

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

DECEMBER 2019



Dear Beloved,

Advent season is here! The beginning of a new year in the Christian calendar year. Advent, the time of waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ. So often we think of it as the time leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth. True, it is that in our culture but even more important than celebrating Jesus' birth is his returning in power and glory as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. I pray that in this Advent season, we not only prepare to celebrate Christmas but that our hearts are prepared for Christ's return. What a glorious, scary and powerful time in the life of the world that coming will be.

But for now, as we go through all the Christmas preparations, I would ask you to consider the blessed gift that God our Father has given us in His Son. Through faith in the atoning work of Jesus on the cross, you and I now have new lives that come through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Because of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we may face all the trials and struggles of life unafraid and have the strength and power to be a witness to the world of God's agape love for humankind.

Having received the gift of a new life in Christ, I would ask you this Christmas season to join with us in being a reflection of God's agape love to the world. This Christmas, the Black River Falls United Methodist Church is asking you to consider giving a birthday gift to Jesus at our Christmas Eve Service. Our Christmas Eve offering will be distributed on Jesus' behalf to the following three ministries: Internationally, a donation will be given to the Senegal initiative that Lyle Hart so loved. Nationally, a donation will be given to UMCOR for disaster relief in the United States. Locally, we will be giving a donation to "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." Additional information on Sleep in Heavenly Peace can be found later in this newsletter.

An envelope has been attached in which you can place your offering and designate how you would like it to be distributed to the three ministries. Loose offerings on Christmas Eve will be distributed equally to the three ministries. Offerings for general local church support should be clearly identified as such if placed in the Christmas Eve offering. If you cannot attend Christmas Eve and desire to give a birthday gift to Jesus, gifts may be designated as such and placed in any prior Sunday offering or mailed to the church.

On a personal note, Sue and I would like to extend our warmest Christmas blessings to all of you. We have been blessed to be with you these past five months and look forward to being with you through June of 2020. May the Peace of Christ be with you both now and forever more!

In Jesus' love and service,
Pastor Wendell and Sue Williams





- DEC 2 Marge Paulin
- DEC 5 Lori Holcomb
- DEC 6 Lance Leisgang
- Jean Lovlien
- DEC 7 Jessa Ammann
- Gene Krohn
- DEC 8 Mary Loveland
- DEC 10 Mary Maurer
- DEC 12 Charlene Galston
- DEC 13 Roxie Hostrawser
- DEC 14 Sally Burgau
- DEC 15 Howard Gomer
- DEC 20 David Jelinek
- DEC 21 Sharon Nemec
- DEC 22 Kathie Boehm
- Elroy Dahl
- DEC 24 Gretchen Andersen
- DEC 25 Karolyn Gjerseth
- Ryan Ransom
- DEC 26 Jason Breining
- Larry Gaede
- DEC 27 Darrell Armbruster
- Lisa Perry
- DEC 28 LeRoy Amborn
- DEC 29 Ellen Hieb
- DEC 30 Marcia Hagen
- DEC 31 Kristin Breining



- DEC 3 Norm & Renea Stoker
- DEC 9 Keith & Chris Odeen
- DEC 11 Jeff & Cheryl Dolsey
- DEC 14 Bill & Kathy Perry
- DEC 17 Rod & Katrina McGillivray
- DEC 18 Don & Vangie Stender
- DEC 20 Rich & Judy Lee
- DEC 30 Bob & Sally Laubach
- DEC 31 Gene & Linda Atkinson



Advent Worship Services:

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:

Tuesday, December 24
4:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve

Come and Go Communion:

Tuesday, December 31
5:00—7:00 p.m.



United Methodist Women – Sisterhood of Grace

We have come to that busy time of year. Days seem to fly by – maybe because the days are shorter or maybe because we have so many things planned. But it hardly seems that the Thanksgiving leftovers are taken care of, and we will be thinking about baking for the Cookie Walk. As you plan and bake, remember that the money raised from your work will support vital mission work with women, children and youth.

Let's look at the National UMW mission dollars spent in 2018:

In 1 second	1 minute	5 minutes	1 hour	1 day	1 year
\$0.41	\$24.44	\$122.19	\$1,466.23	\$35,189.60	\$12,844,204.00

(*response*, November/December 2019, p. 6)

You had a part in that mission spending. Black River Falls UMW members sent \$3500 to mission in 2018.

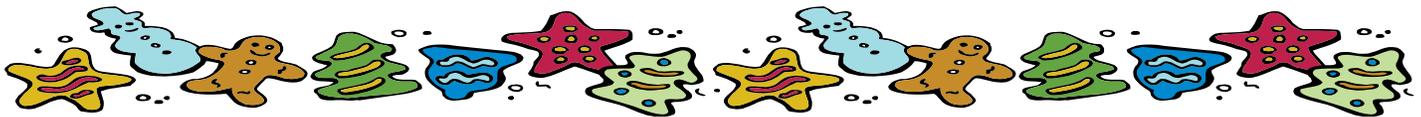
From *response*:

“The power of prayer doesn't stop just because we are not saying something specific to God. Our lives are prayers, our actions are prayers, and our work is prayer.”

(Priddy, Shannon, “Message From the President”, *response*, November/December 2019, p. 4.)

December Dates:

- Dec. 2 General Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM Call Carol (715-284-2456) if you need a ride.
- Dec. 13 Bring cookies, candies, holiday breads to the church by 4 PM.
- Dec. 14 Cookie Walk, Gathering Area at 10:30 AM Cookies sold at \$6 per pound. The Youth will be serving a soup/sandwich lunch. A free will offering will be taken.



Jackson County had their first bed build recently and completed 25 beds for “Sleep in Heavenly Peace.” “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” is an organization dedicated to providing beds for children. Their motto is “No kids sleep on the floor in our town.”

Following is a brief excerpt from their flyer:

“All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In Wisconsin and across the US, too many boys and girls go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and their health. That's where “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” comes in. We're a group of local volunteers dedicated to building and delivering beds to children in need. Each bed whether single or bunk comes complete with mattress, pillow, linen, and quilt.” ***Part of our Christmas offering here at Black River Falls UMC will go to finance beds for children. If you are interested in more information, please check out shpbeds.org.***

We had a great turn out to help with sewing for the Patricia Project. Together we were able to complete 35 pads which in addition to the other that were recently finished makes a total of 85 pads that will be sent to Kansas City for completion. The crew had a great time. The only drawback was that the buzz of the sewing machines made it hard to visit. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped, especially those behind the scenes that cut fabric, ironed, or donated towels and fabric for use.

Please remember that we have many easy patterns and lots of yarn for anyone who can help with items for the Knit for Kids program. Deadline for completed items is not until April 30, 2020, so there is lots of time to work on projects that can warm your heart and lap at the same time along with that of a child in the future. If you need help finding things, please reach out to Charlene Galston.

ALTAR FLOWERS

- NOV 10 In memory of Kelsey Olson, whose 29th birthday would have been November 11, given by her family.
- NOV 10 In memory of Nicole “Niki” Stetzer, whose birthday was November 13, given by her family.

RADIO BROADCAST

- NOV 10 In memory of Nicole “Niki” Stetzer, whose birthday was November 13, sponsored by her family.

BULLETINS

- NOV 10 In memory of Kelsey Olson, whose 29th birthday would have been November 11, sponsored by her family.



Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Richard Moldenhauer who passed away on October 30. His memorial service was held here on November 4.



RADIO BROADCAST FUND

In Memory Of:
Mary Hemling, mother of Lois Epps, from Nyla Musser
John Klick from Nyla Musser

SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND

In Memory Of:
Mary Hemling from Dave & Sherry Olson

MUSIC FUND

In Memory Of:
Russell Sheppard from Jean Anderson

YOUTH FUND

In Memory Of:
Russell Sheppard from Judy Hansen

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory Of:
Richard Moldenhauer from Nyla Musser

SPECIAL GIFT OF MONEY GIVEN FOR ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES

In Memory Of:
Louis Sr. and Lucille Shaw from their granddaughter Teresa Parsons

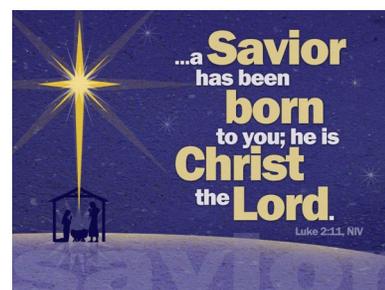
Attention all Bakers and Candy Makers
UMW Annual Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 14
Doors open at 10:30 AM

All bakers in the church are invited to donate cookies, holiday breads or candies. Label all items with the recipe name and whether there are nuts in the goodies.

All cookies, breads and candies should be brought to the church on Friday, Dec. 13 between 9 AM and 4 PM.

The youth group will be serving a soup and sandwich lunch on Dec. 14.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in making this event possible.



Annual COOKIE WALK

Saturday, December 14th

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon

(Or Until All Sold Out)

Event Sponsored by
United Methodist Women

Gathering Area
BRF United Methodist Church

Featuring

**Holiday Cookies, Candies
and Breads**

\$6.00 per Pound

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Held in the Fellowship Hall

Free-Will Offering

to support

Youth Mission Projects



From all of us on the BRF UMC Staff!!

Pastor Wendell

Jill Prochaska

Kent Severson

Orv Amborn

Theresa Paul

Nancy Hindes

Beth Bue

Suzanne Goldsmith

Jackie Shankey

Joey Barnett

Jeff Woodward

E-GIVING - EASY AND CONVENIENT!

Electronic Giving (E-Giving) is a way for individual congregation members to direct gifts to the church with-out having to write out a check or fill out an envelope. In E-Giving money can be automatically transferred from your savings or checking account to the church's bank account.—and there is NO CHARGE for this service. A number of our members are already taking advantage of this easy way of giving contributions to the church..

If you would like to sign up for E-Giving, please call Jill in the Church Office. She will be glad to answer any questions you may have and help you fill out an easy authorization form. Now would be a great time to take advantage of this easy and convenient way of giving to your church!



Sunday School

Family Sundays are so full of energy! The children are excited to share their music with the congregation and are ready to worship with their families! These children are the future of our church! **The next Family Sunday is scheduled for December 15.** All Sunday School children will be participating at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. Come and find out what they will be doing! The children will be going down to Sunday School to practice for the Christmas Program instead of staying in Worship.

The Sunday School Rotation for December is "In the Manger" we will prepare for Jesus' birth thru activities in art, dining, and games.

Our Christmas Program, "The Inn Crowd" will be held on **Sunday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. **We are practicing every Sunday. Please make every effort to have your child in attendance. We will also be having two Wednesday evening practices, December 4 and 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** We will meet in the Sunday School Music Room. The children are all getting very excited about it! Please bring 2-3 dozen cookies on Sunday, December 15 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 22, and Sunday, December 29. You are encouraged to attend Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with your family at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24.

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, by the Church Office, and by the Youth Rooms for the ink cartridges and cell phones.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------|------------------------|
| DEC 16 | Iris Zenz |
| DEC 20 | Charley Boehm |
| DEC 23 | Dylan Dutton |
| DEC 25 | Ella Peterson |
| DEC 30 | Charlotte Christianson |



**The last Sunday to special order
Scrip cards for Christmas gift giving
is Sunday, December 15!**

A special thank you to all members of the UMC family who are supporting the Scrip program. Your generosity and faithfulness have made it possible for this program to help support the needs of our church.

NOTICE

Contributions for the year 2019 must be received in the Church Office by noon on Tuesday, December 31, in order to be counted for your 2019 giving.
Thank you!





A big thank you goes out to all the youth families that made our Thanksgiving Supper such a huge success. We had a great time with activities, fellowship, and lots of yummy food!

The youth will be attending Advent Worship Service each Wednesday in December. We will meet in the youth rooms at 6:00 p.m. and go up to worship together. Then we will go back down to the youth rooms before ending at 7:00 p.m.

The youth will be Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 8, from 1:00-3:30 p.m. We will carol around town and then gather back at the church for a Pre-Christmas party. Youth, please bring a \$5.00 gift card from a place of your choice to exchange during one of our games.

Come and enjoy some soup and sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall on December 14th during the UMW Cookie Walk. Proceeds will go towards youth events.

NO YOUTH GROUP December 25 or January 1. Happy Holidays everyone!

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday Evenings in December
6:30 p.m. as follows:

December 4—Theme is Hope

December 11—Theme is Faith

December 18—Theme is Joy

Services will be held in the Sanctuary. There will be refreshments and a time of fellowship held in the Gathering Area following the services.



Teams of two people are needed to provide rides for people in our community who may need a ride to worship on a Sunday morning. We would like

to be able to offer this service, so we are in the process of compiling a list of teams that would be available when the need arises. Please consider volunteering for this caring ministry. Contact the Church Office to have your team put on the list.



If you are interested in ringing bells for the Salvation Army this Christmas season, your help is needed! Time slots are available in Black River Falls at Hansen's IGA, and at Wal Mart (both doors). You can sign up and schedule a time online at registertoring.com. Sign-up will not be available at church this year.

Come~and~Go Communion New Year's Eve

What is "Come~and~Go Communion"? It is an opportunity to take communion with your family, to raise your prayer needs for the coming year, and to be prayed for by the pastor. This opportunity is offered only once every year, on New Year's Eve.

When is "Come~and~Go Communion"? On Tuesday, December 31st. You can come **anytime between 5:00 and 7:00pm**. You will be greeted at the door and will have the opportunity to fill out a prayer request card. You are then invited to sit and enjoy meditative music until you are ready to step to the altar to receive communion and prayer.

Why Take "Come~and~Go Communion"? Some who have experienced this very special communion say it helps them to feel closer to God. Others feel encouraged that they are moving into the new year under a blanket of prayer.



Van Etta Library

Little Faith
by Nickolas Butler

The author, Nickolas Butler, was raised in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is a graduate of UW-Madison and is now living in the Eau Claire area again with his wife and their two children. His prizewinning novel, Shotgun Lovesongs, is also in the Van Etta Library at UMC.

This is the story of Lyle and Peg Hovde, who live a quiet and contented life in rural Wisconsin and their daughter, Shiloh. Shiloh returns home, bringing her five year old son, Isaac, with her. She has become a member of an extremist church and the pastor there believes the little boy has the ability to heal the sick. Lyle's faith was severely shaken after a tragedy that happened years ago and when Isaac's safety is threatened, Lyle is forced to make a decision that may fracture the family beyond repair.

Little Faith is a moving novel about friendship and community and the lengths we go to protect our own.

Rhoda Gulso, Librarian



Thank You!

THANK YOU!

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR DECEMBER

- DEC 1 Chelsey Meinking
Dave & Sherry Olson
Louis Shaw
Leroy & Sarah Wiersma
- DEC 8 Gertrude Bue
Jim & Georgia Earl
David & Marilyn Hoffman
Dave & Gail Jelinek
- DEC 15 Dennis Melichar
Leah Olson
Vivian Simons & Lucas McNulty
Joan Zenz
- DEC 22 Pamela Bue
Jim & Andrea Hoffman
Jim & Jill Kaphengst
Sharon Melichar
- DEC 29 Joan Onstad
Leota Simonson
Ann Zillmer
Wayne & Beth Bue

Thank you to Pastor Williams for caring for our family at the time of the death of our father, Richard Moldenhauer. Your words at the memorial service were of great comfort to us and to all who attended. Also please extend a thank you to the organist, Jackie Shankey, and all who helped with the meal. It was greatly appreciated.

Sue & Mike Miles
Terry & Ellen Moldenhauer



Thank you to Judy Sheppard and family for the two beautiful communion sets that were purchased with money given in memory of Russell Sheppard.



BRF UMC Calendar of Events—December 2019



SUNDAY DECEMBER 1

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School
10:00 a.m.—Advent Extravaganza

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
6:00 p.m.—UMW Christmas Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

5:30 p.m.—Worship Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice
5:15 p.m.—PreCon
5:30 p.m.—Sunday School Program Practice
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Advent Worship Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:30 a.m.—Men's Group Meeting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School
10:00 a.m.—Annual Charge Conference
1:00 p.m.—Youth Group Caroling & Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:15 p.m.—PreCon
5:30 p.m.—Sunday School Program Practice
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Advent Worship Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:30-Noon—UMW Cookie Walk and
Soup & Sandwich Lunch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
FAMILY SUNDAY
6:30 p.m.—Sunday School Christmas Program

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:15 p.m.—PreCon
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Advent Worship Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00-7:00 p.m.—Come and Go Communion



December