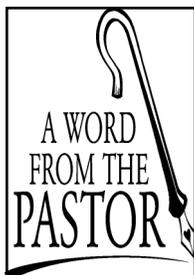


THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2017

“Are We Living in the End Times?”



***“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience
but shouts in our pains ...” - C.S. Lewis***

Terrorism, shootings, racial friction, civil unrest. What is happening to our world?

I have a friend who, whenever she sees a news report of unrest or a weather report of massive storms, hurricanes, or earthquakes, informs me that we are living in the end times, that God is preparing to destroy mankind. At times, especially recent times, with all the unrest in the U.S., I find myself wondering if my friend might be right. But then I look back over the history of the world and am reminded that, though things seem to be spiraling out of control,:

1. The world is no less fallen today than it was last year or 100 years ago or 1000 years ago.
2. Jesus is no less powerful than He was when he walked this earth 2000 years ago.
3. It is essential that we see our world through God’s eyes, that we look at earthly events by way of God’s eternal truth.

Matthew Henry wrote, *“God sometimes raises difficulties in the way of His people that He may help his people over them.”* In the book [The Red Sea Rules](#), author Robert Morgan lists ten God-given strategies for difficult times.

1. Realize that God means for you to be where you are.
2. Be more concerned for God’s glory than your relief.
3. Acknowledge your enemy, but keep your eyes on the Lord.
4. PRAY!
5. Stay calm and confident, give God time to work.
6. When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.
7. Envision God’s enveloping presence.
8. Trust God to deliver in His own unique way.
9. View your crisis as a faith builder for the future.
10. Don’t forget to PRAISE Him!

The ten week study, *“Crisis 101: Making Sense of Life When Life Doesn’t Make Sense”*, will be available beginning in Late February. Watch the bulletins for session days and times. I will also be preaching a sermon series based on the ten concepts. Prayerfully, through this study we will learn how to live with peace of mind and heart in the midst of what may feel like the ‘end times.’

May You Be Blessed in God’s Presence and Plan,

Pastor Kathy



- FEB 1 Sun Gorski
Duane Nosbisch
- FEB 3 Jim Bible
- FEB 6 Jessica Whitegull
- FEB 7 Kim Gjerseth
- FEB 8 Jana Nandory
Renata Olson
- FEB 9 Kay Finch
- FEB 10 Elaine Ott
- FEB 11 Don Holcomb
Tony Phillips
- FEB 12 Mary Gjerseth
Freda Goldsmith
- FEB 13 Derek Peterson
Judy Sheppard
- FEB 15 Rosemary Dvorak
- FEB 16 Roy Hefty
Donna Odonovich
- FEB 17 Don Gilbertson
- FEB 18 Steven Dobson
Jim Hoffman
- FEB 22 Dorothy Hefty
- FEB 23 Amy Bauer
Jeremy Nandory
- FEB 24 Robert Elmore
Jerry Overman
- FEB 25 Madelyn Hoffman
- FEB 26 Paul Brauner
Linda Heller
- FEB 27 Marian Millis
- FEB 28 Danielle Dougherty



FEB 9 Pastors Kathy & Lon Jury
FEB 17 Paul & Robin Hoffman

SAVE THE DATE!!

Our Annual Women's Retreat will be held on
Saturday, April 1, from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Brochures with registration information are
now available in the Gathering Area and
In the Church Office.

This year's theme:

"Learning to Live With Less"
Keynote Speaker: Barb Tako

Break-Out Sessions:
Painting (Limited to 22)
Jewelry and Recycling

Get your registrations in soon and
reserve your spot for this fun day!!



**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.

United Methodist Women – A Call to Community

In 2017 UMW units around the state and throughout the country will study how best to build community: connect with neighbors, bridge the gap between age groups, explore new avenues of mission and invite other women to join in our fellowship.

This prayer included in the January issue of *response* leads us to community. Keep it with your daily devotional book or post it on the refrigerator. Let's seek God's guidance and help as we approach the challenges that 2017 will offer to us.

God of unity and diversity,
Bless our work in this new year.
Grant us the ability to make spaces for discernment,
To make time for listening,
To make room in our hearts and churches for all.
We pray for your healing
As we work to heal our divisions and our wounds.
Give us the strength for repentance and forgiveness.
Bring us together not as one voice but as many
Working together to build your kin-dom.
When we push back, push us harder to the margins.
In this new year we need new ways of being
And new strength to fight the powers that oppress,
Especially when oppression benefits us.
Grant us bravery to bless and be blessed.

From Tara Barnes, editor, *response*

Invite a friend or neighbor to join you at UMW activities. Members of UMW do not need to be members of the Methodist Church. Let's share our fellowship and increase participation in working for missions.

On the UMW book shelf –

Nurturing for Community

Slowing Time by Barbara Mahany: Beginning in winter and tracing the seasons through the year, Mahany celebrates sacredness that is gathered through the art of paying attention, savoring moments and cultivating stillness. By making room for God and finding Godly specks in the mundane, she pinpoints divinity in the nooks and crannies of our everyday world.

Dates for your calendar:

February 6 – UMW General Meetings at 12:30 and 6:30 at the church.

March 6 – Circle Meetings

March 10 – Registrations due for Wisconsin Conference UMW Mission Action Day. Check the kiosk display for more information.





JAN 29 In honor of Gary Potter's Birthday on January 28 sponsored by Gil Homstad.



JAN 1 In memory of Jennifer Hermanson, whose birthday was December 29, sponsored by her family.

JAN 29 In honor of Gary Potter's Birthday on January 28 sponsored by Gil Homstad.



Please keep the church informed if you change your **email address**. Also, please let us know if you discontinue your land line and only use **cell phones**. This will help us to be able to stay in touch with you. Thank you so much for your help!!!



Jessica Gjerseth & Jonas Whitegull
January 1, 2017



Memorials & Gifts

Music Fund

In Memory Of:

Alyssa Rave (Granddaughter of Nancy Hindes) from Lee & Kim Amborn, Jim & Carol Hornby, Mary Loveland & Nancy Iuliano, and Rich & Jill Prochaska..

Ione Dana from Jim & Carol Hornby, and Mary Loveland & Nancy Iuliano.

Warren Loveland from Jim & Carol Hornby,

Radio Broadcast Fund

In Memory Of:

Duane Moldenhauer from Clarice Franke, Russ & Judy Sheppard, and Dave & Linda McCullough.

Church Library Fund

In Memory Of:

Ione Dana from Dan & Cindy Adams, and Cheryl Nortman.

Good Samaritan Fund

In Memory Of:

Ione Dana from Nancy Hindes

Warren Loveland from Nancy Hindes

Undesignated Fund

In Memory Of:

Ione Dana from Sally Burgau

Warren Loveland from Sally Burgau



Thank you Roxie, Megan, and Ann for helping out on Family Sunday in January. I listened on the radio and the kiddos rocked the song, Deep and Wide!!!!

MISSION Project:

We will be making table decorations and tray favors for the residents at the Atrium Care Center. By making these items we will be spreading "Jesus' Love" to all at the Atrium Care Center.

ROTATION MODEL:

In February the Rotation Model will be "Teach Us How To Pray." This unit will teach the children about the Bible, why and how it was written, the Old and New Testament, and stories of the Bible.

FAMILY SUNDAY:

The next Family Sunday is scheduled for February 19. All Sunday School children will participate in the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. **Families and children are encouraged to attend this special Sunday and remain in church for the full service.** What a great opportunity to involve our younger youth in worship!

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.

REMINDER:

Sunday School will begin at 9:20 a.m. and end at 10:15 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). The Sunday School classrooms are unsupervised until 9:20 a.m. Please remain with your child until an adult arrives.

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.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

FEB 14	David Becker
FEB 25	Jacob Woods
FEB 26	Karma Leffingwell

ABOUT THE "KIOSK" . . .

Do you know what a Kiosk is and where the Kiosk is located? Do you know who uses the Kiosk and what is put on the Kiosk? Well, if you don't know the answers to these questions, here they are.

A "Kiosk" is a small structure in a public area used for providing information or displaying posters or brochures. The church Kiosk is located in the Gathering Area by the stairs leading to the Sunday School Rooms.

Church Committees and Church groups such as Finance, Board of Trustees, Sunday School, UMW, UMM, Youth Group, etc. are welcome to use the Kiosk to display their news, fundraisers, events, photos, minutes or other materials.

I invite you to take a few minutes to look over the Kiosk to see what has been happening in our church.

Colossians 3:14



And **over all**
these virtues put on
LOVE, which binds
them all together
in **perfect unity**.



YOUTH GROUP

Faith Formation time is from 6-7 p.m. each Wednesday night. During this time, we do Bible study activities.

Fun Fellowship time is from 7-7:30 p.m. each Wednesday night. During this time we hang out and play games and have a snack. Feel free to call me if you want to donate a snack.

February 1	Youth Group
February 8	Youth Group
February 15	Youth Group
February 22	Youth Group/kitchen clean-up

Contact Info: Suzanne Goldsmith
 suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com
 715-896-0224



Thank you to everyone for their expressions of sympathy be it by words, cards, or memorials for my Granddaughter Alyssa Dawn Rave. I was very blessed to be with Alyssa when she took her very first breath of life and when she took one of her very last. God Is Good!

Nancy Hindes



Menu for the month of February:

February 1

Tacos
 Desserts
 Beverages

February 8

Hamburger Bar
 Raw Veggies
 Chips
 Desserts
 Beverages

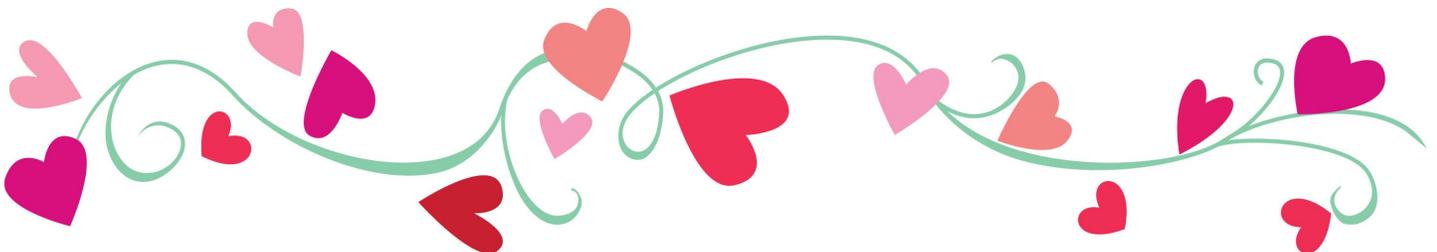
February 15

Goulash
 Garlic Toast
 Salad
 Desserts
 Beverages

February 22

Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwiches
 Tomato Soup
 Desserts
 Beverages

Every week there will be hot dogs and peanut butter/jelly available. Plan to join us on Wednesday evenings. Everyone Welcome!!





Finance Report

End of Year 2016

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Income:</u>			
Pledges	\$ 201,057.00	190,000.00	11,057.00
Unpledged Giving	\$ 73,002.00	79,800.00	(6,798.00)
Other Income	\$ 16,893.00	21,000.00	(4,107.00)
Total	\$ 290,952.00	290,800.00	152.00
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Apportionments	\$ 35,739.00	47,652.00	11,913.00
Pastoral Support	\$ 106,881.00	109,783.00	2,902.00
Program Staff	\$ 91,964.00	102,581.00	10,617.00
Programming	\$ 7,493.00	7,975.00	482.00
Operations	\$ 50,708.00	51,100.00	392.00
Total	\$ 292,785.00	319,091.00	26,306.00



Time To Take a Walk?

Are you looking for a stronger faith, answers, direction for your life? It may be time for you to go on a walk. Not a physical walk but a spiritual walk. The **Walk to Emmaus** is a three-day spiritual journey/retreat designed for Christians seeking a better understanding of God's activity in their life and faith. The 2017 Walk to Emmaus for men is April 21-23 and the women's walk is April 28-30, at Camp Lucerne in Wautoma. If you are interested in attending one of these weekends you can obtain a registration and more information in the church office.





It's time to start thinking about SUMMER CAMP!!

We will be having **CAMP SUNDAY** on February 19. Please join us in worship to hear campers share their camp experience, information on scholarships and our Wisconsin United Methodist camps. Look for the Summer Camp poster on the Kiosk!

After worship, join us for a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to support the camp scholarship program. The scholarship program allows our church to support members of our congregation financially who want to attend camp.

If you are interested in camp and would like a book, you can pick one up in the Gathering Area or contact Beth 715-284-7494 or Suzanne 715-896-0224. Camps fill fast, so if there is one you are interested in, we suggest registering as soon as possible.

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR FEBRUARY

- FEB 5 Gene & Mary Maurer
Teddy Neilson
John & Theresa Paul
Bob & Clarice Rush
- FEB 12 Charity & Karmelia Sroka, Karma Leffingwell
Grant & Geri Allen
Darrin, Anne & Nolan Boehm
Eric & Cindy Chrisinger
- FEB 19 Jim & Georgia Earl
Don & Janet Gilbertson
Denise Hanson
Pamela Hoffman, Jacob Sidie
- FEB 26 Dave & Gail Jelinek
Liz, Sam & Lauren Lund
Jeremy, Jana & Ryan Nandory
Jerry & Lynn Overman



Love is *patient,*
love is *kind.*
It does not *envy,*
it does not *boast,*
it is not *proud.*

1 Corinthians 13:4



Van Etta Library Book Review

Small Great Things
by Jodi Picoult

If you are a Jodi Picoult fan, this is her newest book! It is the story of Ruth Jefferson, a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital who has twenty years experience in her field. During a routine checkup on a newborn, she is suddenly told that she has been reassigned to another patient. The hospital complies with the parents request, but the next day the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. She had been told to have no contact with the baby, the child of a white supremacist couple. Ruth, an African American, is in a moral dilemma when the baby obviously needs help. She hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime. Her lawyer, a white public defender, insists that mentioning race in the courtroom is not a winning strategy. Ruth tries to keep life as normal as possible for her family as the case becomes a media sensation.

In this book, Jodi Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice and compassion and doesn't offer easy answers. A thought-provoking story with strong characters and a page-turning plot.

This book was donated to the Van Etta Library by Pastor Kathy.

Rhoda Gulso, Librarian



Valentine's Day Dinner

Sunday, February 12 - 5:00 p.m.
In the Fellowship Hall
Tickets: \$10.00

Tickets can be purchased and reservations made after the worship service on February 5 and 12, or by calling the Church Office at 715-284-4114.

Menu:

Baked Lasagna, Garlic Bread
Tossed Salad, Beverages
Black Forest or Sweetheart Cupcakes for Dessert

Proceeds go toward camp and retreat scholarships for our members

Pancake Breakfast



Camp Fundraiser

- When:** Sunday February 19
10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
- Where:** BRF United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
- Menu:** Pancakes, Sausages, Applesauce, Milk, Coffee, Juice

A Free-Will Offering will be taken for the Camp Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for people of all ages to attend camp.



A Message from the Mission Outreach Committee

The Mission Outreach continues to be busy organizing and promoting ongoing projects that reach to serve others in our community and abroad.

Most recently the sewing group worked on pads for the Patricia Project and completed 15 dresses made from pillow cases that will accompany Marcia Hagen who is going on a medical mission trip with Viterbo University to Guatemala. We are currently in the need of old bed pads and towels and people able to pre-cut materials for assembly.

The Knit for Kids project is going strong. This year World Vision is seeking knit or crochet blankets, hats, mittens and scarves for babies and young children. Sweaters are still welcome. There are baskets of yarn in the library along with patterns if you need them for projects. We are currently in need of more yarn. We will be wrapping up this project on March 19th with a blessing of all the completed projects during church.

We continue to collect your donations to support feeding stations in Senegal. Last year \$3,764.00 was given toward this project. The people of Senegal make very good use of the money that you have donated by sponsoring feeding and sustainability programs. All of the money donated is free of administrative costs as it is donated through the UMC advance program and truly changes and saves lives.

Be watching for a sale of specially hand crafted greeting cards. These cards were donated. Proceeds will be given to Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers and perhaps other projects--- More to come.

We will be reaching out to UW La Crosse students through a cookie donation for the campus ministry. 500 cookies are needed so fire up those ovens again. Cookies are needed by February 9th.

When spring comes be watching for our church to be holding brat sales at Gordy's.

You show God's love whenever you give of your time and talents or donate to support projects. Thank you.



HEBREWS 13:1, NIV

BRF UMC Calendar of Events—February 2017



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal
5:00 p.m.—PreCon
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:30 a.m.—Men's Group Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:20 a.m.—Sunday School
10:15 a.m.—Choir Practice

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Pastor Kathy Day Off
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
12:30 p.m.—UMW General Meeting
5:30 p.m.—UMW General Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
10:10 a.m.—Book Club
4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal
5:00 p.m.—PreCon
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:20 a.m.—Sunday School
10:15 a.m.—Choir Practice
5:00-p.m.—Valentines Day Dinner

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Pastor Kathy Day Off
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal
5:00 p.m.—Pre Con
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
NO SPIRIT PRACTICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
Family Sunday—No Sunday School
10:00-11:00 a.m.—Pancake Breakfast

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Pastor Kathy Day Off
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal
5:00 p.m.—PreCon
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
NO SPIRIT PRACTICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:20 a.m.—Sunday School
10:15 a.m.—Choir Practice
10:15 a.m.—Worship Committee Meeting

