

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2018



Rapper Wisdom?

I will preface this article by confessing that I am not a big fan of rap music. That being said, recently I was introduced to the music of Drake, a Canadian musician who writes his own lyrics. (Maybe they all do.) I find many of Drake’s lyrics to be philosophical in nature. One particular lyric that caused me to ponder it’s deeper meaning is . . .

*“Live without pretending, Love without depending,
Listen without defending, speak without offending.”*

In breaking down the quote I found that it could very well have been spoken by Jesus.

“Live without pretending” - To live without pretending is to be yourself, to be who God created you to be. The world tries to mold us into an image created by the world. Commercials show us how we should look. Peers tell us how we should act, dress, talk if we want to be accepted. Psalm 139:13-14 says you are *“fearfully and wonderfully made.”* You don’t need to pretend to be someone or something you are not because God made you just the way you are for a good reason.

“Love without depending” - Love is unconditional. When you love someone, you can’t just love them when they do exactly what you want or expect them to do. Remember, God loves you unconditionally. God doesn’t love you only when you do what God wants. Regardless of your choices, God loves you. It may seem hard to believe or understand but that’s just who God is. Because we are made in the likeness of God, we need to do the same.

“Listen without defending” - Listening is hard. Especially when someone is criticizing or complaining about something we did or said. But when someone asks us to listen, they have something they want to say and we need to respect their right to say it. When Jesus was baptized, God said, “This is my beloved Son, listen to Him.” Jesus talked about the importance of listening many times for good reason. When your focus is on listening rather than forming your answer while the other person is talking, you will hear more clearly the message. You may not agree with the message but you may just hear more than what is being said; you may hear what is in that person’s heart. The best response once the person has said his or her piece may be “Thank you for being open with me; I respect your right to your opinion.”

“Speak without offending” - Our tongues are often quick, perhaps too quick. We don’t always think about who may be offended when we say what pops into our heads. One of my grandmother’s favorite sayings was, “If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.” If we speak to others in the same way we would want them to speak to us, we will find our world to be more grace-filled.

May You Be Blessed in God’s Abiding Presence ~

Pastor Kathy





MAY 1 Todd Perry
 MAY 2 Vione Brauner
 Mark Hoffman
 Emily Ward
 MAY 3 Bob Uhrig
 MAY 8 Mary McCann
 MAY 9 Ruth Hart
 Rich Prochaska
 MAY 10 Margery Collins
 Matthew Gates
 MAY 11 Becky Boehm
 MAY 12 Jim Hornby
 MAY 14 Chelsey Meinking
 Clarice Rush
 MAY 15 Marcia Devendorf
 MAY 16 Devin Casper
 MAY 18 Virginia Berger
 June Koehler
 MAY 19 LeRoy Simonson
 MAY 20 Lynn Overman
 Marcie Peterson
 MAY 21 Susanne Hefty
 Mildred Schoolcraft
 MAY 22 Dave Meyer
 MAY 23 Lovey Dambach
 Marilyn McKeeth
 MAY 25 Suzanne Goldsmith
 Josh Ward
 MAY 26 Dick Greene
 Fran Simonson
 MAY 27 Steve Harelson
 Mary O'Brien
 Leah Olson
 MAY 28 Dick Moldenhauer
 MAY 29 Ann Zillmer

MAY 1 Freddie & Donna Dolesy
 MAY 4 Mark & Carol Jarrett
 MAY 7 Wayne & Beth Bue
 MAY 9 Chuck & Marcia Devendorf
 MAY 10 Dave & Kim Gjerseth
 MAY 14 Duane & Connie Nosbisch
 MAY 15 Jim & Debbie Ward
 MAY 16 Jerry & Lynn Overman
 MAY 18 Gary & Rhonda Ammann
 MAY 21 Tom & Marly Divver
 MAY 29 Jeff & Barb Hagenbrock
 MAY 30 Pat & Diane Moe
 MAY 31 Todd & Lisa Perry



**We will
 continue to have
one worship service
 at 9:00 a.m.
 through
 the summer.
NO CHANGE IN OUR
WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**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 would prefer this way of reading your monthly newsletter.



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

From *response*....

LIFE TOGETHER “As people who have been created in God’s image, we too are to be covenantal in nature, considering all creatures as we make decisions and go about our daily lives. We are to remember our primary vocation as described in Genesis 2:15, which is to care for ourselves as well as the earth. We are to acquaint ourselves with the members of the creation around us, human and nonhuman, so that we are informed before making important decisions. We are to have an awareness of the life around us, including a working relationship with it. We are to walk alongside all life, from the human neighbors who live in the house next door to the tree in our backyard. We are to stand with them in their joys and in their challenges, as fellow creatures experiencing life together...

“The task and vocation of relationship-building takes time, dedication, and courage. Getting to know our neighbors may be our most primary call to ministry, as well as the most challenging, as it awakens in us the need to step outside of interconnectedness, and it calls us to a life that is far from convenient. In exploring our experience of life on earth as human beings, Richard Rohr writes, ‘We each get our little chance to dance on this stage of life, to reflect the glory of God back to God and to participate with everything and everyone else.’ It is exciting that we are given the opportunity to live abundantly in ministry with God and with all of creation as we recognize that life is a group activity. We can try to glorify God and love God individually, which is good in and of itself. But it is the collective work with other members of the creation that most reflects God’s love for the world and God’s work in it.” (Jessica Stonecypher, “GIVE,” *response*, April 2018, p. 21.)

Important Dates:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 7 | Circle of Hope at 1:30 PM at the church; Circle of Faith at 5:30 PM at Mocha Mouse |
| May 7 | North Central District Spring Retreat at Pine Lake |
| June 4 | UMW Annual Picnic -- Bring a salad or dessert to pass. Sandwiches, beverages, dishes provided. |



This summer we will again be sponsoring dinner and a movie in the months of June, July and August. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available in the bulletins and newsletter.



Church Camp

There’s still time to sign up for summer camp!!!! Summer Camps for all ages are provided at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne. The power of camp is lifelong friendships, outdoor adventure, positive Christian role models, and meaningful conversations. The campers who attend camp share with us how their faith is strengthened and how they become closer to God. If you are interested in attending camp this summer, check out www.WIUMCamps.org or contact camp coordinators, Beth Bue at 715-28407494 or Suzanne Goldsmith at 715-896-0224.





**Need a gift for a special Graduate?
How about a Mother's Day gift
or Father's Day gift?**

Just a Reminder... Scrip cards are the perfect gift and you will be helping out the General Fund in our church at the same time. We have many cards on hand that would make excellent gifts, and we can order special cards for you, too. See Rhoda, Rhonda, Lois or Joan each Sunday morning in the Gathering Area of the church to purchase your gift cards.

Below is an updated list of the available Scrip Cards and the percentages the church receives from the purchase of each card:

<u>%</u>	<u>Card name</u>
5	Ace Hardware
4	Amazon
8	Applebee's
8	Arby's
9	Barnes & Noble
9	Bath & Body
8	Buffalo Wild Wings
5	Culvers
7	Denny's
5	Hansens
5	Hardees
2	Holiday
5	I Tunes
4	Kohls
4	Kwik Trip
10	Macy's
3	Menards
9	Olive Garden
9	Panera Bread
8	Papa Murphys
15	Perkins
8	Revolution
3	Subway
3	Target
8	Texas Roadhouse
9	T.G. Fridays
2.5	Walmart
8	Younkers

RADIO BROADCASTS

APR 22

In memory of Allan Michael Boehm sponsored by a friend.



THE LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL FOR THIS SPRING WILL BE MAY 2. ON THE MENU WILL BE:

- Chicken & Biscuits
- Green Beans
- Jello
- Desserts
- Beverages

STAY TUNED FOR THE STARTING DATE FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY MEALS IN THE FALL.



2018 GRADUATES

The graduating high school seniors of our congregation will be honored at the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 10. This year's graduates are:

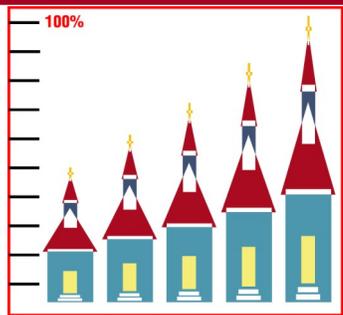
- Stephanie Brauner*
- Alex Hoffman*
- Lauren Perry*
- Jacob Woods*

If there are any additions or corrections to this list, please notify Jill in the Church Office at once. Each graduate is asked to submit a picture and short paragraph explaining what they will be doing after graduation by Thursday, May 31, so that we can prepare a display of the graduating seniors for the congregation on Sunday, June 10. Letters will be sent to all seniors soon with details of this special service.

FINANCIAL REPORT - End of First Quarter 2018

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% of Annual Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Pledges	\$ 52,147.53	220,000.00	24%
Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 7,251.49	62,700.00	12%
Other Income	<u>\$ 2,766.29</u>	<u>16,950.00</u>	16%
Total	\$ 62,165.31	299,650.00	21%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Apportionments	\$ 0.00	49,896.00	0%
Pastoral Support	\$ 28,329.44	115,574.00	25%
Program Staff	\$ 22,055.42	92,488.00	24%
Programming	\$ 1,453.80	6,900.00	21%
Operations	<u>\$ 11,058.39</u>	<u>51,400.00</u>	22%
Total	\$ 62,879.05	316,258.00	20%

Thank you so much for your continued giving to support your church and its many ministries!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are almost there! We are at \$190,000.00!!! With everyone's help, we can make the \$200,000 that we are looking for. This is going to go a long way in staying on top of the building needs as they arise.

Special thanks to the committee for all the hard work and patience in dealing with the tough issues. The Board of Trustees will be formulating a plan to move forward on the projects, and set a realistic time-line for completion of the repairs that are needed right now. They will also be putting into place a process for going forward as needs come up.

Please Let Us Know ...

If you know of someone who is in the hospital or who is working through medical issues at home, please call the church office (715-284-4114) 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 (715-284-4114) and Jill will pass the information to the Caring Meal Crew.

Thank you for your help!





Sunday School

Another year of Sunday School is coming to an end. The Rotation Curriculum continues to be a success, and we are looking forward to continuing with this curriculum in the 2018-2019 year.

Our Year-End Program will be held on Sunday, May 13. All Sunday School students will be participating in the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. We will be practicing every Sunday up to May 13. Please make every effort to have your child attend Sunday School. After the program please join us in the Gathering Area for muffins, coffee, and juice hosted by the Education Committee and Sunday School Team.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the Sunday School Team:

Creation Station: Barb Goldsmith, Ann Smetana, Penny Goldsmith, Ashley Jessen, Carrie Farnsworth, and Rita Casper

God's Diner: Megan Finch, Barb Goldsmith, Joan Zenz, Ashley Jessen,

Godly Games: Mike Rave

Music Assistant: Penny Goldsmith

6th and 7th Grade Class:: Roxie Hostrawser

THANK YOU to the adults who were substitutes or helped throughout the year. This program could not exist without volunteers!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held August 14 - 17. A meal will be served from 5:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. with a VBS start time of 6:00 p.m. We are in need of substitutes, teachers, and helpers for VBS. Contact Beth Bue if you are able to help us out.

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. Thank you to everyone who has helped us by bringing in their ink cartridges and cell phones for recycling. This fundraiser is used to purchase Vacation Bible School supplies.

REMINDER: Sunday School begins at 9:20 a.m. and ends 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. 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

MAY 2	Isaac Hoffman William Hoffman
MAY 5	Karnelia Sroka
MAY 15	Alexander Olson
MAY 25	Benjamin Breining Brett Dougherty
MAY 31	Zachary Johnson

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.



UPCOMING YOUTH DATES:

May 2: Raking at Judy Goldsmith's—leaving the church at 5:15 p.m.
 May 9: 6:00-7:00 p.m.—Art Night
 May 16: 6:00-7:00 p.m.—Games/Devotion Night
 May 23: 6:00-7:00 p.m.—Year-End Fun Night

**YOUTH 2019**

Every four years, youth from throughout the United Methodist Church gather for four days of discipleship, fun, and fellowship at the YOUTH event. The event is filled with interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and fellowship time. Expect inspiration, support, and challenges to authentically experience what it means to be United Methodist. Information has been sent out and to all youth families. This event is for all youth in grades 6th-12th for the 2019 year. If you don't receive anything in the mail and would like information on it, please contact Suzanne at 715-896-0224. The website is www.youth2019.org if you would like to check out any additional information.

Suzie Goldsmith
 715-896-0224
 Suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com
 Black River Falls UMC Youth Group Facebook

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR MAY

MAY 6	Emily & Harper Ward Eric, Kyle, Owen & Iris Zenz Jim, Emma & Ethan Bible Bonnie Burnham
May 13	Jeff, Cheryl & Danielle Dolsey John Gates Sonny & Marcia Hagen Nancy Hindes
May 20	Russ, Amy, Karsten & Zowie Hunter Mary Loveland Dick & Bernice Moldenhauer Bob & Elaine Ott
May 27	Andy, Katie & Edwin Whaley Chuck & Ruth Buswell Rosemary Dvorak Todd & Lyn Gates





Van Etta Library Book Review

The Hideaway

by Lauren Denton

After her last remaining family member dies, Sara Jenkins goes home to The Hideaway, her grandmother Mags' ramshackle bread and breakfast in Sweet Bay, Alabama. She intends to quickly tie up loose ends, then return to her busy life and thriving antique shop in New Orleans. Instead, she learns Mags has willed The Hideaway to her and charged her with renovating it—no small task considering her grandmother's best friends, a motley crew of senior citizens, still live there. While at the property, she discovers a box Mags left in the attic with clues to a life Sara never imagined for her grandmother.

Rhoda Gulso, Librarian



MEN'S GROUP

We have been a little lax the past couple of months. I am hopeful with the warmer weather we can motivate ourselves to get more active. We are planning on meeting on Saturday, May 5, providing there are no other obstacles that come up. We had a great turn-out for our Corned Beef Dinner in March and are looking forward to doing some more odd jobs around the church this summer.

Wayne Bue

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..

BRF UMC Calendar of Events—May 2018



WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

- 9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
- 3:15 p.m.—Youth Bell Choir Practice
- 4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal
- 5:00 p.m.—PreCon
- 5:00 p.m.—Confirmation
- 5:15 p.m.—Youth Group (raking)

THURSDAY, MAY 3

- 4:00 p.m.—Mission Outreach Meeting
- 5:00 p.m.—Spirit Practice
- 7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

SATURDAY, MAY 5

- 8:30 a.m.—UM Men's Group Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 6

- 9:00 a.m.—Worship Service (Confirmation)
- 9:20 a.m.—Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice

MONDAY, MAY 7

- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- Pastor Kathy Day Off
- 1:30 p.m.—Circle of Hope Meeting
- 4:30 p.m.—UMW Officers/Mocha Mouse
- 5:30 p.m.—Circle of Faith/Mocha Mouse

TUESDAY, MAY 8

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

- 9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
- 10:00 a.m.—Book Club
- 3:15 p.m.—Youth Bell Choir Practice
- 6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

SUNDAY, MAY 13

- 9:00 a.m.—Sunday School Year-End Program
- 10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice

MONDAY, MAY 14

- Pastor Kathy Day Off
- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

- 9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
- 6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

THURSDAY, MAY 17

- 5:00 p.m.—Spirit Practice
- 7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

SUNDAY, MAY 20

- 9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
- 10:15 a.m.—Choir Practice

MONDAY, MAY 21

- Pastor Kathy Day Off
- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

- 9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
- 6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

THURSDAY, MAY 24

- 7:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

SUNDAY, MAY 27

- 9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
- 10:15 a.m.—UMC Choir Practice

MONDAY, MAY 28

- MEMORIAL DAY
- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

- 9:00 AM—Prayer Group

