

*Richland Center United Methodist Church  
A Community of Faith  
Ascension Sunday: May 17, 2026*



**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.**

*\*This mark invites those who are able to please stand.*

*If you have a prayer concern or a joy to share, please write it down on the buff-colored paper found in the pew and place it in the offering place. Thank you.*

**PRELUDE / WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

O God, you are our rock and our fortress. In you we find strength to go on. We praise you for the gifts of faith, hope, and love. Let us live out our call to be all you have created us to be. May our lives of worship be pleasing to you. Open our spirits to follow the path you put before us, that we may lead lives committed to your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN** *We Gather Together* 131

**A MOMENT FOR STILLNESS AND PRESENCE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Love one another, my friends.

**P: For God is love in us.**

L: Love even the stranger well.

**P: For God is love in us.**

L: Love sister and brother and child.

**P: For God is love in us.**

L: Love one another, my friends.

**P: For God is love in us. Let us praise his precious name!**

**\*HYMN** *Precious Name* 536

**OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

**Loving God, we have come to offer you our worship and praise. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. Open our hearts and minds to the guiding of your Spirit in our lives. Remind us again that perfect love casts out our fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love. Through the power of your Spirit, empower us to seek your ways and live as your faithful disciples. Lead us in right paths that we may serve you in truth and action. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *Beth Huebner*

**A TIME TO GREET ONE ANOTHER**

As Christ Jesus has shared his peace with us, let us share that same peace with one another.

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Let us offer signs of peace and love with one another.

**OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS** *All Sing*

*May the Lord, our great creator, bless you this day; give you peace and hope and courage along your way. May you stay within God's keeping in your waking, in your sleeping, in your joy, and in your weeping, God be with you.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORDS PRAYER** 895

**OUR OFFERING TO THE LORD**

As people of God, let us offer the fruit of our labors and ourselves for God's work in the world.

**\*DOXOLOGY**

95

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving God, we have been blessed through your goodness. As we bring our gifts in gratitude this morning, you remind us that it doesn't matter what we have in our lives, if we do not have love. You long for us to experience your love – the love of the world, the love for those we don't even know. Open our eyes and our hearts. In Christ, our teacher and our Savior, we pray. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING** 1 John 4:7-21 (NIV)

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, by the power of your Spirit, reveal to us your Word in the language of our hearts. Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**MESSAGE** *Pastor Grace Cho*

**\*HYMN** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* 557

**BENEDICTION**

We go now in peace. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen!

**Hymn Leaders:** David Brock, Connie Frye,  
Rosanne Knower, Kathy Schweinefus

**Liturgist:** Russ Shannon

**Organist/Pianist:** Jennifer Hall

**Scripture Reader:** Russ Shannon

**Sound System:** Paul Knower

**Coffee Hour Next Week:** Dianne Monson

**Upcoming Worship Servers:**

**Scripture Readers:**

May 24<sup>th</sup> Paul Murphey  
May 31<sup>st</sup> Paul Knower  
June 07<sup>th</sup> Kathy Schweinefus  
June 14<sup>th</sup> Jim Brock

**Liturgist:**

Paul Murphey  
Paul Knower  
Connie Dunn  
Dianne Monson

*Prayer: Risen and ascended Lord, lift our hearts in joy and remind us that you intercede for us, and empower us to live as your witnesses until you come again. Amen.*

**This Week's Events:**

- 17 **Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.**  
*Golden Cross Sunday*  
**Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.**  
Baccalaureate: 7:30 p.m. – RC High School
  - 18 Administrative Council Mtg: 4:00 p.m. – Library
  - 20 Newsletter deadline: Noon
  - 21 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library
- Upcoming Events:**
- 24<sup>th</sup> Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m. – Last one till September
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Holiday – Office is closed
  - 28<sup>th</sup> Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library



TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY  
HOST ....

Many thanks to Mandy Mille & Barb Nimocks for hosting coffee hour today.

**Richland Center United Methodist Church**

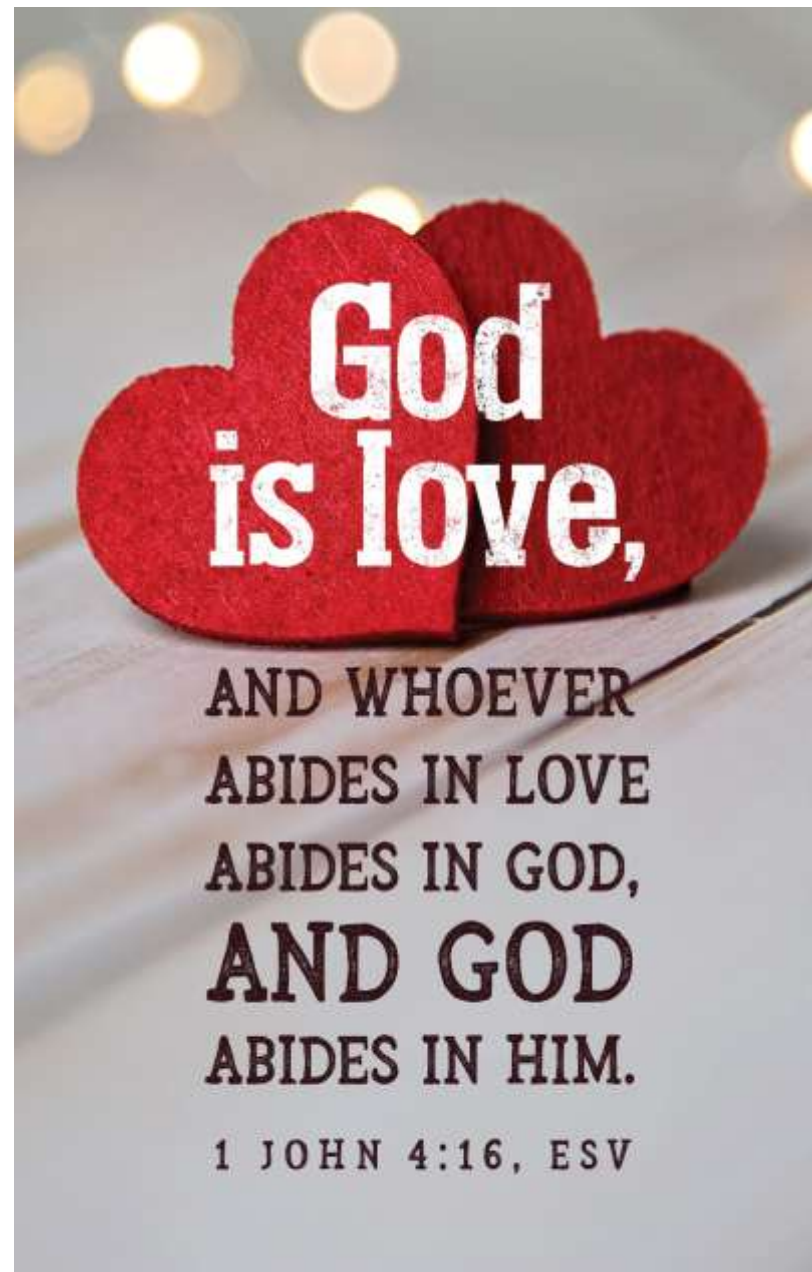
Pastor: Grace Cho  
Pastor's Cell Phone: 404-502-3544  
Pastor's Email: [gracecho0503@gmail.com](mailto:gracecho0503@gmail.com)

RC-UMC Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
RC-UMC Office: 608-647-3203  
RC-UMC Email: [trinityumc@mwt.net](mailto:trinityumc@mwt.net)  
RC-UMC Website: [www.rc.umc.org](http://www.rc.umc.org)  
Or: <https://rc-umc.org>

Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler  
Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse  
Custodian: Desiree Beik



**Richland Center United Methodist Church**  
**A Community of Faith**  
**Ascencion Sunday / Golden Cross Sunday**  
**May 17, 2026**





**Please make sure** to give to the Food Pantry. They are in need of our non-perishable food donations.



**Kwik Trip cards** make great gifts. We have two varieties to choose from. One is grocery only; the other is a gift card good for gas and groceries. Both are worth \$25.00. Please see Nancy McCauley to purchase. This is a Mission's project.

**Camping Dates/Pine Lake Games/Sports/Adventure**

June 21-24: Grades 2-4  
 June 21-26: Grades 4-6  
 June 21-26: Grades 6-9



**Leadership Skills**

June 14-19: Grades 9-12

**Grandparents/Grandchild Camp**

June 19-21: Leaders: Dan & Jo Wilson

**Create Camp**

June 14-17 – Grades 2-4  
 June 14-19: Grades 4-6 & 6-9

Visit: [WIUMCamps.org](http://WIUMCamps.org)  
 for more information  
 Camping registration now online



**Golden Cross Sunday  
 May 17, 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.

We help sponsor Schmitt Woodland Hills through Golden Cross Sunday.

**Golden Cross #1070**



**Personal Dignity Kits**

Packets are in the Narthex with complete instructions. We've set a goal of 70 kits which are due by Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUNE PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL:**

**Supports Camp and Youth Activities**

Richland Center UMC is looking forward to another fun-filled ice cream social to take place on **Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** in Schmitt Fellowship Hall, Richland Center UMC. The pie and ice cream social is a fundraiser for the youth activities and camp fund, which assists those Richland Center UMC who may plan to attend church camps, church trips, and other church activities planned for the year.

Sign-up sheets for workers and pies are in the Narthex.



**May Birthdays**

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

**May Anniversaries**

Leonard & Connie Frye	5/16
Gregg & Deanna Gochenaur	5/18
Tim & Michelle Woodman	5/23



**For the week of May 17-23**