

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF,

Peace be with you. I am so glad to see you in person in our beautiful sanctuary. I appreciate that we had a wonderful Easter worship service, and I am grateful to our worship team members, especially Katrina McGil-livray and Roxie Hostrawser who voluntarily bought and beautifully displayed those materials.

It is unfortunate and sad for us to lose our beloved pianist Jackie Shankey a week after Easter. She was dedicated to our church and community her entire life. I personally was strongly impacted by her faith and kindness, even though I had known her for just a few months. I pray for her bereaved family, as well as our members who remember her as a friend and colleague. I appreciate that many came to celebrate her life at our church, that Spirit praise team willingly took part in the funeral service by singing beautifully for her, that Theresa Paul and Wayne Bue voluntarily helped to operate the sound system and projector, and that Tom Epps wonderfully helped me to lead the funeral service.

Recently, as you might know, I moved to BRF from Tomah with the help of our members: Dave Dettinger, Chuck Devendorf, Jim Hoffman, Jim Hornby, Rod and Katrina McGillivray, and Paula Voskuil. Some of them came to my old place in Tomah several times to pack my things and deliver it to the new place. Even in the rain, many of you voluntarily brought your trucks and cars to pick up our things from thirty minutes away. I also know many of you wanted to come help but couldn't make it due to rain or work. I appreciate that Jim Kaphengst as chair of SPRC arranged this help.

I want to give huge thanks, especially, to Jim and Andrea Hoffman who helped me because I had to pay the penalty for breaking the lease agreement in Tomah and also had to pay to hold the place in BRF, as well as for a moving company so that I could move my piano and some furniture conveniently. How magnanimous they are! I have never before met people who were so willing to support the pastor without any reservations. They wanted the pastor to stay in the community around the church so that I could build relationships with members and could do the ministries of our church more easily. I realize that their generosity is an investment in our church. I was amazed at their faith because they invest in spiritual things for God's people. I discovered that their life is not based on a this-life-only perspective, but that they live from the view-point of eternity.

Also, I wanted to say many thanks to Jim and Carol Hornby who helped me get my garden plots tilled last week-end. How beautifully we love each other in Christ Jesus!

I cannot help but mention Jone and Peter Hoffman who actually introduced me to my current place to move into when I visited them. And it was Jone who surprised us by ringing our doorbell and welcomed us gladly with homemade cookies the first day morning after I moved in this place.

I appreciate that Jim Hornby came the next day to set up my furniture with shims and an electric saw; Katrina and Rod brought a TV mount to install my old TV on the wall.

I feel delighted in the saints at BRF who love one another so much and love our church amazingly. I am sure that we live the resurrection life. Thank you so much.

May God bless you all to be strong in God's love.

1 John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.”

Love,
Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon





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 Gile
	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	Steve Harelson
	Mary O'Brien
	Leah Olson
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 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



Our Sanctuary will be open for in-person worship at 9:00 a.m. through the summer. We will continue to recommend social distancing and mask wearing until more people are able to be vaccinated.



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.

Hi to UMW Members and Friends,

Through a variety of mission projects, UMW internationally and nationally supports underserved women with financial resources for the opportunities to learn new skills in entrepreneurship and leadership. These skills lead to a brighter future as women begin start-up businesses or find themselves prepared to work within their communities that will bring financial support to their families.



Our local unit recently completed the 2021 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Campaign - *She Leads: Empowering Women to Make A Difference*. This campaign is an opportunity for UMW to GIVE – and as we generously give, we remember with confidence all that God has already done in and through us and all that God has yet for us to do.

Felizarda in Mozambique received financial support to start a broiler chicken business that is thriving in her community and for her family. Now Felizarda offers support to the UMW Poultry Project that continues to provide seed funding to other women. Emily and her family immigrated to California. To help her husband provide financially for the family, Emily enrolled in English as a Second Language classes, developed a resume, prepped her interview skills and was able to secure a permanent job.

One hundred percent of the money given through this mission drive goes directly to fund projects and partners related to the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial theme of the year. Each year, this is the opportunity to offer gifts that make a real change in the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

Luane Meyer



*The family and friends of
Jackie L. Shankey
who passed away on April 10, 2021.*

*Jackie blessed so many people with
her beautiful piano and organ music.
She will be greatly missed.*



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.

Thank you for your help!



2020/2021 Sunday School year has been another wild year with the pandemic, however everyone is handling it like champs! Families have been patient, strong and understanding with last minute changes, thank you for that! I am praying that 2021/2022 Sunday School will look a bit more normal, more what everyone is used to.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Sunday School Team:

Roxie Hostrawser
Barb Goldsmith
Ann Smetana
Megan Finch
Penny Goldsmith
Beth Amborn

Volunteers allow Sunday School to happen. Thanks to all who “give up” a portion of their Sunday mornings to teach kiddos about God.

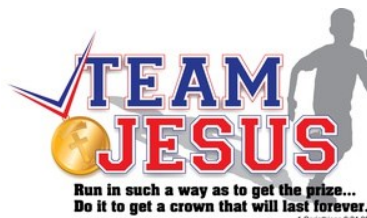
A BIG THANK YOU to Roxie Hostrawser for teaching Sunday School for 34 years! She has decided it is time to “retire” from teaching every Sunday so she is able to spend more time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. Sunday School is blessed that Roxie has been a part of our program. She is creative, flexible, caring, loving, and an amazing servant to God. She will gladly be a substitute though so she will still be a part of our program!

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 for photos and other information.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

MAY 2	Isaac Hoffman William Hoffman
MAY 5	Karnelia Sroka
MAY 8	Kyle Hansen
May 15	Zowie Hunter
MAY 25	Benjamin Breining Brett Dougherty

2021 Vacation Bible School **VBS Olympics, TEAM JESUS** **August 2-5, 2021** **5:15 - 7:30 p.m.**



There will be a meal offered from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. **Children must be accompanied by an adult family member during the meal.** VBS will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary every evening.

REGISTRATION FORMS are available in the Gathering Area and on the church webpage at www.brfumc.org. Many fun activities are planned for the week.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated to purchase needed VBS supplies. Items are also needed for the evening meal. If you are willing to donate an item or two, contact Beth Bue. Volunteers are needed to be a part of our VBS team. Contact Beth Bue cell/ text 715 -896-0823, or email snoballbue.65@gmail.com if you are able to help.





Our Youth Group year is quickly coming to an end. Our last night for the school year will be May 19th. This has been quite a year for everyone, including the Youth Group. We are very thankful that we have been blessed with amazing youth and families that have stuck through so much change as we have navigated through waters unknown to so many of us. We continue to be in prayer that we can welcome some normalcy starting in September.

We will have two gatherings this summer, including another movie night. More info will be in the summer newsletter and also on our Facebook page.

On Sunday, May 16, we will be having a Spring into Summer party after worship. All youth in 6th-12th grades are welcome to join us for some fun, faith and fellowship. Postcards with more information will be sent out.

Suzanne Goldsmith
715-896-0224
suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com
Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group



2021 GRADUATES

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

Abigail Hill
Faith Leisgang
Keisha Nimmo
Kaylee Peterson
Mason Schultz

We will be honoring our graduates at the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 23. Cake and refreshments will be served in their honor following the service. Please join us in recognizing the accomplishments of these young members of our church family!



Easter Flowers were given:

In Memory Of:

- * *William Hostrawser* from the Hostrawser Family
- * *Donna Smikrud* from Jim & Roxie Hostrawser
- * *Virgil & Erma Bue* from Wayne & Beth Bue
- * *Gary Goldsmith* from Wayne & Beth Bue
- * *Gene & Ione Dana* from Rich & Jill Prochaska
- * *John & Marie Prochaska* from Rich & Jill Prochaska
- * *Richard Carrier* from Barry & Karolyn Gjersestet Family
- * *Mary & Vernon Gjersestet, Penny Elmore, & Jayden Gjersestet* from Barry & Karolyn Gjersestet Family
- * *Bruce & Kathleen Van Gorden* from Mary VanGorden
- * *Our Parents* from John & Theresa Paul
- * *Michael Buchholz* (brother of Theresa Paul) from John & Theresa Paul
- * *Mae Rochester* from the Nimmo Family
- * *John Becketl* from Shari Sheppard
- * *Rus Sheppard* from Judy Sheppard

In Honor Of:

- * *Our Parents* from Dan & Jocelyn Brauner
- * *Our Granddaughter Evelyn* from Alan & Paula Voskuil
- * *Our 2 yr old Great Grandson Korbin* from Jim & Jill Kaphengst



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.

FINANCIAL REPORT - End of First Quarter 2021

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Balance</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>				
Pledged Income	\$ 15,792.00	45,511.00	220,000.00	21%
Unpledged Income	\$ 3,485.00	11,383.27	62,700.00	18%
Other Income	\$ 393.44	1,222.45	16,950.00	7%
Total	\$ 19,670.44	58,116.72	299,650.00	19%
<u>Expenses</u>				
Apportionments	\$ 0.00	0.00	42,456.00	0%
Programming	\$ 1,049.75	2,022.96	6,600.00	31%
Pastoral Support	\$ 9,191.27	27,573.81	114,295.00	24%
Program Staff	\$ 6,872.53	20,838.53	87,182.00	24%
Operations	\$ 4,462.39	11,275.78	52,400.00	22%
Total	\$ 21,575.94	61,711.08	302,933.00	20%

We have made it through the first quarter of 2021 and have been able to pay all our general expenses. However, things are still running a little on the short side, and we have not paid any apportionments yet for this year. With summer fast approaching, we are not sure when we can. We will continue to monitor the progress that has been made and work toward paying all of these before the end of the year. Looking at the difference between our YTD income and expenses, there is a shortfall of \$3,594.36. This shortfall is made up by using funds that were given by our members at the beginning of the year. We really need everyone's help. If you are not able to attend worship in person, please consider sending your contributions to the office by mail.

We are working on a program to help our members understand where our money comes from as well as where it is spent. We are hopeful that we can have this information out to all members very soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of our Finance Committee members, or contact me directly.

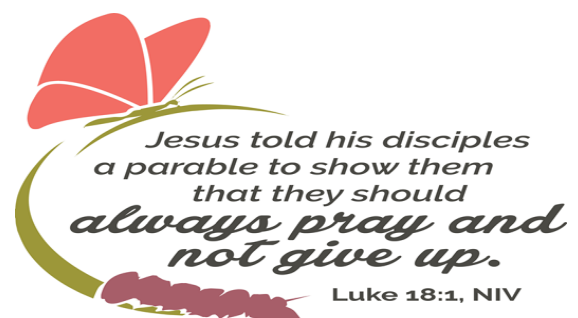
Wayne Bue, Finance Committee Chair

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR MAY

MAY 2	June Koehler
	Rod & Katrina McGillivray
	Dave & Sherry Olson
	Ken & LuAnne Schoolcraft
MAY 9	Norm & Renea Stoker
	Jack & Traci Bailey
	Bonnie Burnham
	Justin, Danielle, Mackenzie & Brett Dougherty
MAY 16	Barb, Daniel, & Macie Goldsmith
	Jim Harmer
	Jim Holt
	Gene & Janet Krohn
MAY 23	Marilyn McKeeth
	Leah Pennekamp Olson
	Ron, Christine, Mason & Madyson Schultz
	Jim Talley
MAY 30	Dan & Virginia Berger
	Chuck & Ruth Buswell
	Rosemary Dvorak
	Barry & Freda Goldsmith



On Friday morning, April 23, 3 pick-up trucks, 2 chain saws, a leaf blower, and other equipment was used to clean up the perimeter of the North Fourth Street parking lot. The Board of Trustees thanks Larry Pennekamp, Dave Dettinger, Tom Epps, Chuck & Marcia Devendorf, and Chuck Buswell for a job well done!





Although meeting has been challenging, the Mission Outreach Committee along with your help has been able to show and demonstrate God's love through recent activities.

The Knit for Kids project ended Sunday, April 25, with the Blessing of the Sweaters and other items. All in all 56 items will be sent to World Vision for them to distribute. Charlene Galston is pictured here with boxes full of the items ready to be shipped. This mission activity helps us meet a goal of serving both nationally and internationally. Just because we have ended for now doesn't mean that the needs have been fulfilled. Please continue to work on projects and donate yarn. Contact Charlene Galston if you would like more information.



A decision was made to send a financial donation for the "In Gathering" program that provides needed items for the Northcott Center and Harbor House so that they could purchase items that are in greatest need. We will begin collecting for our In Gathering donation during church services held June 6 and 13. Donations can be mailed to the church specified for "In Gathering" if you are not able to be there. More information will be coming soon.

The committee is looking at possible dates to have a brat sale at Hansen's IGA. Funds raised will be used to support our local outreach activities which includes helping families/children with winter clothing needs like snow pants and boots as we receive requests from our local schools. Be watching the bulletins for more information.

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the members and friends of the Black River Falls United Methodist Church, the Mission Outreach Team's Lenten season **Diaper and Toilet Paper Drive** was a great success! These donated products were taken to the Neighborhood Food Pantry for inclusion in the Essential Needs Program. A special thanks goes out to Jim & Carol Hornby who monitored the daily activities of the collection site. Thanks also to Ann Smetana for the use of her "Pack and Play" that was used to collect the various donations. Once again, this congregation met another challenge with outstanding results. Thank you so very much!

Many thanks to all who donated blankets for the homeless this last winter. All the homeless outreach teams were very appreciative of these donations. The blankets were sent to two different homeless shelters.

The Mission Outreach Team would like to thank everyone who supported the April 24th **Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Build**. Our pledges of \$1,200 and a volunteer work force of 20 individuals were greatly surpassed, as \$2,005 was raised and 30 BRF UMC members and friends became bed builders. Another bonus was that certain individuals purchased pillows and bedding for the 24 single beds. Others provided food and beverages for the bratwurst lunch. The generosity of the members and friends of this congregation is greatly appreciated!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE



Our Administrative Assistant and Treasurer, Jill Prochaska, has announced her retirement from her positions at the church effective June 30. Theresa Paul, our Financial Secretary, will also retire as of May 27. If you are interested in applying for either of these positions, please contact members of a subcommittee of our Staff-Parish Relations Committee for more information: Katrina McGillivray, Paula Voskuil, Howard Gomer, or Liz Lund.

Senior Adult Prayer Group



On Wednesday, May 5, our Prayer Group will begin meeting again for the first time since last March! The Prayer Group meets from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Masks and social distancing are required. All who would enjoy getting together for uplifting fellowship, sharing with others, and group prayer are invited to attend. Terrie Stevens will be the new Prayer Group Coordinator. For more information or questions, please call Terrie at 715-257-0097.



A Trumpet's Voice

May 2



Giffordgate, Scotland, outside Haddington, was an ardently Catholic village containing several churches, two monasteries, an abbey—and a farming couple named Knox who reared a child named John. The lad excelled at Haddington Grammar School where his teacher proclaimed him the most brilliant pupil he had ever had. John entered the University of Glasgow, then St. Andrews University, where the gusts of the Reformation tugged at his Catholic heart.

Knox spent the next 20 years as a village priest and college lecturer. Then one day, listening to a Mr. Williams preach Reformation truth, he was struck as with an arrow. Soon thereafter he “cast anchor” by faith in Christ alone. His Reformation ideas put him at risk, and for years he alternated between flight and imprisonment (once chained to the oars of a galley ship). He finally settled down in relative safety on the Continent where he studied, wrote, discussed, and kept an eye on his native land.

In 1559 he sensed it was time to return. England's Queen Mary had been replaced by the more Protestant Elizabeth, and the groups of Protestant refugees in Europe were abuzz with excitement. Protestants began streaming back into England, and in late April Knox himself set sail for Scotland, determined to “blow the Lord's trumpet” gallantly. He landed on May 2, 1559 to find a nation on the knife edge of chaos. Mary of Guise, queen regent and mother of young Mary, Queen of Scots, was railing against Protestants. Civil war was threatening. Knox's presence and preachments so inspired the people that the English ambassador reported, “The voice of one man is able in one hour to put more life in us than five hundred trumpets continually blustering in our ears.”

The government fought Protestants tooth and nail until June 10, 1560, when the queen regent died. The Treaty of Edinburgh temporarily ended the conflict, and the Reformation took hold. More storms lay ahead, and the aging Knox grew surly. But he managed to lead a bloodless revolution in Scotland and establish the faith of a nation.

“Sound the trumpet on Zion! Call the people together. Show your sorrow by going without food. Make sure that everyone is fit to worship me.” - Joel 2:15

Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*



BRF UMC Calendar of Events May 2021

SUNDAY, MAY 2

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School (Last Day)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Rehearsal
5:30 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, MAY 9

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

MONDAY, MAY 10

5:30 p.m.—UMW Officers Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 11

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
1:00 p.m.—Confirmation
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Rehearsal
5:30 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, MAY 16

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Rehearsal
5:30 p.m.—Youth Group
6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, MAY 23

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service
(Recognition of our Graduates)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group
5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Rehearsal
6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, MAY 30

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

MONDAY, MAY 31

MEMORIAL DAY
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

