

Black River Falls
United Methodist Church
100 North Fourth Street
Black River Falls, Wisconsin
Return Service Requested



INWHA SHON, PASTOR

Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. (September - May)

Office Hours: 7:45am. - 3:45pm.
Tuesday-Friday

Telephone: 715-284-4114

Website: brfumc.org

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THE BLACK RIVER
FALLS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

*"Serve, Teach, and Love
as We Grow in Faith"*

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2022
"Serve, Teach, and Love As We Grow In Faith"



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF community,

Grace and peace be with you all. I hope all of you have started a new year and successfully been walking in your journey with the Lord in the midst of Covid pandemic. As you know, unfortunately, many people have been unprecedentedly struggling mentally and physically with things like Omicron variant, cold and flu. I pray, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, all of you will stay well.

It is already the second month of the year, February. According to research, the word February comes from the Roman festival of purification called Februa where people were ritually washed. For example, 'Lupercalia' was a very ancient, possibly pre-Roman pastoral annual festival observed in the city of Rome on February 15, to avert evil spirits and purify the city, releasing health and fertility. I pray all of you will be healthy and renewed as the promise of spring approaches.

As we heard news from social media, our world seems to be more divided in many areas especially since the pandemic hit. Not only our country, but also every nation in the world have faced division and conflict politically, economically and religiously. Some nations are even on the verge of war.

I would like to share Christ's vision of a unified family in our church with you. Just before Jesus went to the cross, he had gathered his disciples to leave his last will that you may be one as God the Trinity is one. "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one" (John 17:11).

It is Jesus' primary concern that his followers may be one. His only and uppermost focus is his own family, the Church. He said the world can know that we are his disciples through only our unity. In other words, we cannot prove our faith in God unless we are a unified family. Even if we do many things for the poor or the weak in the name of Jesus Christ, it will be void unless we are of one mind. Jesus' vision for us is to be a unified family in God's church.

How and what should we do in order to be united in the church? How can we be agents of unity in our church? How can we prove our faith to the world?

I would like to share with you some practical steps for unity. First, let us focus on what we share, not our differences. Second, let us realize we must continually work at unity. Let us not bring worldly values into the church and not get sucked into the world's fights. Third, let us offer encouragement instead of criticism. Fourth, let us consider others first and not be selfish. *Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

We are called to be Jesus' disciples to live up to Him. As he showed us his humbleness and sacrificial love by the incarnation and death, I believe we need Jesus' heart and mind to make us united and loving so that the world may be in harmony as we are one.

I pray for all of you that you may stay in God's love and faith all the time so that you can fulfill God's will through your life.

Love
Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon



FEB 1	Sun Hui Gorsky
FEB 3	James Bible
FEB 6	Jessica Whitegull
FEB 7	Kimberly Gjerseeth
FEB 8	Jana Nandory
	Renata Caponigro
	Hazy Wood
FEB 9	Kay Finch
FEB 11	Donald Holcomb
	Anthony Phillips
FEB 12	Mary Gjerseeth
	Freda Goldsmith
	Amy Johnson
FEB 13	Judith Sheppard
	Derek Peterson
FEB 15	Rosemary Dvorak
FEB 16	Roy Hefty
FEB 18	James Hoffman
FEB 20	InWha Shon
FEB 22	Dorothy Hefty
FEB 23	Jeremy Nandory
FEB 24	Jerry Overman
FEB 25	Madelyn Calderon
FEB 26	Linda Heller
	Karma Leffingwell
FEB 28	Danielle Dougherty



FEB 14	Rose Moldenhauer
FEB 17	Paul & Robin Hoffman
FEB 28	Mary Loveland



PRAYER FAMILIES FOR FEBRUARY

FEB 6	Andy & Katie Whsaley Gary, Rhoda, Mitchell, Tyler & Benson Ammann Donald & Charlene Galston Mary Loveland
FEB 13	Kenneth, LuAnne, Tyler, April & Sawyer Schoolcraft Jonas & Jessica Whitegull Carol Anderson Todd, Lyn & Matthew Gates
FEB 20	Jean Lovelien, Ron, Chirstine, Mason, & Madyson Schultz Lance & Sarah Wiersma Jean Anderson
FEB 27	Dominick, Erica, Henry & Alvin Genrty Elizabeth , Sam & Lauren Lund Luis Shaw Joan Zenz



YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

FEB 8	Corbin Kapfer
FEB 10	DraMayne Sanders
FEB 12	Benson Ammann
FEB 23	Logan Joffman
FEB 29	Harper Ward



Sunday February 13th after Worship

The profits from this youth fundraiser will help offset costs of upcoming youth events.

MENU: Brats, Beans, Macaroni Salad, Chips, Cookie. COST: \$9.00 for 1 brat meal

\$12.00 for 2 brat meal.

Please join us on February 20th for Camp Sunday. We will promote camp during worship, have an information booth and pancake breakfast with proceeds to help campers from our church with the cost of camp.

UNITED METHODIST CAMPS

Since 1947, the camp settings at Pine Lake & Lake Lucerne have been providing life-changing experiences of spiritual growth. Great stories of firsts come from these places. The first time away from home. The first time catching a fish. The first time worshipping around a campfire. The first time eating a s'more. And for some, the first time they felt God encounter them personally. A lot has changed at Pine Lake & Lake Lucerne over the years, but it still feels like home to campers that come back to visit. The quiet of the lake, the wind through the trees and the sound of voices singing together still wraps it's way through the forest.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circle of Grace is a newly formed group of the United Methodist Women. UMW is a supportive, inclusive Christian membership organization where women like you grow spiritually, develop as leaders and serve and work to create a world in which all women, children and youth thrive. We meet monthly throughout the school year. If you are a young woman in 6th-12th grades, please consider joining us at our next gathering. We will have an overnight retreat at a cabin on a lake near Mauston. We will leave at 3:15pm on Friday, February 4th from the church and return Saturday afternoon. We will have food, games, devotions, crafts, movies, hikes and more.

UPCOMING YOUTH WEDNESDAYS

February 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd. Please join us for our weekly gatherings on Wednesday night from 6-7pm. All youth in 6th-12th grades are welcome. Feel free to invite your friends.

Wednesday Nights Pre-Confirmation Class with Paula 5-6pm

Youth Group with Suzanne and Chris 6-7pm

Confirmation Class with Pastor InWha 7-8pm

WEBSITE: www.BRFUMC.org

FACEBOOK PAGE: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group



FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The Financial Statements for January 2022 had not yet been completed at the printing of this Newsletter. More information to follow...Stay tuned.



Message from the Mission Outreach Committee

The Committee would like to update and review with you our accomplishments over the past year. Our congregation has been busy despite the pandemic in serving others locally, nationally and internationally. Some of our

efforts include;

Local outreach:

- Gifts to shut in on holidays
- Friendly visits or phone calls
- Christmas giving tree monetary donation -Interfaith volunteer caregivers
- Sleeping in Heavenly Peace Bed build project- Beds build along with bedding and monetary donations
- Essential needs/Food Pantry-diaper donations
- Homeless shelter in Minneapolis, socks and other supplies

Afghan refugee support-Blankets

National outreach;

- Christmas giving tree- monetary donations to UMCOR for hurricane and fire relief

Knit for kids- some items stay in the US and others are shipped abroad

International

- Patricia Project -homemade sanitary pads for women in third world countries
- Dresses for young girls made from pillowcases sent with Marcia Hagen on Medical Mission trip

Sengal feeding stations-monetary donation

We and those on the receiving end of our efforts thank you deeply for your support. We hope to continue these efforts but our committee is in need of more members to join our group to share more ideas about how we may serve others. Please prayerfully consider how you might be of service. If interested in joining, contact the church office or join us at our next meeting on February 13 at 1030 in the Keefe room.

We think of February as a time for Valentines, fancy dinners, flowers and chocolates but there is no better time that reminds us to show or express God's by our words and deeds to others. Throughout the month of February we are encouraging you to reach out to others to show God's love. Consider sending a card or note to a friend or acquaintance, a phone call to someone you haven't spoken to for a while, invite someone out for coffee or take a treat to a shut in. These are just a few examples.

Marcia Hagen will be going on another medical mission trip the middle of this month. She will be going to a different village this time. We would like to send some of the pillow case dresses with her again. Kits with needed materials and directions are available in the gathering area or you may use your own supplies. If you need more supplies or have questions please contact Charlene Galston at 715 284 9544. Completed projects should be brought to the church by February 15 or contact Charlene for an alternate drop off. Remember, you do not need to be an expert seamstress to put one together.

Donations of yarn are still needed as many hands are busy with projects. Don't delay in bringing in completed projects so we can monitor our progress toward our goal of 100 items by April 30.

On April 23 from 9-3 we will be doing a Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build project. The goal is to build 30 beds. We need to raise \$1500.00 to help pay for the wood and such for the beds. There is also a need for bedding for each bed; new twin size sheets, blanket and pillow. On the day of the build there will be a need for 25 volunteer workers and a small crew to set up and serve lunch. Volunteers can serve all day or just an hour. Whatever works for you. To raise the money we need we will be having a special collection during service in March and will have a day to drop off donations of bedding as well. Be watching for more information.

Submitted by
Charlene Galston



Dear Members and Friends of UMW,

Spreading the Love is the theme for our upcoming UMW meeting on Monday, February 7. Each of us can spread love in many ways: cards, songs, gifts, a special meal, a visit, a phone call. The common thread is 'giving.' Giving of time in so many ways.

In the spirit of giving, our UMW members have donated to international programs that provide financial gifts for women starting a small business to support their families, children going to school, youth training programs, vocational training for women, and health care resources for new mothers and their babies. Locally UMW has donated to Interfaith, Health and Human Services, Bolton Refuge and the Food Pantry.

UMW is about mission and giving, what UMW was founded on 150 plus years ago. The following message was in our Spiritual Growth e-mail chain in January and it speaks to how each of our gifts, when given in love and compassion and together with others, can do so much.

"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." Mother Theresa

We invite you to join us in-person on Monday, February 7 for our monthly program from 5:30-6p in the Fellowship Hall followed by a Valentine card making activity from 6-6:30p. Zoom will be offered and if you need the link for connecting, call Luane at 715-284-9839.



When you are thinking of ideas for birthdays, or general gift giving, consider Scrip cards. Beside our most popular cards of Kwik Trip, Hansen's and Wal-Mart, we also carry Applebee's, Arby's, Olive Garden, Buffalo Wild Wings, Panera (Darden restaurants), and Texas Roadhouse. We also have Barnes & Noble, Kohl's, Target, Bath and Body, Culver's, Revolution, Starbucks and Amazon.com. This is just a few of what we have. There are many others that can be special ordered. If your gift recipients don't live near you we may have retailers

in their area. For example, Meijer's, Albertson's, Cub Foods, Cheesecake Factory, Outback Steakhouse, Land's End, Best Buy, Bass Pro Shop, Cabela's, Home Depot, L.L. Bean. The list goes on and on. Stop at the desk at church on Sundays to see the full list or call me (Marcia) at 715-284-3346 and I will see if we can help.

What Happened on This Day in the History of Christianity?

Two Giants

February 2

The son of Pepin the Short rose to power in the eighth century, and there was nothing short about him. Standing seven feet tall, Charlemagne was active, dignified, strong, and intelligent. His continual warfare enlarged his kingdom till it covered most of central Europe, and on Christmas Day, 800, he was crowned king of the Franks by Pope Leo III.

Charlemagne craved education, not only for himself but for his people. He believed that religion and education were the only sure foundations for a healthy state. But he needed a teacher.

Enter Alcuin.

Alcuin, having evidently lost his parents in childhood, had been raised by schoolmasters in York, England. In the vast library of York's Cathedral School the boy fell in love with Ambrose, Augustine, Bede, Pliny, and the writers of antiquity. He rose from student to teacher, and on February 2, 767, Alcuin was made a deacon and the school's headmaster.

Years passed, and the now-famous schoolman, traveling in Italy, met Charlemagne. The two hit it off, one a physical giant, the other an intellectual one. Charlemagne asked Alcuin to educate his court, train his clergy, and establish parish schools.

So Alcuin resigned at York and began teaching the royal family, the imperial advisors, and the clergy of the palace chapel. He based his curriculum on the seven liberal arts, saying the house of knowledge can only be perfectly built on these seven columns. He collected manuscripts for a royal library.

And he began efforts to educate clergy everywhere, then the people. The first thing to learn, Alcuin said, was the Lord's Prayer. Then, the Ten Commandments. He was ever zealous for studying the Scriptures and preaching the gospel. People cannot be "*Christianized*" by force, he warned Charlemagne, but brought to Christ by the Word of God.

Ten years later an exhausted Alcuin returned to England where he spent the rest of his life defending orthodoxy, reorganizing schools, developing curriculum, copying manuscripts, and teaching Scripture. He died unexpectedly on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 804, but his efforts brought light into the darkness and paved the way for the universities that were soon to rise.

Wisdom has built her house with its seven columns. She has prepared the meat and set out the wine. Her feast is ready.

"Everyone who is ignorant or foolish is invited! If you want to live, give up your foolishness. And let understanding guide your steps." - Proverbs 9:1,2,4,6

Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*

