FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RICE LAKE
CANTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CIRCUIT WRITER

Pastor Jess De Los Santos | October 2026

"Love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously"

Pastor's Corner

"The Power of the Unseen"





Jesus also used this illustration: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough." Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet: "I will speak to you in parables. I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world." **(Matthew 13:33-35 NLT)**

Shalom to you people of God! I hope you enjoy the beautiful autumn colors this year. Have you ever felt small and unable to do greater things? Or do we have a small church compared to the mega churches and wish that our church could make a bigger difference in our place?

My wife Imelda loves baking bread. And she's so excited to see her dough rise with the yeast she's using. Although the yeast is small, it has a large effect. It would make a lot of dough! Can you picture how much bread would come from all the mixed flour? A transformation would take place as the yeast did its work, making the dough rise! What a difference a little yeast can make!

The Lord Jesus uses this story as an object lesson to illustrate the kingdom of heaven. A woman takes yeast (leaven) and mixes it into dough. Eventually, the whole of the dough is leavened. In the Parable of the Leaven, we learn several things about the working of the kingdom in our present age. Each of these lessons stems from the nature of yeast.

First, *"The kingdom of God may have small beginnings, but it will increase."* Yeast is microscopic in size, and only a little is kneaded into the dough. Yet, given time, the yeast will spread through all the dough. In the same way, Jesus' domain started with twelve disciples in an obscure corner of Galilee, but it has spread throughout the world. The gospel makes progress.

Second, *"The kingdom of God exerts its influence from within, not from without."* Yeast makes dough rise from within. God first changes the heart of a person, and that internal change has external manifestations. The gospel's influence in a culture works the same way: Christians within a culture act as agents of change, slowly transforming that culture from within.

Third, *"Although the kingdom of God works invisibly, its effect is evident to all."* Yeast does its job slowly, secretly, and silently, but no one can deny its effect on bread. The same is true of the work of grace in our hearts. The nature of yeast is to grow and to change whatever it contacts. When we accept Christ, His grace grows in our hearts and changes us from the inside out. As the gospel transforms lives, it exerts a pervasive influence in the world at large.

Imagine a small amount of yeast added to a lump of dough. Slowly but surely, that yeast starts to spread throughout the entire mixture, causing it to rise and expand. That yeast, small and seemingly insignificant at first, has the potential to bring about great transformation and growth, just like the kingdom of heaven. The teachings and values of the kingdom of heaven have the power to permeate every aspect of our lives and the world around us, just as yeast permeates and influences the dough. The process of leavening is often unseen, symbolizing how God's work in the world may not always be immediately visible but powerful and effective. The verse reassures believers that God's kingdom is unstoppable, quietly working through His followers to bring about changes or transformations.

As Jesus said, the kingdom of heaven is like that. It may seem small, but it makes an amazing, transformative difference. We can influence those around us and create a positive atmosphere that reflects the values of God's kingdom by living out our faith in a genuine and impactful way. So, think about how God can use you (and me) mightily and effectively to make a difference in expanding God's kingdom in our homes, church, and community. God bless us all!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
RL Liturgists Oct. 4: Mary Mattson Oct. 11: Candy Bandli Oct. 18: Desiree Cancino Oct. 25: Lisa Mink		**RL Greeters** Oct. 4: Linda Dufner Oct. 11: Maggie Maust Oct. 18: Helen Anonich October 25: Cheryl	**Fellowship Hosts:** Pam Petry & Joyce Foster	1	2 *Pastor's Day Off*	3 9:40 Walk to End Alzheimer's
4 *Holy Communion* 9am RL Adult SS After RL service Flu/ Covid Shot Clinic	*5*	6 4pm Invitation & Member Care 5pm Nominations	7	8	9 *Pastor's Day Off*	10
11 9am RL Adult SS After service- Birthday cake	12 1:30 Brentwood Worship	13 1pm Worship 7pm Finance	14 1pm Star Circle 5:30 Canton Youth Group	15 10:30 Prayer Shawl	16 *Pastor's Day Off*	17 Cedar Mall Fall Craft Gethering
18 9am RL Adult SS	19 10:30 Harmony Choir Rehearsal 4pm Newsletter Deadline	20	21 5:30 Serving Banjamin House	22 4pm Nominations 5pm SPRC	23 *Pastor's Day Off*	24 4:30-7pm Canton Spaghetti Dinner
25 9am RL Adult SS	26 1pm Card Making	27 9am Folders 2pm Woodstone Worship	28 8:30 Men's Breakfast 2pm Church Council	29	30 *Pastor's Day Off* 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ Cameron House	31

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 October:

- **Celebrating October Birthdays!-** Birthday cake following service on October 11th. Join us!
- We will be selling cookbooks at the Cedar Mall craft fair on Saturday, October 17 starting at 10 am. We would like to invite friends to support this cause for the church budget. Christmas is right around the corner!
- **Lunch Bunch**– will be October 30th at 11:30 am at the Cameron House in Cameron. 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.

Looking ahead to the Fall 2026 Thursdays@U presentation lineup!

1-Oct	Steve Sholtz	Mushroom Health Benefits
8-Oct	James Bradley	The Galápagos Islands: Then and Now
15-Oct	Robert Birmingham	Indian Mounds of Wisconsin
22-Oct	Eric Kasper	First Amendment Free Speech Protections
29-Oct	The Paranomal Pals	Investigating the Paranormal

These lectures are free and open to the public every Thursday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. and are held in our Blue Hills Lecture Hall, BRRH 234.

Rice Lake School District Calendar

Upcoming events to help you stay connected with events and happenings.
https://www.ricelake.k12.wi.us/435023_2

Missions Committee

Heritage Lakeside Gifts and Haircuts

Missions Committee will again be collecting gifts for Heritage Lakeside residents. A table will be set-up in the over flow area to start collecting November 1st. Haircuts are $15 again this year and are always appreciated. Also appreciated are shampoo and conditioner, lotions, sweatshirts and flannel shirts (sizes xl-3xl), and sock slippers. There are currently 45 residents. No blankets please (many organizations give these). Items will be delivered the first week of December. Thank you!



2-Larry Kilcoyne Jr.
2-Collin Wille
2-Zeik Zegarowicz
7-Don Cherry
11- Cheryl Hedgecock
12– Art Duerkop
15- Barbara Burdick
15- Breanna Kraczek
16– Dennis Mattson
17- Miley Turgeson
19- Joseph Haines
21- Mason Pautsch
21- Nancy Zabel
23- Helen Anonich
27- Bob Buss
28- Caroline Frye
29– Kathy Duerkop
30- Connie Kilcoyne
30- Ron Parker
31- Jeanne Kemmitz



6– Justin & Sarah Knauer
14- Rod & Kari Thome
16- Russ & Janelle Johnson
23- Denny & Mary Mattson
27- Brian & Michele West

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



Canton UMC



Birthdays
10– Quintin Castillo
12– Sarah Baker
22- Stephanie Davis

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

Canton Liturgists

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

If you're interested in being a Liturgist please see Michele.

Church
Do you know someone who could offer some special music for Sunday morning services? We can offer our gifts to God in many ways.

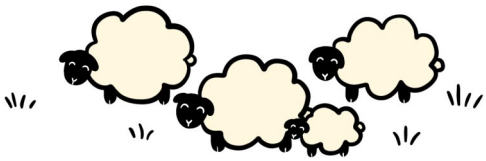


UWF
Change of Date! The annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on **October 24th**, 4:30-7:00pm.

UWF will meet on October 29th in the church (check with Michele for the time). This will be our World Thank Offering program & Chris Draxler will be our guest. We are always inspired by her message.

Youth Group
The first Youth Group gathering will be on October 14th at the church from 5:30-7:00. These gatherings will be an opportunity to do some community service, spiritual growth, fun projects and food (think pizza, bars, fruit & munchies)! All youth are welcomed! At our October meeting, they will also learn about usher & liturgist duties.

The youth are still collecting pop cans for the Heifer project.



EVERY SHEEP COUNTS!
IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?

New Directories (Both churches)

Did you get rid of your landline and only use your cell? Have you changed email addresses? If your looks anything like mine then it's time for an updated paper directory; our last one was in 2024. Please let me know of any changes that need to be made under your name.

Call or email the office your most up-to-date info. Thank you!

Thank you so much for your prayers, your cards and calls and gifts. We feel very blessed to have so many thinking of us. Everyone in our family is healing so now it is just a matter of time.
~Bernie and Nan



Benjamin House

Have you ever wanted to help provide a meal to Benjamin House but found it to be too expensive? Some donations have been made to help cover the cost of providing a meal as well as Benjamin House having food in their pantry that you can use. You can stop by and see what they have available.

Meals do not have to be served but some people like to visit. They can also be dropped off or like my hubby does when we do it- gets it all set-up and leaves. They do all the clean-up and recommend disposal serving pans or to make sure yours are labeled. And don't forgot the gallon of milk! The sig-up sheet is outside the office door.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will hold a Bakeless Bake Sale in November. This is our one fundraiser for the year. We use the money to continue our unit fellowship and support local projects such as PPP and area food pantries. A large part of our budget is sent to the district and conference levels for administrative needs and membership growth, and to national and international projects. These include mission institutions, faith development, grants and scholarships, and justice and advocacy campaigns. We are linked together as we work to make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth. All donations are greatly appreciated. Watch for sale details in the November newsletter. ~Kathy Wagenbach

World Thank Bank Suggestions

We can be grateful for everyday joys. Add coins to your Thank Bank in October for finding money in your pocket.



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 ricelakeumc.org.

Here's an updated list of what Terra- Cycle will accept:

- Used gift cards
- Unusable pens, markers & crayons
- Used tape dispenser and old glue sticks
- Used dental floss containers, toothpaste tubes and tooth brushes
- Used deodorant containers
- Pumps and triggers (from soap, cleaning products, etc.)
- Plastic bread tags
- Used postage stamps, but not flags

They are NOT accepting any more socks!!

For more info about TerraCycle go to https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/

Finance/Stewardship

Charging Forward in Stewardship

Rhinoceroses are remarkable creatures. Strong, sturdy and surprisingly fast, a rhino is built to protect. When it senses danger, especially near its herd or its young, it does not hesitate. It moves with focus, strength and purpose.

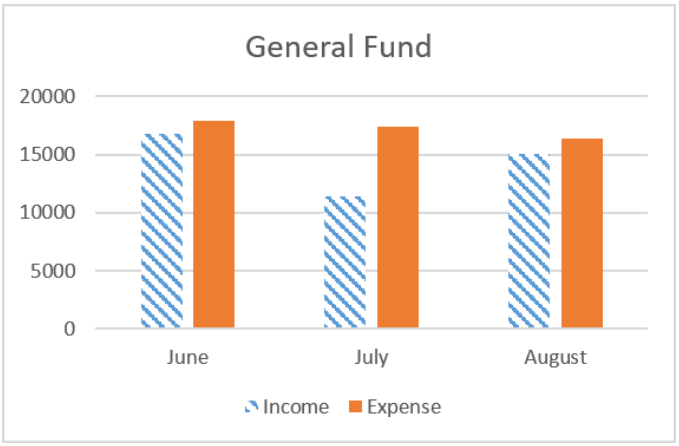
There may be a stewardship lesson for us in that.

God has entrusted each of us with gifts, time and resources to use for his kingdom. When opportunities come to serve, give, encourage or help, faithful stewards do not stand still and wait for someone else to go first. They respond with willing hearts and steady faith.

Stewardship is not passive. It calls us to move with purpose, give with conviction and serve with the strength God provides. May we be quick to answer God's call, bold in putting our faith into action and faithful in caring for the people and work God has placed before us.

Stewardship letters with pledge cards will be going out soon with the quarterly statements. Please keep an eye out! If you have questions about your statements please call the office and talk to Steph.

2026 Charge Conference has been scheduled for November 17th at 5pm in Rice Lake.



Church & Society

Our Vote is Our Power

Healthy democracies, where people vote in higher numbers, lead to healthy communities because elected officials are accountable to voters. Voter turnout in the United States is low due to several factors, including apathy and indifference. It is important that we exercise our right to vote in every election. Your vote maters!



Your Voice Your Vote

In a Democracy, everyone's voice should be heard. Vote November 3

Some websites on voting:

myvote.wi.gov has general guidelines on registration, voting, and who's on the ballot.

VOTE411.org from the League of Women Voters

PBSWisconsin.org has links to videos from various candidates. Also political coverage/stories

Ballotpedia.org reviews the ballot measures for constitutional amendments. I don't think most people are familiar with these.

Lutheran Office for Public Policy (ELCA) has good explanation of the 3 proposed constitutional amendments and their recommendations and reasoning.

From the umcjustice.org website: NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP!

Webinar: Voting, Voice, and Democracy

Join us Oct. 1 and 2 for a timely two-part webinar series exploring what is at stake for voting rights, representation, and the future of American democracy.

As the United States approaches the 2026 midterm elections, join us for a timely two-part webinar series exploring what is at stake for voting rights, representation, and the future of American democracy.

Featuring Chavis Jones from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and Michelle Kanter Cohen from the Fair Elections Center, this series will examine both the broader challenges facing our democracy and the practical issues shaping voting and civic participation in 2026.

Join us as we explore the challenges before us and the power we have to participate, engage, and help shape the future of our democracy.



Register below!
Part I—Beyond the Ballot
October 1, 2026, 1PM-2:15 PM EST
Voice, Representation, and the Work of Building a Strong Democracy
Chavis Jones, Counsel, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bjut2N1EQEedzVweO-79Kw#/registration

Part II—Democracy on the Ballot
October 2, 2026, 1PM-2:15 PM EST
Voting Rights, the 2026 Midterm Elections, and What We Can Do
Michelle Kanter Cohen, Policy Director and Senior Counsel, Fair Elections Center
Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8yNLQ4DcRl2nd1taM9sIbQ#/registration

Worship Committee

World Communion Sunday– October 4th

Recognizing the unity and interconnectedness of all Christians. Together, we can nurture diverse leadership, provide scholarships and leadership training for under-represented students.

There are "Special Sundays" envelopes on the usher's stand if you would like to make a donation. Just check the box for World Communion.





October 4th
Holy Communion
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11th
Birthday cake and Prayer
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18th
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25th
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46



Help Wanted

We are looking for liturgists, greeters, ushers, and hospitality hosts. If you are able, please call Barb Burdick for liturgists and greeters, call Jeanne Parker for hospitality hosting (on your own or with someone), or the office for ushering (or sign-up on the sheet outside the office). Call or email the office for their phone numbers if you don't have it or catch them at church. Thanks!!

Lite a Candle for All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1st at both churches.

On this special day, we remember those who faithfully served God and have entered into their eternal home. Each church will remember friends and family who have passed. Since grief is not a year-long event, we will set aside time to remember those close to your heart. Please fill out All Saint's form and **return to office by Oct. 26th** so that we can include them in our bulletin and time of worship.



Please reserve a candle in memory of:

_____

Relationship: _____

Date of Death: _____

Given by: _____



If we have new visitors feel free to give them one of our new brochures and maybe a newsletter to help them get to know us better.



The brochures and newsletters are located on the usher stand. Brochures can also be taken to places around town where you would typically see them.

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

Address Service Requested

Place Stamp Here



October 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: will resume in the Fall

Pastor: Rev. Jess De Los Santos
Email: 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.

