



News From

The Center



Dear RC UMC Friends,

Today I find myself looking back at the last nine months since I first arrived here in Richland Center and marveling at how much we have accomplished together in such a short time. Now that we have celebrated our first Easter Sunday as the Richland Center United Methodist Church and will fully finalize the unification process in our Special Church/Charge Conference on April 8th, it seems like a good time to take a moment to appreciate the amazing ways that God has been at work in our church and our lives.

It seems nothing short of miraculous that we, after more than 100 years of intentional separateness, were able to bring two distinct and historic congregations together to become one. And that by all appearances, our unification is going remarkably well. Our attendance on Sunday mornings is holding steady so that we're full enough to feel like a vibrant church and still have room to welcome others to join us. You can feel the hope and optimism in the atmosphere which people tell me makes them look forward to Sunday mornings in ways they haven't for a while.

Thanks to some of our new members, special music has once again become a regular feature on Sunday mornings, and we have even started a small-but-mighty chancel choir! And, as if that weren't already enough, very soon we will also be welcoming a new sound system to help us all hear the services better. These are just a few of the positive additions that we can all be thankful for.

Of course, there have been sad times as well over these last nine months. We have lost some beloved members of our community and still mourn their passing. As we have moved forward into our new identity, we have had to say goodbye to some of our cherished memories and beloved traditions from the past. So, even with all the good news we have to celebrate, we also remember that everyone heals in their own way and in their own time, and we are mindful that patience and compassion are also to be found in our new community of faith. Many thanks to those among us who have been providing their ministry of love and support for others in need.

Pastor Rachel's letter *continued*

But, overall, we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. I am so very grateful for the faithfulness and courage of our church leaders and all our members who have worked diligently to bring us to this point. And most of all, I give thanks to the LORD our God, who hasn't given up on us and clearly has a grand plan and purpose for the RC UMC!

With my heartfelt gratitude and blessings to all,

Pastor Rachel

PS -- Don't forget to mark your calendar for April 7th when our worship time changes to 10:00 a.m. CDT.

A Wakeup Call

God — let me be aware.
Let me not stumble blindly down the ways,
Just getting somehow safely through the days,
Not even groping for another hand,
Not even wondering why it all was planned,
Eyes to the ground unseeking for the light,
Soul never aching for a wild-winged flight,
Please, keep me eager just to do my share.
God — let me be aware.

God — let me be aware.
Stab my soul fiercely with others' pain,
Let me walk seeing horror and stain.
Let my hands, groping, find other hands.
Give me the heart that divines, understands.
Give me the courage, wounded, to fight.
Flood me with knowledge, drench me in light.
Please — keep me eager just to do my share.
God — let me be aware.

—*Miriam Teichner*

Following the 'Perfect Fool'

Theologian Frederick Buechner, who died at age 96 in 2022, explored how the “foolishness of God” (see 1 Corinthians 1:25) compares to human wisdom. He pondered the safety stickers that warn, “The life you save may be your own.”

“That is the wisdom of [humans] in a nutshell,” wrote Buechner. “What God says, on the other hand, is ‘The life you save is the life you lose.’ In other words, the life you clutch, hoard, guard and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself, and only a life given away for love’s sake is a life worth living.”

Buechner continued, “To bring his point home, God shows us a man who gave his life away to the extent of dying a national disgrace without a penny in the bank or a friend to his name. In terms of [human] wisdom, he was a Perfect Fool, and anybody who thinks [they] can follow him without [being] something like the same kind of a fool ... is laboring under not a cross but a delusion.”

April Mission Focus



What is Native American Ministries Sunday?

April 14, 2024

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this Special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized and to celebrate their special voice in The United Methodist Church.

Donations support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities and allow The UMC to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans. Half of the donations collected remain within the Annual Conference to provide hope to children and youth, hope for a brighter future in impoverished communities and a voice to those who have felt voiceless for years. This fund is distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love.

By asking you to support RC UMC Missions' Projects, we also ask that you first consider your support of the general fund, which is what keeps our church doors open. Then please prayerfully consider your support of this month's Mission Focus. Thank you.

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2024	
<i>Special Sundays in Italics</i>	
April	Conference Ingathering Project: Personal Dignity Kits <i>Native American Ministries Sunday April 14TH 1025</i>
MAY	<i>Golden Cross Sunday</i> <i>This offering helps support Schmitt Woodland Hills</i> <i>#1070</i> <i>Peace With Justice Sunday</i> <i>May 26th 1035</i>
June	ICE CREAM SOCIAL (TBD) (Church Camp Fund)

July	FOOD PANTRY
August	MEMORIAL MINISTRY WISH LIST
September	PASSAGES
October	HARVEST AUCTION: to fulfill our covenant with David Makobo, Senegal, Africa (TBD) <i>World Communion Sunday</i> <i>October 6TH 1045</i>
November	VETERANS PROJECT (project TBD) <i>UM Student Day</i> <i>November 24th #1055</i>
December	SALVATION ARMY

Mission Ingathering Project – Personal Dignity Kits

In Gathering 2024

Items needed for the kits must be new



- 1 hand towel – no kitchen towels
- 1 washcloth – no dishcloths
- 1 toothbrush – no multipacks
- 1 bar soap – 3 to 4 oz
- 1 shampoo – 12 to 19 oz
- 1 deodorant – 2 to 3 oz (stick, roll-on or pump)
- 1 lotion – 8 to 10 oz
- 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag – furnished by Richland Center UMC
- \$2 donation for razor and toothpaste

Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit.

Our Mission Focus for April will be our Annual Conference Ingathering Project. We will again be making and collecting Personal Dignity Kits. These are the same kits that we have made in the past, although one new item, an 8-10 oz. bottle of lotion, has been added to the list.

Plastic bags, with a list of needed items enclosed, will be on the tables in the back of the church beginning in April. The cost of a completed kit is about \$15.00. We will collect completed kits or monetary donations until **Sunday, May 12.**

This has been a very successful project for us and we appreciate all the support the church has given this project.

Personal Dignity Kits are in great demand due to natural disasters and conflicts throughout the world. Everyday more people are being displaced and flee with only the clothes on their backs, and perhaps a small sack of their personal belongings. The items given in a Personal Dignity Kit are basic necessities for personal hygiene, which is so important for maintaining health and preventing the spread of disease.

Together we can be the hands and feet of Jesus - sharing his love with the people of this world by giving of our abundant resources.

April also has a Special Envelope Offering on April 14. This offering will be for Native American Ministries and is an important mission for the United Methodist Church in America.

Again, the Missions Committee thanks all of you for your generous support of our projects and events.

2024 Irish Recital and Potato Bar



**Irish Dancers with
instructor Brittany Hying**

**What a wonderful way to
spend a Saturday evening!**



A wonderful time was had by all who attended the Potato Bar and Irish Recital on March 16th. Other than running out of sour cream and onions and close to being out of cheese, we all had a great time. Yes! We had plenty of potatoes!

The workers who worked at set up on Friday and Saturday were awesome! Lots of good workers and we got it all done. Thanks to those who stayed to clean up afterwards. It was quite a task to get it all done. The dancers were so kind to us, they thanked us for serving them, which was greatly appreciated. People seemed to enjoy the food – especially the desserts. We had quite a variety of desserts to choose from and people kept coming back for more. One of the desserts was shared on Sunday during coffee hour.

For many of us, it was our first time either working and/or attending the event. People were so happy to have something fun and exciting to do. Being United Methodist didn't hurt, as we all love to eat!

Rosie Steinmetz did an awesome job of keeping everyone and everything on track. Even making sure she had enough workers to help. She and Brittany started talking about the Irish Recital a couple of months earlier to make sure it would be a go.

Weren't the dancers wonderful! Such a lively group and so many different ages and abilities. You could tell they love what they do! Brittany Hying did an awesome job of keeping everyone on track and running smoothly.

We look forward to next year's Irish Recital and Potato Bar. Please make sure to tell your friends and family when you start to see the signs around church.

Memorial Ministry Corner



April Memorial Ministry Corner



Final Financial Update for February 2024 Internal Missions' Campaign

A tremendous “thanks” to all having given memorial and honor gifts during our February internal missions’ project on behalf of the Richland Center UMC (RCUMC) scholarship fund. Our final total was a remarkable **\$ 2,449.91!** We thank you very much for answering the previous call to help us build our invested scholarship total for the great need which lies before us. Our total scholarship account, invested with Ameriprise/Capital Wealth Advisory Group, now totals **\$ 16,518.45.**

Our RCUMC scholarship is funded through generous memorial/honor gifts from **Russ & Barb Shannon & Cheryl M. Stanley**, member/friend honor gifts, and in memory of **Marilyn Joan Anderson; Wayne Braithwaite; Jerry Cooper; Alberta Chellevoid-Couey; Marilyn Rose Creasey; Nancy Edwards; Hilda Heidenreich; Eloise Herbeck; Dean, Kirk, & Roger Jewell; James & Lucille Johnston; Ralph & Helen Monteith; Ruth Moser; Ileen Shannon; Eleanor Strang; and Julia “Jane” Taylor.**

Kathy Bastian (Missions’ Chair) & Paul Murphey (Memorial Ministry Chair)

**May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take
refuge, reward you fully for what you have done. -- Ruth 2:12**

2024 RCUMC Scholarship Applications

Our scholarship application period concluded on Sunday, March 31, 2024. The Memorial Ministry (MM) internal scholarship review team is now at work reviewing all submitted applications with a full MM vote on those recommendations planned for its next meeting on **Thursday, May 02, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Library.** A June 2024 announcement will be made honoring your 2024 scholarship recipients. Stay Tuned!



***“Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the
thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people and plants of
the field to everyone.” – Zechariah 10:11***

Richland Center UMC Memorial Ministry Welcomes a New Member!

We gratefully welcome [Bonnie Richardson](#) as a new member of our RCUMC Memorial Ministry team. Bonnie's professional experience will be of great value to us!

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." – 2 Corinthians 9:11

Church Membership Notes



Church Membership Notes



Richland Center UMC Member Address Updates

Please update your personal records for the following member address changes:

Betty Unbehaun

38130 Pretty Pond Road
Apartment 328
Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Ruby Hodge

Harvest Guest Home
Apartment No. 01
875 West Side Drive Dr
Richland Center, WI 53581

"By wisdom a house is built and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches." - - Proverbs 24: 3-4

Belated Happy Birthday, Bernie Couey!

We wish Bernie Couey a belated happy 100th birthday on January 09, 2024! As Bernie is now working his way to 101, I am sure that he would still appreciate your birthday greetings:

Bernie Couey

Our House Senior Living
Room 211
250 North Orange Street
Richland Center, WI 53581

"May He Grant You Your Heart's Desire and Fulfill All Your Plans!" – Psalm 20:04

Summer Camps 2024 – Pine Lake & Lake Lucerne

Wild: Treehouse – Pine Lake

Summer excitement deep in the outdoors! Enjoy life in the woods at a bird's eye view. Campers stay in our iconic cabins on stilt for the week with a schedule filled with nature-centered activities! Prepare for adventure as you build a new community in tree town and learn new games with your cabin group!

June 16-19 (Grades 2-4)

June 16-21 (Grades 4-6)

August 4-9 (Grades 4-6)

Wild: Backpacking – Pine Lake

August 4-9 (Grades 6-9)

Everything you need for a great week in one backpack! Campers stay in provided tents and pack their belongings in supplied frame backpacks. The next steps are exploring nature with an emphasis on wilderness survival skills, how to set up a campsite for success, and grow in personal independence and faith. Campers will be hiking to various parts of our 440 acre site to explore nature with their friends in new and exciting ways.

Wild: Outdoor Adventure – Pine Lake

June 16-21 (Grades 9-12)

The final step in the Wild progression! High school campers will work to perfect and learn survival skills at Pine Lake. They will hike trails and have a true wilderness experience complete with camping in provided tents and working as a team to complete skill challenges and explore scenic trails together.



Classic – Lake Lucerne

Explore all that is camp through daily Bible study and worship, nightly campfires, time in nature, adventure and more. Participate in traditional camp activities such as swimming, boating, group games, archery, crafts, rock climbing, zip lining and more!

June 9-12 (Grades 2-4)

June 9-14 (Grades 4-6, 6-9 and 9-12)



Pine Lake

W8301 County Road M
Westfield, WI 53964
608.296.2720



Lake Lucerne

W6460 County Road YY
Neshkoro, WI 54988
920.293.4488



Visit WIUMCamps.org for more information

Thank you for the Easter Flowers!



EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS 2024

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Paul/Louise Murphey | In Memory of
Bob, Rose &
Larry Murphey |
| 2. Paul/Louise Murphey | In Memory of
Art & Vera
Boettcher |
| 3. Russ & Barb Shannon | In Memory of
Ileen Shannon |
| 4. Laurie Stevens-Vance | In Memory of
Beata Ann &
Robert Elliott |
| 5. Diane Cox | In Memory of
Harold & Ethel
Olson |
| 6. Ron & Rosie Steinmetz | In Memory of
Norma & Mills
Wanless |
| 7. Larry & Susan Hallett | In Memory of
Bud & Ruth
Moser |
| 8. Carl & Joan Bethke | In Memory of
Steve Bethke |
| 9. Laurie Stevens-Vance | In Honor of
Edward, Grace
Anne, &
Angelica
Hoskin |



Flowers for Easter

Easter lilies and colorful spring plants for Easter have been ordered.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate a flower or more.

You may take your Easter flower(s) home with you following the Easter Worship Service.

A very big **THANK YOU** to Donna Bower for ordering and arranging the flowers for Easter Sunday.



You Are My Witnesses

John White (1924-2002) was a medical missionary, psychiatry professor, church planter and prolific author who wrote about faith and outreach. He refuted the notion that being an effective witness for Christ is akin to being a salesperson. Christians are representing and sharing a person, he said, not touting a product.

“A good witness is like a signpost,” he added. “It doesn’t matter whether it is old, young, pretty, ugly. It has to point the right direction and be able to be understood. We are witnesses to Christ; we point to him.”

*Happy 103rd Birthday to J. Francis Cooper on April 7th.
Fran resides at Schmitt Woodland Hills
1400 W. Seminary St
Richland Center, WI 53581*

Celebrations and More



April Birthdays

Linda Kesting	4/1	Rosanne Knowler	4/18
Ryan Weber	4/1	Arlene Fruit	4/21
Mitchell Woodman	4/2	Megan Sommer	4/21
Linda Rohn	4/3	Anita Bunge	4/26
Julie Jewell	4/3	Braden Turgasen	4/26
Lester Studnicka	4/5	Jan Hewuse	4/27
Austin Kaszubski	4/6	Donna Bower	4/28
J. Francis Cooper (103)	4/7	Jordan Kaszubski	4/28
John Storer	4/13	Jacob Storer	4/30

April Anniversaries

Dick & Jan Hewuse	4/9
Timothy & Connie Hoppenjan	4/9
Jeff & Sandy Brice	4/15
Marty & Linda Rohn	4/17
Dan & Becky Tracy	4/18
Timothy & Mary Otto	4/19
Al & Chris Marshall	4/21
Ed & Barb Nazer	4/27
Chris & Destiny Shannon	4/29



VICTOR'S CROSS — Also called the conqueror's cross, the victor's cross is composed of the Greek cross, recognized by its four equal arms, adorned with Greek letters in each quadrant. The top left letters stand for Jesus and the top right letters stand for Christ (the horizontal lines above them indicate that they are abbreviations). The four letters across the bottom spell the Greek word for conqueror.



What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)



Special Charge/Church Conference

We will hold a special Charge/Church Conference on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



APRIL MINISTRY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 April Fools Day	2 Mission's Mtg: 4:30 p.m. Library	3	4 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Library	5 The office is closed	6
7 New Times Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.	8 Trustees Mtg: 4:00 p.m. Library Charge// church Conf. 5:00 p.m.	9	10 RCMA Mtg: Noon Library Dance class: 4:00 p.m.	11 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Library	12 The office is closed	13
14 Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.	15 Ad Council Mtg: 4:00 p.m. Library	16	17 Newsletter deadline: Noon Dance class: 4:00 p.m.	18 RAREA Mtg: 10:00 a.m. Narthex Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Library	19 The office is closed	20
21 Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.	22	23	24 Dance class: 4:00 p.m.	25 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Library	26 The office is closed	27
28 Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.	29	30	<p>“The cross is both the symbol of our salvation and the pattern of our lives.”</p> <p><i>—Brennan Manning</i></p>			

Richland Center United Methodist Church
400 East Seminary Street
Richland Center, WI 53581



A Community of Faith



Richland Center United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. **New Time**
Pastor: Rachel K. Olson
Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-373-4027
Pastor's email: rkolson123@gmail.com

Richland Center Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Richland Center UMC Office: (608) 647-3203
Richland Center's email: trinityumc@mwt.net
Websites: www.umchurchrc.org



Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler
Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse
Custodian: Bill Twining