

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

AUGUST 2019



Dear Beloved,

The Apostle John referred to himself as beloved. He was a beloved disciple of Jesus. I like to think of myself and you also as beloved disciples of Jesus the Christ. When we turn from trying to live life by our own rules and in our own power and kneel at the feet of Jesus; when we profess Him as the LORD of our lives and not ourselves, we enter into the Kingdom of God and become His beloved disciples. No longer enemies of God but adopted as children of God and empowered by the gift of His Holy Spirit to live lives that bring glory and honor to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You might note from the above paragraph that I am what many would call an orthodox Wesleyan theologian. It is true. I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ for it has the power to save all who would call upon the name of Jesus. As in all congregations, BRF UMC has a wide range of theological beliefs/understanding. I pray that as we study together, worship together and serve together we will understand each other's theological foundations and be able to graciously love and care for each other.

I, as your pastor, am looking forward to walking this journey of faith with you through the coming year. Pray that this year may be one in which we experience the fullness of God's blessings as we seek to serve our community in the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of his Holy Spirit. Pray for the work of this congregation, the General and Annual Conferences as we all seek a way forward so that the United Methodist Church may be about the work of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

And, I encourage you to look up Romans 8:35-38, where Paul speaks to the fact that nothing can "separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord." No matter what the struggles are within the local church, the denomination nor the church universal, none of these struggles can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Jesus' love and grace,

Pastor Wendell





- AUG 3 Paul Hoffman
Ken Schoolcraft
- AUG 5 Robin Hoffman
- AUG 6 Roger Bue
Teddy Neilson
- AUG 7 Rhoda Gulso
- AUG 8 Karen Dolsey
- AUG 9 John Nimmo Sr.
- AUG 11 Kathy Lind
Bob Ott
- AUG 12 Kae Dettinger
Jeff Dolsey
- AUG 13 Denise Hanson
Larry Pennekamp
- AUG 14 Chuck Devendorf
- AUG 15 Andrea Hoffman
Ashley Huber
- AUG 17 Emma Bible
Ethan Bible
Kelly Boehm
Rodney Zirk
- AUG 18 Traci Bailey
Don Galston
Lyn Gates
- AUG 19 Collin Gartner
- AUG 23 Judy Lee
Jennifer Meyer
- AUG 25 Thyra Zirk
- AUG 26 Marilyn Hoffman
- AUG 29 Mitchel Gjerseth
- AUG 30 Sylvia Crocker
- AUG 31 Geri Allen



- AUG 4 LeRoy & Fran Simonson
- AUG 5 Chuck & Ruth Buswell
Gustavo & Madelyn Calderon
- AUG 11 John & Sue Lindahl
- AUG 14 Dave & Luane Meyer
- AUG 16 Sonny & Marcia Hagen
- AUG 18 Justin & Danielle Dougherty
- AUG 20 Jack & Traci Bailey
- AUG 24 Bob & Elaine Ott
- AUG 27 Rodney & Thyra Zirk
- AUG 30 Jim & Roxie Hostrawser

**Your UMC Church Newsletter
is available ONLINE at our website
brfumc.org - or we can email it to
you if we have your current
email address. Call Jill in the Church
Office for more information.
(715-284-4114)**



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung invites you to join him in a Holy Land educational experience and pilgrimage this February 2020.

Trip information is available on the kiosk in the Gathering Area or can be found on the conference website: www.wisconsinumc.org.

Prayerfully consider joining Bishop Jung for this opportunity to consider "the Land of Jesus then and now" during his final year as Bishop of the Wisconsin Conference!



United Methodist Women – Sisterhood of Grace

In a recent daily devotional reading the author taught from Colossians 1:9-12. Paul says that he has been praying for the congregation in Colossae that their prayers and work will bring the world back into line with God's justice and love. The author goes on to say that prayer is our primary tool to bring the world back into line. But that we often forget that the **words of prayer are strengthened with the works of prayer** – recognizing the wrongs in the world, working to help others, comforting those in need. (Disciplines, The Upper Room, p. 233.)

UMW guides us in our words of prayer with knowledge about needs outside of our own experience. **But UMW also provides us with many opportunities to complete the works of prayer.** This year we have given baby items to Interfaith's Bear Essential program for young mothers in need; we have assembled gift bags for young mothers who see the county nurse; we have made diapers for the Midwest Distribution Center. Working together, much is accomplished.

UMW Circles will meet again on Sept. 9. I hope you are eager to get together again with friends for fellowship. If you have not been a UMW Circle member and you are eager for the works of prayer, please come and visit to see if UMW can fill a need in your prayer life.

Members who have completed the UMW Reading Program will find book reporting forms on the book shelves in the Wesley Room. Please turn your completed form into the church office by August 16. Label it: Attention Suzanne Goldsmith.

Sept. 9 Circle of Hope at the church at 1:30 PM; Circle of Faith at Mocha Mouse at 5:30 PM.
Sept. 14 North Central District Annual Gathering in Wausau. Save the date. More info to follow.

Confirmation Call

The Black River Falls Confirmation Program is designed to help youth who are entering the 8th grade or higher grow their faith by gaining an understanding of the vows that were made for them when they were baptized.

The two-year program begins with Pre-Confirmation (Pre-Con) the first year, a time to learn the "basics" of Christianity. The focus of the second year is to help students develop a hands-on, active faith. The completion of the Confirmation journey is celebrated in the spring of year two when students CONFIRM their faith in worship.

If you know of a student who is eligible for Pre-Confirmation this fall, one who is entering at least the 8th grade, please call the Church Office at 715-284-4114 before August 23. There will be a Pre-Confirmation Informational Meeting on Wednesday, August 28, at 5:30 p.m. for students and parents.

2019 Walk to Emmaus Weekends

The Men's Walk will be held September 19-22, and the Women's Walk will be held September 26-29 at the Sparrow's Nest in Sparta, WI. If you are looking to grow in your faith, this weekend is for you. More information is available on the bulletin board by the Church Office and on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area.

ALTAR FLOWERS

JUNE 30 In honor of Pastor Kathy from the church staff

BULLETINS

JULY 21 In honor of Dave Dettinger’s birthday sponsored by Lucas McNulty

RADIO BROADCASTS

JUNE 30 In honor of Pastor Kathy for her 13 years of ministry in this church and community.



Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of *Jerome Bjerke* whose funeral was held on June 14, 2019.

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.

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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.



June 2, 2019

**Benson Milo Ammann**  
son of Mitchell & Tyler Ammann

June 9, 2019

**Dreyden Tyrone Sanders**  
**DraMayne Nathaniel Sanders**  
**DraMontae Kordell Sanders**  
sons of Breanne Caponigro and Tyrone Sanders

**Ethan Nathaniel Olson**  
son of Renata Caponigro and Zachary Olson

June 23, 2019

**Harper Rose Skywalker Ward**  
daughter of Emily Ward and Dominic Goviera

June 29, 2019

**Emersyn Lisa Laubach**  
daughter of Ross & Jennifer Laubach

July 14, 2019

**Jace Allen Johnson**  
son of Ryan & Karly Johnson

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:**

Did you know that you can sponsor the Bulletins or the Radio Broadcast on a Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones? The cost is as follows:

- Bulletins — \$20.00 per Sunday
- Radio Broadcast — \$100.00 per Sunday

You can also provide Altar Flowers for a special Sunday. Please call Jill in the Church Office (715-284-4114) to schedule the Sunday of your choice.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

There is still time to register for BRFUMC Vacation Bible School, "Rainforest Adventures, A Treetop Bible Blast" It will be held August 5-8, 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be a meal offered from 5:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult family member during the meal. VBS will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary every evening. Registration forms are available at the church in the Gathering Area or online at [www.brfumc.org](http://www.brfumc.org). Monetary donations are appreciated to purchase needed VBS supplies. Items are also needed for the evening meal. If you are willing to donate an item or two, contact Beth Bue.

### CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA

*COME ONE, COME ALL TO CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA!* Mark your calendars for the first day of Sunday School, September 8!!!! All children 3 years old to 7<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to our Sunday School Program. Registration forms will be available to fill out while the children are playing games and having fun. Watch for more info via Facebook, email, and mail!

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.

### 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.

### YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

|        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
| AUG 2  | Benjamin Ross   |
| AUG 9  | Keisha Nimmo    |
| AUG 12 | Sophia Smetana  |
| AUG 22 | Reese Cowley    |
| AUG 26 | Hunter Nimmo    |
| AUG 28 | Kammeron Kapfer |



**\*\*Harbor House Crisis Shelters in Superior, WI** – Our congregation has often packed health kits and given to special collections for Harbor House. Now you can go a step further by participating in a hands-on mission project.

- September 13 – 15
- Cost approximately \$100; \$50 scholarship available
- Projects may include: sorting donations, lawn work, painting, visiting with residents

Contact Marcia Hagen or Karolyn Gjerset for more information.

**\*\*FYI – Our annual back pack event** is on hold this year at the request of the Black River Falls School District. They believe that they have sufficient donations of school supplies from other sources. We will continue to monitor the need for school supplies as the year progresses. Thank you for all the support you have given to this back pack project over the years.

**\*\*The Knit for Kids** supply closet is in need of 4 ply worsted cotton or polyester yarn in a variety of colors for caps and blankets. If you check end of summer garage sales, you might find a good buy. If you are in the mood to knit now, knit hats for older children are needed. Yarn and patterns can be found in the Gathering Area or the Wesley Room next to the church office.

**\*\*The Patricia Project** sewing group will be meeting again on August 21 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Keefe Room. Individuals are needed to cut and trim along with those who are sewing. Contact Charlene Galston at 715-284-9544 for more information..

### SCRIP CARDS

A big thank you to all who support the Scrip Card Program by purchasing gift cards. Each time you purchase a card, you are helping the church, too. The Scrip Program has recently been able to donate another \$1,000.00 to the church's General Fund from the profits of the Scrip Card program! This donation makes a total of \$18,000.00 that has been given to the church since the beginning of the Scrip Card Program!!! Thank you so much for your faithfulness in supporting this important fundraising program!!



Thank you, Pastor Wendell, for joining us at Youth Group in July and getting to know the youth. They enjoyed getting to know you as well.

On Sunday, August 11, the youth will be leading worship. Come and hear about their adventurous trip to Youth 2019 in Kansas City.

On Wednesday, August 21, Youth Group will meet from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11, we will begin our regular weekly Wednesday night Youth Group meetings.

## PRAYER FAMILIES FOR AUGUST

|        |                                                                                                |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUG 4  | Patrick & Lea Coville<br>Todd & Lyn Gates<br>Jim Harmer<br>Jim & Carol Hornby                  |
| AUG 11 | Mary Loveland<br>Teddy Neilson<br>John Piotrowski<br>Marlene Taylor                            |
| AUG 18 | Jim, Emma & Ethan Bible<br>Sylvia, Rachel & Amelia Crocker<br>Dorothy Gearing<br>Marsha Harmer |
| AUG 25 | Allan Hostrawser<br>Jean Lovlien<br>Ed Nemec<br>Gary Potter                                    |

## Get to Know Our New Pastor, Wendell Williams and his wife, Sue.

### Educational Background

1. Both are graduates of Sparta High School. Wendell in 1968 and Sue in 1969.
2. Married September 5, 1970.
3. Sue graduated from WWTC, 1971.
4. Wendell Graduated from UW-LaCrosse in 1972 with a math/science teaching degree.
5. Wendell received a Masters in Educational Administration from UW-Madison in 1983.
6. He graduated from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa on May 11, 2002 and was commissioned as a Probationary Elder in the Wisconsin Annual Conference on June 8, 2002.
7. At the Annual Conference in June of 2005, Wendell was ordained as an Elder in the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

### Family History

1. Daughter Sarah was born in 1974 and daughter Alicia was born in 1976. Both were born at the Oconto Falls hospital while Wendell was a teacher in the Lena Public Schools. The family lived in Lena from 1972-77.
2. The family lived in Melrose and Wendell taught at Melrose-Mindoro H.S. from 1977-99. Sue ran her own day-care business in their home. Sarah graduated from Melrose-Mindoro in 1992 and Alicia in 1995.
3. Wendell was appointed as a Student Pastor to Trout Run UMC from 1999-2002 while attending seminary. Sue worked at Ashley Furniture in Arcadia, Wisconsin for those three years to support them while Wendell was in seminary.
4. From 2002-2008, Sue and Wendell lived in Loyal, Wisconsin, where he served a two-point charge: Loyal UMC and York Center UMC. Sue was a teacher's aide for five years in the Greenwood School District working with the four year old kindergarten and the early childhood development program.
5. From 2008-2016, Wendell was the pastor at the Mauston UMC and retired at the end of June, 2016.
6. Daughter Sarah (Bills) now lives in New Lisbon with her husband, Jim and their sons Jeremiah and Jason. Daughter Alicia (Butler) lives in Aurora, Illinois.

# BRF UMC Calendar of Events—August 2019



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

9:00 a.m.—Summer Worship Service

## MONDAY, AUGUST 5

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

5:15-7:30 p.m.—Vacation Bible School

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

5:15-7:30 p.m.—Vacation Bible School

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:15-7:30 p.m.—Vacation Bible School

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

5:15-7:30 p.m.—Vacation Bible School

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

9:00 a.m.—Summer Worship Service

## MONDAY, AUGUST 12

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting

5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting

6:15 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

9:00 a.m.—Summer Worship Service

10:15 a.m.—Worship Committee Meeting

COMMUNION SUNDAY

## MONDAY, AUGUST 19

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

5:30 p.m.—Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

1:00-3:30 P.M.—Outreach Sewing Day

5:30-7:00 p.m.—Youth Group

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

9:00 a.m.—Summer Worship Service

## MONDAY, AUGUST 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:30 p.m.—PreCon Information Meeting

