



News From

The Center



Luke 24:13-16 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. **14** They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. **15** As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; **16** but they were kept from recognizing him.

Dear Family of Christ's Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord.

Have you ever had someone walk right beside you—and you didn't recognize them at first? Perhaps you were distracted or lost in your thoughts, and only later did you realize who it was.

There are times in our lives when we feel weary or uncertain.
Times when our prayers feel quiet.

Times when our hearts carry grief, worry, or disappointment.
In those moments, it can feel as though God is distant.

But the story of Emmaus reminds us of this truth: Jesus is often closest when we feel Him the least.

The disciples thought they were simply taking a sorrowful walk, grieving the loss of the One they loved. But it was more than that—it was a holy walk. Because Jesus was with them every step of the way.

Whatever you are carrying—joy or sorrow, clarity or confusion—the risen Christ walks with you.

He walks with us in every season of life.

In the Emmaus story, the disciples finally recognized Jesus when they invited Him to stay and sit at the table with them. As He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them—their eyes were opened.

That invitation still stands for us today.

As we gather in worship, as we open Scripture, and especially as we come to the Lord's Table, we are invited to welcome Christ into our lives more deeply. And in those moments, our eyes, too, are opened.

May the risen Christ may become real in your eyes and in your heart—today and always!

In the Lord Christ's Love,
Pastor Grace.

Commencing a Lifetime of Learning

What would you tell a young man or woman about to graduate? One of the most common messages commencement speakers share is that graduates are indeed commencing. They are only just beginning to learn.

While they may rightly feel proud of finishing school, a few months in the working world often reveal how much they still do not know.

Christians who love God with their minds understand that truth frees us from ignorance and superstition. They also know that the joy of learning brings deep satisfaction and, in time, wisdom. That wisdom helps us evaluate what we have learned and use it well, so that knowledge becomes a tool for growth and faithful living.



An A Plus Answer

Twelve-year-old Daniel was doing his best to test the patience of his mother, the Rev. Ann Lewis. He pushed back on every request, and the tension in the room kept rising as he refused to cooperate.

Finally, his mother reached her limit. Looking at him firmly, she said, “Daniel, you have tested me to my limits.”

Without missing a beat, Daniel grinned and replied, “Yes! And you get an A-plus.”

Sunday School News



Barb Shannon
Education Chair
647-6522

May is a busy month for the Sunday School. We will celebrate May Day and welcome spring flowers by passing out May baskets to the congregation.

We are also participating in the mission focus of Dignity bags. Our goal is to fill 7 bags.

Congratulations to Julianna Shannon on receiving her degree from UW Oshkosh.

Please note May 24, 2026 will be our last class till fall.

Barb Shannon

Mission Focus: Peace With Justice Sunday



Peace With Justice Sunday

May 31, 2026

Across the United Methodist Church, compassionate people respond to God's call to be peace makers. They advocate for human rights, buy fair-trade products, care for the environment, demonstrate for a cause, eradicate poverty, seek affordable housing and model nonviolence. Every day, people of many faiths pray and work for peace and justice.

The nightly news is filled with all kinds of violence. With the ceasefire on shaky ground and no deal in sight, United Methodist are praying for peace as they've done since the beginning of the US-Israel war against Iran. They also are speaking out against disregard for human life.

United Methodists across the US led prayer vigils and joined protests in solidarity with their neighbors after federal immigration enforcement agents killed two people in Minneapolis and two people in Portland, Oregon.

Three European bishops traveled to western Ukraine to visit United Methodist congregations and meet people who have been living in war for years. The journey was about presence, solidarity and reminding people that have not been forgotten. United Methodists are continuing to do what they can to boost morale and provide necessities to those who need it.

Christian leaders in the Holy Land are calling for an end to all violent and military activities that bring harm to both Palestinian and Israeli civilians. The violence began when the militant group Hamas attacked southern Israel. Israel has not declared war on Hamas.

There are so many more examples of violence domestically and internationally. Everyday United Methodists are leading the way towards Peace with Justice. One small step and one small caring at a time can make world of difference in the world.

Peace with Justice #1025



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.

Golden Cross Sunday is May 17, 2026 and Special Missions 2026

What is Golden Cross Sunday?

Golden Cross Sunday highlights the United Methodist Church's commitment to health, wellness and compassionate care. It supports ministries that serve the health – related needs of vulnerable individuals, especially older adults and those facing medical hardship.



For those facing illness, emotional struggles or financial hardships Golden Cross ministries offers encouragement, dignity and renewed strength. Our gift helps fund this ministry which can make a real difference in people's lives.

Golden Cross #1070

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2026 <i>Special Sundays in Italics</i>		MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2026 <i>Special Sundays in Italics</i>	
MAY	<i>Peace With Justice Sunday</i> May 31 st 1035 <i>Golden Cross Sunday</i> <i>This offering helps support Schmitt Woodland Hills</i> May 17 th 1070	September	Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes through Samaritans Purse Heifer Project
June	Ice Cream Social - TBD (Church Camp Fund)	October	Harvest Auction: TBD Christmas Child Shoe boxes continued <i>World Communion Sunday</i> October 4 th 1045
July	Food Pantry School Supplies	November	Local DAV -Veterans - TBD <i>UM Student Day</i> November 30 th #1055
August	Memorial Ministry Wish List School supplies continued	December	Salvation Army

Would You Like To Help?

We are looking for more people to read Scripture and be Liturgists for Sunday services. If you are interested, please contact the church office – 608-647-3203 Monday – Thursday – Noon to 4:00 p.m. and speak with Joan or email trinityumc@mwt.net. We will be getting the rest of 2026 lined up here shortly.

Our grateful thanks to those who already read Scripture or are the Liturgist on Sunday mornings. You are all truly awesome!

Camping Information

Create – Pine Lake

Get ready to unleash your creativity! This week, campers dive into a whirlwind of color, texture, and imagination as we explore all kinds of artistic mediums and methods like paint and collage, and beyond. Whether you're crafting solo or teaming up for group masterpieces, every project is a chance to express your unique style.

It might get a little messy, but that's half the fun. By the end of the week, we'll have a gallery of spectacular creations and unforgettable memories to match!

Grades 2-4: June 14-17 (Sun-Wed)

Grades 4-6: June 14-19 (Sun-Fri) |

Grades 6-9: June 14-19 (Sun-Fri) |

Grandparent/Grandchild Camp – Pine Lake

Create unforgettable memories side by side with your grandchild during a heartwarming getaway designed just for grandparents and grandkids! This special weekend is all about deepening your bond, sharing your faith journey, and experiencing the joy of camp together.

From crafts and games to worship and outdoor adventures, you'll enjoy every moment of quality time—laughing, learning, and growing closer in a place filled with love, laughter, and legacy. It's a celebration of connection across generations!

June 19-21 (Fri-Sun)

Our goal is to ensure all can enjoy camp while still maintaining mission viability through the generosity of many.

Pine Lake

Lake Lucerne W8301 County Road M
W6460 County Road YY Westfield, WI 53964
Neshkoro, WI 54988 608.296.2720
920.293.4488



Easter Flowers



EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS 2026

1. Paul/Louise Murphey In Memory of Art & Vera Boettcher & Bob, Rose & Larry Murphey
2. Mark/Connie Dunn In Memory of Bob & Delight Totten
3. Donna Bower In Memory of Jerry Bower
4. Larry/Susan Hallett In Memory of Bud & Ruth Moser
5. Diane Cox In Memory of Harold & Ethel Olson
6. Rosie Steinmetz In Memory of Norma & Mills Wanless
7. Leonard/Connie Frye In Memory of Ardith & Carl Hansen & our parents
8. Joan Wheeler In Memory Brett & Kris Peterson & Allen Mayberry
9. Laurie Stevens Vance In Memory of Robert & Beatta Elliott and Ted Wheelock
In Honor of Angelica, Ed & Grace Hoskins & Jean Wheelock
10. Barb Marshall In Memory of Dick Marshall
11. Kathy Bastian In Memory of Harvey Bastian

Memorial Ministry Corner



May Memorial Ministry Corner



Thank You, RC-UMC, for Your Generous Support!

On behalf of the Missions' Committee and Memorial Ministry, thank you very much for your prayers and financial support during our annual February internal missions' project to support the RC-UMC scholarship ministry. The final tally is an amazing \$3,306.63 in memorial & honor gifts.

In addition to church member/friend honor gifts, our church scholarship is also funded through generous memorial/honor gifts from Kathy Bastian, Donna Bower, Ralph & Donna Czerepinski, Mark & Connie Dunn, Fuzz & Nancy McCauley, Paul & Louise Murphey, Brian & Stephanie Perkins, Dr. Tom & Kathy Richardson, Russ & Barb Shannon, & Cheryl M. Stanley; and in memory of Marilyn Joan Anderson; Harvey W. Bastian; Wayne Braithwaite; Jerry Cooper; Bernard (Bernie) & 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; Julia "Jane" Taylor; Delight (Dee) B. Totten; and Sarah Jane (Taylor) Wehner.

"May the Lord reward you for your kindness." – Ruth 1:8

Note: Our father, Bernard Couey, passed away on February 01, 2026. Bernie & Carol always had a deep love for Richland Center, their family & friends from the area, as well as the Methodist Church. As his children, we would like to honor him by making and designating a memorial donation to the Richland Center United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund. - - *Margaret Hyatt, Michael Couey, Bonita Haynes, & William Couey*

Thank You from the Family of Gene Charles Wanless . . .

Richland Center UMC,

Your kindness and sympathy at this time are more deeply appreciated than any word of thanks can ever express. - - *Shirley & Tim Wanless Family*

Note: The Wanless family has established a memorial fund in honor of Gene Charles Wanless.

Church Membership Notes



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Congratulations, Braedon (Brady) Joyce!

Richland Center UMC offers its congratulations to Professing Member Braedon (Brady) Joyce on his Saturday, May 16, 2026, graduation from UW-Whitewater. Brady will graduate from the Education & Professional Studies' Division with a Bachelor of Science-Education (BSE) degree in Elementary/Middle Education with an emphasis in Adaptive Education.

He is currently experiencing his required student teaching assignment as a Third Grade Teacher at West Elementary in Jefferson, WI. He will finish this requirement on Friday, June 05, 2026.

Brady's future plans are to seek employment as a teacher in the upper elementary grades somewhere within southeast Wisconsin.

Brady reported that his years at UW-Whitewater have been very valuable, not just with his degree, but also within his personal life. He has grown to be an educator who is passionate about making a difference in the lives of young people. He has met many people and has had experiences that will stay with him for the rest of his life. He looks forward to bringing everything he has learned into a classroom of his own. Congratulations can be sent to Brady at the following: [Braedon \(Brady\) Joyce](#), 170 East 8th Street, Richland Center, WI 53581

Happy 102 Birthday, Carolyn J. Freeman!

May 04, 2026

Carolyn has been a long-time Richland Center UMC friend.

Cards of Congratulations May be Sent to Carolyn at the Following:

Schmitt Woodland Hills Retirement Community

Attn: [Carolyn J. Freeman](#)

1400 West Seminary Street

Richland Center, WI 53581-2036

"May this birthday mark the beginning of a year filled with good health, happiness, and abundant grace. May your heart be light and your steps guided by love. On your special day, we pray that God showers you with His choicest blessings. May you always walk in His light and never lose your way."

-- *Anonymous Author*

Our Church in the News

Church Council Minutes April 20, 2026

In attendance: Russ Shannon, Dianne Monson, Howard Nelson, Diane Cox, Pastor Grace, Kathy Bastian, Dave Foley, Paul Murphey.

Russ gave the opening prayer.

Minutes from February 16th were provided by Russ. They were reviewed. Howard motioned to approve, seconded by Kathy. All approved.

Joys and Concerns: Connie Frye is back in the Gundersen Hospital. Asking for prayers for her, Leonard and their family.

Addition to the agenda – Conference registration.

Old Business:

Outreach and Involvement of Congregation – Russ said that Bonnie Richardson expressed interest in being on a committee to do more community outreach. Russ suggested that a committee be formed.

Liturgists and Order of Worship – no new input.

Richland Observer time of service notice – it is still listed as 9:30.

New Business:

1. Ash Creek Church celebration on May 3 – The service here has been planned because Pastor Grace won't be available. Beth Huebner plans to give the sermon.
2. Conference registration. Diane Cox is the Lay Representative to the Annual Conference. Dave motioned, Dianne seconded to approve the bills for registration, hotel and expenses. All approved.

Reports from Committees:

Trustees – Howard said they have been very busy:

- There have been furnace problems at the parsonage. The furnace was replaced but there were still problems because of air flow issues. A new air conditioner will be installed for \$5,966.73, which will fix the problem.
- A new washer and dryer was installed.
- At the church, the plexiglass fell off the window behind the organ. Caleb Harris donated his time and glue to fix it at no cost.
- The steps and sidewalk on the north side of the building will be replaced for \$6,800.
- Strangs replaced the light bulbs in Schmitt Hall, kitchen and bathroom with energy efficient bulbs for \$2,697.47. They also removed the carillon and the wiring to it. It was obsolete and unable to be repaired.
- Balcony repair and painting are in progress.
- Lawn mowing bid by Ed Manning was accepted.
- The next project will be Caleb Harris cleaning eve troughs and installing covers. He will also check and replace air vents to keep squirrels out.

Our Church in the News *continued from page 8*

Finance - Dianne said we are barely even. There was some carry-over from last year.

Howard asked about having the sermon on the website. Russ said it would be put on the agenda for next month. Howard said we should have a lesson on how to connect to the church website for those who don't have a lot of computer knowledge.

Memorial Ministry – Paul said he is way behind with thank you notes. The money has been coming in. The scholarship drive will end this coming Sunday. To date \$3,363 has been donated.

Membership – Paul said it is down to 2 lists – Friend of the Church and Constituents. Letters will go out asking if they are still interested in being a Friend. The original constituent list – those who were on the list before the Conference last year.

Missions – Kathy reported that a goal of 70 Hygiene kits was set. Diane will take them to the Annual Conference. The Pie and Ice Cream Social will be Wednesday, June 17th from 5 – 7:00. Shirley Wanless has applied for funds from Thrivent in the past. Kathy said she would contact Thrivent directly to apply for a \$250 project grant. Sign-up sheets for assistance and pie donations will be put out.

Sunday School – They chose to raise money for a goat through the Heifer Project. Lesson plans are about different denominations.

Pastor Report – There was a confirmation at Willow Valley yesterday. We have about 5 or 6 students here who have asked about confirmation. Ash Creek is having their 170th Anniversary program on May 3rd, so Pastor won't be available to RC-UMC. Beth Huebner will preach on May 3rd. She will also be gone on June 7th because of Annual Conference. She has 4 weeks-vacation that she needs to use before the end of June. Russ said there is a list of people who can fill in but he needs to know the dates she will be gone.

Motion by Howard, seconded by Dianne seconded to adjourn the meeting. All approved.

Pastor Grace closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Cox, Recording Secretary

These minutes have not been approved. They will be approved at the May meeting.

Church Financial Report

Newsletter Financial Info. 2026				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	YTD
Envelope offerings	\$ 13,710	\$ 12,280	\$ 7,990	\$ 33,980
Other income	367	44	282	693
Total deposits	\$ 14,077	\$ 12,324	\$ 8,272	\$ 34,673
Total expenses	11,003	10,240	13,278	34,521
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ 3,074	\$ 2,084	\$ (5,006)	\$ 152

Attendance:			
Worship:		Sunday school	
3-29	37	3-29	3
4-05	66	4-05	0
4-12	38	4-12	4
4-19	42	4-19	5

Celebrations and More




May Birthdays

Chris Storer	5/1	Mandy Brewer	5/17
Betty Boeing (101)	5/3	Millie Koehn	5/17
Pastor Grace Cho	5/3	Gabriel Tjossem	5/17
Jill Sommer	5/3	Gavin Tjossem	5/17
Carolyn Freeman (102)	5/4	Hadlee Jo Wilmot	5/18
Barb Shannon	5/4	Dave Foley	5/20
Eiko Subera	5/12	Al Marshall	5/23
Chris Shannon	5/14	Katherine Hall	5/27
Nicholas Hodge	5/16	Gregg Gochenaur	5/29

May Anniversaries

Leonard & Connie Frye	5/16
Gregg & Deanna Gochenaur	5/18
Tim & Michelle Woodman	5/23
Special Dates for May 2026	
National Day of Prayer,	May 7
Mother's Day,	May 10
Ascension of the Lord,	May 14
Armed Forces Day,	May 16
Victoria Day [Canada],	May 18
Day of Pentecost,	May 24
Memorial Day,	May 25
Trinity Sunday,	May 31

??? **Bible Quiz** ???



Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

Answer: A (Romans 16:22)



Spring Concert:

St. Mary's Students present "Bible Stories".
 May 13, 2026 with 2 performances: 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. at the City Auditorium. Open to the public.
 Free Admission however Donations will be accepted
 Rosanne Knower is the Music Director.
 Jennifer Hall is the pianist.



Remember Our Veterans



We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



May Ministry Roster 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 The office is closed	2 Church Women United 9:00 a.m. Park Street Christian Church
3 WV: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:00 a.m. Worship Sunday school: 10:15 a.m. AC: 11:00 a.m.	4 PEO: 5:30 p.m. - Library	5 Mission's Mtg: 2:30 p.m. - Library	6	7 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library	8 The office is closed RAREA: 10:00 a.m. - Library	9
10 <small>Mother's Day</small> WV: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:00 a.m. Worship Sunday school: 10:15 a.m. AC: 11:00 a.m.	11 Trustee's Mtg: 4:00 p.m. - Library	12	13 Spring Concert: 1:00 & 6:30 p.m. at City Auditorium	14 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library Lunch Bunch 11:30 a.m. - Mel's Micro	15 The office is closed	16
17 <small>Golden Cross Sunday</small> WV: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:00 a.m. Worship Sunday school: 10:15 a.m. AC: 11:00 a.m. Baccalaureate: 7:30 p.m. - RC	18 Ad Council Mtg: 4:00 p.m. - Library	19	20 Newsletter deadline: Noon	21 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library	22 The office is closed	23
24 WV: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:00 a.m. Worship Sunday school: 10:15 a.m. AC: 11:00 a.m.	25 Memorial Day Holiday The office is closed	26	27	28 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library	29 The office is closed	30
31 <small>Peace with Justice</small> WV: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:00 a.m. Worship AC: 11:00 a.m.	Mother's Day: A Legacy of Love Mother's Day invites us to honor the women who have nurtured, guided and loved us. We celebrate not perfection, but faithfulness shown in countless quiet moments. May we give thanks for the love that shapes hearts and points us toward God's grace.					

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

A Community of Faith



RC-UMC Mission Statement

The mission of the RCUMC, 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.

Richland Center United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Pastor: Grace Cho

Pastor's Cell Phone: 404-502-3544

Pastor's email: gracecho0503@gmail.com

Richland Center Church Office

RC-UMC Hours: Monday through Thursday
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Richland Center Office: (608) 647-3203

Richland Center email: trinityumc@mwt.net

Website: www.rc.umc.org OR

<https://rc-umc.org>

Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler

Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse

Custodian: Desiree Beik