



*From the Desk of Pastor Rachel*

June is always an exciting and hopeful month. We rejoice with our students and teachers as another school year comes to an end with graduations and anticipation of the warm summer months ahead. We look forward to sunshine, being outdoors, and having time for much needed recreation and rest.

Here in the church, we often find this to be a bit quieter time of year as our young people enjoy the extra freedom that comes with summer vacation and as many people take off for their well-deserved get-aways. And yet, even in this more relaxed season, there is still important work to be done. June is the month of our Annual Conference where United Methodists from across the Wisconsin Conference gather to catch up with each other and to plan for the coming year. This year we are meeting in Green Bay (June 7 - 10) and there will be much to unpack after the historic General Conference that took place in April.

And in our own church, we are also actively praying, listening, and coming together in committees and work-groups as we set goals and make our own plans for the coming year. As a newly-unified congregation, we are still finding our feet, and there is still much to discover and organize as we look toward the future. We want the Richland Center United Methodist Church to thrive and be a beacon of Christian love and light in our community. And while we are off to a very good start, there is more we want to do to build upon our positive momentum.

Our mission as United Methodists is to “make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This is a tall order, and in order to do it well, we will need the prayers and participation of all our members and friends. We have many people to care for, Sunday services to plan and prepare, youth and adults to nurture in Discipleship, a community to serve. Not to mention all the other many and varied responsibilities that come with providing an inviting and inspiring place of worship, learning, and fellowship -- not only for our existing congregation but for those in our community who may be looking for a welcoming faith-family. In fact, statistics tell us that summer is the time when spiritual seekers typically visit churches, and of course we will want those visitors to see us at our best. So, while this may be the season for taking it easy, it is also a time where God may be doing new and important things in our little corner of Creation.

And so, with all this in mind -- and no matter where you will be this month -- you will be in my prayers and I invite you to join me with some prayers of your own. Let's lift up all our students, teachers, graduates and travelers, along with our Wisconsin Annual Conference and the RC-UMC church and its leaders. And if you think of it, say a prayer for me too, as I will be traveling to Washington DC to receive a Doctor of Theology degree on June 14th.

With much gratitude and many blessings to all,

*Pastor Rachel*