

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

"You Tube Live:
BRFUMC

THE BLACK RIVER
FALLS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
"Serve, Teach, and Love
as We Grow in Faith"

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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at BRF,

Peace and grace be with you all. Spring is *almost* around the corner. Then we can breathe fresh and warm air and see green grass in the field. As a believer I thank, God for all these changes around our lives. I ask myself, "What if it doesn't change?" "What if it is always cold or hot?" If you want to live all the year in a sunny area where there is no rain or snow, you would end up living in a desert. Change is necessary to make our lives vital and resilient. Through many changes of weather and environment, humanity has grown, overcome, and developed itself through many dire circumstances. One of those circumstances has been Covid, but I pray the Covid pandemic will also be ended soon.

As the Lenten season approaches, I am reminded that it is time to change our minds, hearts, and spirits. I can see through the changes of nature that we are alive and growing. Lent is a season of the Christian Year when Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. In other words, it is time to change our spiritual life. Lent is a journey of spiritual transformation. This transformation is called sanctification, and sanctification *always* begins as God's spirit uses God's truth to change the mind, heart, and will of His followers.

Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17:17, "*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*" Transformation is change like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly, and this change happens as we apply God's truth to every area of our lives. It is only God who can change our lives. We cannot change our lives on our own. If we could, there would be no war, conflict, or tension in our lives. It takes God's help for us to end war, conflict and tensions in our world

God wants us to change in all areas of our lives in order to make us more like Jesus Christ so that He can use us to make the world different. Lent is a special time to change us into what we are created to be. I encourage you to be humble in the presence of God so that you can be transformed and renewed spiritually.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon





MAR 2	Shirley Nimmo
MAR 4	Jarrett McKenna
MAR 5	Jeff Woodward
MAR 14	David Olson
MAR	Nancy Iuliano
MAR 15	Megan Finch
MAR 18	Olivia Lee
MAR 19	Carol Anderson
	LuAnn Gaede
MAR 20	Freddie Dolsey
MAR 21	Carol Hornby
MAR 25	Mark Maurer
MAR 26	Edward Brauner
MAR 28	Patty Harleson
	Keith Odeen
MAR 30	Harley Boehm



YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

MAR 6	Lily McCullough
MAR 12	Jillian Maurer
MAR 19	Ezekiel Arndt
MAR 20	Macie Goldsmith
MAR 27	DraMontae Sanders
MAR 28	Ava Gilberg
	Hanna Goldsmith



MAR 17	James & Georgia Earl
MAR 18	Michale & LuAnn Gaede
MAR 24	Barry & Freda Goldsmith
MAR 30	James & Andrea Hoffman



Renea Stoker

February 2, 2022



PRAYER FAMILIES FOR MARCH

MAR 6	Darrell & Cathy Armbruster Janet Gilbertson Mark, Jillian Maurer Vivian Simons
MAR 13	Ann Zillmer Wallace & Linda Atkinson Tide, Chelsey & Everett Gile Timothy & Mary McCann
MAR 20	Judith Sheppard Rodney Zirk Jack Jr. & Traci Bailey Barry, Carolyn & Mitchel Gjersest
MAR 27	David & Linda McCullough Leroy & Frances Simonson James, Emma & Ethan Bible David, Kimberly & Garret Gjersest



The Men's group has started meeting again. We encourage any and all men to become involved and help with our various projects and concerns.

Our next monthly meeting will be held Saturday March 5, 8am at the church. Come one come all.

CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER:

The men's group will prepare the annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner on March 17th. We will begin serving at 4pm and will serve until 7pm or until all the food has been sold. The menu is:

Corned Beef, Cooked Cabbage, Meat Balls, Carrots, Dinner Rolls

You may eat-in or carry out as is your pleasure.

The cost this year is yet to be determined, but will be close to last years cost,

If you wish to order in advance, please call the office and your order will be reserved.
715-284-4114.



The youth will participate in the Van Gogh Bible Study on Wednesday nights during Lent. We are excited that we will be traveling to Minneapolis to see the Van Gogh exhibit in person.

Thank you to all who supported the youth brat sale. It was a huge success. Thank you also to all the youth and families that helped package the brat meals, Esther for helping make the pasta salad, Lyn for donating the cookies, Katrina for donating the chips and beans and Rich for grilling the brats in below zero weather.

The **CAMP SCHOLARSHIP** pancake breakfast was a also a great success. **THANK YOU!** Thank you to all who made the camp breakfast a success. Whether you helped make the breakfast, served at the breakfast, ate at the breakfast or helped clean up...you all are important. We couldn't have had such a good day without each and every person there. It was great to hear laughter and fill the fellowship hall with stories and fun after a long break from gatherings. The scholarship program is important to help off set costs for people attending camp.

Important upcoming dates:

March 2nd	Ash Wednesday (youth will participate in worship)	
March 9th	6pm Bible Study	6:30-7pm Youth group
March 16th	6pm Bible Study	6:30-7pm Youth Group
March 23rd	6pm Bible Study	6:30-7pm Youth Group
March 30th	6pm Bible Study	6:30-7pm Youth Group



EASTER MUSIC

Once again Spirit! will be planning special music for Easter Sunday, April 17th. We are inviting all interested singers to participate with us. There will be 5 special practices to prepare two numbers and a call to worship.

All practices will begin at 5:00pm and will go until 6:30pm.

The dates of practices are:

**February 23
March 9
March 23**

**April 6
April 13**

The music may not be familiar to all, so try to make all the rehearsals or at least 4 of the 5. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Jeff Woodward

FINANCIAL REPORT - For the Month ended January 31, 2022

	<u>YTD Balance</u>	<u>2021 YTD Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Weekly Offerings	\$ 16,896.73	\$ 23,518.00	71.85%
Special Offerings	\$ 0.00	\$ 584.00	0.00%
Other Income	\$ 1,437.03	\$ 1,413.00	101.70%
Total	\$ 18,333.76	\$ 25,515.00	71.86%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Apportionments	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	100.00%
Programming	\$ 864.91	\$ 679.00	127.38%
Pastoral Support	\$ 9,193.60	\$ 9,552.00	99.17%
Program & Support Staff	\$ 4,708.37	\$ 6,105.00	96.25%
Operations	\$ 5,384.21	\$ 5,582.00	96.46%
Total	\$ 23,751.09	\$ 25,518.00	93.08%
Difference	(\$ 5,417.33)	(\$ 3.00)	

As you can see from the above financial report, the church's expenses in January were under budget, but the income was significantly lower than budget. The income so far in February is also below budget. I am told that this is typical for these winter months; however, in order for the church to keep paying the bills, giving needs to "spring upward" as the weather warms. Remember these words from 2 Corinthians 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Jim Hornby, Finance Committee Chair



LEADERSHIP RETREAT: A Leadership Retreat will be held Friday March 25 and Saturday March 26. Fridays meeting will be from 6pm-9pm and dinner will be served. Saturdays session will be from 9am until noon and breakfast will also be served.

Please plan to attend to help improve your church. More to follow.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MEETING: Wednesday, March 2, 10 am

EASTER MUSICAL REHEARSAL: Wednesday March 9th & 23rd 5:00pm –6:30pm

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: March 2, 6pm

LENT DEVOTIONAL TIME: Every Wednesday 6 pm. “Vincent Van Gogh and the Beauty of Lent”

MEN’S GROUP: Saturday, March 5th 8:00am-10:00am

UMW CIRCLE MEETING: Monday March 7, 5:30pm (in person and Zoom)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:	March 8	Finance Committee	5:00pm
		Board of Trustees	5:30pm
		Administrative Council	6:00pm
	March 15	Worship Committee	5:30pm
		SPRC	6:30pm

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER: will be held on **March 17** from 4-7pm, sponsored by the Men’s group. Dine in or drive thru available. More information to follow. See you there.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT: A Leadership Retreat will be held **March 25** from 6-9pm and continuing on Saturday **March 26** from 9am-Noon. Please plan to attend to help improve your church. More to follow.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE: Bed Build Project. **April 23rd.**

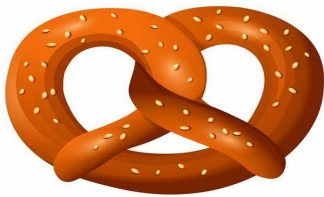
FORTY Days OF LENT

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year when Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON:

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray. Learn about fasting. (Learn more about media fasts.)
9. Start a prayer rhythm. Each day of Lent, go to The Upper Room's prayer wall and pray for another person.
8. Go deeper into the Bible. Take the online course, Worship In Light of the Cross.
7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.) Study a book on forgiveness, such as Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey.
6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee to grow closer to God. Give the money you save to help folks in a different part of the world who are in crisis. Pick a current global issue and help change the world.
5. Create a daily quiet time. Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. Read a daily devotional for the season of Lent. See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.
4. Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way. Learn more about spiritual practice of gratitude.
3. Participate in a Lent Photo-a-Day practice and pray each day with your camera in your hand. Start praying.
2. Volunteer one hour or more each week with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry. Learn about the global issues and how you can help.
1. Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work. Download the Nimbus Prayer app and pray as you go through your day.



The Story of Pretzel Sunday

Long ago, Lent was a time of sadness, a time when early Christians felt they should suffer. For Forty days they ate no rich foods, no meat, cheese, eggs or even milk. They ate fruit, fish and they baked bread shaped into arms crossed in prayer. They called this bread *bracellae*, later referred to as *bretzel*, which later became *pretzel*. The Sunday before Ash Wednesday became known as ***Pretzel Sunday***, to remind people to think about the meaning of Lent and to bake this bread for use during Lent. Pretzels were never served after Palm Sunday. European immigrants brought pretzels to America, and now we can enjoy them all year round.



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

The mission outreach committee has great news to share. On April 23rd we will be partnering with the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SLP) bed build project. As it happened, both of our congregations were working with Eldon Simonson, the coordinator of SLP on finalizing plans for a bed build at our respective churches. It was suggested that we combine our efforts and both churches have agreed. The event will be held at ELC as another event is already scheduled at our church that day. Our goal will be to build 60 beds and supply bedding (new pillow, blanket and twin sheets) for each bed. To reach this goal;

1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church has most of the money needed for the supplies already donated but we will be doing a free will offering to help with the purchase of the bedding and any incidental supplies on **March 27th**. Monetary donations can also be mailed to the church noting that it is for the bed build project.
2. During the month of March we will be collecting bedding. A drop off site will be made available from Monday through Friday under the portico at the church and monitored daily. You may also bring items to church on Sundays if you wish.
3. Volunteers will be needed during the day to help with building. We will be working from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. You may work for just an hour or two or sign up for all day. A sign up sheet will be posted in the gathering area.
4. We will be working on a plan with the Evangelical Lutheran Church for supplying lunch and having water on site for workers. Watch for more information on how you might be able to help.

This will be an for us to serve our community and build relationships. Please consider how you might be a part of this excellent opportunity is effort,

KNIT FOR KIDS

The deadline for the Knit for Kids project is rapidly approaching (April 30). Our goal again was 100 items but as of now we only have 40. Please bring in any items that you have completed so that they may be added to the total. We will accept donations from individuals as well so if you have a friend or neighbor that likes to knit or crochet and is interested in this type of mission please share our information with them. Donations of yarn are still needed as it seems that as rapidly as it comes, it also goes out.

We were able to send 20 dresses made from pillow cases with Marcia Hagen on her mission trip to Guatemala. We would like to have a supply on hand and not be so rushed to put things together if there is another opportunity to do this. Donations of gently used pillow cases are needed. I often am able to find some at thrift stores such as Goodwill or St Vincent DePaul. Thank you to everyone for your efforts. Hopefully I will have a picture to share for the next newsletter.

If you have questions feel free to contact me.

Charlene Galston

715-284-9544



Dear UMW Members and Friends:

March is Women in History Month and the month to recognize the founding of UMW in 1869. There are definitely many similarities between these two celebrations. Women in History recognizes women who offer leadership, compassion, and energy to their communities.

Members of UMW support one another, their communities and women, children and youth around the world. This support recognizes the beautiful connection built to nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that UMW's support can influence and impact local and global communities. This is a continuing effort of over 800,000 UMW members internationally.

Our local BRF unit will continue to involve members and friends in reaching out to families through projects and donations that will have a positive impact.

Join us at our March 7 circle meeting at 5:30pm when we will learn about the Black River Area Foster Closet which is serving foster families with needed supplies. Our meeting will be available in-person and on Zoom.

Blessings,

Luane Meyer



VENMO:

The BRF United Methodist Church has set up an account with "Venmo". You no longer need cash to support the church. This will allow anyone to give to any cause at the church by just using your cell phone.

Call the office if you have any questions.





February 24, 2022 | ATLANTA

The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church is deeply troubled by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the ominous implications it has for escalating tensions between Russia and Western nations. We join many Christian leaders and organizations worldwide in deploring the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, and we ardently pray for a redirection of military action toward diplomatic measures to resolve grievances. United Methodists are people of peace.

The United Methodist Church has mission-founded congregations in both Ukraine and Russia, some from the pre-Soviet period and others dating from post-Soviet years. Both countries are geographically within the Eurasia Episcopal Area and relate to the United Methodist central conferences of Europe. Bishop Eduard Kheday, the resident episcopal leader in Eurasia, is based in Moscow.

We join with Bishop Christian Alsted of the Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area and chair of our denomination's Connectional Table in the prayer that conflict involving political matters will not break the unity between United Methodists in Ukraine and Russia.

Ties broken by Communism between Methodist communities in the Soviet bloc and the United Methodist denomination were reestablished in the 1990s through a number of mission initiatives related to Global Ministries. That work led to the inclusion of the whole of Eurasia into the organic structure of the church through the creation of the Eurasia Episcopal Area.

While Global Ministries has no administrative role in the affairs of annual conferences, districts or congregations in Russia or Ukraine, we are partners in mission with church units and projects in those countries. We have placed numerous missionaries and young adult Global Mission Fellows in the region over the years and accept applications for missionary and mission volunteer service from both countries. We currently have no mission personnel in Ukraine.

We pray for the peace and security of United Methodists in Ukraine and Russia and for all of their neighbors, and that tranquility will prevail over their lives and countries.

Roland Fernandes is the general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief arm of Global Ministries, is in communication with partners in the region and actively exploring the coordination of humanitarian response in Ukraine. Support UMCOR's international disaster response efforts by making a gift to [Advance #982450](#).



Transformed Life Sermon Series for Lent



Lent: Transformed Life

March 6, 2022

Ephesians 4:11-32

"How God Changes Us"

March 13, 2022

Luke 11:33-36

"Healthy Habits for Healthy Body and Soul"

March 20, 2022

Philippians 3:12-15

"Personal Goals by Faith"

March 27, 2022

Luke 15:11-24

"How to Get Closer to God"

April 3, 2022

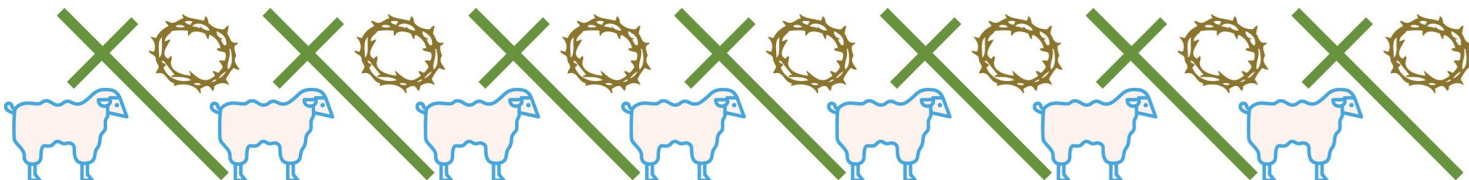
Psalm 23

"Blessed Life in God"

April 10, 2022

Romans 7:21-25

"Transformed Life by Changing Your Mind"



What Happened On This Day in the history of Christianity?

Council of Constance

March 2

The Great Schism is a term describing two events in church history. The first is the breach between the eastern and western churches that occurred in 1054. The second is the sad period from 1378 to 1417 during which rival popes claimed to rule Christendom. In 1414 one of the claimants, Pope John XXIII, called together a church council in the city of Constance to end this schism.

John packed the conference with his followers, and he felt he would be affirmed as sole pope. As he approached Constance, he said, “Ha, this is the place where foxes are trapped.” He entered the city on a white horse accompanied by 1,600 troops. The excitement was breathtaking. Constance swelled with as many as 100,000 visitors from across Europe, including princes, musicians, and prostitutes. So many people bathed in the city’s lake and as many as 500 drownings were reported.

But John’s smugness quickly faded. The proceedings were dominated by an overriding desire to restore church unity. The council, to John’s surprise, wanted to replace all three popes and elect a new one from scratch. When documents began circulating questioning his fitness for office, John became frightened.

On **March 2, 1415** he appeared before the council and said, *I, John XXIII, a pope, promise and obligate myself, vow and swear—here he dramatically rose from his seat and fell on his knees—before God, the Church, and this holy council to give peace to the Church by abdication, provided the pretenders, Benedict and Gregory, do the same.*

Constance erupted in joy, church bells pealing, people weeping and laughing and shouting. John, fearing for his life, fled Constance disguised in a gray coat and hat. But the council tracked him down, returned him to Constance, condemned him for scandalous conduct, and officially deposed him. In time, it successfully ended the Great Schism.

But John XXIII wasn’t the council’s only victim. The same assembly attacked so-called heretics like John Wycliffe and Jon Hus. When Hus himself came to Constance under promise of safe conduct, he was imprisoned, condemned, and handed over to secular authorities to be burned at the stake.

“I did not send these prophets or speak to them, but they ran to find you and to preach their message. If they had been in a meeting of my council in heaven, they would have told you people of Judah to give up your sins and come back to me.” - Jeremiah 23:21,22

Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*.

