



News From
The Center



Ruth 1:14-17 (RSV): Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God; where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if even death parts me from you.”

Dear Beloved friends,

I hope this finds you well as we officially enter the Fall season. This season always reminds me to count my blessings and be thankful for the ways in which God provides for me in the many people who care for me. When I’m working or relaxing, I enjoy listening to choral music on YouTube. I sang in choir from 5th grade all the way through my college years. There’s something about making music together that binds us together. When we sing hymns together, we are not only bonding with God, but also with one another.

One day I was listening to some choral music and I stumbled across a stunning piece called “Entreat Me Not to Leave You” composed by Dan Forrest. It gave me chills. It was so stunningly beautiful. And in the video I was watching, the piece is actually performed by one of the UW-Eau Claire choirs in 2014. It is performed in a scenic chamber at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Little did I know when I first listened that the words of the song come from the Bible from this very passage above. The passage today is an emotional moment. Before the Scripture passage today, the narrator describes how a man named Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons need to leave their homeland of Judah and go to Moab, because there is a famine in the land. So, the family goes to Moab. While there, the two sons marry wives from Moab, named Orpah and Ruth. Then, Elimelech and the two sons sadly die.

It is announced later that “the LORD had considered His people and had given them food” and so Naomi decides to start back towards her homeland. Her daughter-in-law's say, in essence, “No! We are going with you!” But, Naomi replies, “I’m old in years and there is no chance that I’m going to bear anymore sons for you to marry. There’s not much I can do for you, so it’s best if you go back to your families.” This is where the passage today picks up. They weep aloud for a second time, and Orpah kisses Naomi farewell and starts back for her family. But Ruth says, “Entreat me not to leave you” (or, do not ask me to leave you) for where you go I will go; where you stay I will stay; your people shall be my people, and your God my God; where you die I will die, and there will I be buried.”

continued on page 2...

Pastor Mitch's message *Continued from page one...*

Ruth's words are sung by the singers in Dan Forrest's beautiful piece (you can look it up on YouTube). These are some of the most moving words in all of the Bible. Think of it, Ruth is willing to leave her native country and even her God behind to be with Naomi, even to worship Naomi's God. Ruth and Naomi are both widows with no children. In this time period, women in this situation were on the margins of society. But yet, they band together on their journey back to Judah, to Bethlehem actually (sound familiar?) Ruth and Naomi go on to have a wild adventure of their own. Ruth ends up having a child of her own at the end of the book that Naomi nurses for her.

Just like Ruth and Naomi, we are called to be friends to one another, to journey with one another in our faith journeys. In this time of Fall harvest, may we recognize the ways in which we rely on one another for the food we eat and the work that is done in the world while we sleep.

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Mitch

Fall Festivals: A Season of Fellowship

Fall festivals bring neighbors, families and friends together for laughter, food and seasonal fun. May these celebrations create warm memories, strengthen relationships and offer a welcoming glimpse of God's love through the hospitality of our church family.

Sunday School News



Barb Shannon
Education Chair
647-6522

Sunday School Kick-off was September 20th with 6 student attending. A Bible was presented to Emilie Tracy during the church service. It is an important mission of our church and Sunday School to help our children discover the books of the old and new testament, where they can find their favorite Bible stories, maps of the biblical lands and more. Having a Bible of their own helps to reinforce the lessons we do on Sunday mornings.

Please check out the bulletin board outside of the library. The students have written short bios about themselves again this year. Learn more about who they are and what they like.

We will be having a Sunday School Christmas Program again this year along with "Hanging of the Greens". More information on dates and times to be in next month's Newsletter.

Barb Shannon
Education Chair

Mission Focus and Special Sundays 2026

WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY
TOGETHER
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE



WHAT ARE CHURCHWIDE SUNDAYS?
Churchwide celebrations unite us to accomplish missions that no single church can achieve alone. On these designated days, United Methodists come together to reaffirm their commitment as God's people and to support special programs endorsed by the Church. To see how your contributions make a difference, visit UMC.org/yourimpact.

GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit or debit card at donate.gcfa.org. Scan the QR code to donate with your phone.




Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

What is World Communion Sunday – October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this Sunday, United Methodists join Christians around the world in celebrating Holy Communion, remembering that we are one in Christ, no matter our background, language, or culture.

What Does My Giving Support?

Special Sundays give us a chance to focus our prayers and support on important ministries all year long—uniting our gifts to multiply our impact. Your generosity supports scholarships, grants, and programs that help prepare the next generation of church leaders.

• Scholarships (50%)

Half of the funds collected go toward scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students of color in the U.S. who are pursuing ordained ministry.

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2026 <i>Special Sundays in Italics</i>	
October	Harvest Auction: October 21 st Christmas Child Shoe boxes continued Lord's Acre Sale: AC October 10 th <i>World Communion Sunday</i> October 4 th 1045

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS FOR 2026 <i>Special Sundays in Italics</i>	
November	Local DAV -Veterans - TBD <i>UM Student Day</i> November 30 th #1055
December	Salvation Army

Christmas Child Shoeboxes is continuing into October. Our goal is **100 filled shoeboxes** being sent to Samaritan's Purse in November. Please pick up a shoebox or more in the east hallway. Bring them back filled with items from the list provided in the bulletins and by the shoeboxes. Add your \$10 to cover shipping and for expenses from Samaritan's Purse as they send a small booklet to each child – in their own language – so the children can read about Jesus and learn more about what He does for all of us. **Last year 103 million shoeboxes were sent world wide through Samaritan's Purse.**

Ash Creek's Lord's Acre Sale

Date: October 10th.

Meal will start at 11:30 a.m.

Free will offering accepted

Sale will follow at 1:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come for the meal and stay for the sale.

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.

Harvest Auction

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN: THE ANNUAL HARVEST AUCTION

Summer is quickly moving along, and the trees are beginning to show the first hint of vibrant colors to come. That means it's time to mark your calendars and begin planning for the annual Harvest Auction. The Harvest Auction promotes a spirit of community while raising funds to support our covenant missionary, Jack Mujonga who serves in Senegal, Africa. Jack's mission is Food Security in Senegal.

This year's auction will be held on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st**, in the church Fellowship Hall. Gather at 6:30 p.m. for snacks and beverages provided by the Missions Committee, then socialize with friends while looking over auction items and planning your bidding strategy. Auctioneer Kurt Monson will begin the auction promptly at 7:00 p.m. You can look forward to lots of laughs and good-natured bidding as Kurt moves things along at a lively pace.

If you're unable to attend the auction, we hope you'll support the auction by donating an item or items and/or by supporting this mission financially. Your prayers for the ministry of Jack Mujonga is greatly appreciated.



HARVEST AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

The Missions' Committee is busy planning the annual Harvest Auction to be held in our Schmitt Hall on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st**. A successful auction depends upon having a variety of interesting and appealing items to present for bidding, and we need your help!

In the past, popular auction items have included garden/orchard produce; food items—fresh, canned, or frozen; specialty baskets; hand crafted items; quilted or crocheted items; seasonal décor; plants and herbs; puzzles; tools; hobby items; toys, and much more. **Blank auction certificates** for donated goods or services to be delivered in the future to the buyer are posted on the Missions bulletin board and will also be available the evening of the auction. Some examples: a load of chopped wood, a specialty cake or pie—use your imagination and be creative!

Please bring your **nonperishable Harvest Auction donations to the room across from the choir room downstairs. Please identify Harvest Auction donations as such, as other things may be stored in the room.** Nonperishable items should be at the church by the afternoon of October 21st if possible; perishables may be brought the evening of the auction.

We request that donated items be clean and either NEW or VERY GENTLY USED. Any items not sold at the auction may be donated to the Family Thrift Shop. **PLEASE—NO LARGE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, OUTDATED COMPUTER SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE, OR CLOTHING.**

If you're unable to participate in the Harvest Auction, please prayerfully consider a monetary donation to our covenant missionary, **Jack Mujonga from Senegal, Africa is the recipient of our auction funds. His mission is food security.**

Greg Zelek in Person on October 11, 2026



**Richland Center United
Methodist Church hosting
A Concert Event
For the Richland Concert Association
Greg Zelek**
Principal Organist of the
Madison Symphony Orchestra returns!

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.

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.

School Supplies Mission Update



Three area schools have now received their school supplies. Richland Center's Elementary and Intermediate Schools and St. Mary's School. Four boxes each went to the Intermediate School and St. Mary's School. The Elementary school received three boxes.

Everyone was very appreciative of getting these wonder items for their students. This will help save the teachers from having to purchase school supplies for their students. Thanks to everyone who either purchased school supplies or gave a donation.

Joan was able to go and spend \$355 (donations) to purchase more school supplies! What a treat!



Memorial Ministry Corner



October Memorial Ministry & Membership Corner



In Memory of Carolyn Josephine (Janney) Freeman
May 04, 1924 – September 02, 2026

Carolyn Has Been a Longtime “Friend of the Church.”

Complete obituary can be found at the Pratt Funeral and Cremation Service, Richland Center, WI, website at <https://tinyurl.com/2fprsb65>.

Services are currently pending and being planned.

Cards of Condolence may be sent to Carolyn’s Daughter, Son-in-Law, and Family at the following:

Larry & Sherry Quamme
14767 Eagle Ridge Road
Ferryville, WI 54628

In Memory of Debra Lynn Walling
September 04, 1955 – September 07, 2026

Debra has been a Professing Member of the Church Since April 07, 1974.

Complete obituary can be found at the Gunderson Funeral and Cremation Care, Madison/Middleton, WI, website at <https://tinyurl.com/22h9nwvn>.

Visitation & Services were held at Richland Center United Methodist Church (RC-UMC) on Wednesday and Thursday, September 16-17, 2026. Burial will take place in the Richland Center Cemetery at a later date.

Cards of Condolence may be sent to Debra’s Husband and Family at the following:

Alan (Al) Walling
1190 West Haseltine Street
Richland Center, WI 53581

“So, with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.” – John 16:22



**“Going home, going home, I'm just going home. Quiet light,
some still day, I'm just going home.”**

ASD Memorial Tablecloth Returns for Year 13!

Starting **Sunday, October 04, 2026**, our traditional memorial tablecloth will return in the narthex area in preparation for our 2026 All Saints' Day service.

Please add any names you wish to remember as personal saints you may have lost this year or from years past by using the permanent fabric markers, or simply write the name on the slip of paper. Leave the paper on the table, and we will transfer the name for you. ***Your personal saint names need not be Richland Center UMC members.***

Our Richland Center UMC 2026 saints will automatically be added. If you are unable to attend church to add a name, please call the church office at 608.647.3203; and leave the name with Administrative Assistant Joan Wheeler. We will add the name for you.

This is now a RC-UMC tradition, as the tablecloth will be used in a place of honor during our **Sunday, November 01, 2026**, service.

Deadline to add a name will be **Saturday, October 31, 2026**.

Paul Murphey, Memorial Ministry Chair

The Richland Center United Methodist Church Memorial Ministry



2026 All Saints' Day Service of Remembrance and Consecration of Gifts

Sunday, November 01, 2026, at 10:15 a.m.

We will be remembering our RC-UMC member & friend saints and consecrating/dedicating memorial and honor gifts from November 02, 2025, through November 01, 2026.

Coffee hour (sponsored by Memorial Ministry) will follow this Sunday service.

2026 List of Saints (To Date)

◆ Anita F. Alexander	August 06, 1927 – December 12, 2025
◆ Jerry Lee Bower.	March 27, 1938 – January 09, 2026
◆ Ruby B. Hodge	February 16, 1930 – January 11, 2026
◆ Bernard (Bernie) Arthur Couey	January 09, 1924 – February 01, 2026
◆ Debra Lynn Walling	September 04, 1955 – September 07, 2026

Our Church In The News

Church Council Minutes

August 17, 2026

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

An opening prayer was given by Russ.

Minutes: Dave motioned, Dianne seconded to approve the July 20th minutes. All approved.

Joys and Concerns: Megan and Ryan Plumer had a baby girl. Her name is Remi.

Old Business: No old business was presented.

New Business:

Worship service time – SPRC just met with Chris Storer attending via phone. The starting time of church services was discussed. Mitch talked with Ash Creek SPRC yesterday. It was decided that we would move the start time of church to 10:15 a.m., starting on September 13th. Until then, we will continue to start service at 10:30. We want this to be the last time the start time is changed. Paul motioned, Barb seconded, all approved. Russ said the sign in the front yard won't need to be repainted. The Sunday school start time can be moved to 10:30, so the two signs can be switched.

Worship in the Park – After discussion, Howard made a motion, seconded by Russ that we don't participate as a church this year. We lose between \$800 and \$1,000 of donations, not counting the cost to participate. However, whoever wants to attend is welcome to go. We will ask the Ministerial Association if they need us to bring chairs.

Charge Conference date – SPRC needs to do an evaluation of employees prior and Lay Leadership needs to meet to fill committee vacancies. Therefore, we would prefer a later date.

Administrative Council date change – Pastor Mitch will be back in school before the September meeting, so the Monday meeting time won't work. The meeting will move to the third Tuesday of each month, at 4:00 p.m.

Reports from Committees:

Missions – Kathy reported that the August missions will be the Wish List and school supplies. September will be the Christmas Shoe Boxes. Joan Wheeler ordered 100 boxes. The goal is 50 – 60. The Harvest Auction will be on Wednesday, October 21st. Snacks will be served at 6:30 and the auction will start at 7:00. We have a new missionary to sponsor. Our previous missionary retired and returned to the United States. Our new missionary is Jack Mujonga. He is also in Senegal. His mission is food security. Our fundraising goal is still \$1,000. Any excess will go to the Senegal Wellness Project

Finances – Dianne reported we have \$6,483 in the black. The budget for the annual conference is being prepared. Our apportionment will be \$17,290, based on 83 members. Coffee Hour is going well. Everyone is still enjoying it, even at the later time.

Sunday School – Barb reported that Sunday school will start September 20th. There are new courses coming out for Confirmation. Classes will run January through March.

Our Church In The News *continued from page 8*

Trustees – Parsonage needs: The committee voted for Connie Dunn and Bonnie Richardson to be on the Parsonage Committee. They will be the liaison to the Trustees for any needs of the parsonage. They will also do a written report for Charge Conference. Pastor Mitch will communicate to them. Dave Foley is managing the new patio door. Strang's will be called regarding a bathroom fan vibrating.

Church building needs: The eve troughs were cleaned and covers installed. Air vents will be replaced to keep the squirrels out. The window well on the west side is being repaired. The elevator has been inspected but the State has to approve. The water puddling on the new cement steps is being fixed. The air conditioner has a new outside insulation cover. A sump pump will be installed in the window well by the kitchen in the basement. The bell tower pull rope broke and will be replaced.

Future Trustee meetings will be held on the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Scholarships: Paul reported that scholarship checks were sent August 1st to the schools where the recipients are attending.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mitch reported that everything has been going well. Ash Creek is happy overall regarding the church start time. DS Amanda Stein should be reaching out regarding a date for the Church Conference. There is a School for Leadership that he will be attending September 29 – October 1st. When he goes back to school, he will not be available on Mondays. He plans to be doing home visits. He discussed the possibility of having a hymn sing one Sunday. Paul talked to him about All Saints Day on the first Sunday in November.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Mitch.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 15th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Cox, Recording Secretary

Church Financial Report

Newsletter Financial Info. 2026					
	May	June	July	Aug.	YTD
Envelope offerings	\$ 7,215	\$ 14,970	\$ 9,505	\$ 10,710	\$ 86,305
Other income	169	1,439	2,969	315	6,053
Total deposits	\$ 7,384	\$ 16,409	\$ 12,474	\$ 11,025	\$ 92,358
Total expenses	9,684	10,672	9,494	10,742	85,592
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ (2,300)	\$ 5,737	\$ 2,980	\$ 283	\$ 6,766

Attendance:	
Worship:	
Aug. 23	47
Aug. 30	44
Sept. 6	39
Sept. 13	41
Sept. 20	46
Sunday school:	
Aug. 23	7
Aug. 30	0
Sept. 6	3
Sept. 13	0
Sept. 20	7

Celebrations and More



RC October Birthdays		AC October Birthdays		RC October Anniversaries	
Morgan Crotsenberg	10/1	Cody Jurgensen	10/4	Ryan & Megan Pluemer	10/1
Shirley Pahl	10/3	Sheila Sims-McCauley	10/6	Larry & Susan Hallett	10/4
Alaina Crotsenberg	10/7	Dustin Jurgensen	10/7	Todd & Monica Eernisse	10/14
Grace Tjossem	10/7	Triton Clary	10/9	Dennis & Connie Tracy	10/14
Paul Knower	10/10	Cam Johnson	10/9	Brock & Anya Drone	10/21
Stephanie Perkins	10/10	Jim Klinzing	10/9	AC October Anniversaries	
Dianne Monson	10/12	Heidi Unbehau	10/14	Chris & Shai Brown	10/14
Jeannie Baker	10/13	Barry Ziegahn	10/20	Bob & Cam Johnson	10/16
Howard Nelson	10/13	Betty Emerson	10/29	Robert & Heidi Clary	10/17
Morgan Worthington	10/13	Bob Johnson	10/29	Fritz & Sue Stibbe	10/25
David Eder	10/14	Chris Brown	10/31	George & Dianne Nachtigal	10/26
Austin Ewing	10/16			Dustin & Samantha Jurgesen	10/27
Gabriella Shannon	10/19				
Heather Vig	10/19				
Barbara Mashall	10/21				
Talena Sprecher	10/21				
Stephanie Worthington	10/25				
Marge Brock	10/26				
Shirley Wanless	10/27				
Connie Dunn	10/29				
Grant Worthington	10/30				

Special Dates for October

Pastor Appreciation Month
 World Communion Sunday, October 4
 Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, October 11
 Columbus Day, October 12
 Indigenous Peoples Day, October 12
 Canadian Thanksgiving, October 12
 Reformation Sunday, October 25
 Reformation Day, October 31



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

October gives us a special opportunity to thank Pastor Mitch who teaches, encourages, prays and cares for both of our congregations. May we honor his faithful service, support him with our prayers and remind him that his ministry makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

Let's show Pastor Mitch how much we truly appreciate him and his wonderful ministry with both churches by thanking him.





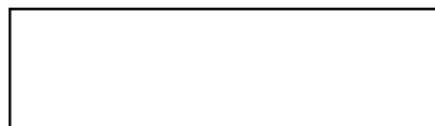
October Ministry Roster 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Thank you very much Pastor Mitch for everything you are doing for Ash Creek and Richland Center UMC's. We so very much appreciate you!				1 RC: Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library	2 The office is closed	3
4 Worship: AC: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:15 a.m. RC: Sunday school: 10:30 a.m.	5 Pastor in school PEO: 1:00 p.m. - Library	6 RC: Mission's Mtg: 2:30 p.m. - Library	7 RC: Dance class: 4:00 p.m.	8 RC: Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library Lunch Bunch: 11:30 a.m. at Quail Run	9 The office is closed	10 AC: Lord's Acre Sale: Meal starts 11:30 a.m. Sale at 1:00 p.m.
11 Worship: AC: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:15 a.m. RC: Sunday school: 10:30 a.m.	12 Pastor in school All reports for Annual conference due in the office	13 RC; Trustee Mtg: 10:00 a.m. - Library	14 RC: Dance class: 4:00 p.m.	15 RC: Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library	16 The office is closed	17 Wedding at Church – Details will be available shortly
18 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.	19 Pastor in school	20 RC; Ad Council Mtg: 4:00 p.m. - Library	21 Newsletter deadline: Noon RC: Harvest Auction: Snacks at 6:30 p.m. Auction at 7:00 p.m.	22 RC: Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library	23 The office is closed	24 RC Charge Conference and Ash Creek Charge Conference 10:00 - Noon
25 Worship: AC: 9:00 a.m. RC: 10:15 a.m. RC: Sunday school: 10:30 a.m.	26 Pastor in school	27 RC: Setting up all week in the Narthex and the Altar	28 RC: Dance class: 4:00 p.m. For	29 Joan gone today RC: Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library All	30 The office is closed Saints Day	31 Halloween November 1st

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

A Community of Faith

**Ash Creek and Richland Center
UMC's 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

Sunday Worship:

Ash Creek: 9:00 a.m.

Richland Center: 10:15 a.m.

Pastor: Mitchel Richards

Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-561-3050

Pastor's email: mitchrichards64@gmail.com

Pastor in school on Mondays

Pastor's Office hours: Tuesday-Thursday

Pastor's Days off: Friday-Saturday

Richland Center Church 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