

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 2019



“Looking for the Perfect Church?”

A woman was on her third marriage, and in the process of her third divorce (not counting all the men she lived with and left without ever marrying. . . sounds like the story of the *Woman at the Well* found in 4th chapter of John). Her whole life was a series of one failed attempt after another to find “Mr. Right.”

One day she was visiting with her 78 year old neighbor who seemed to have a storybook marriage of 55 years. “How were you able to find a perfect man? I can never seem to find the right one.” “Honey,” her neighbor replied, “my Roger wasn’t perfect when we got married and neither was I, but we learned to love and respect each other and never let our disagreements get in the way of that. If our marriage looks perfect now, it’s only because we have worked at it for 55 years.”

That’s good advice for a marriage, but it is also good advice for a church family. Being a church takes work. There are no perfect congregations, no perfect denominations, no perfect churches, no perfect pastors, no perfect members. If a particular church appears to be ‘perfect’ it’s only because people have worked at loving and respecting one another and have grown together in the Spirit of Christ. It is because they haven’t left one another at the first sign of problems, but have worked diligently to solve them.

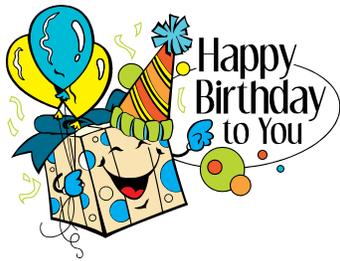
Several years ago I read in a *Disciple Bible* study a definition of “our human condition.” It read, “We hate to leave the lifestyles of the secular world. They have a certain corrupt familiarity. But if we convert to the faith and fellowship of Christ, we discover the people, including ourselves, are still argumentative, divisive, self-centered. The church is not as perfect as we thought it would be.”

As much as we may hate to admit it, that is our human condition. And yet, it *is* Christ’s church and you and I *are* the people of God. The only thing left is to pray for the love of Christ to rule our hearts and our actions and to pray that we may grow in the likeness of Jesus who showed us how to be the people of God.

The “perfect church” is not out there somewhere waiting for us to find it. The perfect church is what God makes of us when we love, respect, forgive, and care for each other just as Jesus would do. My prayer for the new year that our actions as Christians reflect the love and grace of Jesus Christ who we are called to serve.

Grace and Peace ~

Pastor Kathy



JAN 1	Liz Lund
JAN 2	Jordan Hill
JAN 4	Renea Stoker
JAN 6	Dorothy Gearing Jim Kaphengst
JAN 8	Krystle Goldsmith
JAN 9	Pam Bue Tim McCann Abby Ross
JAN 10	Joel Pennekamp Norm Stoker Mary Van Gorden
JAN 11	Alex Hoffman Jennifer Leisgang
JAN 16	Bob Nesbitt
JAN 17	Jeff Hagenbrock
JAN 18	Dawn Arndt Daniel Hefty
JAN 19	Jim Hostrawser
JAN 20	Rhonda Ammann
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



JAN 1	Jessica & Jonas Whitegull
JAN 18	Gary & Jackie Shankey
JAN 19	Elroy & Jann Dahl

New Member Class

There will be a membership class on **Sunday, January 20, from 10:30 a.m. (following worship) to 1:00 p.m.**, in the Keefe Room.

The focus of the class will be 1) our faith, 2) the body of Christ (the Church), and 3) our call to be disciples and ambassadors for Jesus in the world.

The class is open to you if:

- 1) You are interested in becoming a professed member of BRF UMC,
- 2) You would like to learn more about BRF UMC, or
- 3) You would like a "refresher" course and perhaps renew your own membership vows.

To sign-up, call the church office at 715-284-4114 or talk to Pastor Kathy and let her know you are interested in attending.

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.



United Methodist Women – Celebrating 100 Years in 2019

2019 will be a year of remembering where UMW began, what it has accomplished and where it will go in the future. The national organization has established a Legacy Fund to protect the future of UMW missions around the world. Here at home we will explore ways to involve more women of the church.

Help us with planning by completing the following statement.

I would be interested in UMW membership if...

Or UMW should consider....

You can e-mail your response to me at cmacander@yahoo.com or drop an anonymous response in the church office. I'd be glad to visit with you if you call me at 715-284-2456. Your input will be valuable to our planning.
Thank you, Carol Anderson

Remember we will not meet in January. Our next meeting will be in February. Watch the bulletin for more information.

How about a UMW resolution this year? Maybe you could resolve to join/attend a Circle meeting. Maybe you want to participate in the Reading Program? I plan to take more seriously my Thank Offering by thinking each Sunday what I have been thankful for the week before.

Whatever your UMW resolution is, may it make your UMW year more meaningful.

***“A Way Forward”* Information Session Tuesday, January 15, 6:00 p.m.**

In my September, 2018 article I wrote about “*A Way Forward*”, the outcome of the Commission that was formed by the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to develop a plan or plans to help the church move forward in light of the debate over the church ministers to/with the LGBTQ community. The Commission on “The Way Forward” met throughout the last two years and has come up with three possible plans for the UMC to move forward. The plans are: The One Church Plan; The Connectional Conference; and the Traditional Plan. An understanding of the scope of each of these three plans can be found at www.um-insight.net/the-way-forward or at www.umnews.org/the-way-forward.

As some have been asking for more information about the three plans and how they might affect the church, there will be an informational session on **Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This will not be a time to debate the merit of any of the three plans but simply to help you have a better understanding of the options which will be voted on at the 2020 General Conference. I will also have contact information if you wish to share your voice with any of the delegates from Wisconsin who will be voting at the special session which will be held in St. Louis Feb. 23-26.

Pastor Kathy

ALTAR FLOWERS

Poinsettias were given in memory of . . .

- **Roy & Gladys Rush and Archie & Ella Tranberg** from Bob & Clarice Rush
- My Dad, **Russ Cottrell**, from Pastor Kathy
- **William Hostrawser** from Jim & Roxie Hostrawser
- **Donna Smikrud** from Jim & Roxie Hostrawser
- **Gary Lovlien** from Jean Lovlien & family
- **Ken Peterson** from Jean Lovlien
- **Gene & Ione Dana** from Rich & Jill Prochaska
- **John & Marie Prochaska** from Rich & Jill Prochaska
- **Kelsey Olson** from Rich & Judy Lee
- **John Hoffman** from Peter & Jone Hoffman
- **Our Parents** from Wayne & Beth Bue
- **Jayden Gjerseeth, Penny Elmore, and Dorothy Larson** from Dave, Kim & Garret Gjerseeth, and Brianna & Alex Roxmenoski
- **Joyce & Clarence Paul** from John & Theresa Paul
- **Elwin & Juanita Buchholz and Michael Buchholz** from John & Theresa Paul
- **Gladys, Mary & Vicki Bailey** from Betty Dobson, Patty Iversion & Joan Zenz
- **John Hoffman** from Jim & Andrea Hoffman
- **Duane & Lavina Hoffman** from Jim & Andrea Hoffman
- **Carol Odeen** from Bruce Odeen
- **Roger Hansen** from Judy Hansen
- **Alice Homstad** from Gil Homstad
- **Doris & Joe Brauner** from Gene & Mary Maurer
- **Grandma Shirley** and in honor of **Grandpa Don** from Mark & Tia Maurer & family
- **Grandpa Ralph Clements and Lavern & Cecilia Hemmerbach** from Christine Schultz

Poinsettias were given in honor of . . .

- **My Confirmation mentor Rhonda Ammann** from Mallory Finch.
- **Mom & Dad** from Dan Brauner.
- Given by the Simonson Family



THE GIVING TREE 2018

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 \$987.00 was given to the various organizations and projects as follows:

- Feed My Starving Children - \$222.00
- Heifer International (Bees) - \$210.00
- Heifer International (Chicks) - \$120.00
- Audio Bibles - \$125.00
- Senegal - \$160.00
- Backpack Project - \$150.00

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 2019.



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

Thanks also to Roxie Hostrawser and all who so beautifully decorated the trees and church for Christmas this year. Also, many thanks to all who provided the beautiful poinsettias, and to Sue Lindahl who came to water and care for the plants each week.

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

RADIO BROADCASTS

- DEC 16 Sponsored by the United Methodist Women
- DEC 23 In memory of Dale Seely sponsored by his wife Sharon Seely.

BULLETINS

- DEC 16 In honor Lucas McNulty's birthday
- DEC 30 In memory of Jennifer Hermanson, whose birthday was December 29, sponsored by her family.



PRAYER GROUP FUND

In Memory Of:
Ann Berry from John & Theresa Paul

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory Of:
Ann Berry from Nyla Musser
Florence Williams (sister of Ruth Hart) from Nyla Musser



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

Hattie West
December 10, 2018

Anna (Ann) Berry
December 18, 2018



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!





The beginning of November we started practicing for the Christmas program, "Manger Tales" and did it ever show! All of the children did an amazing job reading, singing, and playing handbells! Thank you to all of the children and their families, the Sunday School Team, Jill Prochaska for making bulletins, and Rolo for sound and screens.

ROTATION MODEL: January 6–27 the Rotation Model will be "Gift of Jesus" The children will learn the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel and discover ways they can share the good news of Jesus to family and friends.

FAMILY SUNDAY: The next Family Sunday is scheduled for **January 20**. All Sunday School children will sing at 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!

Mark your calendars for a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** on **February 17** from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. to support the camp scholarship program. The scholarship program allows our church to support members of our congregation financially who want to attend camp. Watch for more info on **SUMMER CAMPS!!!!**

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.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

JAN 2	Elizabeth Arndt
JAN 3	Nolan Boehm
JAN 5	Ryan Nandory
JAN 16	Mason Schultz
JAN 21	Cooper Peterson
JAN 23	Olivia Caponigro
JAN 27	Karsten Hunter

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.

DON'T FORGET!!

to let the Church Office know if you or your family members change your address, telephone number, email address, etc., so that we can keep in contact with you! Call us at 715-284-4114 or send us an email at brfumc@gmail.com. **THANK YOU!!**





Youth Group Meeting Dates:

- January 2nd—NO YOUTH GROUP
- January 9th—Meeting 6-7 pm
- January 16th—Meeting 6-7 pm
- January 23rd—Meeting 6-7 pm
- January 30th—Meeting 6-7 pm

Reminder, as of the first of the year, there is no supper offered at the church on Wednesday nights.

We are preparing to officially register for YOUTH 2019, a trip we will be taking in July of 2019 to Kansas City. We will be there for four days networking with other youth and leaders while enjoying worship and Christian bands. We want to thank everyone who has supported this trip up to this point.

Our next fundraiser will be Sunday January 13th after worship. We will be serving Biscuits and Sausage Gravy and Eggs. Please join us as you continue to support our trip.

Reminder for families traveling to Kansas: your \$200 payment is due this month. If you have any questions about this, please contact Suzanne 715-896-0224.

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR JANUARY

- JAN 6 Randy & Pam Bjerke
Lovey Dambach
Todd & Lyn Gates
Denise Hanson
- JAN 13 Don & Lori Holcomb
Gene & Janet Krohn
Jennifer Meyer
Jerry & Lynn Overman
- JAN 20 Vivian Simons
Leroy & Sarah Wiersma
Harley & Kathie Boehm
Dave & Kae Dettinger
- JAN 27 Dorothy Gearing
Jim Harmer
A.J. Holder
Rich & Judy Lee



Have
You
Pledged?



Many thanks to everyone who has made a pledge (estimate of giving commitment) to the General Fund for 2019. So far, we have received pledges from 69 households for a total of \$200,730.00.

If you haven't made a pledge yet, it is **not too late!** Your estimated pledge helps the church to plan the mission and ministries that we can support in this new year. Pledge/commitment cards for 2019 are available at the Information Station in the Gathering Area or in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Jill in the Church Office (715-284-4114).

A final financial report for 2018 will be published in the February Newsletter.



BRF UMC Calendar of Events—January 2019



TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

NO Confirmation

NO Youth Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

8:30 a.m.—UM Men's Group

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:05 a.m.—Sunday School

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Pastor Kathy Day Off

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting

5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting

6:15 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

10:10 a.m.—Book Club

5:15 p.m.—Confirmation

5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ Study

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:05 a.m.—Sunday School

10:00-11:00 a.m.—Youth Breakfast Fundraiser

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Pastor Kathy Day Off

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

6:00 p.m.—“The Way Forward” Informational Meeting in Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:15 p.m.—Confirmation

5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ Study

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

FAMILY SUNDAY

COMMUNION

10:30 a.m.—New Member Class

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Pastor Kathy Day Off

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:15 p.m.—Confirmation

5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ Study

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:05 a.m.—Sunday School

10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Pastor Kathy Day Off

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:15 p.m.—Confirmation

5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ Study

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice



January