



*News From*  
***The Center***



Dear Friends,

As of July 1st, I will have completed my first year as pastor here in Richland Center. As such, I thought it might be a good idea to pause for a moment to look back at the past 12 months to see where we have been and then switch directions and look ahead at possibilities for my second year in ministry with the RC-UMC.

When I arrived last summer, I came prepared to serve two congregations as they considered the pros and cons of merging together to become one church. I was greeted very warmly and given everything I needed to begin the work in front of me. By late September, after much prayer and conversation, it was decided by a majority vote in both churches, that Peace and Trinity would merge on January 1st 2024.

We spent the remainder of the fall and winter looking inward, celebrating our long and fruitful history and grieving the loss of what was, as we prepared for Peace's building to be sold and for the members of both congregations to begin their lives as one church. On the first Sunday of this year, we had our first worship service as a single congregation. Then came the process of deciding on our new name. We spent several weeks looking at various options and listening to the many and varied ideas and inspirations that were presented, and in early February, we finally settled on Richland Center United Methodist Church: *A Community of Faith*. We are still in the process of finalizing this change, but so far, the name seems to fit and to be serving us well.

Since then, we have been adjusting week by week as we welcome not only the faces we know, but also some faces that are new to us. Our attendance has been slowly climbing and we are now averaging about 60 people on Sundays. This has been encouraging, and there is still plenty of room to grow.

Just this past week, the RC-UMC Church Council met and ratified our new mission statement:

**The mission of the RC-UMC, as a community of faith, is to share the Gospel and to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

**We bring this mission to life by:**

- **Being an active and inclusive Christian presence in our community.**
- **Providing a safe and inviting place of prayer, worship, learning, sharing, and fellowship.**
- **Offering opportunities and experiences for personal growth and for supporting others in Christ.**
- **Engaging with the world beyond our walls to embody the Gospel through acts of hospitality, compassion, generosity, and service.**

## **Pastor Rachel's Message *Continued*....**

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In short, by working together in prayerful cooperation with each other and the Holy Spirit, we have come a very long way in just a year, and have done remarkably well to get to this point. To this I say, Alleluia! And, praise the Lord!

And because we have been successful in reaching our objectives thus far, it is now time to begin turning our attention outward and looking toward our mission and purpose as a church, and how we are reaching out and engaging with the wider community and the world.

In our 2024-2025 goal-setting sessions, the Council and Trustees have identified five areas of highest priority for this appointment year:

- 1) Discipleship -- deepening our relationship with Christ through prayer, education, and small group ministry
- 2) Nurture and support of our existing members
- 3) Outreach to the wider community
- 4) A 3 to 5 year congregational redevelopment plan with professional consultation
- 5) Refurbishing and upgrading our facilities

We have already started working on some of these, and I invite you to stay tuned to next month's (August) *News From the Center* for more details on some new and enjoyable ways that you can take part in upcoming plans and programs.

In short, we have much to look forward to in this coming 12 months, but also much to do. I predict that there will be many more successes, as well as some significant challenges in our future. Therefore, as we seek to be faithful to our mission as a church and to God's calling in our lives, I ask all our members and friends to please keep the RC-UMC in your daily prayers and good thoughts. And please know, we will be praying for you as well.

Pastor Rachel



### **Breakthrough Prayer Initiative Training**

*August 17, St. Paul's UMC in Stevens Point*

Every Church recognizes prayer as important. But what happens when a congregation unites to pray collectively and consistently for God to break through in new and miraculous ways? You can launch your congregation into the kind of churchwide breakthrough prayer initiative that

fuels the atmosphere of possibility, and the entire focus begins to shift from inward thinking to up and outward thinking.

As we are considering the future of RC-UMC and discerning where the Spirit is calling us to move and grow, we believe prayer is at the heart of our mission and the best place to start this journey. Pastor Rachel will be attending this event with up to five members of the congregation. If you would like to be part of this team, please contact Pastor Rachel or the church office by July 31st.

## Mission Focus for July: Food Pantry

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### RICHLAND CENTER LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Missions' Committee has again chosen the local Food Pantry as its JULY Mission focus. The last Sunday, July 28, 2024, offering for missions will support the Food Pantry. Also the committee requests that you make a special effort to **bring food donations every Sunday in July, if possible.**

**Canned fruit and tuna/chicken, box dinners, peanut butter/jelly, canned vegetables/beans, rice and pasta are especially appreciated as they have a long shelf life. Food collection bins will be located in the east entryway and in the narthex.**

Missions' Committee wishes to thank the congregation for their faithful support of our mission efforts, in the community, state, nation, and the world.



***By asking you to support Richland Center 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.***

# Missions: Follow-up To the Ice Cream Social

## MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2024

*Special Sundays in Italics*

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 October 6<sup>TH</sup> 1045</i>
November	VETERANS PROJECT ( project TBD) <i>UM Student Day November 24<sup>th</sup> #1055</i>
December	SALVATION ARMY



**Pictures of  
the Ice  
Cream Social  
June 19, 2024**



Busy in the kitchen



# UMC Foundation News

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## Perspective

Some things are simply a matter of perspective. We can be reminded often how words can be used to skew the truth. For instance, an interoffice softball game was held every year between the marketing department and support staff of one company. The day of the game, as hard as the marketers tried, the support staff whipped the marketing department soundly.

In its best tradition, the marketing department decided to find the best “spin” they could on the dismal result. They showed how they earn their keep by posting this memo on the bulletin board after the game: “The marketing department is pleased to announce that for the recently completed softball season, we came in second place, having lost but one game all year. The support department, however, had a rather dismal season, as they won only one game all year.”

On the other hand, hidden beauty can also be found by looking at a situation in a different way. A little girl named Lauren (age 5) reports, “I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.”

I think Lauren is on to something. Our entire lives can be shaped by perspective. How would I approach money, “stuff,” and giving if I knew that God had already given me everything I need, rather than seeing all the things I “need” in the store windows? How would I treat others if I focused on the ways I could serve rather than making sure everyone respected my rights? How would my marriage change if it were based on being one another’s servant rather than a struggle for power? What would my attitude toward work be if I saw it as my God-given vocation rather than someplace I had to go to earn a paycheck? What if I saw Sunday as a true Sabbath . . . a time for connecting with God and family and rest . . . rather than a day to run the kids to more activities, the day I must get things done at home before I go to work?

Sometimes we need God to help us see the world differently before we can live differently in it.

Rev. Jason Mahnke,

**Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation**

**Website: [wumf@wumf.org](mailto:wumf@wumf.org)**

**Or call 888-903-9863**



**Makes perfect  
gifts and supports  
Missions Ministry!  
Please see Nancy  
McCauley**



## Memorial Ministry Corner

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### July Memorial Ministry Corner



**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”**  
-- Matthew 5:4

In Memory of David L. Jewell  
March 06, 1954 – May 25, 2024

Our deepest sympathy to Rosemary and to her entire family.  
Complete Obituary Appears at the *Pratt Funeral & Cremation* Website:

<https://tinyurl.com/55vxwdpr>

Services will be Held at a Later Date.  
Cards of Condolence May be Sent to David’s Mother & Family at the Following:

**Rosemary Jewell**  
1170 West Haseltine Street  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
608.647.2398

In Memory of Richard C. Kelsey  
August 07, 1942 – May 30, 2024

Our deepest sympathy to Claudia, Jerry, and to their entire family.

Complete Obituary Appears at the *Stafford Funeral Homes* Website:

<https://tinyurl.com/2s3wweb2>

Services will be Held on Friday, June 14, 2024, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Stafford Funeral Home,  
Richland Center, with graveside rites at a later date in Marinette, WI.

Cards of Condolence May be Sent to Richard’s Sister, Brother-in-law, & Family at the Following:

**Claudia & Jerry Berres**  
21602 Berres Lane  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
608.647-8487

## Richland Center UMC Presents Scholarships



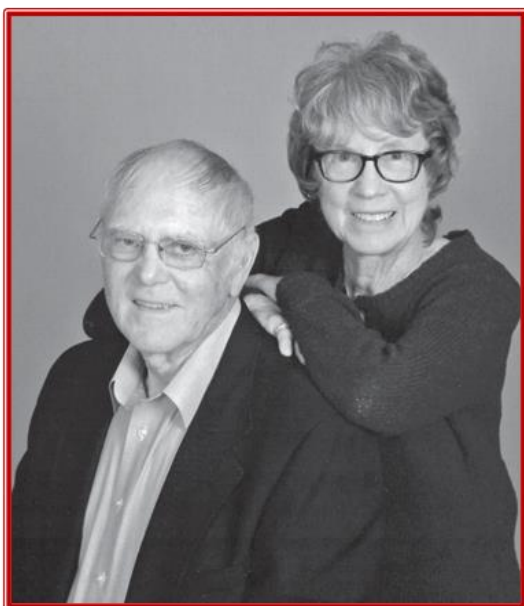
On Wednesday, May 22, 2024, Memorial Ministry Chair Paul Murphey attended the Richland Center High School's 2024 Senior Scholarship Awards Ceremony to present Katherine R. Hall & Teige W. Perkins with their \$500 scholarships on behalf of Richland Center United Methodist Church. In addition, Katherine was presented with her \$1,000 scholarship from the former Peace United Methodist Church members & friends. Congratulations, Katherine & Teige, as we are so pleased to help you begin this exciting new chapter in your life!

### Tora V. Perkins Finalizes Her Fall 2024 Plans

Tora V. Perkins, a May 2024 graduate of UW-Whitewater, has finalized her fall 2024 plans and has informed Memorial Ministry of those plans. Tora accepted her new job on June 03, 2024, and while her current employer will pay her basic tuition expense for her Master of Business Administration (MBA) at UW-Whitewater, the employer will not be paying all the expenses; thus Memorial Ministry has removed the "provisional" label from her church scholarship. Memorial Ministry has now authorized her \$500 fall 2024 church scholarship. Congratulations, Tora, on the new job and your move to Janesville, WI.

**"May He grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed."**

-- Psalm 20:4 (New Living Translation/NLT)



**Congratulations to Howard & Helen Nelson on their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on June 06, 2024.**

**"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."**

-- Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10





## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hosted by Willow Valley UMC

Children up to 12 are welcome!  
Youth 12 and up are invited to be group leaders!

July 22, 23, 24, and 25  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Sing! Dance! Play! Learn about Jesus!

To Sign Up:  
Contact the Willow Valley UMC Office at  
[acwvumc@gmail.com](mailto:acwvumc@gmail.com) or (608)-585-2281  
or register on site on July 22



Willow Valley UMC  
24811 State Hwy  
58  
Richland Center,  
WI 53581



## Camping News

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### Oops Our Slip is Showing!

In the June highlights of those from RC-UMC going to camp in July, It was erroneously stated that John Storer and Declan would be going to Grandparents / Grandchild Camp at Pine Lake. It should have read the two will be attending Grandparents / Grandchild Camp at Lake Lucerne in July. Our apologies for the error.

### Spotlight – Pine Lake

**July 14-17 Grades 2-4**

**July 14-19 Grades 4-6 & 6-9**

Spotlight is our performing arts camp. Throughout the week campers will spend time creating and learning music, taking on a new role in performances, and learning to express themselves through movement and motions of dance. At the end of their week, they will show friends and family what they learned with a special performance at our end-of-week Family Fest!

### Circuit: Games to Life – Pine Lake

**July 28-31 Grades 2-4**

**July 28-August 2 Grades 4-6**

Your favorite videogame activities brought to the real world! First, we play the game, then we become the game! Campers play a limited amount of family-friendly video games, then get outside to participate in real-life recreations of the games!

[www.WIUMCamps.org](http://www.WIUMCamps.org) for  
**more information**

### Circuit: Game Makers – Pine Lake

**July 28-August 2 Grades 6-9**

Do you love video games? Find out what it takes to build the games you love as you work on character design, story, and basic coding to build a video game. A variety of other S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities will fill out the schedule as campers learn through doing, learning the complexities of game development.

### Circuit: ROBOTICS / S.T.E.M – Pine Lake

**(Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)/ Computer programing**

**July 28-August 2 Grades 9-12**

High school Circuit campers will dig deeper into the processes behind robotics and computer program development through cooperative and competitive projects. Spend time working with LEGO Technic robotics to navigate an obstacle course, dive deep into making your own games, and much more!

### Beach Bash – Lake Lucerne

**July 28-31 – Grades 2-4, 4-6, 6-9, 9-12**

This is a short week camp that's guaranteed to be filled with loads of fun! Experience all that camp has to offer. Bible study, worship, nightly campfires, swimming and boating, ropes courses and more. Join us for water games, lake tubing and slip n' slides and water balloons!



**Pine Lake**

W8301 County Road M  
Westfield, WI 53964  
608.296.2720



**Lake Lucerne**

W6460 County Road YY  
Neshkoro, WI 54988  
920.293.4488

## Celebrations and More



### July Birthdays

Ellie Otto	7/5
Chasidy Weber	7/8
Louise Murphey	7/9
Kevin Steinmetz	7/10
Al Baker	7/12
Gene Wanless	7/12
Olivia Gochenaur	7/13
Karen Parker	7/17
Kathy Schwinefus	7/17
Becky Tracy	7/18
Mark McCollum	7/19
Brandon McCollum	7/20
Terry Nimocks	7/25
Zach Brewer	7/26
Edward Borton	7/27
Emmett Drone	7/29
Allen Kaszubski	7/29

### July Anniversaries

Paul & Louise Murphey	7/9
Ron & Rosie Steinmetz	7/9
Gary & Corrina Mott	7/12
Russ & Barb Shannon	7/12
Allen & Terri Kaszubski	7/22
Randy & Bonnie Richardson	7/24
Lester & Nancy Studnicka	7/24
John & Chris Storer	7/25
Jacob Storer & Victor Igual	7/28
Paul & Rosanne Knower	7/29

### Special Dates

- Canada Day, July 1
- U.S. Independence Day, July 4,

### Cathedral Floor Plan

Traditionally, a cathedral is laid out in the shape of a cross. The lower section or nave (from Latin for ship), along with the transepts (the arms of the cross), is where the congregation sits. The choir sits on either side of the chancel. Despite our common terminology, the sanctuary (from Latin for holy) isn't the full worship space but the area right before the altar. The location of the lectern, from which Scripture is read, and pulpit, used for preaching, may vary.

## Trinity Hosting “Greg Zelek” Concert – SAVE THE DATE!!



RICHLAND CENTER UNITED METHODIST  
HOSTING  
A CONCERT EVENT  
FOR THE RICHLAND CONCERT ASSOCIATION

*Greg Zelek*

*Principal Organist of the  
Madison Symphony Orchestra returns!*

**PERFORMANCE TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024**



## JULY MINISTRY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Mission's Mtg: 4:30 p.m. - Library	3	4 Fourth of July Holiday 	5 The office is closed	6
7 Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Communion	8 Trustee Mtg: 4:00 p.m. - Library	9	10	11 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Library	12 Joan on Vacation till the 22nd  The office is closed	13
14 Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.	15 Ad Council Mtg: 4:00 p.m. - Library	16	17	18 Thrift Shop workers: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Library	19 The office is closed	20
21 Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.	22 VBS @ Willow Valley UMC 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	23 Joan back from vacation VBS @ Willow Valley UMC 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	24 Newsletter Deadline Noon VBS @ Willow Valley UMC 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	25 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Library VBS @ Willow Valley UMC 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	26 The office is closed	27
28 Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.	29 RAREA 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Schmitt Fellowship Hall	30	31	<b>The office will remain open on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.</b>		

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



### A Community of Faith

The mission of the RC-UMC, as a community of faith, is to share the Gospel and to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



## Richland Center United Methodist Church



Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Pastor: Rachel K. Olson  
Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-373-4027  
Pastor's email: [rkolson123@gmail.com](mailto:rkolson123@gmail.com)

Richland Center Church Office  
Hours: Monday through Thursday  
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
RC UMC Office: (608) 647-3203  
email: [trinityumc@mwt.net](mailto:trinityumc@mwt.net)  
Websites: [www.umchurchrc.org](http://www.umchurchrc.org)



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