

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2019

What Are Your Addictions?



St. Augustine once said that God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them. If our hands are full, they are full of the things to which we are addicted. And not only our hands, but also our hearts, minds, and attention are overcrowded with addiction. Our addictions fill up the spaces within us, leaving little or no room for grace to flow. I believe it is a spiritual matter in that through our addictions we are really trying to fulfill our longing for God.

Lenten fasting, or abstinence, gives us the opportunity to release ourselves of the addictions that distract us from having an intimate relationship with God. Perhaps you don't think you need to read the rest of this article because you are not addicted to drugs or alcohol or smoking, but there may be addiction in your life that you do not consider addictions. If you have to have the television on from the time you get up until the time you go to bed, it may be an addiction. If you cannot be without your cell phone, it may be an addiction. If you spend more than 8-12 hours a week at a fitness center, it may be an addiction. Compulsive eating is an addiction as is compulsive dieting. Compulsive saving or spending could be an addiction. The need to be right or to have the last word could be an addiction. Are you addicted to seeking affirmation and/or attention from others?

Are you addicted to judging others or yourself? Most of us are quick to prejudge people we barely know on the basis of their outward appearance, mannerisms, or a few statements taken out of context. Even worse, we judge people on hearsay. Spiritually speaking, this is a dangerous habit. What if you were to abstain from judging others for Lent?

Do you have to keep a full schedule for yourself and/or your children? This can leave you exhausted, depressed, and short-tempered, with little energy left for friends or family, or even yourself. And where does God fit into your tight schedule, or does he?

The question to ask yourself as you prepare for the season of Lent, of “giving up something” in order to gain a stronger relationship with God through Jesus Christ, the question is, “*What do I do to excess?*” What you do to excess reveals your excessive desires, your compulsions, the attachments that have control over you. These are precisely the areas of your life that need the freeing lordship of Christ rather than your own ineffective efforts at control. Fasting is not primarily a discipline through which you gain greater control over your life, but one through which God gains access to redirect and heal you in body, mind, and spirit.

Lent is a mere six weeks out of your year, out of your life. Consider fasting from one of your addictions for six short weeks and you may experience a resurrected relationship with the God who loves you and wants you to be whole and wholly His.

Pastor Kathy

*“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” Joel 2:13*



- 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
- LuAnn Gaede
- John Paul
- MAR 20 Mathew Brauner
- Freddie Dolsey
- John Gates
- MAR 21 Vonnie Greene
- Carol Hornby
- Leota Simonson
- MAR 23 Ann Smetana
- MAR 25 Mark Maurer
- MAR 26 Ed Brauner
- Chris Stewart
- MAR 28 Keith Odeen
- MAR 30 Harley Boehm

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



Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent—6 weeks of fasting and prayer.

A light supper will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. prior to the Ash Wednesday Worship Service. All are welcome to attend.

* * * * *



Weekly Lenten Services will be held on Wednesday evenings, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, and 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Worship will be casual and will include Reader's Theater.

A light supper will be served each week from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall prior to the service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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 prefer this way of reading your monthly newsletter.



United Methodist Women – Sisterhood of Grace 2019

Celebrating 150 Years!

For UMW supporting missions is more than paying our pledge to the district organization. For UMW members mission is a way of thinking. We supported missions in 2018 by ...

- Giving \$500 to the UMC radio broadcasts. This is an annual donation.
- Taking a work and fellowship trip to Harbor House in Superior.
- Donating \$200 for the new children’s library at United Methodist Children’s Services in Milwaukee.
- Providing a meal for the 60 participants in Strengthening Families.
- Filling gift bags for new mothers who are seen by the Jackson County Nurse.
- Investing in women’s enterprises around the world with KIVA loans.

UMW members participate in mission with the local church, with local programs and charities, with international programs, with UMW and UMC institutions. Mission has many faces.

Dates to Remember

- March 3 UMW Birthday Tea, Fellowship Hall at 10:15 AM
- March 23 Lenten Breakfast and worship, “Anchored in Christ”, at Mauston UMC, no cost
- April 1 Circle meetings: Circle of Hope at 1:30 PM; Circle of Faith at 5:30 PM
- April 6 Mission Action Day, Mauston UMC, registration fee of \$15 is due in the church office on Mar. 6.
- April 12 Registration due for May 4 Spring Retreat at Pine Lake, “Listening for God and our Response”; cost is \$20.



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 Mission Outreach Committee will be holding a special collection for the Essential Needs program for the Jackson County Food Pantry on Sunday, March 24. This program provides a personal care item choice to all participants at each of the food pantry sites in Jackson County on at least a quarterly basis. Thank you in advance for your support!



“My words will not pass away.”
LUKE 21:33, NRSV



IN LOVING

 MEMORY

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

Lyle Hart

January 28, 2019

Mildred Schoolcraft

February 22, 2019



memorials
 & gifts

Music Fund

In Memory Of:

Lyle Hart from Louis Shaw, Ed & Vione Brauner, Rich & Jill Prochaska, Don & Charlene Galston, and Dave & Kae Dettinger.

Delores Schleuner (cousin of Vione Brauner) from Ed & Vione Brauner

Senegal Fund

In Memory Of:

Lyle Hart from John & Theresa Paul

Undesignated Fund

In Memory Of:

Lyle Hart from Marlene Taylor, Jane Oyler, Nyla Musser & Greta Gerrard, Pastor Kathy & Pastor Lon Jury, and Leota Simonson.

Celebrate the Luck of the Irish



CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

Sunday, 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

**FAMILY SUNDAY:**

The next Family Sunday is scheduled for March 17, 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!

ROTATION MODEL:

The Sunday School classes will be learning about the "Fruits of the Spirit" in March. Galatians 5:22-23 states, "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." The classes will be introduced to the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit leads us. "Fruits of the Spirit" will also be the theme for the Year End Sunday School Program that will be held on Sunday, May 19 at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES:

- **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21**
- **YEAR-END SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM, SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT 9:00 AM**

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

MAR 4	McKenna Jarrett
MAR 6	Lily McCullough
MAR 12	Jillian Maurer
MAR 20	Macie Goldsmith
MAR 28	Ava Gilberg Hanna Goldsmith

JEW^S F^{OR} JESUS[®]

CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER

Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Giselle Le'Aupepe Bruce of **Jews for Jesus** will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" on Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Giselle Le'Aupepe Bruce will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. She will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian communion celebration today.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this special presentation.





During the season of Lent, the youth will participate in the Lenten worship services. After worship, we will gather downstairs before the night's end.

- March 6: Youth Group / Lenten Worship
- March 13: Youth Group / Lenten Worship
- March 20: Youth Group / Lenten Worship
- March 27: Youth Group / Lenten Worship

The youth will be selling braid bread starting March 18th. The bread will be delivered April 16. Watch for us set up in the Gathering Area the last two Sundays in March to place your order.

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR MARCH

- MAR 3 Ruth Hart
Jim Holt
Lance, Jennifer, & Faith Leisgang, and
Sam Rogstad
Pat & Diane Moe
- MAR 10 Marge Paulin
Dave, Ann, Sophia & Julia Smetana
Rodney & Thyra Zirk
- MAR 18 Roy & Dorothy Hefty
Amelia Hoffman, Aldo Hagar
Bob & Kathy Lind
Dick Moldenhauer
- MAR 24 Todd, Lisa, Jackson & Lauren Perry
Charity & Karnelia Sroka, and
Karma Leffingwell
Gertrude Bue
Gil Homstad
- MAR 31 John & Sue Lindahl
Rose Moldenhauer
Bill & Kathy Perry
Bruce Odeen



I thought I should let everyone know about the wonderful response that was received for the Purse Drive for the homeless. A total of 58 purses have been received so far!

Other things that homeless people rarely get for donations are sanitary napkins and tampons, and also hygiene items scented for women (inexpensive purse-size sprays that are available at Walmart or dollar stores would be a nice treat.) They also are in need of flashlights, especially small ones that take AA or AAA batteries. I can still take purses and insect repellent (believe it not it will get warmer and stop snowing!)

Please remember homeless people in your prayers! It is a problem everywhere! There are even some here in Black River Falls. If any if you know homeless people here, please let me know so we can help them. I am so thankful for all your prayers and donations in helping me help those the Lord puts on my heart.

Terrie Stevens
715-257-0097



**CAMP
SCHOLARSHIP
THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped support the camp scholarships this year by attending the Pancake Breakfast on February 17. 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. Camp books and scholarship forms are available at the church.



BRF UMC Calendar of Events—March 2019



SATURDAY, MARCH 2

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Annual Women's Retreat

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School
10:15 a.m.—UMW Birthday Tea

MONDAY, MARCH 4

Pastor Kathy Day Off
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:15 p.m.—Confirmation
5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ Study
5:30 p.m.—Lenten Supper
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School
10:15 a.m.—Mission Outreach Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Pastor Kathy Day Off
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting
5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting
6:15 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

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
5:30 p.m.—Lenten Supper
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service—Family Sunday
Communion Sunday
4:30-7:00 p.m.—Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

MONDAY, MARCH 18

Pastor Kathy Day Off
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:15 p.m.—Confirmation
5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ Study
5:30 p.m.—Lenten Supper
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

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

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Pastor Kathy Day Off
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:15 p.m.—Confirmation
5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ Study
5:30 p.m.—Lenten Supper
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

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

