



News From

The Center



Genesis 45:1-5 (NRSV) - Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So, no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Dear Beloved friends,

As we transition to the Fall season, I'm looking forward to seeing the fall colors in the area. I've never lived this close to Oakwood Fruit Farm before, so I will have to fight the temptation to go there and buy apple cider donuts each week! I believe we are fortunate to live in an area where we can experience each change of season so vividly. The change of seasons often causes us to reflect on our lives and where we are headed as people.

In the passage today, Jacob's (also known as Israel) family is facing a shortage of food due to a famine in the land. So, Jacob's sons trek up to Egypt to get food for themselves and their family. However, little do they know that the person who decides if they get food is none other than Joseph, the brother whom they sold into slavery earlier. Joseph tells them to go back and bring with them their youngest brother Benjamin. Jacob hesitatingly lets Benjamin go with them back to Egypt. So, they take Benjamin back with them, and long story short, Joseph ends up tricking the brothers and detaining Benjamin. Joseph's brothers explain to him that they cannot go back to Jacob without Benjamin, because their father will die once he sees that Benjamin has not returned. That is where the story picks up in this passage. Joseph can no longer hold in his tears. The passage says he wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh's household heard it. He can no longer handle the emotional toll of concealing his identity and he tells his brothers, "It's me! Joseph!" Eventually, the brothers go back and bring their father back to the land and he meets with Joseph and they embrace.

What Joseph's brothers did to him was very mean and cruel. But Joseph is not entirely free of blame in this story either. Poor Benjamin did nothing wrong, and Joseph uses him as "bait" to manipulate his brothers. That is why I appreciate the stories in Genesis, because they speak to the truth that as humans we are all "saint and sinner" as Martin Luther once wrote. None of us is entirely good or bad. It also speaks to the messiness of human relationships. We've all let one another down at times, that's human life. And, sometimes reconciliation is not possible, unfortunately. Joseph likely never forgot what his brothers did and never fully trusted them again.

Continued on page 2...

Pastor Mitchel's message *Continued*....

Human relationships are messy. The important question is: Where are we headed as a people? Are we headed into a place of reconciliation and peace with one another? Are we trying our best to “watch over one another in love” as John Wesley would say? With God’s help, may we try to live as people who embody the love of Christ in all that we think, say and do.

With God’s Help, may it be so. Amen.

Pastor Mitch



Our Worship Time is Changing at RC-UMC!

Starting September 13th, our worship time will be 10:15 a.m.
Sunday school will begin on September 20th at 10:30 a.m.
Please make a note of these changes. Thank you.

Sunday School News



Barb Shannon
Education Chair
647-6522



It's that time again to be thinking about making a commitment to Sunday School. September 20th is our fall kick-off date. The time has changed from last year to 10:30-11:15 a.m. We will adjourn to the classrooms following the Children's Message and will finish up in time for the kids to enjoy a snack at coffee hour.

We are looking to impart the love of Jesus and His message of salvation to the children of our congregation and the community. Please encourage friends, neighbors and family members with children to come and learn about the Bible and the wonderful gift of salvation that Jesus has to offer us.

See you on the 20th,
Barb Shannon
Chair of Education

Mission Focus and Special Sundays 2026

Coming in October!

**Richland Center United
Methodist Church's Annual
"HARVEST AUCTION"**

October 21st, at 6:30 p.m.

*Event sponsored by the
Richland Center UMC's
Missions' Committee*

*to support Jack Mujonga from
Senegal.*

His mission is food security.

Richland Center UMC, 400 E.
Seminary St., Richland Center
608-647-3203

email: trinityumc@mwt.net

website: www.rc.umc.org



Start thinking about what
you want to donate for
the sale/auction.
Complete details in the
*October News From The
Center.*

Coming in October!

**Ash Creek's Lord's Acre
Sale**

Date: October 10th.

**Details are being worked
out at this time.**

**More to follow in the
October newsletter.**

**All are encouraged to
attend this event.**

Ash Creek UMC,
28820 Henry Clark Lane
Richland Center



*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 2026

Special Sundays in Italics

September	Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes through Samaritans Purse Heifer Project
October	Harvest Auction: TBD Christmas Child Shoe boxes continued <i>World Communion Sunday October 4th 1045</i>

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2026

Special Sundays in Italics

November	Local DAV -Veterans - TBD <i>UM Student Day November 30th #1055</i>
December	Salvation Army

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: September 1st – October 25th

Is your heart broken by the desperate plight of millions of children around the world? Imagine the childlike joy of boys and girls as they open their presents on Christmas morning. Now imagine that joy magnified tenfold as a child who never has received a present. A child who has suffered because of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness or neglect, receives a shoe box filled to overflowing with gifts. These little ones need to know that they are precious to God.

That's the impact that Operation Christmas Child, a unique project of Christian relief and evangelism by Samaritan's Purse, delivers to hurting children while also telling them about God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.

Everyone can take part in this exciting project by simply following the suggestions below. With everyone's help, we can bring joy and hope to millions of children again this Christmas.

There are pre-printed shoeboxes all set for you to take and fill and then bring back with your \$10 donation to help with shipping and gospel material. They are in the east hallway on the pew. We need these back by the end of October so we can get them ready to be shipped to Samaritan's Purse. Hint: You can fill more than one shoebox. We have plenty.



SUGGESTED GIFTS New items only, please.



Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pad or paper, solar calculators, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewelry, hair accessories, watches, small picture books, etc.

Nifty little items: A plastic zippered pencil case. Big enough to hold several pencils, pens, crayons, markers or small pads of paper. Small metal box for storing personal items or treasures

PLEASE: Do NOT include the following:

War-related or scary items: toy guns, knives.

****Soap is no longer allowed in shoebox gifts because of the complications it causes in customs in some nations.****

Soap; candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans. **NO FOOD RELATED ITEMS!**

Please, Please, Please, use only the shoeboxes provided as it's easier to pack several in larger boxes for transport.

Make sure everything fits in the shoebox with the lid firmly down. No bulges in the top!

Greg Zelek here on October 11, 2026



Praised as “extraordinary in the classical music world” (Jon Hornbacher, PBS Wisconsin Life) and a “musical star” (Bill Wineke, Channel 3000), Greg Zelek is the Principal Organist of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Curator of the Overture Concert Organ, where he oversees all of the MSO's organ programming. Since September 2017, Greg has proudly held the Elaine and Nicholas Mischler Curatorship.

**Richland Center United
Methodist Church hosting
A Concert Event
For the Richland Concert
Association
Greg Zelek**

*Principal Organist of the
Madison Symphony Orchestra
returns!*

Sunday: October 11, 2026

Performance Time: 2:00 p.m.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 / Students Free

**Tickets can be purchased at the door.
Contact Elaine Stafford 608-604-4827
or Dale Sinnett 608-216-4210
for advance ticket purchases.**

When the Road Gets Rough

It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So, when a sign appeared reading, “Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles,” he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Notice He doesn’t say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn’t say we “might” have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.



Memorial Ministry Corner



September Memorial Ministry/Membership Corner



Thanks to all having contributed during the month of August to our annual internal missions' project for the Richland Center UMC Wish List Fund. To date, we have been blessed with \$100.00 in honor gifts for the cause. It's not too late to contribute to our Wish List fund, as final financial figures will appear in the October News From the Center. Please use your regular offering envelopes, and mark your check memo line with the phrase "Wish List Fund" to assist our church counters to credit your giving account.

Kathy Bastian, Missions' Chair & Paul Murphey, Memorial Ministry Chair

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." - - Ephesians 1:16

Church Membership Notes



Church Membership Notes



Welcome to the World, Remi Elizabeth Pluemer!

Our congratulations to the Ryan & Megan family on the birth of their second daughter, third child, Remi Elizabeth Pluemer, on Wednesday, August 12, 2026. Remi is joined by her siblings: Hayden & Maverick Pluemer; grandparents: Doug & Jill (Steiner) Sommer; and great-grandparents: Richard (Dick) & Shirley Steiner.

Notes of Congratulations can be Sent to the Following:

Ryan & Megan Pluemer Family

1235 Arbor Lane

Richland Center, WI 53581

**"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him."
- Psalm 127:3**



Richland Center UMC offers a prayer to all our members & friends (students, teachers, parents, etc.) for a very successful 2026/2027 school year. This prayer is also extended to Pastor Mitch Richards, as he also continues his seminary education at the University of Dubuque! We especially want to say God's blessings to our three 2026 RC-UMC scholarship recipients:

- ◆ Katherine R. Hall – James Madison University
- ◆ Teige W. Perkins – UW-Whitewater
- 0 Talena M. Sprecher – Western Illinois University

"The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out."
-- Proverbs 18:15

A "Back to School" Prayer

"Lord, as I return to school, I ask for Your guidance and wisdom. Help me to learn well, to be kind to others, and to be a positive influence. Keep me safe and protect me from harm. I pray for focus and clarity as I begin this new school year. Grant me the ability to concentrate on my studies and to understand the lessons being taught. Help me to grow in knowledge and wisdom and to use my gifts and talents to serve You.
In Jesus' name, Amen."



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

– Philippians 4: 6-7

Our Church In The News

Administrative Council Minutes July 20, 2026

In attendance: Paul Murphey, Dave Foley, Russ Shannon, Howard Nelson, Dianne Monson, Pastor Mitch Richards, Barb Shannon, Diane Cox.

A motion was made by Paul to approve the June minutes, seconded by Dave. All approved.

Joys and Concerns: Rosie Steinmetz is home and improving. Leonard Frye is in the hospital.

Old Business:

1. Outreach and Involvement of Congregation – continued discussion.
2. Video Camera – continued discussion about the possible use of a camera.
3. New two-point charge with Ash Creek and Richland Center UMCs – Joan Wheeler is doing a dual bulletin for both churches. There are extra duties involved in doing this.

New Business:

1. Approve resolution form – A Resolution on Parsonage/Furnishings Allowance was discussed. Section 107 of the IRS code permits a minister to exclude from gross income the rental value of a home furnished as part of compensation. A motion by Dave, seconded by Paul to approve the resolution. All approved.
2. Love Fund update – Russ gave Pastor Mitch a copy of the Love Fund Policy.
3. Worship/service time – This was tabled until the next meeting. There needs to be a joint SPRC meeting with Ash Creek. The service time has been running about 50 minutes.

Reports from Committees:

Trustees – Howard reported that Bonnie Richardson and Connie Dunn did a lot of work cleaning the parsonage. Dave Foley will be fixing the patio door.

The church – The eve troughs are done and cleaned. The classroom ceiling tile has been repaired. PEO has had their rummage sale in Schmitt Hall with a suggested rent of \$50. Window well repair is in progress.

An elevator inspection is needed. The fire extinguishers were checked. Leonard Frye was approved to be a member of Trustees.

The new cement steps have an area on the top step that has a puddle when it rains. Howard will talk to the contractor about remedies.

There will be new electrical wiring to the air conditioner.

The Wisconsin Conference worked out a better insurance plan for churches that will be less money.

The north window wells were plugged resulting in water in the basement. The bell tower is leaking. The church sign will be updated with Pastor Mitch's name and the church time.

Our Church In The News *continued from page 8*

Hospitality – Dianne said Coffee Hour is going well with 6 – 12 people actively serving.

Scholarships – Paul said the 3 scholarship checks will be sent soon to the schools.

Confirmation – Barb said she will meet with Pastor Mitch regarding starting a confirmation class, probably in September.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Mitch said he will be on a visitation schedule in August and September. He was called by Stafford Funeral Home to do a service for a person who had been a Methodist but was not attending. He will be doing that on Sunday afternoon.

Pastor Mitch closed the meeting with a prayer. The next meeting will be August 17th,

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Cox, Recording Secretary

A BIG Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies in July and August. Several boxes will be going to our area schools: Richland Center Elementary and Intermediate Schools and St. Mary's School. I know the teachers will appreciate your generosity. Especially the Kleenex boxes!

Joan Wheeler



Church Financial Report

Newsletter Financial Info. 2026					
	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Envelope offerings:	\$ 9,925	\$ 7,215	\$ 14,970	\$ 9,505	\$ 75,595
Other income	468	169	1,439	2,969	5,738
Total deposits	\$ 10,393	\$ 7,384	\$ 16,409	\$ 12,474	\$ 81,333
Total expenses	10,479	9,684	10,672	9,494	74,850
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ (86)	\$ (2,300)	\$ 5,737	\$ 2,980	\$ 6,483

Attendance:	
Worship:	
July 26	51
Aug. 2	45
Aug. 9	52
Aug. 16	40
Sunday school:	
July 26	3
Aug. 9	3

Celebrations and More



RC September Birthdays

Jordan Jones	9/1
Deb Walling	9/4
Bonnie Richardson	9/8
Angelica Stephans Hoskins	9/9
Scott Turgasen	9/9
Tim Woodman	9/10
Frances Shannon	9/11
Lester Parker	9/12
Terry Adams	9/16
Nancy McCauley	9/17
Leonard Frye	9/19
Rick Osburn	9/19
Jalessa Bee	9/21
Julie Stebbins	9/25
Jim Brock	9/29

AC September Birthdays

Allison Unbehaun	9/3
Nancy Gher	9/4
Geoff Ziegahn	9/4
Macy Seifert	9/6
Brittany Niemeyer	9/7
Mercedes Clary	9/8
Deb Klinzing	9/30

RC September Anniversaries

Brian & Stephanie Perkins	9/4
Lester & Karen Parker	9/18
Mark & Sally McCollum	9/22
Bill & Amie Twining	9/27

AC September Anniversaries

Bob & Jan Stibbe	9/7
Barry & Kay Ziegahn	9/9
Mark & Rochelle Schmidt	9/19



Special Dates for September

- Labor Day, September 7
- Patriot Day, September 11
- National Grandparents Day, September 13
- Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15
- First Day of Autumn, September 22

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Bible Quiz

After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: "Do you love me?" The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?



A. James
B. John
C. Philip
D. (Simon) Peter

Answer: D (John 21:17)

"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.

—Jane Howard

BREAD

One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or "bread from heaven," to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord's Supper, where it represents Christ's body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God's provision, Christ's presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.



September Ministry Roster 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>"Faith and works are like the light and heat of a candle; they cannot be separated."</i> – Joseph Beaumont		1 School starts RC: Mission's Mtg: 2:30 p.m. – Library Pastor on vacation	2 Pastor on vacation	3 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library Pastor back from vacation	4 The office is closed	5
6 Worship: Communion AC: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:30 a.m. 	7 The office is closed – Holiday Happy Labor Day	8 RC: Trustee Mtg: 10:00 a.m. – Library New day and time	9 RCMA Mtg: Noon - Library	10 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. – Library Lunch Bunch: 11:30 a.m.	11 The office is closed RC: RAREA 10:00 a.m. - Library	12
13 Worship: AC: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:15 a.m. Please note new time	14 Pastor Mitch at school	15 RC: Ad Council Mtg: 4:00 p.m. – Library New day	16	17 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. – Library RC: Memorial Ministry: 1:30 p.m. - Library	18 The office is closed	19
20 Worship: AC: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:15 a.m. RC: Sunday school: 10:30 a.m.	21 Pastor Mitch at school	22	23 Newsletter deadline: Noon 	24 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. – Library Joan out of the office	25 The office is closed	26
27 Worship: AC: 9:00 a.m. AC: Ad Council: 10:10 a.m. RC: 10:15 a.m. RC: Sunday school: 10:30 a.m.	28 Pastor Mitch at school	29	30	<i>"The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous."</i> –Frederick Douglass <i>"When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a very small package."</i> –John Ruskin <i>"It's criminal to take anything in life or granted."</i> –Anna Quindlen		

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

A Community of Faith

Ash Creek and Richland Center
UMCs welcomes you.



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

AC: Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.

RC: Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Mitchel Richards

Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-561-3050

Pastor's email: mitchrichards64@gmail.com

Pastor at school on Mondays

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday-Thursday

Pastor's Days off: Friday-Saturday

Richland Center Charge Office

AC & 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