



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



Worship Service: 9:00am
Sunday School: 9:15am (September - May)
6-7pm Children's Class
Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Monday-Friday
Telephone: 715-284-4114
Website: brfumc.org
"You Tube Live: brfumc.org

*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world."*

**FALLS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” - Ephesians 2:8-9

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF,

Peace be with you all. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends despite the pandemic and the cold weather.

Advent season began this past Sunday. The word *advent* is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” In the Christian calendar, Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas. It is the season when we look back to Christ’s first coming, as a baby born in Bethlehem, and look forward to his second coming when He will return to renew and redeem every part of fallen creation. The advent season is, therefore, a time to reflect upon the promises of God and to anticipate the fulfillment of those promises. It is a time for remembering and rejoicing.

From Jesus’ genealogy in the book of Matthew, we find that the gospel is good news, not good advice. The story of Jesus does not begin once upon a time. It starts with a genealogy that is history, not a fairy tale. Jesus’ genealogy reveals what is rooted in history. Jesus Christ did not come to show us how to live so that we could save ourselves. Jesus lived and died in our place in order that God could put the penalty of our sins on Him rather than on us, and we could be saved by his Grace.

Secondly, Jesus’ genealogy tells that the gospel turns the values of world upside down. In the old days genealogy was like our resume. That resume bragged about the people in one’s family who were well known or great. In many cases, one thing that was kept out of genealogy was anybody who wasn’t quite right or wasn’t respectable. Skeletons in the closet were not included. However, in Jesus’ genealogy, we find that there were four women who were gentile or prostitutes. As you might know, in those patriarchal times, women were never included in genealogy. Jesus is not ashamed of these people. He is saying that anyone can be a member of his family. We are not saved by our pedigree or by our respectability. We are saved by grace. Jesus’ genealogy does not say that men are better than women, or the moral are better than the immoral, or the Jews are better than non-Jews. Jesus’ genealogy in the gospel is speaking to us of grace. All people are sinners and all people can be recipients of grace. Pedigree, credentials, money or beauty should not matter to us as Christians because they do not matter to God.

No matter who and what you are, if you turn to Him, you can be a member of Jesus’ family. God doesn’t care what you have done in the past. By God’s grace, we have true hope. May the



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

DECEMBER	11	Jeffrey & Cheryl Dolsey
DECEMBER	17	Rod & Katrina McGillivray
DECEMBER	18	Don & Evangeline Stender
DECEMBER	20	Richard & Judy Lee
DECEMBER	30	Robert & Selma Laubach
DECEMBER	31	Wallace & Linda Atkinson



DECEMBER	2	Riley Johnson
		Anna Johnson
DECEMBER	16	Iris Zenz
DECEMBER	20	Charley Boehm
DECEMBER	23	Dylan Dutton
DECEMBER	25	Ella Peterson



	<u>YTD Balance</u>	<u>2022 YTD Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Weekly Offerings	\$ 215,304.92	\$ 235,174.00	91.56%
Special Offerings	\$ 50.00	\$ 5,843.00	0.01%
Other Income	<u>\$ 8,543.80</u>	<u>\$ 16,600.00</u>	<u>51.47%</u>
Total	\$ 223,898.72	\$ 257,617.00	86.92%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Apportionments	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 36,002.00	50.00%
Programming	\$ 7,321.92	\$ 8,449.00	86.67%
Pastoral Support	\$ 97,763.88	\$ 98,000.00	99.76%
Program & Support Staff	\$ 47,951.50	\$ 59,363.00	80.78%
Operations	<u>\$ 45,956.19</u>	<u>\$ 55,830.00</u>	<u>82.32%</u>
Total	<u>\$ 216,993.49</u>	<u>\$ 257,644.00</u>	84.23%
Difference	<u>\$ 6,905.23</u>	(\$ 27.00)	

In the first ten months of 2022, The church's income is under budget by \$33,718.28 or 13.08%. Expenses also are under budget by \$40,650.51 or 15.77%. Though the church is doing satisfactorily at this time, we continue to ask that you keep praying for our church finances. We also ask that you prayerfully consider how you might help the church in the coming year.

We thank everyone in our church family for your continued support.

From your BRF UMC Finance Committee:

2022 is quickly coming to a close. I want to remind everyone to complete your Estimate of Giving commitments for this year. In order to get credit for your giving for 2022, your donations need to be in the church office by December 30th.

There are still 4 weeks of giving in December, but we anticipate that our total giving will not meet our total expenses. I say this because we have paid all of our bills, except the major obligation of paying our apportionments. As of the end of October, we have paid only 5 of the 12 installments.

Some of you may remember that this is equal or only slightly more than we have paid in the past couple of years; our goal is to pay the full amount. When local churches do not pay their apportionments, the Conference and national denomination are not able to meet all of their goals and obligations either.

2023 will present some exciting challenges as we continue to grow in faith and work to expand our ministries. Your time and talents along with your financial commitments will make these changes possible. If you have not returned your completed time and talent card(s) or the Estimate of Giving card, please do so. Your cards can be placed in the offering plates on



Connections

Wednesday Night Connections are continuing through December 14. Join us for a meal, fellowship and devotions. Meals begin at 4:45pm. Below is the current schedule:

DECEMBER 7
DECEMBER 14

Served by: Imelda Kelley
Served by : United Women in Faith

Thank you all who have made Wednesday Night Connections a huge success.



Seeking Applicants for Children's Ministry Coordinator

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

We are blessed to have younger families with children in our church. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is looking for a person to lead the of Children's Ministry.

This rewarding 5-10 hour/week opportunity for someone with love and enthusiasm for helping children learn about the Bible, God's unending love and grace, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The coordinator works closely with the Children and Youth Activities Committee to select curriculum for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School (VBS). Additionally, they will help to recruit teachers for Sunday School (grade 4K – 5th grade) as well as coordinate and oversee VBS. Other responsibilities for this paid position, include the ability to evaluate the need for additional programs to support our families and children and work with our music coordinator to provide music for Church School.

Class 201: Discovering My Spiritual Maturity.

This class will be continue on Thursday(s) December 8th and 15th. 5:00-6:30. Dinner will be served.

Class 201 is designed to teach you about these simple habits and show you the different steps you can take to mature and grow as a Christian.

Join us for this informative session. Don't miss out.



We wish you all a very happy start to this joyous holiday season.

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." --Mother Teresa-

Upcoming youth events--

- *December 4th Church Celebration Sunday--please join us in worship as we celebrate all of our gifts and talents. Potluck to follow our 9am worship.

- *December 4th Church Charge Conference--4pm. All confirmation students required to attend.

- *December 5th Circle of Grace (all girls in grades 6th-12th) to join UWF for fellowship and card-making 5:30pm. Moms, aunts and grandmas welcome as well.

- *December 7th Youth wrapping presents from 5-8pm for Project Christmas. Supper will be provided.

- *December 14th Christmas Party--we will play games, eat snacks and celebrate the Birth of Jesus.

- *December 21st NO YOUTH

- *December 28th NO YOUTH

We look forward to seeing everyone back in 2023.

Suzanne and Chris

suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Suzanne 715-896-0224

Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group

Website: www.BRFUMC.org



Buying Scrip Cards makes it easier to do personal shopping and gift giving while helping to raise funds for our church. The church buys the cards at a discount and sells them to you at face value. The difference is profit for the church.

We have cards for several restaurants and businesses in the BRF, La Crosse and Eau Claire areas available for sale every Sunday. But even better, we can order cards for other places near and far.

Don't forget, cards cost less to mail to friends and relatives than larger packages.

Contact Marcia at 715-284-3346 if you have any questions.

Dear Members and Friends,

The time of year is here when we reflect on what we are thankful for and how we can make time spent with family and friends special and full of memories. United Women in Faith would like to thank those who have helped support our mission giving and those who remind us in often simple but meaningful ways of our ongoing support of women, children and youth here at home and around the world



United
Women
in Faith

The UWF magazine, response, shares many stories of how UWF dollars impact the lives of families. If you would like to meet families UWF has connected with and also how UWF units are involved with their communities and countries around the world, response magazines can be found on the bookshelf in the Wesley Room. When you have finished with the magazine, thank you for returning it for others to enjoy.

Include on your calendar our Monday, December 5 meeting at the church. We will meet at 5:30pm with a Potluck and Circle of Grace hosting. Our young women in Circle of Grace are sure to share a special Christmas program with us. We will be making Christmas cards to send out to our church members and friends. We hope you can join us.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas,
Luane Meyer



Share some of your Christmas Spirit

Your **Mission Outreach Committee** invites you to join us in spreading the joy of Christmas. We are collecting Bingo prizes for Pine View Care Center and Meadowbrook Nursing Home. The holiday spirit will last into the New Year as the prizes are distributed into 2023.

A large “gift box” will be in the Gathering Area throughout December. Please check the suggested prize list below, add some items to your shopping list and bring them unwrapped to our “gift box”.

Thank you for sharing Christmas joy this year.

Preferred Prizes:

Crossword Puzzle books
Word search puzzle books
Small bottles of perfume
Shampoos
Packer items (pencils, erasers)
Candy bars

Suduko puzzle books
Small bottles of lotions
Deodorants
Jewelry
Window hangers
Individually sized bags of chips

****MISSION OUTREACH****: Has learned that the Friends' Food Shelf needs canned vegetables, canned fruit and peanut butter. There is a box in the Gathering Area for your donations. The box will remain in the Gathering Area through December 4. This is a good season to share with those who need food items. Please be sure that your donations are not out-of-date.

VOLUNTEERS are still wanted to ring a bell at Red Kettle Campaign by Salvation Army at Walmart or Hansen's IGA, Nov. 19th -Dec. 24th. 9am-7pm. Contact the office if interested.



DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOVEMBER	28	29	30 Intercessory	1	2	3
			Prayer 10:00am			Men's Group 8:00am-9:30am
5 Sunday Worship Holy Communion Celebration Pot Luck 10:30am Church Conference 1:00pm	6 UWF Meeting 5:30pm	7 Intercessory	8 Prayer 10:00am Mission Outreach 3:00pm Youth Wrapping Presents	9 Discipleship Class 201 5:00pm	10	
12 Sunday Worship 1:00am Advent Bible Study 6:30	13 Committees	14 Finance 5:30pm Trustees 6:00pm Admin C 6:30pm	15 Intercessory	16 Discipleship Class 201 5:00pm	17	
19 Sunday Worship 1:00am Advent Bible Study 6:30	20 Committees	21 Intercessory	22 Prayer 10:00am Youth Christmas Party	23 Discipleship Class 201 5:00pm	24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:00pm
26 Sunday Worship 1:00am CHRISTMAS DAY	27	28	29	30	31	New Years Eve Come & Go Communion 4-6pm
Routine Activities:	Pre-Confirmation	5:00pm-6:00pm		Choir Rehearsal	Each Wednesday	6:15pm-7:00pm
	Confirmation	7:00pm-8:00pm		Bells Rehearsal	Each Wednesday	7:15pm-8:00pm
	Youth	6:00pm-7:00pm		Wednesday Connections	Each Wednesday	4:45pm-6:00pm
	<i>(No Meetings on December 21 or 28)</i>					

The Power of a Hero

December 3

Never underestimate the influence of your child's heroes. Sixteen-year-old Francis Xavier moved to France from northern Spain, enrolling in the University of Paris and gained a reputation for being "charming, witty, urbane, athletic, musical, good-looking, successful with women, and somewhat vain... a complete worldling until one day he met... Ignatius Loyola."



Loyola sought reformation within the Roman church. Loyola's convictions so affected Francis that for the rest of his life he knelt when writing to Loyola or reading a reply. Together the two men established the Society of Jesus—the Jesuits—in 1534.

In the late 1530s Loyola and Xavier set off as ministers to Venice where they preached and worked in hospitals. Then with the blessing of Pope John III, Xavier left Europe as a missionary to the Orient. Arriving in India in 1542, he walked throughout the countryside, wearing poor clothing, incessantly ringing a little bell, and calling the inhabitants to turn from paganism to Christ. He focused on the children, advising a coworker, "I earnestly recommend to you the teaching of the children... since the grown-ups have no hankering for Paradise."

Xavier journeyed on to Japan where he laid aside his rags, put on expensive clothing, and publicly debated Buddhist monks. Numbers of Japanese entered the Christian faith, but Xavier felt that the key to winning Japan was to first win the Chinese; so he set off for China. Waiting for an audience with the Chinese emperor and permission to preach, Xavier developed a fever, weakened and died on **December 3, 1552**.

Francis Xavier is the father of modern Catholic missions. He started life spoiled, but became one of the most courageous figures in missionary history. He laid the groundwork for the Catholic evangelism of the Orient and did it all in just a ten-year period.

Such is the power of a hero.

"Wise friends make you wise, but you hurt yourself by going around with fools.

You are in for trouble if you sin, but you will be rewarded if you live right."

- Proverbs 13:20-21