

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2020



Dear Beloved,

I pray that you and those around you are staying safe by sheltering at home. It has been a month and a half since we have been under the “safer at home” declarations. On April 20th, the governor published the “Badger Bounce Back” plan for businesses and group gatherings to reopen and start.

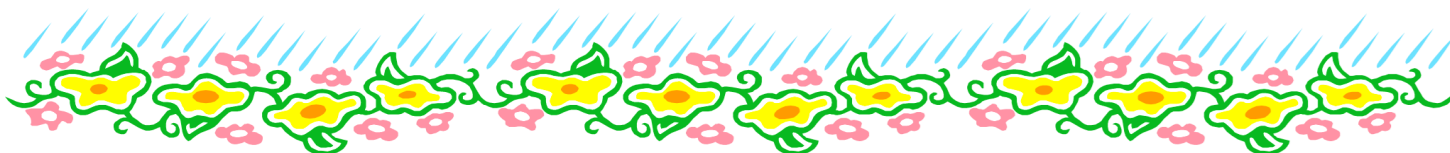
The leadership of our congregation has been meeting via, email and ZOOM to determine where we go from here. Under the “Safer at home” declaration, groups of less than ten can meet as long as they are following safe social distancing guidelines. Thus, we have been doing live worship with a maximum of six people at the church. Under phase one of the “Badger Bounce Back” protocol, we have no changes. Thus for the foreseeable future, we will continue to worship via radio and Facebook. The Wisconsin Council of Churches put out a release on April 23rd titled “Returning to Church – Ministry during the COVID-19 outbreak.” That document gives us guidelines to follow as the state progresses through the three phases outlined in “Badger Bounce Back.”

As your pastor, I have been trying to be spiritually supportive by sending out emails, placing the same information on our Facebook page and keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. I am not one who needs to be needed so I have not been making lots of phone calls or writing letters to see how you are doing. BUT! If you need someone to talk to, I listen real well. So, please, if you need spiritual guidance or comfort, give me a call at 608-547-5964. I am not married to my phone so leave a message if I do not answer and I will get back to you ASAP.

As we move forward in this new era, remain confident in this, God, our Father, who created you and calls you by name, will never leave you nor forsake you but will undergird you by the power of his Holy Spirit no matter what the future holds. We are his and he is ours. Amen!

In Jesus’ love and care,

Pastor Wendell





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
MAY 11	Becky Boehm
MAY 12	Jim Hornby
MAY 14	Chelsey Meinking
	Clarice Rush
MAY 15	Marcia Devendorf
MAY 18	Virginia Berger
	June Koehler
MAY 19	LeRoy Simonson
MAY 20	Lynn Overman
	Marcie Peterson
MAY 21	Susanne Hefty
MAY 22	Dave Meyer
MAY 23	Lovey Dambach
	Marilyn McKeeth
MAY 25	Suzanne Goldsmith
	Josh Ward
MAY 26	Dick Greene
	Fran Simonson
MAY 27	Mary O'Brien
	Leah Olson
MAY 29	Ann Zillmer
MAY 31	Zachary Johnson



MAY 1	Freddie & Donna Dolesy
MAY 4	Mark & Carol Jarrett
MAY 7	Wayne & Beth Bue
MAY 9	Chuck & Marcia Devendorf
MAY 10	Dave & Kim Gjerseeth
MAY 16	Jerry & Lynn Overman
MAY 18	Gary & Rhonda Ammann
MAY 29	Jeff & Barb Hagenbrock
MAY 30	Pat & Diane Moe
MAY 31	Todd & Lisa Perry



At this time we don't know if we will be able to worship together in the Sanctuary this summer. Please continue to tune in to WWIS Radio 99.7 FM and Facebook live on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.



Spring Is Here!

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.

Dear UMW Friends,

Hope everyone has been managing our stay-at-home situation. We have seen many caring and creative ways of neighbors helping neighbors, businesses providing services to customers, and volunteers reaching out to community members.



Our upcoming UMW events had both been scheduled for June including our fundraiser, No-Bake Bake Sale, and the Picnic Social. Plans are to move forward with the fundraiser through the usual early June mailing. The picnic is on hold as we wait to see what steps are taken for us to start moving around the community.

May you share some special connections during this time with those in your household, by phone calls, letters or computer visits. Sitting down with a book or magazine is a great way to spend your time.

Have a blessed day,

Luane Meyer



Are you 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.?

If not, here is how to set up your 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! Do your summer shopping and help your church at the same time!

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.

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.

Also, if you need spiritual guidance or comfort, you can give Pastor Wendell a call at 608-547-5964. If he doesn't answer, please leave him a message and he will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help!



E-GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT!

Electronic Giving (E-Giving) is a way for individual congregation members to direct gifts to the church without 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..

If you would like to sign up for E-Giving, please call Jill in the Church Office. She will be glad to answer any questions you may have and help you fill out an easy authorization form. Now would be a great time to take advantage of this easy and convenient way of giving to your church!



Hopefully everyone is settled into a good routine during this safer-at-home, home schooling time. Life has been rough for many during this transition, but thankfully we have prayer and guidance from our loving Father.

God, we are here today with open arms and open hearts, ready to depend on you to help us through this day with all the blessings it will bring. Help us with your guidance, strength, love, and protection as we face hard situations. Help us remember that we are Your children and that your love for us is unending. In your name we pray, Amen.

Please continue to check into Facebook both on the Youth and Church pages for updated info and guidance.

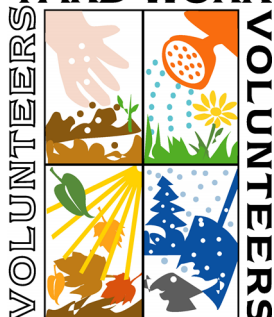
Youth Facebook:

Black River Falls UMC Youth Group

Church Facebook:

Black River Falls United Methodist Church

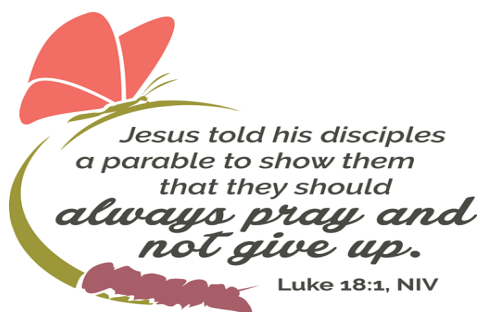
YARD WORK



Interfaith Caregivers are getting ready to help with spring clean-up for some of our older members in the community. Unfortunately, volunteers can only do light outside work, like raking, and other outside clean-up. Volunteers are not able to help in homes at this time.

If you are in need of help with yard work or other outside work, you can call Interfaith at 715-284-7058. They are assigning two people to each site.

If you would like to be one of the volunteers to help with these clean-up projects, please call the Interfaith office and let them know.



2020 GRADUATES

Congratulations to the graduating high school seniors of our congregation. This year's graduates are:

*Jaida Decorah
Sam Lund
Tyler Woods*

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic going on at this time, are unable to gather for worship in the sanctuary and have a graduation ceremony as we have done in the past. We extend our best wishes for a future filled with happiness and success to each of these young members of our church family.

FINANCIAL REPORT - End of First Quarter 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Balance</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>				
Weekly Offerings	\$ 38,637.01	70,244.75	275,700.00	25%
Special Offerings	\$ 0.00	0.00	7,000.00	0%
Other Income	\$ 431.86	2,527.86	16,950.00	15%
Total	\$ 39,068.87	72,772.61	299,650.00	24%
<u>Expenses</u>				
Apportionments	\$ 0.00	0.00	44,700.00	0%
Programming	\$ 334.94	1,627.39	6,600.00	25%
Pastoral Support	\$ 7,090.98	21,272.94	92,100.00	23%
Program Staff	\$ 6,898.06	21,480.98	93,266.00	23%
Operations	\$ 6,993.83	14,566.60	51,100.00	29%
Total	\$ 21,317.81	58,947.91	287,766.00	20%

Your continued giving to support your church during this coronavirus pandemic is greatly appreciated.



PRAYER FAMILIES FOR MAY

MAY 3	Justin, Danielle, Mackenzie & Brett Dougherty Rich, Suzanne & Ella Goldsmith Dick Hilliker Mark, Carol & McKenna Jarrett
May 10	Mark, Tia & Jillian Maurer, Leah Kehr, Xavier Olson John, Shirlie, Keisha & Hunter Nimmo Rich & Jill Prochaska Bob Uhrig
May 17	Jack & Traci Bailey Bonnie Burnham Rosemary Dvorak Howard & Kristie Gomer
May 24	Nancy Hindes Dan & Mary Jelinek Tim & Mary McCann Mary O'Brien
May 31	Mike, Dana, Abigayle & Annaliese Rave Mary Van Gorden Amara Baker Chuck & Ruth Buswell



Did anyone think in their wildest dreams that we would be experiencing a pandemic? Definitely not me! So much has changed for all of us, not going to Worship, no Sunday School, no work or working from home, social distancing, homeschool, and the list goes on. Sunday School has happened via Zoom 3 times now and we are all adapting. Our latest lesson was on strength, we learned about David and Samson from the Bible. Daniel 11:32 says, "But the people who know their God will be strong." How can we strengthen our faith and our relationship with God during this time? The children came up with some pretty good ideas such as prayer, reading the Bible, being nice to others, and making cards for people. All of the above ideas can help with any fears or anxiety anyone may be having during the pandemic. I will continue having Sunday School via Zoom during "safer at home" orders. If you have not joined us yet, let me know and I will be sure to send you an invite.

I found this online and thought it was appropriate for all families right now. It is important to stay connected and to support each other emotionally, spiritually, and physically during this challenging time.

Connect kids

Open their hearts to accept others
Nurture their excitement in worship
Nourish their souls through prayer & Bible study
Encourage service in God's Kingdom
Cultivate the growth of their faith
Train them for a life-long relationship with Jesus

As of right now Vacation Bible School will be held **August 24-27** instead of the first week of August that was previously announced. The theme will also be changed to "**ROAR, Life is Wild, God is Good**" since the Olympics were cancelled until 2021.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

MAY 2	Isaac Hoffman
	William Hoffman
MAY 5	Karnelia Sroka
MAY 8	Kyle Hansen
MAY 25	Benjamin Breining
	Brett Dougherty



While many of our usual mission activities have been put on hold while we are staying safer at home during the Covid-19 pandemic, your Mission Outreach committee is still planning for the summer.

The Mission Outreach committee will make a table available this summer in the Gathering Area for your excess garden produce. When you have more vegetables than you can use, bring the bounty to church to share with your church family.

So as you plan your garden this spring, think about adding an extra row or two so you will have produce to share.



Tentative plans also include learning opportunities for food preservation techniques and some cooking lessons.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this finds you well, physically, mentally and spiritually. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced all of us into actions and inactions that we never expected. Our congregation faces this new challenge of being

unable to meet for corporate worship on Sunday morning. We have shifted into an online worship service thanks to the flexibility of our pastor and our techies. We are certainly grateful for their efforts.

Above all, we are concerned about the health and safety of our congregants. With that in mind, we are looking at how and when we can resume “normal” operations at Black River Falls United Methodist Church. Our Wisconsin Conference released a plan for return to normal and we intend to follow this plan.

We are currently observing the shelter in place directive. Essentially, this means online church services and bible studies. We will shortly be moving to Phase One of this plan which includes: Online church services, bible study and church meetings; weddings and funerals with attendance of 10 or fewer participants maintaining social distancing; church office work kept to essential functions only; and people at greatest risk (those over 60 and those in poor health or compromised immune systems) to continue to shelter in place. This phase is to continue until our communities see continuing declining case counts, widespread availability of testing, contact tracing and no PPE shortages.

These criteria are difficult to calculate and assess. As we see additional testing we will naturally see increased case counts even if the situation is improving. Nevertheless, we will update our congregants as our options open and we are free to open our doors. When we are free to open our doors again, we cannot expect the church to continue with operations as they existed before Covid-19. For the foreseeable future we will be observing social distancing, encouraging the use of protective masks and gloves, limiting contact such as handshakes or hugs, eliminating sharing food or drinks, and encouraging those at risk to continue to shelter in place while worshipping from home.

During these transitions, we can expect divisions to arise in our state and nation as people with differing opinions voice their views. It is my prayer that our community in Christ holds on to the Gospel and virtually hold on to each other as we remember the love which binds us together. That love is stronger than the divisions. We will emerge from this as unified and faithful as we choose to be.

Please watch for additional emails and bulletins to learn about options for study on Sundays and possibly other days of the week as well. As always, contact the church office with questions and concerns.

Yours in Christ,

Rod McGillivray
Administrative Council Chairperson

BRF UMC Calendar of Events MAY 2020

Due to the current coronavirus crisis, all BRF UMC worship services and activities are cancelled until further notice!! Stay tuned for updates when things start to improve.

