

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2020



Dear Beloved,

March is here. Spring is just around the corner. As I write this on February 18th, the sun is shining brightly and snow is melting. Just knowing what is coming warms my heart and soul. By the time you read this, we also will be in the midst of the Lenten season.

I pray that during this Lenten season you take time to reflect upon the precious gift that the Father has provided through faith in the work of his Son, Jesus. Knowing the gift and knowing the cost of the gift should humble us before the Lord. What is the gift? Salvation; the forgiveness of our sins, the new life that we have in the power of the Holy Spirit and the eternal life that we have in the Kingdom of God. What is the cost? Jesus laying down his life as the “perfect lamb of God.”

Question? How do you respond to this gift that is more valuable than the “pearl of great value?” Matthew 13:44-46. Are you so wrapped up in the busyness of this world that you don’t have the time to reflect upon the gift? Are the cares of this world so heavy upon your spiritual shoulders, that you cannot lift your head to see how much God cares for you?

This season of Lent is a time to slow down, to breathe deep and to humble ourselves before the Lord. I think King David said it the best in Psalm 51:16-17, “You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

I pray that in this season leading up to Easter morning that you would come to God, not in your own strength or power but with a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart. Why? Because when we place Christ on the throne of our heart, we experience the fruit of the Holy Spirit within us. When we live in and by the Spirit, we experience the Spirit’s “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Never forget Paul’s word to the church in Rome, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

As always, loving you in Jesus’ name!

Pastor Wendell





MAR 2 Dan Berger
Shirlie Nimmo
MAR 5 Jeff Woodward
MAR 8 Rosalie Hermanson
MAR 9 Dave Smetana
MAR 14 Nancy Iuliano
Dave Olson
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
MAR 21 Vonnice 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 17 Jim & Georgia Earl
MAR 18 Mike & LuAnn Gaede
MAR 24 Barry & Freda Goldsmith
MAR 30 Jim & Andrea Hoffman



Weekly Lenten Services will be held on Wednesday evenings, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be following a "Journey to the Cross". Each week we will be opening up the Gospel of Mark to journey with Jesus and his disciples from the time he is anointed at Bethany until He stands before Pilate. We will also be able to experience Prayer Stations and/or Stations of the Cross that are being set up by our youth. Snacks and beverages will be available.



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.

Walk Thru The Bible: New Testament

Save the date: Saturday, May 30, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Where: Sparrows Nest at the Abby, Sparta, WI

Cost: \$25.00 per person (covers lunch and the study book)

Appropriate for youth through adult. Walk Thru the Bible is an interactive, fun way to learn the New Testament. More information will be available in April, or go to www.walkthru.org to find more information.

United Methodist Women

Working together to continue our mission of supporting women, youth, and children.

We received our February/March issue of one of the nature magazines with birds and spring blossoms on the cover. One of the articles is "Spring is in the Air - signs that the new season has arrived."

What does the new season mean for UMW? The new calendar year is a time to encourage women in our church family and community to visit with us and consider becoming a part of our local unit. This time of year also brings us the opportunity to attend several meetings in our North Central District and state. You will find these dates in your program book and here you will find out how you can get registered.

On Saturday, April 4, Mission Action Day will be held in Green Bay. Registrations are due by March 18 (or to our church office by March 13). The theme is: Racial Inequality and School to Prison Pipeline. Saturday, May 2, is the annual Spring Retreat held at Pine Lake Camp with registrations due by April 15 (or to our church office by April 10). Registration forms will be available from your circle chair and also in the UMW section on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions or to let us know you are attending, call Luane Meyer at 715-284-9839.

We are extending a special welcome to the Circle of Grace, young women grades 6 through 12. We are excited to see what projects and activities they become involved in as they grow their faith in our church and community. Thank you to Suzanne Goldsmith and Lyn Gates, Circle of Grace leaders.

Remember to consider taking part in the 2020 Reading Program. If you have any questions about this program you can call Suzanne Goldsmith at 715-896-0224.



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.



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



On Sunday, February 16, our Staff-Parish Relations Committee announced that **Pastor InWha Shon** has been appointed to serve our church beginning in July.

Pastor Shon has been serving at Clarno Zion and Staver St. Peter's United Methodist Churches in Monroe, Wisconsin for the last 7 years. Pastor Shon and his wife, Esther, have two grown children, a daughter Sarah and a son David.

Please hold Pastor Shon and his family in your prayers as they prepare to move to our community and make their new home here.





February 16, 2020

Charlotte Elizabeth Scott
and
Olivia Belle Scott

daughters of Brandon & Letece Scott



As of February 1st, we are still in good shape this year. We were able to send back the money that was borrowed from our Discretionary Fund at the United Methodist Foundation. However, we still need to watch our spending and our income closely, as we don't know what the rest of the year will bring. Remember, if we all would prayerfully consider stretching our giving by 1% we would be in much better shape.

Wayne Bue
Finance Committee Chair

Celebrate the Luck of the Irish



CORNER BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

Tuesday, 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

**ROTATION MODEL:**

The Sunday School classes will be learning about Lent/Easter in March and April. In this Rotation the children will read stories, play games, make crafts and snacks related to Lent and Easter, you as a family can continue this learning at home by:

- Reading stories in the Bible about Lent and Easter
- Praying
- Do "Because of Jesus A Lent and Easter Season Devotional" with your family (Handed out at Sunday School)

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES:

- **Sunday, March 15, Family Sunday, classes will sing and remain in church with their families**
- **Sunday, March 22, Youth Ringtones Handbell Choir will play at Worship, then go to Sunday School**
- **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12**
- **YEAR-END SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM, Sunday, May 17, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL August 3 - 6**
VBS OLYMPICS: TEAM JESUS (Held in the evening)

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 27	DraMontae Sanders
MAR 28	Ava Gilberg Hanna Goldsmith

**BOOK REVIEW****The Pieces We Keep**

by Kristina McMorris

The author shows the depth of a mother's bond with her child and the power of personal histories in this story. Veterinarian Audra Hughes is grieving her husband's death and plans to leave Portland for a new job in Philadelphia, but her son Jack's violent nightmares postpone her move. She starts to trace bits of information from his dreams, leading to the unraveling of a mystery dating back to World War II and uncovering old family secrets. The book tells two separate stories, leading to a poignant conclusion.

Kristina McMorris visited Black River Falls when her book, *Sold on a Monday*, was our community read a few years and she spoke about her writing at the Public Library and the Lunda Theater. What a literary talent she is!

Rhoda Gulso, Librarian





Thank you to all who participated in the Silent Auction, whether you donated, bid, or helped organize. The youth appreciate everyone who was involved. A portion of the profits will be used for our Mission trip to New Lisbon this coming June.

The youth will be helping lead some of the Wednesday night Lenten services. While they were at Youth 2019 in Kansas, they had an opportunity for some quiet prayer time. Each of them brought back experiences that they will share on Wednesday nights.

March 4: Youth Group 6 pm, Lenten Worship 6:30 pm
 March 11: Youth Group 6 pm, Lenten Worship 6:30 pm
 March 18: Youth Group 6 pm, Lenten Worship 6:30 pm
 March 25: Youth Group 6 pm, Lenten Worship 6:30 pm
 (youth bringing snack for after worship)

Suzanne Goldsmith

715-896-0224

suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR MARCH

MAR 1 Mary Loveland
 Jeremy, Jana & Ryan Nandory
 Bill & Kathy Perry
 Emily Stewart

MAR 8 Rhonda, Gary & Jessa Ammann
 Pam Bue
 Freddie & Donna Dolesy
 Vernon & Mary Gjersesteth

MAR 15 Linda Heller
 Ashley Huber and Isaiah Burnham
 Jean Lovlien
 Ed Nemec

MAR 22 Derek & Marcie Peterson Family
 Norm & Renea Stoker
 Carol Anderson
 Roger Bue

MAR 29 Jeff & Cheryl Dolsey
 Barry & Freda Goldsmith
 Rosalie Hermanson
 Nancy Iuliano

If you have an announcement or other information that you would like to have posted on the church's Facebook page or the church's website, please forward that information to the Church Office and we will get the information to our website and Facebook coordinator for publication.



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.

Informational Exchange Meeting

Saturday, March 21 from 1:15 p.m.—2:15 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, Tomah, WI

This session is hosted by the Wisconsin Delegation to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and is open to all who are interested. This would be a good time for those who are concerned about what will take place in May at General Conference and in July at Jurisdictional Conference to attend.



Our church is enrolled in **Amazon Smile**, a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible **smile.Amazon.com** purchases to charitable organizations of your choice.

To set up an account, use our unique charity link : <https://smile.amazon.com/ch39-1077829>, and you will automatically be asked if you want to support **Methodist Church of Black River Falls Inc.** After that , all you have to do is use **smile.amazon.com** instead of the usual **amazon.com** when placing an order. Log into your account, and start shopping! It is that easy!

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call the church office and we would be glad to help you with setting up your account.



CAMP SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped support the camp scholarships this year by attending the Pancake Breakfast on February 16. 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 in the Gathering Area.



OUR GRAND PIANO IS A TREASURE

Our grand piano continues to be the most-valuable piece of furniture in our sanctuary. It was hand built of Honduras mahogany in 1913 in Boston, MA, by the Mason & Hamlin Piano Company, a competitor of Steinway & Sons. Many noted pianists, including Sergei Rachmaninoff, preferred a Mason & Hamlin piano over a Steinway instrument.

Margaret Price, who was an accomplished musician, purchased the piano shortly after it was built and used it here in Black River Falls. Margaret lived with her parents, William and Julia Price, in the "Price Mansion," later owned by the Sechler family. This mansion, built in 1883, was torn down in 1950 to provide space for the Evangelical Lutheran Church. (William Price was a principal founder of our church in 1847.)

Margaret Price left Black River in about 1923, and her piano was purchased by Verna Keefe, noted music teacher in our schools for nearly 40 years. Verna was a graduate of Lawrence College and Northwestern University, having majored in music. In addition to her school teaching, Verna gave private piano lessons in her home to dozens of students over the years.

Of great importance in Verna's life is the fact that she was choir director at our church for decades. She died on October 7, 1972, and in her obituary we read:

Miss Keefe gave more years of service to the Methodist Church than she could remember, directing both the chancel and the junior choir. She was still serving the church as choir director at the time of her illness.

Following Verna's death, her brother Maurice "Mike" Keefe gave the piano to our church, and it sat for a number of years, seldom used, weary and battered, in what is now the church library.

In 1997, in conjunction with the church's *Sesqui-centennial*, efforts were initiated to raise money to restore what was by then known as "The Keefe Piano." Those efforts produced close to \$17,000, and in 2001 Kenneth Hannah, professional piano restorer in Stillwater, MN, was hired to do the restoration, which took three months.

On May 12, 2001, an impressive community event was held in our sanctuary. It was a "Dedication Service for the Verna Keefe Memorial Piano." The event featured several piano solos by Sue (Iliff) Haug, a former piano student of Verna's and, at that time, Head of the Department of Music at Iowa State University.

SO...let us not take this special piano for granted, and let us always treat it with respect and great care. It has been a faithful and skillful performer in our community for well over 100 years!

Mary Van Gorden



BRF UMC Calendar of Events—March 2020



SUNDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School
10:30 a.m.—Soul Keeping Study

MONDAY, MARCH 2

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
1:30 p.m.—Circle of Hope Meeting
5:30 p.m.—Circle of Faith Potluck & Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
1:00-4:00 p.m.—Mission Outreach Sewing Day
5:15 p.m.—PreCon
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

2:00-9:00 p.m.—Lifetouch Photo Sessions
6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

2:00-9:00 p.m.—Lifetouch Photo Sessions

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.—Lifetouch Photo Sessions

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School
10:30 a.m.—Soul Keeping Study

MONDAY, MARCH 9

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:15 p.m.—PreCon
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service—Family Sunday
Communion Sunday
10:30 a.m.—Soul Keeping Study
2:30-5:30 p.m.—Staff-Parish Relations
Training at Onalaska UMC

MONDAY, MARCH 16

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

9:00 a.m.—Book Club
4:30-7:00 p.m.—Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:15 p.m.—PreCon
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

1:15-2:15 p.m.—Informational Exchange
Meeting at First UMC in Tomah

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School
10:30 a.m.—Soul Keeping Study

MONDAY, MARCH 23

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice
5:15 p.m.—PreCon
6:00 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Lenten Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:05 a.m.—Sunday School
10:30 a.m.—Soul Keeping Study

