

# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF,

Grace and Peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Lent began last week with Ash Wednesday. This Lent Season has approached in the way we are not used to, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. It has been already one year since we noticed coronavirus around us. However, we are beginning to see a glimmer of hope that we can return to normal in the near future because the corona vaccine is now available to many people.

I was told that many church members are getting vaccinated now. I feel many are eager to come to church to worship in person. Accordingly, our church opened two weeks ago, and we are now able to do some church activities. As pastor, I look forward to seeing our members and to doing a lot of activities together. I pray for all of you to stay well until we meet at church again without any fear.

As we go through the journey of Lent, let us remember that Lent is a time of repentance of our sins and fasting, as well as a time of preparation for the renewal of our baptismal covenant.

For your reference, in the early church candidates for baptism spent as long as three years preparing to be baptized. The last 40 days were known as the “scrutinies,” when candidates examined themselves and church leaders determined whether they were ready to be baptized. Later, Lent became that time when all Christians were invited to consider their need for spiritual renewal. This was common practice by the time of the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

In the middle of Lenten journey, I invite you to examine yourself and how your spiritual life is going, in terms of spiritual discipline. One of most important practices in Lent is fasting. In the Gospels, Jesus spends 40 days in the wilderness to fast and pray. This event was one of the factors that inspired the final length of Lent.

Early Christian practices in the Roman Empire varied from area to area. A common practice was weekly fasting on Wednesday and Friday until mid-afternoon. In addition, candidates for baptism, as well as the clergy, would fast before the rite, which often took place at Easter.

As Christianity spread through Western Europe from the fifth through twelfth centuries, the observance of Lent did as well. A few Lenten days were “black,” or total, fast days. But daily fasting came gradually to be moderated during most of Lent. By the end of the Middle Ages a meal was often permitted at noon.

Church law specified restrictions on the kinds of acceptable food: no meat, or meat products, dairy, or eggs could be consumed at all during Lent, even on Sundays. The idea was to avoid self-indulgence at this time of repentance for one’s sins. Marriage, a joyous ritual, was also prohibited during the Lenten season.

Today, many Christian churches engage in the practice of “giving up something” during Lent. Often this is a favorite food or drink, or another pleasurable activity, like smoking or watching television. Instead, other activities are also suggested, in keeping with the ideal of Lent as a time of for spiritual renewal as well as self-discipline. These include making amends with estranged family and friends, reading of the Bible or other spiritual writers, and community service.

I believe that this Lent Season is perfectly a good time for Christians to do good things for their community, because the COVID pandemic has taught us how important our mindset and behavior toward others are. My incautious and neglectful behavior could definitely cause others’ health and life issues. Not only fasting of food, but also fasting of self-indulgence are absolutely a significant way to help us renew our spirituality. What would you like to give up for others and yourself during Lent?

*“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” – 1 Timothy 4:8*

Love,  
Pastor Inwha Shon





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
MAR 20	Freddie Dolsey
MAR 21	Carol Hornby
MAR 23	Ann Smetana
MAR 25	Mark Maurer
MAR 26	Ed Brauner
	Chris Stewart
MAR 28	Patty Harelson
	Keith Odeen
MAR 30	Harley Boehm

**GET YOUR UMC  
NEWSLETTER ONLINE  
OR BY EMAIL!!**

You can view our newsletter on our web-site at [brfumc.org](http://brfumc.org), or we can email it to you each month.

Only a small number of newsletters are sent by mail to people who do not have email.

Please call or email the church office and help us update our records with your current contact information.

**715-284-4114.**  
**[brfumc@gmail.com](mailto:brfumc@gmail.com)**



MAR 17	Jim & Georgia Earl
MAR 18	Mike & LuAnn Gaede
MAR 24	Barry & Freda Goldsmith
MAR 30	Jim & Andrea Hoffman

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



*Pastor Inwha will be leading a Weekly Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, February 24 through March 24, at 6:00 p.m. This will be a Virtual Study via ZOOM.*

*The study will follow the "Holy Vessels" weekly devotional guide that goes along with our Lenten Series this year.*

*Everyone is invited to participate in the study. Copies of the devotional are available in the Gathering Area at the church. The devotional has also been sent to all who have email.*



**"My words will not pass away."**

LUKE 21:33, NRSV



To UMW Members and Friends,

These days of winter and COVID can have us feeling like every day is the same. On the other hand, we can look forward to experiencing a special moment each day. Think about the variety of activities you might do in the next week. Will you have a phone visit with someone, what will you see as you look out your window, do you read a daily devotion or are you in the middle of reading a book? How about photos that you have stored in albums, photo boxes, plastic totes? This past week I have been reliving many special times as I have looked at old photos.



We received a 40 Days of Gratitude for Lent list in our last UMW Staying Connected newsletter. What a creative and thoughtful way for us to think about what we are grateful for each day. As Ann mentioned in her letter, Lent is not always about giving things up; it can be about doing things with a grateful heart and attitude. Maybe the list will generate some of your own ideas. What an amazing way for you to make each day special for you and maybe someone else.

Enjoy the month of March. I am getting anxious to put my wooden tulips into my windows. Makes me think of spring, flowers, and seeing green.

Luane Meyer



**If you know of someone who is in the hospital or who is working through medical issues at home, or if you know of a family that is working through health issues, or some other crisis, please call the church office so that the Pastor is aware of the need and can respond accordingly.**



### **"Sleep In Heavenly Peace" Bed Build**

On Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, we will be hosting a bed building event in the office area parking lot. The goal of this event is to build 24 single beds for area children who currently are without beds and may be sleeping on floors.

All the necessary power tools, jigs, fasteners, work tables, staining vats, etc. will be provided by the Trempealeau-Jackson County Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter. No previous experience is required as instructors will be present. We will be using face masks and social distancing throughout the morning. Several congregational members have already volunteered to provide water and food for a bratwurst type light lunch for workers and instructors.

We need to raise \$1,200.00 to defray the cost of lumber and procure 20 volunteer workers over the age of 12. Volunteers between 12 and 18 must be accompanied by an adult. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to BRF United Methodist Church and write Bed Build on the memo line. If you wish to volunteer or have questions, please call Ruth or Chuck Buswell at 284-2100.



## ANNUAL CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER



**\* TO GO ORDERS ONLY \***

**\* NO INSIDE SEATING \***

**Wednesday, March 17 — 5:00 p.m. until gone.**

**BRF United Methodist Church, 100 N. 4th Street**

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

**Meatballs with gravy and potatoes will also be available.**

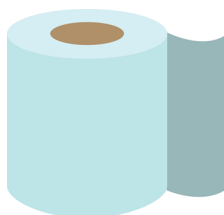
**Call the Church Office to place your orders — 715-284-4114**

**Sponsored by the United Methodist Men's Group**

### **DISPOSABLE DIAPERS AND TOILET PAPER DRIVE**

Throughout this Lenten season, the Mission Outreach Team will be conducting a disposable diaper and toilet paper drive which will benefit the Essential Needs program of the Neighborhood Food Pantry. Both adult and diapers for youngsters of all ages are needed.

Donations of both toilet paper and diapers may be left in the "Pack and Play" located under the canopy on the north side of the church.



# Lent

*Create in me  
a clean heart,  
O God, and  
renew a right  
spirit within me.*

PSALM 51:10, ESV





*Matthew 19:14: But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."*

All Sunday School children, PreK through 7<sup>th</sup> grade should have received a "Lent is For Loving" sheet in the mail. This sheet has daily activities that can be completed throughout the Lenten Season. Color the activity in, and when completed return to Ms. Beth for a prize on Easter Sunday or after Easter. If by some chance your child or youth did not receive one, please contact Ms. Beth and she will get one to you ASAP.

Sunday School classes will be learning about Symbols of Holy Week and Easter in March. They will be reading about the events of Holy Week in the Bible and various activities.

In-person Sunday School begins Sunday, March 7 at 9:15 a.m. (after the Children's Message in worship) and ends at 10:00 a.m. (Children are encouraged to attend worship with their families at 9:00 a.m. They will be dismissed to go to Sunday School following the Children's Message). All teachers and children will meet in the Gathering Area by the elevator to go to their assigned classrooms. Pick up at 10:00 a.m. will be in the Gathering Area as well. Masks are required for anyone 5 years old and older.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!! NO SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER SUNDAY, April 4. We hope to see you at In-Person Worship!**

**United Methodist Summer Camps at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne are being offered this year. If you are interested in your child or even you as a parent going contact, Ms. Beth for more camp details and scholarship info or go to <https://wiumcamps.org> to check it out online.**

**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 and by the Church Office 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](http://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

The following "Thank Yous" have been received since we sent the funds that were given for our "Christmas Gifts" collection last December:

*Thank you for your donation to Friends Sharing Food, Inc. Our mission is to help reduce hunger for Jackson County families. We operate four separate food programs: Food for Kids, Friends Food Shelf, Jackson County Food Pantry, and Neighborhood Food Pantry. We serve hundreds of Jackson County families each month. Your financial gift helps us to continue with our mission. It is greatly needed and appreciated.*

*Friends Sharing Food, Inc. Board of Directors*

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*Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR (for California Wildfires) may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be — Thank you! Through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms and disasters — sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need! Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.*

*Roland Fernandes, General Secretary  
Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church*

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*Thank you so very much! We offer you our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your donation to Bolton Refuge House Inc. Your contribution enables us to assist abused persons and children in the community. We provide safe shelter, support groups, economic and legal advocacy, children's programs, a transitional living program, and other services that would not be possible without the kindness and generosity of people like you. The Board Members, staff and volunteers of Bolton Refuge House wish to thank you, too!*

*Patricia Stein, Executive Director*



We are grateful to be meeting once again in person. As we go through this joyous season of Lent, a time for renewal, we are using the Holy Vessels Bible Study to help us breathe in the Acts of Healing.

We meet each Wednesday from 5:30-6:15 p.m. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome. Everyone is always welcome to bring a friend.

We will be following safety protocols, social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitizing as needed.

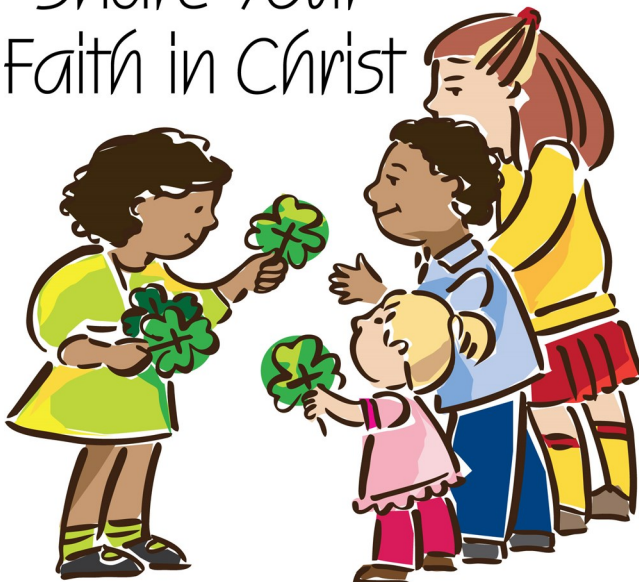
UMC Summer Camp registration is now open. If you are interested in attending a camp, check out a full description of each camp and register at [222.wiumcamps.org](http://222.wiumcamps.org). Scholarships are available through our church. Please contact Suzanne 715-896-0224 or Beth at 715-896-0823 with questions or for more information.

On April 24th, the youth will be joining Mission Outreach making beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Mark your calendars and watch for more information soon.

If you have any questions about our Youth Group, please give me a call or text me at 715-896-0224 or email me at [sziegoldsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:sziegoldsmith@hotmail.com).

Suzanne

Share Your  
Faith in Christ



## PRAYER FAMILIES FOR MARCH

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| MAR 7  | Les & Linda Rhoades<br>Terrie Stevens<br>Ann Zillmer<br>Jean Anderson            |
| MAR 14 | Tyler Bue<br>Tammie, Michael & Ryan Dobson<br>Janet Gilbertson<br>David Hammond  |
| MAR 21 | Don & Lori Holcomb<br>Mike & Leanne Kappen<br>Tim & Mary McCann<br>Bruce Odeen   |
| MAR 28 | Bob & Clarice Rush<br>Chris Stewart<br>Rodney Zirk<br>Darrell & Cathy Armbruster |

## EASTER BLOOMS

We are taking orders for Easter Flowers that will decorate our church on Easter Sunday. Flowers may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones, and they will be available for you to take home with you following our Easter Sunday worship service.

You may choose from the following Easter flowers that are available:

- Single Easter Lilies—\$15.00
- Double Easter Lilies—\$30.00
- Azaleas—\$25.00
- Begonias—\$25.00
- Mums—\$25.00

Please call Jill in the Church Office (715-284-4114) to place your order for the Easter flowers of your choice.





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.



We are collecting blankets to help homeless people stay warm in this cold winter weather. Any blankets you would like to donate can be brought to the church and put in the orange tub in the Gathering Area. Your generosity is appreciated so much!!!



## TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON:

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray. Learn about fasting. (Learn more about media fasts.)

9. Start a prayer rhythm. Each day of Lent, go to The Upper Room's prayer wall and pray for another person.

8. Go deeper into the Bible. Take the online course, Worship In Light of the Cross.

7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.) Study a book on forgiveness, such as Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey.

6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee. Let Juliana's Ice Cream Fast inspire you to give up some food or drink as a way to grow closer to God. Give the money you save to help folks in a different part of the world who are in crisis. Pick a current global issue and help change the world.

5. Create a daily quiet time. Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. Read a daily devotional for the season of Lent. See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.

4. Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way. Learn more about spiritual practice of gratitude.

3. Participate in a Lent Photo-a-Day practice and pray each day with your camera in your hand. Start praying.

2. Volunteer one hour or more each week with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry. Learn about the global issues and how you can help.

1. Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work. Download the Nimbus Prayer app and pray as you go through your day.





## *What Happened on This Day in the history of Christianity?*

### **Passing the Flame**

March 1

“How long, O God, shall darkness cover this kingdom?”

Patrick Hamilton’s dying words haunted George Wishart, only son of distinguished James Wishart of Pitarrow, Scotland. George was tall, dark-haired, good-looking, pleasant, and eager to both learn and teach. He believed that God’s way of salvation was through the finished work of Christ alone. Those Reformation beliefs put him at risk.

In 1544 he began preaching in Dundee from the book of Romans. Among his listeners was a young man named John Knox. Knox was struck with Wishart and began serving as his bodyguard, carrying a two-handed sword.

Archbishop David Beaton brutally sought to repress Protestants, and as Wishart’s arrest grew more certain, Knox asked to remain at his side. “No” said Wishart, embracing the younger man. “One is sufficient for a sacrifice at this time.”

On the morning of **March 1, 1546**, Wishart was led to the stake, where he told the crowds, “I exhort you, love the Word of God and suffer patiently. I know surely that my soul shall sup with my Savior this night.” He was then strangled and his body burned to ashes.

His death enraged Knox and all of Scotland, and within two months Archbishop Beaton was assassinated. Knox wasn’t among the murderers, but he vowed not to rest till Scotland was Protestant. It proved a costly vow, for Knox was soon imprisoned on a galley ship, chained to the oars with a whip to his back. He labored to exhaustion with no hope of release.

He was eventually released, and in years to come Knox took Scotland by storm, provoking rulers, inciting riots, demanding change. He prayed down the wrath of heaven on his nemesis, Mary, Queen of Scots. He was called the “Thundering Scot,” and as he aged his visage darkened. The years took their toll on both his health and his patience. He died exhausted, perhaps embittered, in 1572. But his efforts inspired Scots for years to come, and the Reformation triumphed in their land at last.

Elijah prayed: Our Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. Now, prove that you are the God of this nation,... Please answer me, so these people will know that you are the Lord God, and that you will turn their hearts back to you. 1 Kings 18:36,37



Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*





# BRF UMC Calendar of Events—March 2021



## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice  
5:30 p.m.—Youth Group  
6:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study (Virtual)  
7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

## THURSDAY, MARCH 4

10:00 a.m.—Coffee with the Pastor  
6:00 p.m.—Grand Sweep Study (Virtual)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 7

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.—Virtual Fellowship

## TUESDAY, MARCH 9

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting  
5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting  
6:00 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Prayer Vigil  
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice  
5:30 p.m.—Youth Group  
6:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study (Virtual)  
7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

## THURSDAY, MARCH 11

10:00 a.m.—Coffee with the Pastor  
5:30 p.m.—Worship Committee Meeting  
6:00 p.m.—Grand Sweep Study (Virtual)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 14

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.—Virtual Fellowship  
10:30 a.m.—Mission Outreach Meeting (FH)

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Prayer Vigil  
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice  
5:00 p.m.—Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner  
5:30 p.m.—Youth Group  
6:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study (Virtual)  
7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

## THURSDAY, MARCH 18

10:00 a.m.—Coffee with the Pastor  
6:00 p.m.—Grand Sweep Study (Virtual)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.—Virtual Fellowship

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Prayer Vigil  
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice  
5:30 p.m.—Youth Group  
6:00 p.m.—Lenten Bible Study (Virtual)  
7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

## THURSDAY, MARCH 25

10:00 a.m.—Coffee with the Pastor  
6:00 p.m.—Grand Sweep Study (Virtual)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 28

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.—Virtual Fellowship

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Prayer Vigil  
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice  
5:30 p.m.—Youth Group  
7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

# Puzzle!

Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt	denial	kiss	repent
confess	donkey	lots	silver
cross	forsaken	palms	sins
crown	Gethsemane	penance	suffer
crucifixion	Golgotha	Pilate	thorns
death	hosanna	prayer	vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y  
C L E U X B M T H B U C W B  
N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y  
A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B  
N G N L I S N L A I N E D X  
E W M P R V R D H B N R D F  
P S O G O L G O T H A B S C  
D L N R O C O N F E S S I K  
O T H T C P E K W U O U N D  
M N S H N P W E D R H F S K  
U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E  
H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M  
H V H N C X S O C C J R L O  
F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C  
C R U C I F I X I O N S R V