

# CIRCUIT



# WRITER

Pastor Jess De Los Santos

July 2026

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

## Pastor's Corner

### "Lord of the Harvest"



Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38 NKJV)

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to these people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." (Isaiah 6:8 NLT)

While reading the clergy appointments during our Annual Conference 2026, I heard that many local churches are "to be supplied," meaning our Pastors within the conference are not enough to cover or supply all the local churches. So, we need to pray fervently for the kingdom of

God to expand by recruiting more workers to do the work in God's vineyard. Matthew 9:37-38 is about Jesus expressing the urgent need for more workers to spread the message of the Gospel, emphasizing the importance of laboring in the spiritual harvest to bring souls to God. **"The harvest is plentiful,"** suggests the abundance of individuals seeking spiritual fulfillment and redemption. **"The laborers are few,"** stresses the scarcity of those willing to spread God's message and serve in His mission.

The Lord Jesus acknowledges the vastness of the harvest, symbolizing the countless souls that need to hear the message of salvation. He emphasizes the need for a collective effort to spread the gospel and fulfil the "Great Commission", urging believers to pray for more workers. Reflecting on this passage, consider the significance of intercessory prayer in mobilizing more laborers for the harvest, and understand that the broader narrative of Jesus' ministry highlights the significance of actively participating in God's mission.

As followers of Jesus Christ, how can we actively participate in fulfilling this prayer by spreading the gospel in our own communities and beyond? The Lord Jesus invites us to be co-workers with Him in bringing salvation to the lost and broken people. Let us recruit people, especially the youth, and send out more workers into the harvest fields as we heed His call and join in fervent prayer. Let us love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

Today, the world mirrors the crowds Jesus observed, filled with individuals seeking the real meaning of life, purpose, and hope. The call for compassionate and dedicated individuals to share the message of love, hope, and salvation remains as critical now as it was in Jesus' time. As followers of Christ, we are encouraged to reflect on our role in God's mission and consider how we can contribute to the spiritual well-being of others, recognizing the abundant opportunities to share God's grace and love.

*Lord of the Harvest, we bring before You the laborers—those who have answered the call to spread the Good News of salvation. We pray for the pastors, missionaries, and teachers who are working tirelessly in the fields of the harvest. Grant them divine wisdom, strength, courage, joy, peace, and hope. May they be fully equipped to address the needs of those they minister to, responsive to the promptings of Your Spirit, and emboldened in their mission.*

*Gracious God, we also seek Your guidance for ourselves. Show us how we can be more active participants in the harvest. Help us to recognize our unique gifts and abilities, that we may use them for Your glory. Whether it is through acts of kindness, sharing our testimonies, engaging in service, or simply being present with those around us, let our lives bear fruit that glorifies Your name. In the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*





# HELLO july

| Sun                                                                                                                       | Mon                                                                                                                           | Tue                                                   | Wed                                            | Thu                                           | Fri                                                         | Sat                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>RL Liturgists</u></b><br>July 5: Larry Neve<br>July 12: Lisa Mink<br>July 19: Mary Mattson<br>July 26: Candy Bandli | <b><u>RL Greeters</u></b><br>July 5: Pat Turgeson<br>July 12: Dawn O'Brien<br>July 19: Donna Cook<br>July 26: Eleanor Falkner |                                                       | 1                                              | 2<br>Office Closed                            | 3<br>Pastor's Day Off                                       | 4<br><br>INDEPENDENCE Day |
|                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                               |                                                       |                                                |                                               |                                                             |                                                                                                              |
| 5 Holy Communion<br>9am RL Adult SS                                                                                       | 6                                                                                                                             | 7                                                     | 8<br>10:30 Church & Society<br>1pm Star Circle | 9<br><br>← Pastor at Youth Summer Institute → | 10                                                          | 11                                                                                                           |
| 12<br>9am RL Adult SS<br>Mary Preaching<br>After RL service—<br>Birthday Cake                                             | 13<br>1:30 Brentwood<br>2:20 Office Closing Early<br>PPP Deadline                                                             | 14<br>1pm Worship<br>7pm Finance                      | 15<br>5:30 Serving Benjamin House              | 16<br>7pm SPRC                                | 17<br>Pastor's Day Off                                      | 18                                                                                                           |
| 19<br>9am RL Adult SS                                                                                                     | 20<br>4pm Newsletter Deadline                                                                                                 | 21<br>11-12 Office Closed                             | 22<br>2pm Church Council                       | 23                                            | 24<br>Pastor's Day Off<br>11:30 Lunch Bunch @ Casa Mexicana | 25                                                                                                           |
| 26<br>9am RL Adult SS                                                                                                     | 27                                                                                                                            | 28<br>9am Newsletter Folders<br>2pm Woodstone Worship | 29<br>8:30 Men's Breakfast                     | 30                                            | 31<br>Pastor's Day Off                                      |                                                                                                              |
| <b><u>Fellowship Hosts:</u> Candy Bandli and Lisa Mink</b>                                                                |                                                                                                                               |                                                       |                                                |                                               |                                                             |                                                                                                              |

Canton Service is at 9:00 am  
 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 July:

- ♦ **Celebrating July Birthdays!**- Birthday cake following service on July 12th.
- ♦ **Lunch Bunch**— will be July 24th at 11:30 am at Casa Mexicana. Please call the office to let us know if you are coming by 3pm on the Thursday prior so we can save you a seat.

**Mark your calendar!** August has 5 Sundays so there will be a LOUD offering that goes towards Missions projects and a potluck after service.



The free book library that has been set-up for those visiting the food pantry is looking pretty empty. If you have books you no longer want or if you know anyone clearing out book shelves those donations would be most welcome. The shelves include adult and children's reading materials.



- 1- Shirley Arnold
- 2- Paul Toft
- 2- Rebecca Wallin
- 4- Peyton Owen
- 6- Joyce Foster
- 7- Pete Petry
- 10- Lisa Mink
- 11- Sharron Campbell
- 14- George Petry
- 21- Darcy Henderson
- 22- Michele West
- 23- Finley Petry
- 25- Brian West
- 29- Pat Turgeson
- 31- Bruce Kaupanger



- 5- Ed & Pam Forrester
- 9- Ken & Becki George
- 29- Dale & Harriet Larson
- 31- George & Pam Petry

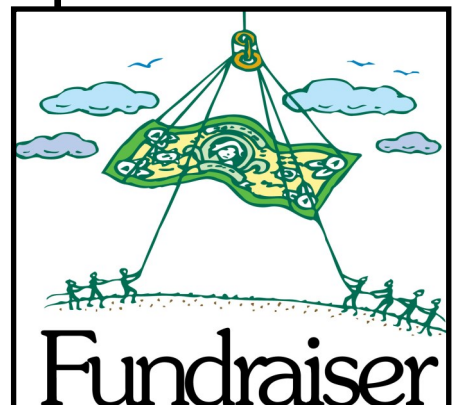
If your birthday or anniversary is not listed then please call the office 715-234-3919 to update your info. Thanks!

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? OR maybe just something fun! Please let any member of either committee know. A committee list is now on the bulletin board outside the office door.



## A Message from Missions

As the Missions committee prepares for another year of Paste, Paper, Pencils there are some changes. It has become more and more challenging to put together teams and plan for the golf day these past few years. For that reason we will replace the annual golf tournament with a letter campaign this year. We are hoping the response will be as successful as the tournament has been. We placed applications in the last FORK bags this spring and already have a good response so we anticipate sending a lot of Walmart gifts cards out again this year. Donations are most welcome. As always if you are supporting this project label your giving "Paste, Paper, Pencils" so it is directed to the project.



# Canton UMC



## July Birthdays

16- Russell Holmes  
18- Elizabeth Gifford  
22- Alexander Ellison  
25- Mary B. Quillen  
26- Del Halvorson

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

We are in the summer season & the children will be at home more. Our food pantry cart needs to be filled more often. Please consider contributing as such as often as you are able.

UWF will meet on July 9th @1:30 at the church. Please put this on your calendar.

## **Canton Liturgists**

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



## **Canton & Rice Lake Confirmation 2026**

Congrats Alex, Brayden, Breanna, Brooklyn, Russel, and Stevie





# United Women in Faith

*"I am the true vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 NIV*

Last summer my clematis plant was growing well and I was looking forward to some lovely blossoms. It did appear a little droopy which I attributed to a dry spell so gave it a good drink of water but it only looked worse the next day so I investigated more closely. Peter Cottontail had chewed it off about six inches from the base! It is doing nicely this year, with the help of a wire skirt to protect it from rabbits.

The Bible verse in John 15 teaches us that Jesus (the vine) is the source of life and spiritual nourishment. As the 'branches', we have no way to live or grow on our own. We are closely connected to Him. Like my clematis plant, we may become cut off from our sustenance and wither. But, also like the clematis plant, we can have protection... UWF helps us stay in a relationship with God, be watered and fed by the Holy Spirit and bear fruit.

Kathy Wagenbach

## World Thank Bank Suggestions

We can be grateful for everyday joys. Add coins to your Thank Bank in July for having a well stocked cupboard.

## THE INTERSECTIONAL ENVIRONMENTALIST

LEAH THOMAS

HOW TO DISMANTLE SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION TO PROTECT PEOPLE + PLANET



Book Review- This book is on the Reading Program list for 2026 under Social Action.

## 'The Intersectional Environmentalist'

by Leah Thomas

This book "is an introduction to the intersection of environmentalism, racism and privilege, and an acknowledgment of the fundamental truth that we cannot save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people."

In this book Thomas shows not only that Black people, indigenous people, and people of color are unequally & unfairly impacted by environmental injustices, but that the fight for the planet lies in tandem with the fight for civil rights; in fact, one cannot exist without the other".



## HEATHEN WOMAN'S FRIEND.

VOL. XXV.

MARCH, 1894.

No. 9.



OUR FOUNDERS AND FIRST MISSIONARIES.

MRS. E. W. PARKER.  
MISS ISABELLA THOBURN.

MRS. WILLIAM BUTLER.  
MISS CLARA A. SWAIN, M.D.

## Women's Methodist Mags Have a Long History

NEW YORK — As response magazine marks nearly a half a century of history, it's a good time to remember the publications geared toward Methodist women that go back even further. The Methodist Episcopal Church, a forerunner of The United Methodist Church, published the first issue of Heathen Woman's Friend in June of 1869. This was before women could vote, own property or be ordained. Tara Barnes looks back at the history of publications for women in the denomination and its antecedents.

[Read story](https://uwfaith.org/latest-news/2026/may-june-response-a-longtime-friend/) or go to <https://uwfaith.org/latest-news/2026/may-june-response-a-longtime-friend/>

July 2026 Stewardship Newsletter  
**Seeing God in the Ordinary**

One of the challenges of faith is learning where to look for God.

Many of us grew up hearing stories of burning bushes, parted seas, miraculous healings, and dramatic conversions. We read about manna falling from heaven and prophets calling down fire. If that's our expectation, we may assume that God's presence always arrives with flashing lights and unmistakable signs.

But most of life isn't lived in the extraordinary. Most of life happens in ordinary moments.

It happens in the exhausted joy of holding a newborn child for the first time. It happens in the quiet conversation shared over coffee with a friend who asks how you're really doing. It happens when a neighbor shovels a driveway, a teacher stays late to help a struggling student, or someone sends a card simply because they sensed another person needed encouragement.

It happens when we sit on the porch at the end of the day and watch the sun sink below the horizon. It happens around dinner tables, hospital bedsides, baseball fields, church potlucks, and family reunions.

These moments may not seem miraculous, but perhaps they are holy, nonetheless.

The Book of Esther offers an intriguing reminder of this truth. It tells the story of a young Jewish woman who becomes queen and, through courage and wisdom, helps save her people from destruction. Yet there is something unusual about Esther. God is never mentioned by name. Not once.

No booming voice from heaven. No angelic messenger. No spectacular miracle.

Instead, God seems to work quietly through ordinary people making courageous choices at precisely the right moments. Through faithfulness. Through relationships. Through wisdom. Through risk.

Mordecai says to Esther, "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

Perhaps that is how God often works.

Not only in grand displays of power, but through everyday people who choose kindness over indifference, courage over fear, generosity over selfishness, hope over despair.

Maybe the invitation of faith is not simply to ask, "Where are the miracles?" but to train our eyes to notice God's fingerprints already present in our daily lives.

This summer, slow down enough to pay attention.

Watch the sunset. Celebrate milestones. Notice unexpected kindness. Give thanks for ordinary blessings.

You just might discover that God has been closer than you realized all along.



**July 5th**

***Holy Communion***

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,  
58-67

Psalms 45:10-17

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**July 12th**

***Mary Mattson Preaching  
Birthday cake after service***

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalms 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**July 19th**

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**July 26th**

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

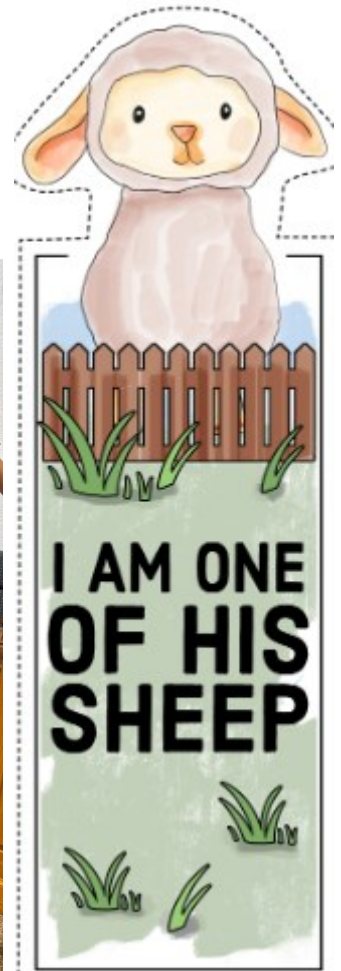
**Terracycle**

**Collection**

We continue to collect things for recycling that can be placed in the large round blue tub. A list of the items is on the tub, hanging on the large bulletin board in the Narthex, and you can also find it in your May newsletter on our website [www.ricelakeumc.org](http://www.ricelakeumc.org)

# Baptisms IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Azia Cancino was baptized in Rice Lake on June 9th!



## God's Bonus Days

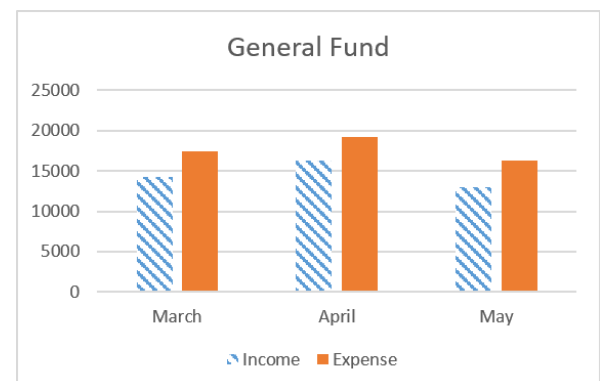


An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory "God's bonus days." LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life's unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle

spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, "Let's play hooky, hon. It's one of God's bonus days."

— Marion R. Vuilleumier, *Meditations by the Sea*



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

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## July 2026 The Circuit Writer

### **First United Methodist Church**

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

**Worship Service: 9:00 am**  
**Sunday School: will resume in the Fall**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jess De Los Santos

**Email:** [pastorjess@ricelakeumc.org](mailto:pastorjess@ricelakeumc.org)

**Cell:** 1-757-761-2735

**Office Hours:** Tues.-Thurs. 9:30am-12:30pm or 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.”

**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.

