



From the Desk of Pastor Rachel

Greetings Members and Friends,

This is a very exciting and busy time in the life of our church. We are in the season of Lent which is leading up to Holy Week (March 25th - 30th) and our celebration of Resurrection Day on Easter Sunday (March 31st, 9:30 AM). It has been a real treat for me to see so many smiling faces and to hear so many uplifted voices in worship on Sunday mornings! Our unified church is off to an encouraging start and this is only the beginning.

And speaking of the unification; after weeks of gathering data, thoughtful conversations, and many heartfelt prayers, the Church Council has announced that the newly unified congregation will be known as the ***Richland Center United Methodist Church***. Thank you to everyone who participated in this process. In addition, as you can see above, we now have a new title for this publication as well. Welcome to ***News From the Center***.

And, as if that weren't already enough big news for one article, there is one more piece of information that I'm excited to share with everyone. **Starting on April 7, 2024 (first Sunday after Easter) our Sunday services will begin at 10:00 a.m.** We will be sending out reminders to everyone, but we also ask that you please mark your calendars and tell your friends about the changes.

My friends, it is both amazing and serendipitous that just as we are seeing signs that spring is coming, we can also see new hope and new possibilities on the horizon for our community of faith. As our hearts are preparing for the trials and tribulations of Christ's passion and crucifixion, we too are challenged by difficult changes that require us to have faith enough to let go of the past. And we have done this because Christ has shown us the way. Just like it was for him, our darkest hours are being followed by the glorious dawn of new days and by the joy of miraculous new life.

It is in this inspired Spirit that I invite everyone to mark one more important date on your calendar: Sunday May 5, 2024. On that day, the Richland Center United Methodist Church will hold a special rededication service where we will renew our vows as Christians and celebrate our remarkable journey as a community of faith together. I hope and pray that you will join us if you can for this and all our upcoming times of worship, celebration and fellowship with each other.

Happy Easter to All!

Pastor Rachel