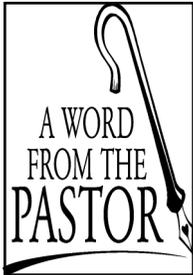


THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 2017



“Thoughts on Communion”

From time to time I am asked questions about communion, such as, “Why do we only practice communion once a month?”, “Why don’t we use wine?”, or “Why do we call it communion and other churches call it Eucharist?”. These questions, and more, caused me to ponder the purpose and place of Communion in the life of the believer. I thought about how I might find a way to explain the significance and purpose of Holy Communion.

Jesus’ chosen method of teaching was through parables—fictional stories that relate to real human experience. Perhaps a modern parable will help us to understand the meaning of this very significant Christian tradition.

The Parable of the Counselor Preparing to go on a Journey

A counselor was preparing to go on an extended vacation to Europe. She knew she would be gone for some time and would be leaving behind her patients, who counted on her for support and guidance. The counselor had a relational connection to her patients and wanted them to know that she would be thinking of them while on her trip, and that she would be with them in spirit. She thought about giving them a picture to remember her by but decided it would have little practical value. She wanted them to be able to experience her presence, to help remind them that they would not be alone if any difficulties came up while she was gone. She knew her clients would need something tangible, something they could see, taste, touch. The counselor always had a plate of cookies in her office available for her clients, so she decided to make a batch of chocolate cookies for each of her clients and told them to freeze the cookies and take one out and eat it any time they needed to be reminded of their counselor’s concern and care for them.

In a similar manner, through Communion Jesus makes himself present to each one of us in a very personal, tangible way. Through Communion Jesus shares the Spirit of his presence with those he loves. Through Communion we are reminded of Jesus’ presence in our time of joy, need, searching, struggle, and pain.

Communion is not merely a symbol, it is a one of us through the life and death of Jesus

By the way, the reason we Methodists use grape juice so as not to tempt those struggling with Welch.

Also, although John Wesley recommended 19th Century America, Communion was offered only once a month as pastors were Circuit Riders who served multiple churches, each only once a month. This tradition has continued although prescribes to serve communion. In this church communion is offered at least once a month plus other occasional services throughout the year. At Black River Falls UMC communion is offered the third Sunday of the month as that is currently designated *Family Sunday*. There is no Sunday School on the third Sunday in order that families may worship together.



physical reminder of God’s love and care for each Christ.

grape juice rather than wine is because generations vinced the ruling body of the church to serve grape alcohol addiction. The man’s name was Samuel

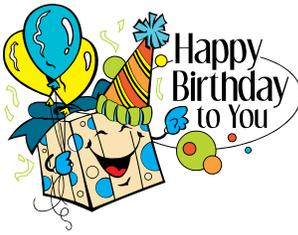
that communion be offered “as often as possible”, in

ferred once a month as pastors were Circuit Riders a month. This tradition has continued although prescribes to serve communion. In this church com-

I hope this helps your understanding of communion in the United Methodist Church. If you still have questions, feel free to contact me; I will be happy to share what I know.

May You Be Blessed Through Communion with Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Pastor Kathy



JAN 1	Liz Lund
JAN 2	Jordan Hill
JAN 3	Rich Onstad
JAN 4	Renea Stoker
JAN 6	Mitchell Ammann Bob Becker Dorothy Gearing Jim Kaphengst Gerry Rudkin
JAN 8	Krystle Goldsmith
JAN 9	Pam Bue Tim McCann
JAN 10	Joel Pennekamp Norm Stoker Mary Van Gorden
JAN 11	Jennifer Leisgang Cory Weldon
JAN 15	Jacob Onstad
JAN 16	Bob Nesbitt
JAN 17	Karen Devendorf Jeff Hagenbrock
JAN 18	Dawn Arndt Daniel Hefty
JAN 19	Tom Divver Jim Hostrawser
JAN 20	Rhonda Ammann Bernice Moldenhauer
JAN 22	Allan Hostrawser
JAN 25	Theresa Paul
JAN 26	Megan Harelson
JAN 27	Patrick Coville Sally Laubach
JAN 28	John Lindahl Gary Potter
JAN 30	Dylan Hill Ed Nemec
JAN 31	Greta Bible Steve Firkins

JAN 18	Gary & Jackie Shankey
JAN 19	Elroy & Jann Dahl

Save the date:

Women's Retreat Saturday, April 1

Learning to Live with Less

"to everything there is a season...
a time to keep and a time to cast away"
Ecclesiastes 3:6

Keynote Speaker: Barb Tako

Breakout Sessions:

Painting
Making Domino Jewelry
and Recycling Junk

*Stay tuned for more
information to come soon!*



United Methodist Women – “Growing in Blessedness”

Thank you...

To all the cookie bakers, candy makers, shoppers and workers who made the 2016 UMW Cookie Walk a huge success. You have helped us raise the first funds for our 2017 pledge to support United Methodist Missions at home and around the world. You are generous and dependable. Thanks much!

No meeting in January. But save this date. Our meeting schedule will resume on Monday, Feb. 6 at 1:30 and 6:30 PM. Both meetings will be held at the church. Put Feb. 6 on your calendar and plan to start 2017 with UMW. If you aren't a UMW member at this time, come and check us out. We are a community of strong and supportive women. Join us for devotions, study, service and friendship. If you have questions, please call Carol Anderson at 715-284-2456.

Do you like to read? Why not give the UMW Reading Program a try this year? You will need to read *response* magazine every month (Copies are on the book shelf in the Wesley Room.) You also need to read at least five books – one in each of the reading categories – Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Even though all books from the 2012 – 2017 book lists are eligible, Sally Laubach, our Program Resources secretary, has purchased new books on the 2017 list, and a summary of the books will be in newsletters this year. Come to our library shelves in the Wesley Room and check out the options.

From *response*

“Within the United Methodist Women Reading Program list you’ll find books to help you grow spiritually, develop as leaders, nurture community, commit to action and transform yourselves through education. Don’t be surprised if you’re, well, surprised by some of the books included. This year’s list features such diverse offerings as a comic book on wage theft to a theological exploration of our deadly gun culture to a discussion of Genesis by a United Methodist active in the denomination’s small, so-called “traditionalist” groups.

“United Methodist Women welcomes all, as the church should welcome all. We are stronger not with one voice that dictates but with multiple voices that inform, hold us accountable and include different contexts, experiences and understandings. The beloved community is not prescriptive. The body of Christ is made up of many parts. What that body must do together is make the world a place in which all thrive, especially the marginalized, whom Jesus loved, dignified and trusted. When God’s love is our guide, even differences are an asset. Diversity is a gift from God that we should not squander, especially in God’s name. United Methodist Women lives into this.” Tara Barnes, editor of *response*

On our bookshelves

Boundless by Bryan Bishop: Through colorful firsthand accounts, the author explores how fresh expressions of faith from American youth, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Native Americans who are experiencing and following Jesus outside the boundaries of traditional Western Christianity can revitalize our own faith journeys.

Falling into Place by Hattie Kauffman: Covering wildfires and murder trials and interviewing presidents, astronauts and Olympians, Hattie Kauffman made history as the first Native American journalist ever to file a report on national network evening news broadcast. But as she uncovered the stories behind big personalities and events, her own story remained untold. This is an inside look at the events that shaped a remarkable woman’s life and of her surprise at what she learned about herself.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Poinsettias were given in memory of . . .

- **Dorothy & Francis Harmer** and **Nicole Stetzer** from their family.
- **Roy & Gladys Rush & Archie & Ella Tranberg** from Bob & Clarice Rush and family.
- **Gladys Bailey and Mary Bailey Norton** from Patty Iverson..
- **Gladys Bailey and Mary Bailey Norton** from Betty Dobson.
- **My father, Russ Cottrell**, from Pastor Kathy.
- **Our Parents** from John & Theresa Paul.
- **William Hostrawser** from Jim & Roxie Hostrawser and family.
- **Donna Smikrud** from Jim & Roxie Hostrawser and family.
- **Family Members** from Gene & Janet Krohn.
- **Gary Lovlien** from Jean Lovlien & family.
- **Ken Peterson** from Jean Lovlien
- **Gene & Ione Dana** from their family.
- **John & Marie Prochaska** from Rich & Jill Prochaska and family.
- **Kelsey Olson** from Rich & Judy Lee.
- **Dennis Johnson** from Norma Johnson and family.
- **Geri Foote** from the Allen family.
- **Vic Allen** from the Allen family
- **Richard & Rick Hudson and George & LaNita Ammann** from Rhonda & Gary Ammann.
- **John Hoffman** from Jone & Peter Hoffman.
- **Bruce & Kathleen Van Gorden** from Mary Van Gorden.
- **Ed Sr. & Emma Brauner** from Dan Brauner
- **Oscar & Edna Anderson** from Dan Brauner
- **Carl & Muriel Lind** from Mike & Betty Lind.
- **Cheryl Holt** from her sister.
- **Warren Loveland** from his family.

DON'T FORGET!!

to let the Church Office know if you change your address, telephone number, email address, etc., so that we can keep in contact with you! Also please give us contact information for your family members who are away at college or on their own. Call us at 715-284-4114 or send us an email at brfumc@gmail.com. **THANK YOU!!**



THE GIVING TREE 2016

Thank you to everyone who selected one or more envelopes from the Giving Tree and made a donation to one of the charities or programs represented on our tree. A total of \$770.00 was given to the various organizations and projects as follows:

- Northcott Neighborhood House - \$200.00
- Interfaith Caregivers - \$270.00
- Harbor House Crisis Shelter - \$90.00
- Senegal Needs - \$210.00

Your generous response to the needs of others is appreciated!. May we all continue to answer God's call and spread His love to those in need in our community and around the world in 2017.



Special thanks to the family of Richard Hilliker for donating the beautiful Fraser fir Christmas in memory of Beth Hilliker.

Thank you so much to everyone for their generous donations for Staff Christmas Gifts. Your kindness is appreciated by all of us.

BRF UMC Staff Members

RADIO BROADCASTS

- DEC 11 Sponsored by the United Methodist Women
- DEC 18 Sponsored by Tom & Marly Divver



Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the following members of our church family who passed away recently:

Duane Moldenhauer
December 4, 2016

Ione Dana
December 12, 2016

Warren Loveland
December 18, 2016

Scrip Program

A big thank you to our congregation for supporting the Scrip program. Before the end of the year we were able to transfer another \$1,000 to the General Fund from the Scrip program, making the total contribution \$3,000 last year and \$14,000 since the program began. Sales in December were tremendous! Your continued support for the Scrip program is much appreciated.

GET YOUR UMC NEWSLETTER ONLINE!!

You can view it on our website at brfumc.org, or we can email it to you each month.

Call and let us know if you would prefer this way of reading your monthly newsletter.
715-284-4114.

HOLY BAPTISM



Easton Oliver Peterson
Kora Kathleen Peterson
Axel Benjamin Peterson
Children of Ben & Liisa Peterson
December 11, 2016

Eli Robert Laubach
Son of Ross & Jenny Laubach
December 18, 2016

Brody James Staszak
Son of Leyah Bailey & John Staszak
December 28, 2016



The following new members were received into membership on December 11, 2016:

Russell and Amy Hunter
Chelsey Meinking
Marguerite Paulin
Derek and Marcie Peterson
David and Ann Smetana
Alan and Paula Voskuil

Do you love to visit with people? If so, we have the perfect ministry for you. We are looking for more people to join our Visitation Team. The Visitation Team goes out to visit our members in the care centers or those in their own homes who are no longer able to come to church. We ask that you prayerfully consider joining us. Please call the Church Office (715-284-4114) to let us know you would like to join this ministry. Visitation Team members go to visit the people on their list once a month or more often just to let them know that their church family is thinking of them. If you would like to be able to offer communion, Pastor Kathy will have a training session. Just imagine the joy you would bring people, just by coming to visit for a few minutes. Thank you for considering this ministry. It doesn't take a lot of time, but it can bring people a lot of joy.



We started learning about the Christmas Story and practicing for the Christmas program, "Sharing the Christmas Story" in November. We learned about Mary and Joseph, angels, wisemen, shepherds, and of course baby Jesus. I am so proud of all of the children. What an amazing performance! Thank you to all of the kiddos and their families, the Sunday School Team, Education Committee, Keith Odeen for music, and my husband for setting up the sound. Teamwork results in a successful program!

MISSION PROJECT:

We will be going to the Atrium Care Center to sing for the residents on Sunday, January 8. We will leave the church at 10:00 a.m. to arrive at the Care Center by 10:15 a.m. We will return to the church around 10:30 a.m. for you to pick up your child. If you are willing to volunteer to drive or be an extra adult, please contact Beth Bue.

ROTATION MODEL:

January 8 – 29 the Rotation Model will be "Jonah." The **Jonah** unit uses the Bible story included in the Book of Jonah. The story of Jonah helps us understand that God loves all people and will forgive them when they repent.

FAMILY SUNDAY:

The next Family Sunday is scheduled for January 15. 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.

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.

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.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

JAN 2	Elizabeth Arndt
JAN 3	Nolan Boehm
JAN 5	Ryan Nandory
JAN 8	Abby Ross
JAN 10	Mason Meimann
JAN 11	Alex Hoffman
JAN 21	Cooper Peterson
JAN 23	Olivia Caponigro
JAN 27	Karsten Hunter

CHURCH FAMILY NIGHT MEALS MENU

Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

JAN 4	NO DINNER
JAN 11	Baked Ziti Garlic Toast Lettuce Salad Desserts, Beverages
JAN 18	Macaroni & Cheese Raw Veggies Rolls Desserts, Beverages
JAN 25	Meatballs & Gravy Corn Desserts, Beverages

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



Van Etta Library

BOOK REVIEW

Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis

by Jimmy Carter

May the coming year be one of increased riches of grace-
hearing His voice more clearly
knowing His heart more deeply
resting in His love more fully
trusting His care more completely
walking His pathway more peacefully
knowing His presence more intimately
blessed by His goodness more abundantly

Thank you to everyone who supported our soup and sandwich lunch during the UMC Cookie Walk by donating items towards the lunch, helping serve the lunch and to those attended. Money raised will help support youth group activities.

Upcoming youth happenings

January 4 youth group
January 11 youth group
January 18 youth group
January 25 youth group/kitchen clean up

FAITH FORMATION 6-7pm
FUN FELLOWSHIP 7-7:30pm

REMINDER...if the weather is bad and school and/or after school activities are cancelled, youth group is cancelled as well.

Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States, has written about his spiritual life and faith in Living Faith, a huge bestseller. In this newer publication, he offers a personal consideration of moral values as they relate to the important issues of the day. He puts forth a passionate defense of separation of church and state and a strong warning of where the country is heading as the lines between politics and rigid religious fundamentals are blurred.

He describes his own involvement and reaction to some disturbing social trends that involve both the religious and the political worlds. As a private citizen now, he deliberately mixes religion and politics in this book. He then analyzes moral values from a religious point of view and includes his assessment of the adverse impact of political decisions on those same values.

Not light, quick reading, but very thought provoking.

Rhoda Gulso, Librarian

Have
You
Pledged?



Many thanks to everyone who has made a pledge (estimate of giving) to the General Fund for 2017. So far, we have received pledges from 80 households for a total of \$191,364.00.

If you haven't made a pledge yet, it is **not too late!** Your estimate of giving helps the church to plan the mission and ministries that we can support in this new year. Pledge cards for 2017 are available at the Information Station in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please contact Jill in the Church Office.

A final financial report for 2016 will be published in the February Newsletter.

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR JANUARY

- JAN 1 Dan Brauner
Patrick & Lea Coville
Tom, Lois, Aaron & Andy Epps
Dave, Kim, & Garret Gjersest
- JAN 8 Jim Harmer
Peter & Jone Hoffman
Pastor Kathy & Pastor Lon Jury
Mark & Jillian Maurer
- JAN 15 Ed Nemecc
Larry, Karen, Leah, Joel & Jamie Pennekamp
Molly Saavedra
Don & Vangie Stender
- JAN 22 Lee, Kim & Breanna Amborn
Harley, Kathie, & Becky Boehm
Joe & Margery Collins
Jody & Penny Elmore
- JAN 29 Barry, Karolyn & Mitchel Gjersest
Steve , Patty Megan & Seth Harelson
Paul, Robin, William & Isaac Hoffman
Randy, Susi & Zachary Johnson



MUSIC FUND

In Memory Of:

Alyssa Rave (granddaughter of Nancy Hindes) from Dave & Kae Dettinger,
Ione Dana from Dave & Kae Dettinger, Lovey Dambach, John & Sue Lindahl, and Family and Friends

YOUTH FUND

In Memory Of:

Ione Dana from Judy Hansen.

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory Of:

Warren Loveland from Lou & Nyla Musser, Rich & Jill Prochaska, and Marlene Taylor.
Ione Dana from Marlene Taylor, Dennis & Carrie Farnsworth, Amy Willette, Chuck & Ruth Buswell, Donna Overlien, Judy Sheppard, Ann Zillmer, Pastor Kathy & Pastor Lon Jury, Irma McNeely, Mary Van Gorden, Lou & Nyla Musser, Lyle & Ruth Hart, Joe & Margery Collins, Ed & Vione Brauner, Dave & Sherry Olson, Chuck & Marcia Devendorf, and Family and Friends..

CHURCH LIBRARY

In Memory Of:

Ione Dana from Jean Lovlien, and Family and Friends.

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!

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:

- 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.

BRF UMC Calendar of Events—January 2017



SUNDAY JANUARY 1

9 a.m.—Worship Service
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 a.m.—UM Men's Group
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.—Mission Sewing Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Pastor Kathy Day Off

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

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, JANUARY 15

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service (Family Sunday)
9:20 a.m.—Sunday School
10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice
COMMUNION

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Pastor Kathy Day Off

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

4:00 p.m.—Mission Outreach Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Pastor Kathy Day Off

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

4:00 p.m.—Visitation Team Meeting
5:00 p.m.—Hospitality Team Meeting
5:30 p.m.—Staff-Parish Relations Committee Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Pastor Kathy Day Off



January