



Pastor Jess De Los Santos

May 2026

*"Love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously"*

## Pastor's Corner

### *"A Gracious and Courageous Mother"*



About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. <sup>2</sup>The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. <sup>3</sup>But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. <sup>4</sup>The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup>Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. <sup>6</sup>When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This must be one of the Hebrew children," she said. . . <sup>10</sup>Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, "I lifted him out of the water." (Exodus 2:1-6, 10 NLT)

I would like to greet all mothers, A HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Mothers like you are God's precious gifts to your families, and the value of a godly mother is beyond measure. On Mother's Day, many children will try to do something special for their moms, like giving them a personal letter or card, flowers, or any token, just to express their love and appreciation.



Yes, every mother is God's precious gift to every family or every home. Therefore, Mother's Day is a beautiful opportunity to remember and celebrate with joy and thanksgiving for the mothers who have given birth and nurtured their children, and left a profound legacy of Christlikeness. A mother's love needs to be given unconditionally to establish trust and a firm foundation of emotional intimacy in a child's life." Most mothers know that their love and emotional availability are vital to their children's well-being.

My Mom was a prayerful woman and a God-fearing mother. I always remember her love and sacrifices for me when she was still alive. I love her so much! She did her best for me and for my siblings. She nurtured and guided me with Christian teachings. She was my first Christian educator. I praise God for her life, faith, and service. I'm so glad because our twin sons love their Mommy so much, and my wife loves them, too! She's doing her best for the sake of our sons. Being a teacher and a mother, she loves to teach them many things. One of her favorite Bible verses is ***"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it"*** (Proverbs 22:6).

In Exodus 2:1-10, we look at a mother who exercised her great faith in God. She was a courageous and gracious mother – her name was Jochebed. She was a courageous mother who trusted the Lord in a difficult situation. She is an example of a wonderful mother and, more importantly, a woman who trusted in God. You may seldom hear her name, but this woman was one of the greatest mothers of all time. Yes, Jochebed was a woman of faith, courage, and determination. She was the mother of a great leader and "national hero" named Moses.

The story of Moses reminds us of the wise decision and action of his mother, Jochebed, a gracious and courageous mother. See how God's miraculous hand protected Moses. Just like Moses' mother, trust that you are being guided towards your purpose. Have faith in the journey, though there are many challenges in life. Remember that God always guides you, and your children are always under His divine protection.

*Let's pray. . . Most gracious God, our loving heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of motherhood. This month, we celebrate the loving sacrifice of all mothers, both biological, adopted, and spiritual, who nurture and guide their own children in Your ways. Father God, I lift up all mothers to You. Grant them the strength to face the daily challenges with courage, and the wisdom to guide their children towards a life of faith and service. Encourage them when they are weary and inspire them when they feel overwhelmed. Bless them with love, joy, peace, good health, and strength to continue their selfless devotion. May they feel deeply appreciated and honored not just today, but every day. In the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>RL Liturgists</b> May 3: Mary Mattson May 10: Imelda De Los Santos May 17: Nancy Zabel May 24: Lisa Mink May 31: Candy Bandli		<b>RL Greeters</b> May 3: Gwen Rettenmund May 10: Pat Turgeson May 17: Cheryl Hedgecock May 24: Joyce Foster May 31: Barbara Burdick		<b>Fellowship Hosts:</b> <b>Helen Anonich and Maggie Maust</b>		<i>1 May Friendship Day</i>  <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	2
3 <i>Holy Communion</i>  9am RL Adult & Canton SS  <b>BIRTHDAY CAKE!</b>	4	5	6  1pm UWF Meeting  4pm Confirmation	7  6:30 National Day of Prayer @ Red Cedar	8  <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	9	
10 <i>Mother's Day</i>  <b>MUFFINS FOR MOMS!</b>  	11  1:30 Brentwood Service	12  7pm Finance Meeting	13  1pm Star Circle (movie)  3:30 Church & Society Meeting  4pm Confirmation	14	15  <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	16	
17 <i>Graduation Sunday</i>  9am RL Adult & Canton SS  <b>CAKE RECEPTION after RL service!</b>	18  4pm Newsletter Deadline	19	20  5:30 Serving Benjamin House	21  Office Closed—Steph Vacation Day  10:30 Prayer Shawl Meeting	22  <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	23	
24 9am RL Adult SS	25 Memorial Day    Office Closed	26  2pm Woodstone Service	27 8:30 Men's Breakfast  <b>9am Newsletter Folders</b>  2pm Church Council Meeting	28	29 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>  11:30 Lunch Bunch @ Norske	30	
31 <i>5th Sunday POTLUCK LOUD Offering Music Sunday</i>							

Canton Service is at 9:00 am— Sunday School also at 9:00 am on May 3rd and 17th  
 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 May:

- ◆ **Celebrating May Birthdays!**- Birthday cake following service on May 3rd (due to Mother's Day being on our regular day).
- ◆ **May 10th is Mother's Day!** We will have "muffins for moms" but really for everybody. Join us at 10am for coffee fellowship.
- ◆ **Graduation Sunday** is May 17th with a cake reception following service.
- ◆ **5th Sunday-** is our Worship Thru Music Sunday, LOUD Offering for Missions Projects, and a Potluck!
- ◆ **Lunch Bunch**— will be May 29th at 11:30 am (due to the 22nd being a holiday weekend), the next place will be Norske. 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.**



Did you know EBT and SNAP cannot be used to purchase feminine hygiene products, which are essential to women's health? In honor of women everywhere, we will be collecting much-needed items for our food pantry throughout the month of May. We're looking for sanitary napkins, tampons, panty liners, disposable undergarments like Depends, wipes, lotions, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

Just a heads-up that for June we will be looking to collect paper products like toilet paper and paper towels in honor of men. \*\*Everyday needs for the food pantry are healthier cereals, ready to eat meals like spaghettios, pasta, soups, peanut butter, fresh fruits and veggies.



- 2- Amy Jacobson (George)
- 2- Braydon Larson
- 2- Sheila Lindloff
- 4- Kelsey Manley
- 4- Brooks Nelson
- 5- Larry Neve
- 12- Hadley Owen
- 14- Wilson Hying
- 14- Curtis Kemnitz
- 14- Heather Madison
- 18- Tyler Kilcoyne
- 18- Ty Rettenmund
- 19- Kristy Babineau
- 21- Fran Drabek
- 21- Bailey Wallin
- 23- Justin Kilcoyne
- 25- Stevie Hampton
- 28- Jordan Thome
- 29- Porter Manley



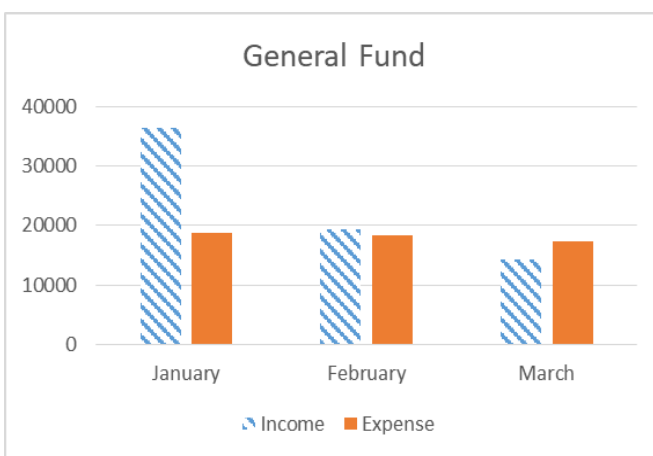
- 2- Pete & Candy Bandli
- 3- Pastor Jess & Imelda
- 23- Ron & Pat Turgeson
- 25- Marvin & Donna Heidenreich

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed then please call the office.



IN OUR  
*Thoughts*  
AND  
*Prayers*

Prayers to the Kahl family. They lost two brothers-in-law in the last 2 months and then Bernie's brother Mike died on April 21st.



# Canton UMC



## Canton Liturgists

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

### Birthdays

6- Emma Gifford  
6- Michele Halvorson  
8- Paisley Alton  
12- Greg Hagberg  
18- Craig Healy  
19- Glenn Berger  
25- Lexi Halvorson  
25- Stevie Hampton  
26- Marilyn Rowe

### Anniversary

3- Pastor Jess & Imelda  
26- Kristie & Steve Kringle

Please call the office if we are missing anyone. Thanks!

Sunday School is May 3rd and 17th at 9am



*Join us before service for Mingle, Learn, and Share with Pastor Jess & family.*

## 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](http://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



**Our newsletter is going mostly digital!**

We've decided to let our permit expire and streamline how we get news to you. We're making this change because we do not meet the minimum needed for bulk mail and in addition we will save over \$300 a year!

You can still find the newsletter 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 email or call Stephanie in the office.

### **Make the Switch to Digital**

Send us your email along with any of your family members that currently get their newsletter by mail. Thanks!

## SCHOLARSHIP



## 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](http://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

## UWF Meeting-----Wednesday, May 6 @ 1 pm

Donations of personal hygiene items for women will be collected.

The director of the Barron Food Pantry will be our guest speaker. She will inform us on how that organization runs the pantry, the people they serve and some of the funding trials they face.

Our Social Action Day Watch Party was attended by 15 people! The informative program was highly rated. It was beneficial to have some of the complexities of immigration law explained plus hear how communities can be 'love in action'. Watch for a follow-up ZOOM discussion late summer on the study book 'Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love' by the UM Council of Bishops. Its purpose is to offer a roadmap for healing, navigate tough conversations, and build networks of solidarity against divisive forces.



Our purpose for UWF is to advocate for women, children, and youth. We are all mothers as we nurture, protect, and support women. As we celebrate Mother's Day this month, let's say thank you to all the women who mentored and helped us become the people we are today.

"Things will look better in the morning"; my mom often told me that when I'd had a rough day and complained to her over the washing of supper dishes. My frustration and anxiety was usually due to teenage angst but I still hear her words 50+ years later as I deal with worry and irritations. Problems will be constants in my life. Blessedly, I always have God's love and a mother's advice guiding me.

Kathy Wagenbach

*"Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning."*  
Psalm 30:5 ESV



Star Circle will be watching a movie at the next meeting on May 13. It is called "Eleanor the Great" starring June Squibb (not about Eleanor Roosevelt). The main character is facing major changes in her "golden" years. See you in the Sunday School room at 1pm.

## World Thank Bank Suggestions for 2026

We can be grateful for everyday joys. Add coins to your Thank Bank in May for the beauty of the changing seasons.

## Terracycle Collection

Blue collection bin in the narthex

### KITCHEN:

- Bread Clips (plastic)
- Coffee bags (bulk) & K-pods
- Coffee creamers (individual)
- Candy & Granola wrappers
- Drink Pouches (Capri) – any brand
- Treat bags (single serve sizes)  
(e.g. chip bags Snack Pouches (e.g. Go-Go) -any brand

### BATHROOM:

- Dental Items (Brushes, Toothpaste tubes, flosses & electric toothbrush heads)
- Deodorant Containers
- Eye Glasses & cases
- Pers. Care make-up containers
- Pumps & triggers (the bottles often are able to be put into regular recycling)

### OFFICE:

- Ribbons and Bows
- Cancelled Stamps (NOT Christmas or flag stamps)
- Glue Sticks
- Expired Gift Cards
- Tape Dispensers
- Writing Instruments (pens, pencils, markers or crayons)

For More Information Contact: Josie Gobel 920-988-0705)

## Church & Society

"While we do not believe churches should affiliate with particular political parties, we do encourage churches to speak out boldly on social issues from a gospel perspective. We further believe churches have a right and responsibility to educate and equip their members to be effective advocates for justice in the wider world." (Book of Discipline 2020-2024, Government Responsibilities, A., Church and Society)

The General Board of Church & Society leads and challenges United Methodists to pray, study and work in areas of social concern. For advocacy articles and resources, go to [www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/agencies/church-and-society](http://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/agencies/church-and-society)

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### The Dangers of Generative AI by Jeim De Los Santos

It seems that society has advanced with the development of A.I. for the past four years. People can generate answers and artworks with a prompt, a click of a button, and it generates in mere seconds. But what are the drawbacks to this artificially generated content? Generative A.I. causes harm to the environment, multiple job opportunities, and people's critical thinking.

To begin, what is generative A.I.? According to Wikipedia, generative A.I. is a subfield of artificial intelligence that uses generative models to generate text, images, videos, software code, or other forms of data. In other words, generative A.I. is a type of artificial intelligence that is used to create things based on a database. People can type a question to these A.I., and an answer will be generated in seconds, compared to endlessly searching on a web browser for answers. Additionally, one can also generate artworks—regardless of artistic skill—by simply typing in a description of what they want it to look like.

Firstly, I hold that belief because A.I. harms the environment. A.I. Servers consume a lot of freshwater cooling data servers down. According to Miguel Yañez's article "Data Centers and Water Consumption" from the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, large data centers can consume up to 5 million gallons per day, equivalent to the water use of a town populated by 10,000 to 50,000 people. How would you feel if an A.I. data center is built on Rice Lake?

I also believe that way because generative A.I. decreases multiple job opportunities. I've seen many stories of artists online struggling to find work after A.I. Clients and corporations seem to not care about the arts anymore; they want results in seconds. It's not just artists who are losing jobs, A.I. also takes jobs away from writers, photographers, accountants, historians, programmers, and much more. How can A.I. be used as a tool when people use it as a replacement?

Lastly, A.I. damages society's critical thinking. Over the last three years, I've noticed that people use it for nearly everything! Assignments, profile pictures, even grocery lists. Relying on A.I. does not benefit the brain; it damages it. According to an MIT study done by Nataliya Kosmyna and others titled "Your Brain on ChatGPT: Accumulation of Cognitive Debt when Using an AI Assistant for Essay Writing Task," Large Language Models, such as ChatGPT, contribute to cognitive atrophy through excessive reliance on AI-driven solutions. Society was able to function properly, even before the development of generative A.I. People should not let A.I. dictate their every move.

To conclude, I believe that we, as a society, should stop the usage of generative A.I. I urge you to phase out A.I. and to think twice before engaging with A.I. generated content.



### 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. *Lists of items are in the narthex.*

# Worship Committee



National Day of Prayer service is Thursday, May 7th at 6:30 pm at Red Cedar Church.

**Mother's Day, May 10th:** Muffins for Mom during coffee fellowship. *We would like photos of mothers and children to be included in the slides for the service. This could be mothers from any era.* Preferably email the pictures to office@ricelakeumc.org or bring your picture in during office hours and Steph will scan it in. **Deadline for pictures in May 6th .**

**Graduation Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** : Looking for any other graduates maybe from college. So far the twins are the only graduates we know of.

**Confirmation Sunday** will be held in the fall when they're done with the lessons.

**Memorial Day, May 24th:** Pastor will have small flags.

**\*\*Fourth Sundays:** A color wheel will be on the screen to spin. When it lands on a color, anyone wearing that color is encouraged to donate a dollar.\*\*

**5th Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** : "Worship Thru Music" Sunday, instead of our typical sermon. We will learn the background of the hymn selected, it's also LOUD offering so bring your change (or bills) to help support various Mission's projects, and a Potluck! This will be a regular potluck done in coordination with the Invitation & Member Care Committee. We will have containers available for takeout.

Do you have a favorite hymn you would like to learn more about? Jot it down and turn it in with the offering, put it in the lock box outside of the office, or drop off in the office. You can also email your hymn(s) to the church or Pastor. Thanks!



## WEEKLY READINGS



### May 3

**Holy Communion**  
**Birthday Cake**  
Proverbs 4:10-18  
Psalm 119:9-20  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

### May 10

**Mother's Day**  
**Muffins for Moms**  
Ezekiel 34:1-7  
Psalm 115:1-11, 18b  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

### May 17

**Graduation Sunday**  
**Cake after service**  
Isaiah 45:1-7  
Psalm 21:1-7  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

### May 24

Numbers 11:24-30  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Acts 2:1-21  
John 20:19-23

### May 31

**5th Sunday Potluck**  
**LOUD Offering**  
**Worship thru Music**  
Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20

Are there any subjects that your interested in that you think might make a good Church & Society or Invitation and Member Care program or project?

Please let the chairs of these committees know. C&S chair is Larry Neve and Invitation chair is Stephanie BH but really you can let any member of either committee know. A committee list is now on the bulletin board outside the office door.

### Thursdays @ the U

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.

7-May- Joshua Morey, [Poverty and Mental Health in Barron County](#)

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



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

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## May 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: CantonUMC@ricelakeumc.org

**Worship Service: 9:00 am**  
**Sunday School: May 3rd & 17th 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 You-tube 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.

