

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF,

Happy Easter!

Peace and grace be with you. I hope you had a meaningful Lent Season in the midst of the pandemic. Our Lenten journey now reached its climax in the Week we call Holy, March 28 to April 4.

Holy Week was a time of agony and ecstasy. The week began with great excitement for Jesus’ disciples who expected their Lord now to proclaim the new kingdom they had waited for such a long time. But it was a week of agony for political and religious leaders who worried about what unanticipated outbreak would occur.

But before the week ended, the circumstance was reversed. The agonized were excited and the ecstatic were in agony. The powers crushed the peasants from Galilee. For everybody, this seemed to be the end. But on the morning of the third day, an unprecedented thing happened that nobody expected. All heaven broke loose. Easter! The day of Resurrection! Jesus is risen from the tomb. He conquered death. The power of darkness was defeated. New creation was made. The old world has gone.

As we walked through this Lent Season for about seven weeks, we shared a series called “*Holy Vessels*,” by Dr. M. McFee. I appreciate all the members of our church and the worship team did to make it successful. The series “*Holy Vessels*” talked figuratively about our current human condition and the direction we need to go. Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of the embodied love of God. Since the Fall and the pandemic, our sense of wholeness – body, mind, and spirit – has been shattered. Through the season of recovery for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we explored the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. As a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process, beach glass offered us an analogy of transformation.

Even though we are discarded and broken, God can pick us up and redeem us so that we can change. If God touches and molds us the way God desires, we can become beautifully precious gems so that we can be used for God’s purpose. We have become new a creation and our old worldly life has gone, since our Risen Lord has come into our heart. We are raised up to do new things with Jesus Christ. We are no longer slaves to sin, darkness, self-centeredness, and self-righteousness. Jesus Christ is calling us to have new heart toward all people and nature - a new kind of love toward family and friends, a new compassion never before felt for enemies, and a new love for all humankind.

The new creation is a wondrous thing, formed in the mind of God and created by His power and for His glory. Let us put on the “new self of Jesus Christ which is created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24). Let us walk in newness of life! (Romans 6:4) Amen.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Love,

Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon





Happy Birthday!

APR 2	Mary Jelinek
APR 4	Basil Holder
APR 5	Leanne Kappen
APR 6	Bob Rush
APR 8	Breanne Caponigro
APR 9	Dick Hilliker
APR 12	Kyle Nosbisch
APR 13	Sam Rogstad
APR 19	Steve Hansen
APR 20	Donna Dolesy
	Jim Ward
APR 21	Cathy Armbruster
APR 23	Danielle Dolsey
APR 25	Katrina McGillivray
APR 28	Zack Olson



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

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1
7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2
7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 4
Sunrise Service - 7:30 a.m.
Easter Worship - 9:00 a.m.

We are continuing to follow our Covid-19 guidelines of social distancing and wearing masks.

We hope you will be able to join us in person for our Easter Sunday services. If you are not able to be here in person, please listen to our Radio Broadcast on WWIS Radio 99.7 FM or watch on Facebook Live.



HAVE A BLESSED
Easter

YOUR UMC NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE.

You can view it on our website at 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.

Dear Members and Friends of UMW,

Many descriptions give a joyful picture of this season of the year. It is the season of budding, flowering, seedtime, springtide, time of renewal, and new journeys. In this season of Lent and Easter, we celebrate God's love for us through Jesus' resurrection, a time of renewal, the beginning of a new journey.



Faith Talks podcasts are monthly conversations with UMW that explore themes and resources that empower UMW to put faith, hope and love into action. During the last Faith Talks podcast, the speakers spoke on how we can strengthen our soul-care, the care and renewal of our inner spirit and faith. Our host, Jennifer shared this bible verse: 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

God made the greatest sacrifice. How are we using our body as a temple of the Holy Spirit and using our spirit and faith to pay it forward? May you each feel the joy of a new journey.

Luane Meyer



"Sleep In Heavenly Peace" Bed Build - Update and Thank You

Thanks to the generosity and support of the members and friends of this congregation, our financial goal of \$1200 has been surpassed! The local chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace will use the additional funds to finance future bed builds and pay for ongoing expenses.

We're also very pleased that 20 individuals, as requested, have volunteered to build the 24 beds. Our United Methodist Church volunteers are asked to be present at the office area parking lot by 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 24. We will be using face masks and social distancing throughout the morning. Several congregational friends and members have also volunteered to provide water and food for a bratwurst-type noon lunch for the volunteer workers and instructors.

If you still wish to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Black River Falls United Methodist Church and write "Bed Build" on the memo line. If you have questions, please call Ruth or Chuck Buswell at 715-284-2100.

Thanks again, Black River Falls United Methodist Church members and friends! Your generosity is truly outstanding!



RADIO BROADCAST

MAR 14 In memory of Dorothy Harmer, whose birthday was March 12, and Francis Harmer, whose birthday was March 23, sponsored by their family.



Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Leota Simonson** who passed away on February 13, 2021.



MUSIC FUND

In Memory Of:

Leota Simonson from Louis Shaw, and Karolyn Gjerseeth.

SOUND SYSTEM FUND

In Memory Of:

Leota Simonson from Nyla Musser

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR APRIL

APR 4 Nancy Burchard
Freddie & Donna Dolesy
Barry & Karolyn Gjerseeth
Judy Hansen

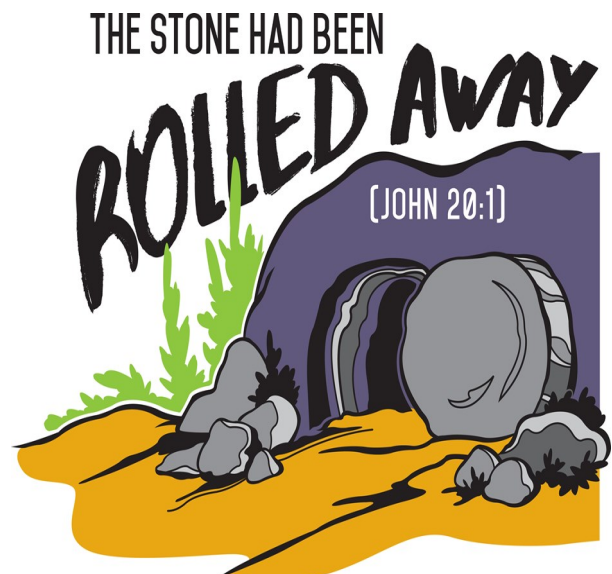
APR 11 A.J. Holder
Elaine Know
Dave & Linda McCullough
Keith & Chris Odeen

APR 18 Bill & Clarice Salsbery
Emily Stewart
Gene & Linda Atkinson
Sally Burgau

APR 25 Jeff & Cheryl Dolsey
Dave & Kim Gjerseeth
Denise Hanson
Basil Holder

If you know of someone who is in the hospital or who is working through medical issues at home, please call the church office (715-284-4114) so that the Pastor is aware of the need and can respond accordingly.

If you have an announcement or other information that you would like to have posted on the church's Facebook page or the church's website, please forward that information to the Church Office and we will get the information to our website and Facebook coordinator for publication.





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."

This past month we learned about Palm Sunday, Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, and finally the empty tomb and that Jesus had risen. The children learned the Easter Story by using "Resurrection Eggs", a way to retell the story of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. It amazes me how much these children learn each week, even the youngest of them, they all could retell the story just as well as I could. To finish out the Sunday School year we will be "Digging Into the Bible" learning about more Bible Stories.

REMINDER: Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m. (Children are encouraged to attend church with their families at 9:00 a.m. They will be dismissed to go to Sunday School following the Children's Message).

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 and by the Church Office 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 for photos and other information.

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 2, 2021 Last day of Sunday School
August 2-5 Vacation Bible School, VBS Olympics, Team Jesus (More details to follow)

There's still time to sign up for summer camp!!!! Summer Camps for all ages are provided at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne. The power of camp is lifelong friendships, outdoor adventure, positive Christian role models, and meaningful conversations. The campers that attend camp share with us how their faith is strengthened and how they become closer to God. Scholarships are available. If you are interested in attending camp this summer check out www.WIUMCamps.org or contact camp coordinator, Beth Bue 715-896-0823.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

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



The church financials are setting pretty good right now, however we have not made any apportionment payments yet this year. The Finance Committee has discussed the possibility of sending in monthly partial payments if our finances stay above expectations.

We need everyone to help us reach our goal of paying all of our apportionment payments by December 31 this year. If you are not able to be at church in person, please consider mailing your contributions to the Church Office.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Wayne Bue
 Finance Committee Chair





YOUTH GROUP

The youth have enjoyed the Holy Vessels Bible study during the Lenten Season. We have talked about the struggles we have all been through in the past year and the strategies we can use to heal. Each week we have done some breathing during our prayer time and our hands-on activities have sparked their imaginations to see what God's love can do for us in our lives during troubled times. We will continue to reflect back on what we have learned as we finish out our year.

Our youth group meets each Wednesday from 5:30-6:15 p.m. It is open to all youth in grades 6-12. You are welcome to bring friends. Our last youth group of the school year will be May 26. The remainder of the meetings will consist of NOOMA videos, game nights, a nature walk, crafts and Bible studies. We will also be having a "Spring into Summer" gathering. More information to come.

If you have any questions about the youth program, please contact Suzanne Goldsmith.

Text or call 715-896-0224.

suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Facebook page: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group

I pray that ... Christ may dwell in
your hearts through faith.



as you are being
rooted and grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17, NRSV

What Are Apportionments?

The main way we support the ministries of the larger United Methodist Church is through apportionments, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church wide budget to conferences and local churches.

For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

Our impact as 12.5 million United Methodists, in 136 countries, is phenomenal. Together we witness to the love of Jesus Christ for a hurting world and transform lives and communities in his name.

"A portion meant for others"



MEN'S GROUP

Many thanks to everyone who came and picked up Corned Beef Dinners at our recent "To Go Only" event on March 17.

A SPECIAL thanks to all the guys who worked all day preparing the food, and those who came to help serve the long line of cars who drove up to get their meals. It all went very well, and turned out to be a huge success!

We hope next year we will be able to serve our Corned Beef Dinner in the Fellowship Hall as we have in the past. We appreciate everyone being able to adapt to our "To Go Only" format this year and hope next year we will be back to our normal format.



What Happened on This Day in the history of Christianity?

His Ideal Idelette

April 2



Churchmen had been celibate for centuries, and John Calvin wondered if he, a first-generation Protestant, should break tradition. “I am not yet married,” he wrote. “Whether I shall ever marry I do not know. In any case, if I take a wife it will be that, freed from cares, I can consecrate myself to the Lord.”

He fell in love at age 30, but the marriage was called off. His friend William Farel suggested another woman, but Calvin was unimpressed. A third prospect looked promising, but Calvin was cautious. “I will look very foolish if my hope again falls through.”

It did. “I have not found a wife,” he lamented, “and frequently hesitate as to whether I ought any more to seek one.” Suddenly he noticed a widow in his congregation, Idelette de Bure, who had been converted through his preaching. He made frequent pastoral visits to her, and was smitten. They quickly married.

Idelette proved an ideal pastor’s wife. She visited the sick, poor, and distressed. She entertained visitors who came consulting her famous husband. She furnished her table with vegetables from her own garden. She bore patiently the loss of the couple’s three infants. She softened Calvin’s hard edge and provided him joy.

When Idelette fell ill, Calvin anguished. As the hour of death drew near, they talked about “the grace of Christ, the hope of everlasting life, our marriage, and her approaching departure.” Then he turned aside to pray. Idelette suddenly cried, “O glorious resurrection! O God of Abraham and of all our fathers, the believers of all the ages have trusted on Thee and none has hoped in vain. And now I fix my hope on Thee.” Having thus spoken, she died. Calvin wrote to Farel on April 2, 1549, “Intelligence of my wife’s death has perhaps reached you. I do what I can to keep myself from being overwhelmed with grief. My friends also leave nothing undone that may administer relief to my mental suffering.”

John and Idelette enjoyed nine years together. Never again did John Calvin seek a wife, for no one could replace his ideal Idelette.

There are three or four things I cannot understand: How eagles fly so high or snakes crawl on rocks, How ships sail the ocean or people fall in love. - Proverbs 30:18, 19

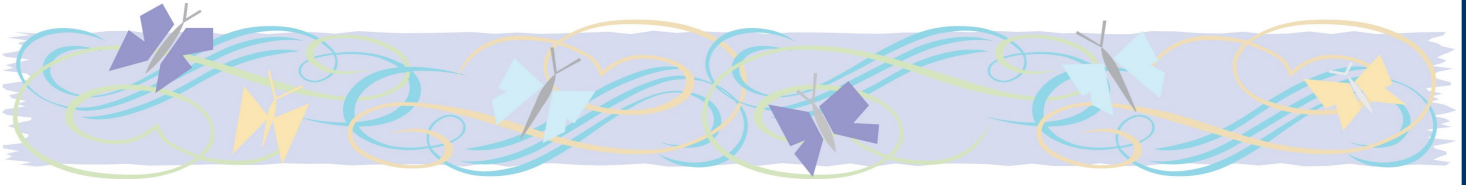
Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*



“I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS.”

E P H E S I A N S 1 : 1 6 , N I V

BRF UMC Calendar of Events — APRIL 2021



THURSDAY, APRIL 1

7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 a.m.—Easter Sunrise Service

9:00 a.m.—Easter Worship Service

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

1:00-2:00 p.m.—Confirmation (In FH)

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice

5:30 p.m.—Youth Group

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

10:00 a.m.—Coffee with the Pastor

6:00 p.m.—Grand Sweep Bible Study (Virtual)

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School

10:15 a.m.—PreConfirmation

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting

5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting

6:00 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

1:00-2:00 p.m.—Confirmation (In FH)

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice

5:30 p.m.—Youth Group

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

10:00 a.m.—Coffee with the Pastor

6:00 p.m.—Grand Sweep Bible Study (Virtual)

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School

10:15 a.m.—PreConfirmation

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

5:00 p.m.—Church Audit

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

1:00-2:00 p.m.—Confirmation (In FH)

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice

5:30 p.m.—Youth Group

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

10:00 a.m.—Coffee with the Pastor

6:00 p.m.—Grand Sweep Bible Study (Virtual)

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

9:30 a.m.—Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Build
in the back parking lot
(Rain Date—Saturday, May 1)

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
(Blessing of the Sweaters)

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School

10:15 a.m.—PreConfirmation

10:30 a.m.—Mission Outreach Committee Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

1:00-2:00 p.m.—Confirmation (In FH)

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice

5:30 p.m.—Youth Group

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

10:00 a.m.—Coffee with the Pastor

5:30 p.m.—Worship Committee Meeting

6:00 p.m.—Grand Sweep Bible Study (Virtual)



April