

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



December

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

"Like" us on Facebook:

Black River Falls United Methodist
Church

THE BLACK RIVER
FALLS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2021
"Serve, Teach, and Love As We Grow In Faith"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF,

Peace be with you all.

The end of this year is just around the corner. Time flies as I feel the beginning of the 2021 was just yesterday. In retrospect, this year has been rough and tough. Covid-19 pandemic is still affecting our lives in many areas. Precious friends and family have gone and current economic situations are getting worse. It saddens me to hear that a new variant of coronavirus is rising in many places around the world.

Considering all these circumstances, it's hard to see hope in the midst of uncertain reality. However, this uncertainty has been with humankind from the very beginning. Out of chaos God made all creation. In the midst of unrest in Israel 2000 years ago our King Jesus Christ came to earth. Under the fear of death, the Holy Spirit was poured on the disciples of Jesus Christ.

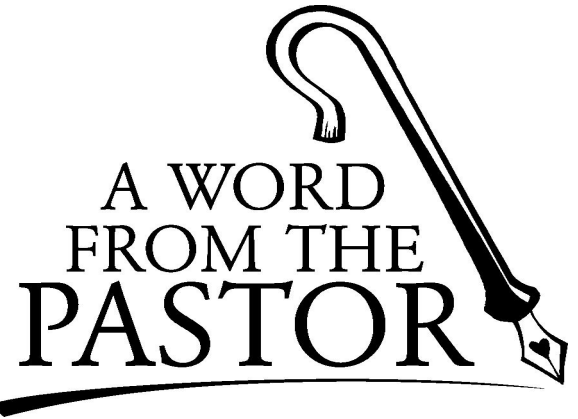
While people and society make chaos, fear and uncertainty, our God creates order, peace and hope. Preparing for Christmas during this Advent season, I encourage all of you to expect hope, peace, joy, and love as a baby Jesus comes to us. He is the king of peace. "Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him" (2 Corinthians 5:18). It was through Christ Jesus that God made peace between us and Himself. Without Jesus Christ we couldn't have peace or be reconciled to God.

From a book I recently read, I was reminded that one of the main themes throughout the whole Bible is peace. The Bible is the story of peace. When Jesus was born "a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests"" (Luke 2:13-14). When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He urged them, "Peace be with you", because they were in fear.

As a matter of fact, most people are in fear for some reason; things such as money, or family, or business, and so on. As you know, fear has existed from the very beginning. The book of Genesis tells us about the origin of fear through the stories of Adam and Eve, and Cain and Abel. After Adam and Eve's falling short, we have been in agony and sorrow. The story of the Old Testament is about waiting for the king of peace. So, Jesus is the very king of peace who made peace between us and God. Once you know Him, accept Him, and reside in Him, you have peace.

May the peace of God be with you always and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon





DEC 2	Marguerite Paulin
DEC 5	Lori Holcomb
DEC 6	Jean Lovlien
	Lance Leisgang
DEC 7	Eugene Krohn
	Jessa Ammann
DEC 8	Mary Loveland
DEC 12	Charlene Galston
DEC 13	Roxanne Hostrawser
DEC 14	Sally Burgau
DEC 15	Howard Gomer
DEC 17	Samantha Hansen
DEC 20	David Jelinek
DEC 21	Sharon Nemec
DEC 22	Elroy Dahl
	Kathie Boehm
DEC 24	Renee Nosbisch
DEC 25	Karolyn Gjerseth
	Ryan Ransom
DEC 26	Jason Breining
DEC 27	Darrell Armbruster
	Lisa Perry
DEC 28	LeRoy Amborn
DEC 29	Ellen Heib
DEC 30	Marcia Hagen
DEC 31	Kristin Breining



DEC 3	Norman & Remea Stoker
DEC 9	Keith & Christine Odeen
DEC 11	Jeffrey & Cheryl Dolsey
DEC 17	Rod & Katrina McGillivray
DEC 18	Don & Evangeline Stender
DEC 20	Richard & Judy Lee
DEC 30	Robert & Selma Laubach
DEC 31	Wallace & Linda Atkinson



Donna Overlien November 13, 2021



PRAYER FAMILIES FOR NOVEMBER

DEC 5	David & Marilyn Hoffman Patty Iverson Mary Loveland Ed Nemec
DEC 12	John Piotrowski LeRoy & Fran Simonsin Jessica & Jonas Whitegull Orv & Beth Amborn, Aaron Dawley



YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

DEC 2	Riley Johnson
	Anna Johnson
DEC 16	Iris Zenz
DEC 20	Charley Boehm
DEC 23	Dylan Dutton
DEC 25	Ella Peterson
DEC 30	Charlotte Christianson

DEC 19	Gertrude Bue Lovey Dambach Sue Gaede Rhoda Gulso
DEC 26	Jim & Andrea Hoffman Mark, Carol & McKenna Jarrett Jean Lovlien Larry & Sharon Nemec



This year as our year end project the mission outreach committee has once again placed The Giving Tree in the gathering area. The committee chose four organizations to donate to, two local, one national and another international. Our local organizations include the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build project and Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers. UMCOR and Senegal feeding station are the national and international organizations respectively. If you are able, choose an organization from the tree that touches your heart in a special way and prayerfully consider your donation. Envelopes may be returned to the church or left in the collection plates by the end of the month.

Thanks to the generosity of many of you, our supply of yarns has improved but with many projects ongoing that supply surplus doesn't last for long. Please continue to donate yarn and equally as important be working on items for the Knit for Kids program. Please bring completed items to the church so that we can get our "goal meter" up to date and steadily climb to our goal. Please don't be intimidated to give making a scarf or cap a try. Many of the patterns are simple knit and/or purl stitches. Crochet items are equally welcome. Remember if you would like, yarn is available in the Wesley room or in the hamper by the Mission Outreach bulletin board in the gathering area.

Thanks to everyone that completed a pillowcase dress(s) for Marcia Hagen to take on her medical mission trip to Guatemala. As she may be returning in February, I am hoping to keep this project ongoing until then. Dress making kits will remain available to complete at your leisure. We are running low on pillow cases. Donations of gently used pillow cases would be greatly appreciated.

I will be working with the church youth to put together a quilt for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build projects. Extra volunteers will be needed to help supervise and guide the youth as they cut and sew the pieces together. Please consider sharing a couple hours of your time. Please be watching and listening as we have not set a date yet for this. Let me know if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted.
Charlene Galston
715 284 9544

Thank you to everyone that made **Coldtober** a success. We filled Ann Smetana's van and there is still more to go up which my friend will pick up in Dec. They were especially thankful for all the men's clothing as that is rarely an item donated. If you have any further donations please give me a call at 715-257-0097 to arrange drop off. Please keep in mind trash bags are easier to transport and will be provided if needed. A big thanks to Ann Smetana for her physical help. Please remember homeless in your prayers. Thanks again



Also any prayer requests or you have anyone who you think benefit from a card or you would like my prayer letter by email, snail mail or both.

Terrie Stevens
715-257-0097
prayermatters517@gmail.com

FINANCIAL REPORT - For the Eleven Months ended November 30, 2021

	<u>YTD Balance</u>	<u>2021 YTD Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Weekly Offerings	\$ 279,961.30	\$ 252,733.00	110.77%
Special Offerings	\$ 237.85	\$ 6,424.00	3.70%
Other Income	\$ 4,931.70	\$ 15,524.00	31.80%
Total	\$ 285,130.85	\$ 274,681.00	103.81%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Apportionments	\$ 10,614.00	\$ 38,918.00	27.27%
Programming	\$ 6,923.90	\$ 6,049.00	114.64%
Pastoral Support	\$ 101,103.97	\$ 104,764.00	96.51%
Program & Support Staff	\$ 65,317.21	\$ 72,238.00	90.42%
Operations	\$ 46,671.55	\$ 55,726.00	83.75%
Total	\$ 230,630.63	\$ 277,695.00	83.05%
Difference	\$ 54,500.22	\$ (3,014.00)	

Income year-to-date is \$285,131 while expenses are \$230,631, leaving us a positive \$54,500. Please keep in mind that these figures include moneys that will need to last us until the end of the year, as some members give only twice a year. As of the end of November, the church has received pledges for 2022 amounting to 54% of the 2022 final approved budgeted income. If you have not submitted your pledge for 2022, I urge you to do so prior to the end of 2021. Please continue to pray that 2022 will be just as or more fruitful for our church as 2021 has been. God Bless. Wayne Bue, Finance Chair

END OF YEAR GIVING: The end of the year is approaching fast. As a reminder, the last day to give to the church for 2021 will be December 30th at noon. The offices will be closed at noon on the 30th and also closed all day on the 31st. Donations received by noon on the 30th will be deposited that day. Any donations given after that date and time, will be recorded in January 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Dan in the office. Thank you

When you are thinking of ideas for Christmas or birthday 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.

The last day for special orders for Christmas giving will be December 12.





United Methodist Women Spreading the Christmas Spirit

As I write this article, people around the world are taking part in the Giving Tuesday Campaign. This campaign focuses on ways that each of us, in our own way, can give back locally, nationally, and internationally through our time, talents and financial gifts.

As an international organization, UMW reaches out with support to women, youth and children through a variety of programs of mission giving. At this season of Christmas, UMW across the country has connected with strangers, friends, fellow members, and neighbors in creative and meaningful ways to celebrate the joy of giving.

Let me share some of this ways, past and present, UMW has welcomed the season.

- ♦ In Kansas, UMW greeted travelers at an Interstate/Highway rest stop by providing hot drinks, snacks, and coloring supplies.
- ♦ South Dakota UMW members “bagged Christmas joy” into bags for children at their local daycare and preschool with books, toothbrush and toothpaste, sunglasses, fleece blankets, and other treats.
- ♦ In Black River Falls, WI, a bit of Christmas joy is mailed out to friends and members of our church in over 100 homemade cards made by UMW members.
- ♦ Patients receiving treatment at a local cancer center in Michigan are the recipients of UMW’s project to fill Christmas bags with small journals, pens, playing cards, lip balm and a special bookmark “Don’t let anything dull your sparkle.”
- ♦ In South Carolina, UMW led their congregation in a prison outreach project by signing and sending 1,200 cards to inmates and staff at a local prison.
- ♦ The participants at a local day center in Black River Falls, WI, for differently-abled adults, enjoyed sugar cookies decorated by UMW at their family Christmas party.

Giving at Christmas and all year long to those around us and around the world is alive and growing with UMW. The members of our local UMW are blessed to be a part of a larger organization that puts Faith, Hope, and Love in Action.

Merry Christmas from our United Methodist Women





Matthew 19:14: But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.

November 28 was the first day of Advent, this is a time of reflection and anticipation in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The candles on the Advent wreath symbolizes, hope, love, joy, and peace. This Advent season focus and reflect on these 4 words, **HOPE**, we all struggle daily, whether it is family, friends, health, church, and the list goes on. My **HOPE** is Jesus is in your life and He is making a difference with your struggles. Jesus gives us inner **PEACE** and **PEACE** with others. Have the **PEACE** of mind knowing that He is there every day for us, helping us with our struggles. Even with the struggles we have to trust in His promises. Feel the **LOVE** God gave us when He sent His one and only son, Jesus to save us. Can you imagine the sounds of **JOY** the angels sang that night Jesus was born? When the **Joy** candle is lit, it reminds me of how the world must have felt when He was born. What a tremendous amount of weight lifted off their shoulders, someone to finally help with their struggles. The last candle is the **CHRIST** candle, this candle is lit on Christmas to remind Christians that Jesus brings light to our lives. Give your struggles to Jesus, see how lives are changed.

The Sunday School Rotation for December is "Journey to Bethlehem" we will prepare for Jesus' birth thru activities in art, dining, and games.

Our Christmas Program, "The ABC's of Christmas" will be held on **Sunday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. **We are practicing every Sunday, please make every effort to have your child in attendance.** They are all getting very excited about it! Please bring 2-3 dozen cookies on Sunday, December 19 for a reception following the Christmas Program. Please put the cookies in the church kitchen by 10:30 a.m. the day of the program.

There will be NO Sunday School on the following days for Christmas Break:

Sunday, December 26

Sunday, January 2

You are encouraged to attend Christmas Eve Worship with your family at 5:30 p.m.

Like our Facebook page Black River Falls Sunday School to see photos of our activities. You can also go to the church's website, www.brfumc.org for photos and other information.

Please continue bringing in your ink cartridges and old cell phones. There are boxes in the front entryway and by the Church Office for the ink cartridges and cell phones.

Advent is here, preparations begin as we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ.

Please join us each Wednesday (unless noted) for activities pertaining to Advent.

December 1	6-7pm
December 8	6-7pm
December 15	6-7pm
December 22	6-7pm
December 29	6-7pm



in addition to the December Wednesday night meetings, we would like to invite all the youth, families and congregation members to Christmas Carol around town on Sunday 12th, after worship. We will gather downstairs in the youth group rooms and start around 10:30am. We will walk around the neighborhood weather permitting.

Please contact Suzanne 715-896-0224 with any questions
suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

What Happened On This Day in the History of Christianity?

Consecrated, Lord, to Thee December 2

Frances Ridley Havergal received Christ at a young age but struggled for years with Christian victory. *I had hoped that a kind of tableland had been reached in my journey, where I might walk awhile in the light, without the weary succession of rock and hollow, crag and morass, stumbling and striving; but I seem borne back into all the old difficulties of the way, with many sin-made aggravations. I think the great root of my trouble and alienation is that I do not make an unreserved surrender of myself to God; until this is done I shall know no peace. I am sure of it.*

She struggled throughout her twenties and thirties, pulled in one direction by the acclaim of great London crowds who loved her singing, and in another direction by the Holy Spirit. Then one day at age 36 she read a booklet entitled “All For Jesus,” which stressed the importance of making Christ King of every corner and cubicle of one’s life. Frances made a fresh, complete consecration to God.

Years later her sister asked her about it, and she replied: *Yes, it was on Advent Sunday, December 2, 1873, I first saw clearly the blessedness of true consecration. I saw it as a flash of electric light. There must be full surrender before there can be full blessedness. God admits you by the one into the other. He showed me this most clearly.*

Shortly after, Frances found herself spending several days with ten people, some of them unconverted, and others of them Christians not fully surrendered. “Lord,” she prayed, “give me all in this house.” Before she left, all ten were yielded Christians. On the last night of her visit, Frances, too excited to sleep, wrote her “Consecration Hymn,” the song that became her life’s theme. She took its words seriously and prayed earnestly over them every December 2nd, making changes to her life and lifestyle as needed. The first verse says:

*Take my life and let it be,
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.*

I have been nailed to the cross with Christ. I have died, but Christ lives in me. And I now live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me. Galatians 2:19b,20

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

