

# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

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MARCH 2018



## Come Alive

**Lent** - A 40 day journey focusing on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Lent is a time when we Christians practice self-denial by giving up something in our lives that is keeping us from having a fuller, more intimate relationship with Jesus. We may also add a spiritual practice to our lives in order to help us become stronger, more aware, ‘*practicing*’ Christians.

When we arrive at Holy Week, beginning with the passion of Jesus on Palm Sunday, we walk with Jesus spiritually on Maundy Thursday to the Upper Room, where he tells his followers that he must die in order to give us a new life, free from the sins that weigh us down and keep us from being all that God intends us to be. We continue to Good Friday, which doesn’t seem good at all as Jesus is scorned, beaten, unjustly accused and unjustly tried. At the end of the day spikes are pounded into Jesus’ hands and feet as he is hung on a cross to die.

All of this so that, when we arrive at Easter Sunday, we are more than ready to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection as he is raised from death to encourage his followers to continue to walk with him, even after he leaves this earth.

But then what? How do we, as followers of Jesus Christ, continue our earthly journey in faith, just as if Jesus were still with us? We too easily fall back into our old, human habits once the “high” of Easter is past. That is why this year, in place of a Lenten study, we will be taking a post-Easter 30-day devotional journey of hope and renewal. The journey will begin on **Wednesday, March 21, at 6:15pm**. We will receive the devotionals at that time as the first week of reading is to be done during Holy Week. The last three weeks of the study are scheduled as follows:

- **Wednesday, April 11, at 6:15pm** - discussion of days 9 through 15
- **Wednesday, April 18, 6:15pm** - discussion of days 16-22
- **Wednesday, April 25, 6:15pm** - discussion of days 23-30

The devotionals we will be reading will be available on Wednesday, March 21 for \$5.00. You can sign up to receive a devotional in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office at 715-284-4114.

*May You Be Blessed in God’s Abiding Presence,*

*Pastor Kathy*





- MAR 2 Dan Berger
- Shirlie Nimmo
- MAR 5 Jeff Woodward
- MAR 8 Rosalie Hermanson
- MAR 9 Dave Smetana
- MAR 14 Nancy Iuliano
- Dave Olson
- Sharon Seely
- MAR 15 Megan Finch
- MAR 17 Kathy Perry
- MAR 18 Olivia Lee
- MAR 19 Carol Anderson
- Selena Casper
- LuAnn Gaede
- John Paul
- MAR 20 Mathew Brauner
- Freddie Dolsey
- John Gates
- MAR 21 Vonnie Greene
- Carol Hornby
- Leota Simonson
- MAR 23 Char Onstad
- Ann Smetana
- MAR 26 Ed Brauner
- Chris Stewart
- MAR 28 Patty Harelson
- Keith Odeen
- MAR 30 Harley Boehm

- MAR 18 Mike & LuAnn Gaede
- MAR 24 Barry & Freda Goldsmith
- MAR 30 Jim & Andrea Hoffman



**Lenten Café Worship Services will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings, February 28, and March 7, and 14, at 6:15 p.m.** The theme of this year’s Lenten worship is Random Acts of love, kindness, and goodness.

**Beginning March 21, we will begin the study, *Come Alive*, a 30-day Devotional Journey of Hope and Renewal,** which will continue after Easter on Wednesday evenings, April 4, 11, and 18, at 6:15 p.m.

Worship will be casual. A light supper will be available from 4:30-6:00 p.m. You are welcome to eat during worship.

**YOUR UMC NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE.**

You can view it on our website at [brfumc.org](http://brfumc.org), or we can email it to you each month. Let us know if you prefer this way of reading your monthly newsletter.



## United Methodist Women – Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God and Neighbor

### Where does our mission money go?

As United Methodist Women we put time and energy into earning money for missions. In addition to our pledge to UMW, our local unit supports our church's radio broadcasts and local charities. You contribute from your financial resources as well as giving your baking time and skill for the Cookie Walk. Your efforts make a difference.

Sometimes, I imagine, you are curious about where your money goes. The February issue of *response* shows on United States and world maps the locations of all 150 mission programs supported by our mission giving. "Between 2016 and 2018 more than \$10 million annually was allocated for U.S. and international mission. ... Your gracious giving changes lives for women, children, youth and families down the street and around the world." ("Mission Giving Makes Mission Happen", *response*, February 2018, p. 15)

Satisfy your curiosity and take time to check out the maps in the February issue of *response* on the kiosk in our Gathering Area.

### Plan to attend a Circle Meeting on March 5.

- Circle of Hope meets at 1:30 PM at the church. Circle contact is Loretta Charneski.
- Circle of Faith meets at 5:30 PM at the Mocha Mouse. Circle contact is Lois Epps.

### Reserve these dates:

- April 7 Mission Action Day, Mauston UMC -- Registration of \$12 by March 7. Forms on the kiosk.
- May 5 Spring Retreat at Pine Lake – Registrations of \$20 due on April 17. Forms on the kiosk.



## PRAYER FAMILIES FOR MARCH

MAR 4	Tyler Bue Tammie, Steven, Michael & Ryan Dobson Justin & Alanah Gaier Dick & Vonnie Greene
MAR 11	Rosalie Hermanson Allan Hostrawser Lance, Jennifer, & Faith Leisgang, Sam Rogstad Marlene Meyer
MAR 18	Char, Mary & Jacob Onstad Leslie & Linda Rhoades Stephanie Small, Jaida & Grace Decorah Alan & Paula Voskuil
MAR 25	Dan & Virginia Berger Nancy Burchard Freddie & Donna Dolesy Don & Charlene Galston

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, March 16 - 6:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

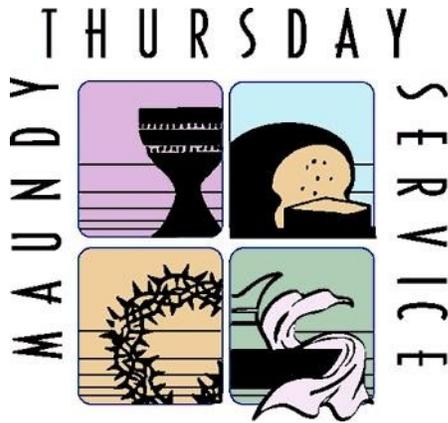
A Walt Disney Classic

**The Fox and the Hound**

**Free Admission**

Popcorn and beverages will be available. Feel free to wear your pajamas. Bring a blanket and a pillow. Bring a friend.

**All children must be accompanied  
by an adult.**



March 29, 2018

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus and his disciples dined together for the last time before his death. Join us at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we focus on Jesus' institution of Holy Communion.



# Good Friday

March 30, 2018

A Tenebrae worship service will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come and find out how you can hold your head high even in the midst of and perhaps because of Jesus' death.



**Our Annual Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 24, 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: "Laughter Is The Best Medicine"**  
*Keynote Speaker: Julia Costa*

**Music by Pat Congdon**

**Break-Out Sessions:  
Sea Glass Crosses  
Herb Gardens**

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



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.



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 the Caring Meals Crew.



The 40 days of Lent began on February 14, Ash Wednesday. We are now on the journey to Jesus' death and resurrection. Take time to prepare your hearts and minds for this journey. Here are some ideas for you to do as a family during the Lenten Season:

Stress the importance of quiet time and prayer time.

Have a quiet time each week (or each day) –no TV, Ipods, music, or cell phones.

Practice the 3 C's. Give 3 compliments a day to your family members.

Collect purple things from around your home, discuss how purple is the color of Lent. Purple symbolizes the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. It is also the color of royalty and symbolizes the kingship of Jesus in our lives. Wear something purple for the day.

Easter Eggs- Eggs remind us of the new life that is present for all of us in the Resurrection of Jesus. In ancient times eggs were a symbol of spring and fertility. During the Middle-Ages, the eating of eggs was prohibited during Lent. On Easter morning, Christians would give eggs to one another to celebrate the breaking of the Lenten fast. The egg became the symbol of the tomb from which Christ emerged, calling us all to resurrection and new life. When you dye Easter eggs, think about what the colors mean: red- Jesus blood, purple- being sorry for sin, green- new life, gold- resurrection.

**ROTATION MODEL:** The Rotation model for March will be Easter, Peter's Story. We will learn who Peter was and how he denied Jesus. We will also learn that we all make mistakes, but that Jesus forgives us and shows us how to be faithful.

**FAMILY SUNDAY:** The next Family Sunday is scheduled for March 18. 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:** 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.brfulmc.org](http://www.brfulmc.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.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!**

- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER SUNDAY, April 1
- SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM, Sunday, MAY 13 at 9:00 a.m.
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL August 13-16

#### **YOUTH BIRTHDAYS**

MAR 4	McKenna Jarrett
MAR 20	Macie Goldsmith
MAR 28	Ava Gilberg Hanna Goldsmith



## **CAMP SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped support the camp scholarships this year by attending the Pancake Breakfast on February 18. With these donations we can help financially support members of our congregation who would like to attend camp. Thank you to everyone who helped in the kitchen. It could not have been done without all of your help. If you would like a camp book and/or scholarship form, please contact Beth 715-896-0823 or Suzanne 715-896- 0224.

# ~ Youth Program ~

## March Happenings

- March 7: Bible Games 6-7 p.m.
- March 14: NO YOUTH
- March 18: Movie/Pizza Day after worship  
10:00 a.m.- Noon
- March 21: NOOMA Video Bible Study 6-7 p.m.
- March 28: Easter Bible Study lesson 6-7 p.m.

During Lent, any Pre-Con or Confirmation students who need to get their worship services in, please attend Wednesday Lenten worship services at 6:15 p.m. instead of coming down to the Youth Rooms.



- March 7 Tator Tot Hot Dish, Lettuce Salad, Rolls, Desserts, and Beverages
- March 14 Barbecues, Baked Beans, Chips, Desserts, and Beverages
- March 21 Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast, Lettuce Salad, Desserts, and Beverages
- March 28 **NO REGULAR MEAL**, light supper available for students from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

## Celebrate the Luck of the Irish



## CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

Saturday, March 17 — 4:30-7:00 p.m.

BRF United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
100 N. 4th Street

Adults — \$10.00 Children Under 12 — \$5.00

Meatballs with gravy and potatoes will also be served.

Carry outs available — call 715-284-4114

Published: 25 January 2018



## Rejoice, Give Thanks, and Sing

Psalms 104:33 – “I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.”

My brothers and sisters, thank you! Let us celebrate and sing, rejoice and be glad. Together, we have done a wonderful thing! Because of our commitment and generosity, lives have been saved, people have been given hope, and the loving grace and power of Jesus Christ have been shared around the world. God is doing amazing things through us, and we should be joyful. I want every pastor in our Conference to share the good news with the whole congregation: Wisconsin Conference paid its General Church apportionments in full, 100%, for 2017. In fact, we paid our commitment to Africa University at 105%!

Many in our Church live under a myth about apportionments. They feel these are administrative costs, or pay insurance, or overhead. And while a very small portion does go to these costs (less than 6%), the vast majority fund life-saving, faith-raising, hope-giving mission and ministry locally, denominationally, and globally. In Wisconsin, we have camps and campus ministries and mission teams funded through our apportionments. We support health and welfare ministries, young clergy education and development, clergy and laity training, new congregational development, and a host of mercy and justice ministries. Our Boards of Ordained and Lay Ministries are funded. Local, jurisdictional, national and international missions, ministry, projects, and programs are supported.

Globally, we help The United Methodist Church be early on the spot in times of natural disasters and human suffering. This year, Wisconsin was present in Mexico, Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Haiti, Zimbabwe, and a host of other locations around the world through our connectional and second mile giving. We support Sager Brown in Louisiana and Midwest Distribution in Illinois, numerous local and national projects through Volunteers in Mission, and internationally through International Volunteers in Mission, and many ongoing projects through our denomination.

We are in partnership with many of our General Boards and Agencies, and the ministries they carry out. We celebrate United Methodist Committee on Relief, The General Boards of Global Ministries, Church and Society, Pensions and Health Benefits and others. We are connected to our General Council on Finance and Administration, United Methodist Communications, Discipleship Ministries, the Commissions on Archives and History, Religion and Race, and the Status and Role of Women. We have been richly blessed, and superbly resourced by many of these agencies.

We are in ministry, together. I openly acknowledge that for many of our churches it is a struggle to pay apportionments in full. It has been a sacrificial struggle for the Conference to make apportionment payments to the General Church a priority, as well. But we know that there is no greater, or more faithful way for us to be in ministry together than to celebrate our connectional identity and recommit to our Wesleyan roots by funding first the works of justice, mercy and truth. We may argue over theology, and we may have vastly different understandings of the meaning of scripture – we may even debate the structure and future of the denomination, but what doesn't change is our commitment to be a witness for Christ in the world. That is what paying apportionments is: our witness of the love and grace and power of Christ in the world. When we all do our part, God blesses us and the Holy Spirit works through us to do amazing things.

And so, once more, I thank you. I encourage you to celebrate that we paid 100% together as a Conference of The United Methodist Church. I also encourage all of our churches to set 100% payment of local church apportionments as a goal for 2018 and beyond. It is our shared ministry, and it is the way we are all faithful to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” And one last word, please be sure to highlight, promote, celebrate, and participate in UMCOR Sunday, March 11, 2018. More information is available : <http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/one-great-hour-of-sharing>.

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



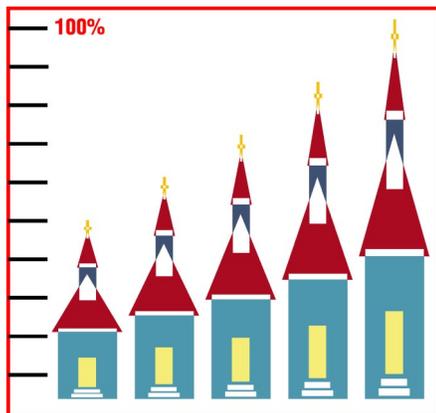


## Van Etta Library News

In lieu of a book review this month, I am listing recent new additions to our library. These new titles are possible because of gifts and memorials given to the UMC Van Etta Library. We greatly appreciate being able to add to our collection because of your generosity.

Title	Call number
The Price of Freedom	234 IV
Where Grace Abides	FIC HO
River of Mercy	FIC HO
Inside the O'Briens	FIC GE
The boy on the Wooden Box	921 LE
Life Without Limits	248.8 VU
Gift of the Red Bird	242 DA
Beneath a Scarlet Sky	FIC SU
The Hideaway	FIC DE
To Be Where You Are	FIC KA
Silence in the Age of Noise	248 KA
Wonder	FIC PA
The Story of Arthur Truluv	FIC BE
Before We Were Yours	FIC WI
Pay It Forward	FIC HY
Angels on Earth	177 SC
The Extraordinary Power of Kindness	177 SC
A Journey to an End	306.8 DA
The Last Girl	920 MU
New Day Dawning	616 KI

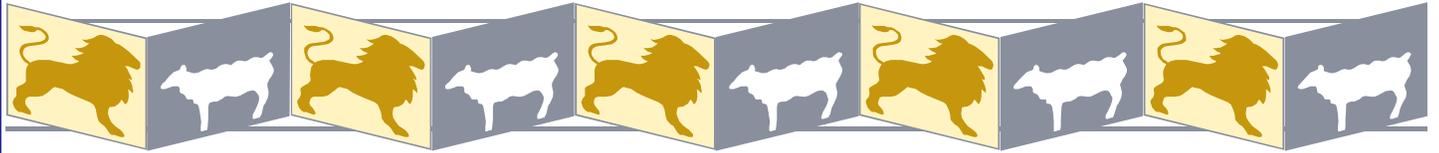
Rhoda Gulso, Librarian



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

We will be rolling out our Capital Campaign on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We look forward to your support as we embark on this campaign.

# BRF UMC Calendar of Events—March 2018



## THURSDAY, MARCH 1

7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

## SATURDAY, MARCH 3

8:30 a.m.—UM Men's Group Meeting

## SUNDAY, MARCH 4

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:20 a.m.—Sunday School

10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## MONDAY, MARCH 5

Pastor Kathy Day Off

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

1:30 p.m.—Circle of Hope Meeting

5:30 p.m.—Circle of Faith at Mocha Mouse

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

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

5:00 p.m.—Confirmation

6:00 p.m.—Youth Program

6:15 p.m.—Lenten Café Worship

## THURSDAY, MARCH 9

7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

## SUNDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:20 a.m.—Sunday School

10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## MONDAY, MARCH 12

Pastor Kathy Day Off

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## TUESDAY, MARCH 13

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting

5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal

5:00 p.m.—PreCon

5:00 p.m.—Confirmation

6:00 p.m.—Lenten Café Worship

## THURSDAY, MARCH 15

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice\

7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

## SATURDAY, MARCH 17

4:30-7:00 p.m.—Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

## SUNDAY, MARCH 18

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service—Family Sunday

10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.—Youth Movie/Pizza Day

## MONDAY, MARCH 19

Pastor Kathy Day Off

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal

5:00 p.m.—PreCon

5:00 p.m.—Confirmation

6:00 p.m.—Youth Program

6:15 p.m.—Lenten Come Alive Study

## THURSDAY, MARCH 22

7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

## SATURDAY, MARCH 24

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Women's Retreat -

## SUNDAY, MARCH 25

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:20 a.m.—Sunday School

10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## MONDAY, MARCH 26

Pastor Kathy Day Off

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

6:00 p.m.—Youth Program

## THURSDAY, MARCH 29

7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service

## FRIDAY, MARCH 30

7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Service

