – Join us at 5:30 pm for a meaningful service of Communion and remembrance of the Last Supper.
- **Good Friday, April 3rd– no service** – A solemn time of reflection and prayer as we remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
- **Easter Sunday, April 5th** – Rejoice in the victory of the Resurrection! Worship with us as we celebrate the risen Lord.
*Canton Service at 9am with an Easter Egg Hunt after service
*Rice Lake Service is at 10:30 am

Invite friends and family to join you for this sacred week of worship.



5th Sunday Potluck, March 29th— 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!

WEEKLY READINGS



March 29

Palm Sunday

Psalms 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

April 2nd

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10) 11-14
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 3rd– no service

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

April 5

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion

Acts 10:34-43
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18
Matthew 28:1-10

April 12

Birthday Cake

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 19

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

April 26

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

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

Address Service Requested



April 2026 The Circuit Writer

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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: April 19th 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.



1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.