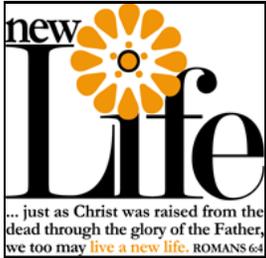


# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

“Serve, Teach, and Love As We Grow In Faith”

APRIL 2019



## “Where Do We Go From Here?”

Have you ever noticed that when you are planning a trip the weeks or even months before can seem to stretch on forever as you plan and prepare? On the other hand, once you get to your destination the hours and days seem to fly by and the next thing you know you are on your way back home to the same old routines and schedules, all the while wondering how the time passed so quickly and why it had to end. The redeeming factor is that the time we enjoyed with family and/or friends while on vacation will remain in our memories as long as we . . . remember.

Now think about the Easter event. We spend 40 days preparing for Easter, the Resurrection celebration of Jesus Christ. Those 40 days can seem to go on forever, partly because the stories of Jesus’ life as he prepares for the cross are not always pleasant nor easy to hear, and partly because we do look forward to the celebration of Easter, that party atmosphere that prevails as we sing the victory songs, wear brightly colored clothing, visit with family and friends and eat ham, chocolate bunnies and jelly beans.

So what’s the difference between the end of vacation and the end of Easter? Everything, because when we take to heart the message of Easter, that Jesus Christ is alive today, tomorrow and as long as we allow him to live in our hearts and through our lives, then we come to the realization that Easter is not the last day of a vacation nor the end of a spiritual journey but rather, Easter is a refreshing reminder of the new life we are offered in Jesus Christ. What new life? When Jesus died on the cross, he took the guilt and shame of our past sins with him. Jesus’ death and resurrection gives all who believe a fresh slate, the opportunity to start over, free of the burdens of our past. That freedom allows us to live as Easter people, living in God’s abiding presence and amazing grace.

Easter reminds us that we can live in that place we have been looking forward to arriving at for the past 40 days. We can live in the joy of the resurrection and in the expectation of life in abundance.

*May you live every day in the promise of Christ’s constant, abiding love and grace!*

*Easter Blessings ~*

*Pastor Kathy*

## *A Note to Those Who Are Asking, “Where Does the Church go From Here?”*

If you have either been in worship, viewed the BRF UMC webpage, or been on the church’s Facebook page, then you are aware of the current state of the United Methodist Church, as well as where I stand regarding the recent action that was taken during the Special General Conference that took place in late February regarding the treatment of homosexuality in the church. Many have asked what is going to happen to the UMC. At this time Black River Falls UMC is moving forward, still offering the love and grace of Jesus Christ to all, regardless of age, gender, sexual identification, race, culture, sexual orientation, family configuration, religious background, economic status, or developmental and physical abilities. When the Council of Bishops meets in late April to determine the constitutionality of the action that was taken at the Special Conference, we will learn what that decision means to the local church, in particular BRF UMC. So please be patient with me and don’t let the state of flux the church is experiencing now affect the ministry of this church, a ministry that is so needed in the world.





APR 1	Vernon Gjerseth
APR 2	Mary Jelinek
APR 4	Basil Holder
APR 5	Leanne Kappen
APR 6	Stephanie Brauner
	Bob Rush
APR 8	Breanne Caponigro
APR 9	Dick Hilliker
APR 13	Sam Rogstad
APR 19	Steve Hansen
APR 20	Donna Dolesy
APR 23	Danielle Dolsey
APR 25	Anita Berry
APR 28	Zack Olson

### *New Member Class*

There will be a membership class on **Sunday, April 7, from 10:30 a.m. (following worship) to 1:30 p.m.**, in the Keefe Room.

The focus of the class will be 1) our faith, 2) the body of Christ (the Church), and 3) our call to be disciples and ambassadors for Jesus in the world.

The class is open to you if:

- 1) You are interested in becoming a professed member of BRF UMC,
- 2) You would like to learn more about BRF UMC, or
- 3) You would like a “refresher” course and perhaps renew your own membership vows.

To sign-up, call the church office at 715-284-4114 or talk to Pastor Kathy and let her know you are interested in attending.



APR 13	Tim & Kay Finch
APR 17	Mike & Leanne Kappen
APR 24	Patrick & Lea Coville
APR 26	Steve & Dina Hansen
APR 27	Howard & Kristie Gomer

## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### *Palm Sunday, April 14*

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

### *Maundy Thursday, April 18*

Communion Service 7:00 p.m.

### *Good Friday, April 19*

Tenebrae Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

### *Easter Sunday, April 21*

Sunrise Service 7:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Easter Worship 9:00 a.m.

## **YOUR UMC NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE.**

You can view it on our website at [brfumc.org](http://brfumc.org), or we can email it to you each month. Let us know if you would prefer this way of reading your monthly newsletter.

## United Methodist Women – Sisterhood of Grace 2019

### Celebrating 150 Years!

Since the beginning UMW has been in mission to better situations for women, children and youth. **Improving maternal health and well being is one of the national focus areas in 2019.** Our local unit has decided to help new mothers who do not have necessary items to properly care for a new baby. Through Interfaith Caregivers, the Bear Essentials program strives to help new mothers in need in Jackson County.

**We will be collecting items for Bear Essentials** at our April 1 Circle meetings. A box near the UMW card table in the Gathering Area will be available through Sunday, April 7 for additional items. Interfaith has indicated the following needs: wipes, diapers (size 1 and 3), onesies (white or gender neutral colors/patterns), sleepers (boys' or girls', any size), hats, sweaters, jackets. All items need to be new and unwashed. Do not wrap these items.

### What is happening next?

- On May 4 North Central District UMW will hold its **Spring Retreat** at Pine Lake Camp. The theme for the day is “Listening for God and Our Response” presented by Jean Pagliaro. Registration for the day is \$20 including a morning snack and lunch. This is a great opportunity to spend a spring day by the lake with women of faith. Look for registration forms on the kiosk in the Gathering Area.
- UMW will serve the **Lenten supper** on April 10.
- **Circles will meet again on May 6.** Circle of Hope at the church at 1:30 PM and Circle of Faith at 5:30 PM at the Mocha Mouse.
- BRF UMC will host the UMW Conference Leadership Team on April 26 – 27 for a team meeting.



## Van Etta Library

### Book Review

#### Send Down the Rain by Charles Martin

Charles Martin, a New York Times bestselling author, writes about the dreams we cherish, the struggles we face and the courage we must summon when life seems to threaten what we hold most dear through Joseph, the main character in this novel.

Joseph was wounded in both body and spirit and unable to come to terms with the trauma of his Vietnam War experiences. He is ready to abandon his search for peace and live alone in a remote cabin in the Carolina mountains, when he discovers a mother and her two small children in a perilous situation. He is a man of character and strength and steps in to help them get back to their home in Florida. Through this act of kindness, he is reunited with a childhood friend who is also in need of his help.

In reviews, this novel has been called an enticing tale of a modern prodigal son.

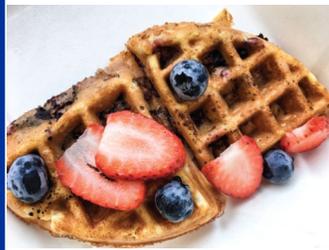
Rhoda Gulso

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

- MAR 17 In memory of Francis & Dorothy Harmer given by their family.
- MAR 24 In honor of Leota Simonson for her 80th birthday from her family.

**RADIO BROADCASTS**

- MAR 10 In memory of Jeff Lisowski, who passed away on March 9, 2002, sponsored by his parents, Kae & Dave Dettinger.
- MAR 17 In memory of Dorothy Harmer, whose birthday was March 12, and Francis Harmer, whose birthday was March 23, sponsored by their family.



**YOUTH 2019**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**FUNDRAISER**

**Sunday, April 7 10:00-11:00 a.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

All are invited to join us for **Waffles and Crepes** and your choice of yummy toppings/fixings, Milk, Juice and Coffee.

A free-will offering will be taken with proceeds going to the **YOUTH 2019** trip to Kansas City in July.



**April 18, 2019**

Come to worship on Maundy Thursday and hear some of Jesus' closest friends talk about the difference Jesus made in their lives. Join us at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we focus on Jesus' institution of Holy Communion.



**Good Friday**

**April 19, 2019**

A Tenebrae worship service will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come and find out how you can hold your head high even in the midst of and perhaps because of Jesus' death.

**JEW'S FOR JESUS®**

**CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER**

Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Giselle Le'Aupepe Bruce of **Jews for Jesus** will recreate the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" on Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this special presentation.



**FAMILY SUNDAY:** Family Sunday falls on Easter Sunday, what a great way to celebrate Easter, attend Worship with your family! The Sunday School classes will be singing at the 9:00 a.m. Worship on the new Choir Risers the church purchased for special programs. There will also be a special offering collected to help with the cost of the Choir Risers.

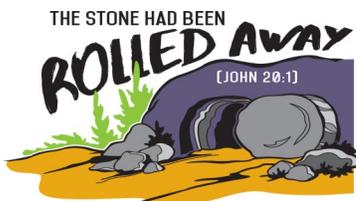
**ROTATION MODEL:** This month we will be learning about Palm Sunday, Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion, and finally the empty tomb and that Jesus had risen. We will be using symbols from “Resurrection Eggs” to help teach the children the Easter Story.

**IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES:**

- Sunday School Year End Program, Fruits of the Spirit, will be held MAY 19 at 9:00 a.m.
- Vacation Bible School, **RAINFOREST ADVENTURES**, will be held August 5-8. A meal will be served from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. with a VBS start time of 6:00 p.m. We are in need of substitutes and helpers for VBS. Contact Beth Bue if you are able to help us out.

**RECYCLING:** Thank you to everyone who has brought in ink cartridges and cell phones for recycling. This fundraiser is used to purchase Vacation Bible School supplies. Please continue bringing in your ink cartridges and old cell phones. There are boxes in the front entryway, by the Church Office, and by the Youth Rooms for the ink cartridges and cell phones.

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](http://www.brfumc.org) for photos and other information.



**YOUTH BIRTHDAYS**

- APR 5 Dreyden Sanders
- APR 10 Rachel Crocker
- APR 12 Annaliese Rave
- APR 30 Lauren Lund



**PRAYER FAMILIES**  
**FOR APRIL**

- APR 7 Jim & Carol Hornby  
Allan Hostrawser  
Jeremy, Jana & Ryan Nandory  
Darrin, Anne, Nolan, Dylan & Charley Boehm
- APR 14 Grant & Geri Allen  
Nancy Burchard  
Tom & Lois Epps  
Sun Gorski
- APR 21 Paul, Robin, William & Isaac Hoffman  
June Koehler  
Jennifer Meyer  
Donna Overlien
- APR 28 LeRoy & Fran Simonson  
Sally Burgau  
Dennis, Carrie, Sam & Josh Farnsworth  
LeRoy, Kim & Breanna Amborn





# YOUTH GROUP

Happy Spring, a very welcome season for many of us!

The youth are selling Butter Braid Bread. The bread will be delivered on Tuesday, April 16. We will be in the Gathering Area after worship on April 7 if you would like to order. Let us know if you want it delivered to you before Easter when you order, and someone will contact you after the 16th. We have several yummy flavors and they sell for \$13.00 each. Thaw, rise, and bake!

### April Happenings:

- April 4: Youth meet 6:00-6:30 p.m.  
Lenten Worship 6:30 p.m.
- April 10: Youth meet 6:00-6:30 p.m.  
Lenten Worship 6:30 p.m.
- April 17: Youth meet 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross
- April 24: Youth meet 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Bible Games

Suzanne Goldsmith  
Text or call—715-896-0224  
Email: [suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com)  
Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group

**If you know of someone who is in the hospital or who is working through medical issues at home, please call the church office so that the Pastor is aware of the need and can respond accordingly.**

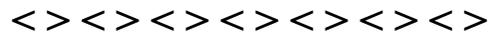


**If you know of an individual or family that is working through health issues, hospitalization, or some other crisis and could benefit from the gift of a meal, please call the church office and Jill will pass the information to our Caring Meal Crew.**



To all the women who came to our annual *Women's Retreat* on Saturday, March 2. What a fun and relaxing day everyone had! Much appreciation goes to all who helped in any way to make the day a huge success!

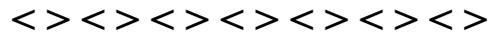
A special thank you goes to our men in the kitchen who prepared our delicious lunch and kept snacks and treats available for us throughout the day. **AWESOME JOB!!**



I want to send out a huge **THANK YOU** to all who attended our Corned Beef Dinner on March 17. We are eager to start making plans for next year and hopefully everyone is able to enjoy it with us.

The Men's Group is looking forward to doing some yard work this spring and make our church look as good on the outside as it does on the inside.

Wayne Bue  
Men's Group Chairman



Thanks so much to everyone who has generously donated items for the homeless people in the cities at the shelter where I work. As warmer weather gets here, I will be at the shelter more often. Prayers are always appreciated for those who are homeless, especially for the families and friends of two women who recently died there.

Terrie Stevens  
715-257-0097



# BRF UMC Calendar of Events—APRIL 2019



## MONDAY, APRIL 1

Pastor Kathy Day Off  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
1:30 p.m.—Circle of Hope Mtg. at church  
5:30 p.m.—Circle of Faith Mtg. at Mocha Mouse

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group  
5:15 p.m.—Confirmation Pictures  
5:30-6:30 p.m.—Lenten Meal  
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group  
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

## THURSDAY, APRIL 4

5:30 p.m.—Women's Retreat Meeting  
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice  
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6

8:30 a.m.—Men's Group Meeting

## SUNDAY, APRIL 7

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School  
10:00-11:00 a.m.—Youth Breakfast Fundraiser  
10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.—New Member Class

## MONDAY, APRIL 8

Pastor Kathy Day Off  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## TUESDAY, APRIL 9

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting  
5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting  
6:15 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group  
10:10 a.m.—Book Club  
5:15 p.m.—Confirmation  
5:30-6:30 p.m.—Lenten Meal  
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group  
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

## THURSDAY, APRIL 11

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice  
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice  
6:30 p.m.—Christ in the Passover Presentation  
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## SUNDAY, APRIL 14

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School

## MONDAY, APRIL 15

Pastor Kathy Day Off  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group  
5:15 p.m.—Confirmation  
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

## THURSDAY, APRIL 18

7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Worship Service

## FRIDAY, APRIL 19

7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Worship Service

## SUNDAY, APRIL 21

7:30 a.m.—Easter Sunrise Service  
8:00-9:00 a.m.—Easter Breakfast  
9:00 a.m.—Easter Worship Service

## MONDAY, APRIL 22

Pastor Kathy Day Off  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group  
5:15 p.m.—Confirmation  
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 26-27

UMW Conference Leadership Event

## SUNDAY, APRIL 28

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School

## MONDAY, APRIL 29

Pastor Kathy Day Off  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

