

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ***NEWSLETTER***

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

NOVEMBER 2019

Dear Beloved,

In Wisconsin, November is the season of fall harvest. It is the time we prepare our homes and fields for winter. November is a time to enjoy the last days of “Indian Summer” as we explore the woods and trails of our area. It is also a time of giving thanks for the blessings of this past year as we begin to look ahead to the Advent/Christmas season and a new year.

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” As we look back on the year in review, our circumstances have not always been what we would consider the best or ideal. And in this season of thanksgiving it is not always easy to have a thankful heart based on the circumstances of life.

What Paul is reminding us to do is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. The circumstances of life in a fallen and broken world are hard. Having given our lives to Christ, we no longer are orphans on our own but are now adopted children of God who have the Holy Spirit with/in us so that we are never alone in this world. For that we can rejoice always. We can pray, cry out, in the midst of our circumstances knowing that we have one who hears our cry. And no matter what our circumstances are, we can give thanks for a God who loves his creation so much that he sent his one and only Son into the world so that whoever believes in him shall not die but have everlasting life.

In this season of winter preparation, remember that even though we may have times of spiritual “winter,” we can still give thanks in all circumstances because of the One who loves us. Brothers and Sisters, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

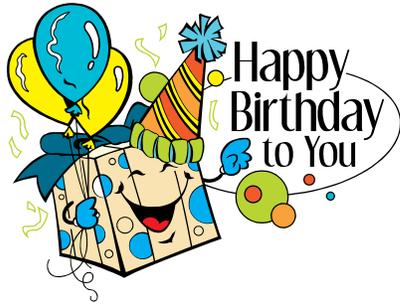
In Jesus’ love and grace,

Pastor Wendell



Our Annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, December 8, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All members of the church are encouraged to come to this important annual meeting of the church. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Tsuker Yang, will be here to conduct the meeting.

Everyone is invited to remain after worship and enjoy some refreshments in the Fellowship Hall before the Charge Conference begins in the Sanctuary.



NOV 1	Judy Hansen Joan Zenz
NOV 4	Larry Whaley
NOV 5	Barry Gjerseth Jill Kaphengst Erica Olson
NOV 6	Gene Maurer
NOV 8	Sam Lund
NOV 9	Carrie Farnsworth
NOV 10	Grant Allen
NOV 12	Beth Amborn David Hoffman
NOV 15	Linda McCullough
NOV 17	Ryan Dobson Tia Maurer
NOV 18	Dana Rave Sarah Wiersma
NOV 19	Pastor Wendell Williams
NOV 20	Dan Jelinek
NOV 21	Michael Rave
NOV 28	Pat Brauner Karen Pennekamp
NOV 29	Jackie Shankey



**REMINDER:
YOUR UMC CHURCH
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



NOV 1	Dave & Ann Smetana
NOV 3	John & Shirlye Nimmo
NOV 4	LeRoy & Kim Amborn
NOV 6	Bob & Kathy Lind
NOV 8	Roy & Dorothy Hefty
NOV 11	Rich & Suzanne Goldsmith
NOV 28	Joe & Margery Collins



- **3rd Annual Advent Extravaganza**
Sunday, December 1, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
- **Advent Worship Services**
Wednesday evenings, December 4, 11, and 18
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Fellowship and refreshments in the Gathering Area after worship.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service**
Tuesday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.
(There will be only ONE Christmas Eve
Worship Service this year)
- **New Year's Eve Come and Go Communion**
Tuesday, December 31, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

**PLEASE NOTE:
We will NOT have
a Thanksgiving Eve
Worship Service this year.**

United Methodist Women – Sisterhood of Grace

It's November – Daylight Savings Time is ending. Last week's rain brought down most of the beautiful fall leaves. Those of you who like winter activities are getting your skates, skis or snowmobiles ready to go. Television is full of ads for Christmas toys and gifts, and I saw my first trailer of Christmas trees today. It would be easy to move right into the Christmas season.

But let's not get carried away and move too fast. We need to take time to enjoy November – chilly mornings, some warm days, pumpkin spice on every menu, and Thanksgiving. This November take time to count your blessings. Take time to thank family and friends for all they do to make your days go better.

And take a moment each Sunday to add a leaf to the UMW Thanksgiving tree. Who or what in the last week caused you to be thankful? Blank leaves are available on the Information Station. Place the completed leaf in the basket provided. It will be added to the tree. Let's be mindful of giving thanks each day in November. Let's have a full tree by the end of the month. Then we can move ahead into the Christmas season.

Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 4 Circle of Hope at 1:30 PM at the church; Circle of Faith at 5:30 PM at the Mocha Mouse.
- Dec. 2 UMW General Meeting at 6:00 PM at the church
- Dec. 14 UMW Annual Cookie Walk

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 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 our Caring Meal Crew.



Volunteers are needed for Coffee Fellowship time on Sunday mornings:

- Someone to make coffee
- Someone to prepare and serve treats
- Someone to clean up following Coffee Fellowship time

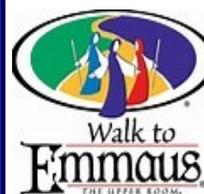
Please consider volunteering your time. A sign-up sheet is available on the Coffee Fellowship Table.

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.



2020 Walk to Emmaus Weekends

Spring Men's Walk - April 16-19, 2020
Spring Women's Walk - April 23-26, 2020

If you are looking to grow in your faith, this weekend is for you. More information is available on the kiosk and in the Church Office.



The financial report through the month of September 2019 is as follows:

Income:

Pledges	\$ 154,493.34
Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 35,319.45
Other Income	\$ 10,526.04
Total	\$ 200,338.83
Budgeted Income	\$ 224,737.50

Expenses

Apportionments	\$ 9,158.00
Programming	\$ 5,236.38
Pastoral Support	\$ 78,893.88
Program Staff	\$ 64,999.85
Operations	\$ 31,348.12
Total	\$ 189,636.23
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 235,701.00

Our financial situation has begun to improve this fall, so we have been able to pay \$5,000 toward our apportionments this fall and will continue to make monthly payments.

As always, the Finance Committee would like to thank all who continue to give generously to the church, its mission, and ministries.

Wayne Bue, Finance Committee Chairperson

Christmas Eve Offering

Our offering this year on Christmas Eve will be a LOVE offering for Jesus. This offering will be given to missions. Our Mission Outreach Committee will be selecting the mission funds that will receive our LOVE Offering.



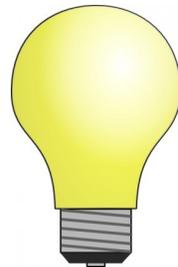
A Matter of the Heart:

How has God blessed you? As a steward of all that God has blessed you with, how will you bless God in this coming year?

The Finance Committee has decided not to have a Stewardship Campaign this year but instead to ask you to make your pledge a matter of the heart between you and God.

On Sunday, October 20, people were given the opportunity to make their pledge and bring it forward to the altar during the service of communion.

If you were not able to be in worship that day, we ask you to write the amount of your pledge for the coming year on a piece of paper and put it in a sealed envelope (no name needed). Place the envelope in the offering plate or send it to the church office.



**Let's Help
Keep The Lights On!!**

Through the end of October, 14 days of our electricity have been paid for in the "Keep the Lights On" fundraiser. Many thanks to everyone who has generously paid \$40 for a day of electricity for the church!

There are still many more days available through the end of December. Please check the calendars on the table in the Gathering Area and select a day or two to help the church with the cost of electricity. Your generosity is appreciated very much!





3rd ANNUAL ADVENT EXTRAVAGANZA



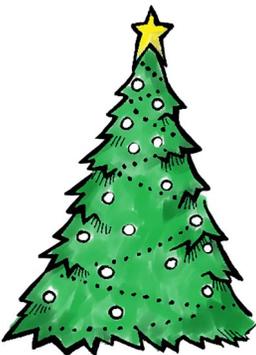
Sunday, December 1
10:15-11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

All ages are invited to join in the fun!

We will be making Christmas cards
and doing other Christmas crafts.

Breakfast snacks and beverages will be served.

What a great way to begin the Advent Season!!!



This year we will not have live Christmas trees because of allergy issues. As a result, we will be purchasing at least one artificial Christmas tree. If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of artificial Christmas trees, donations may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the Church Office. Be sure to mark your donations clearly so we know what they are for. Thank you for your help!



Dear Friends,

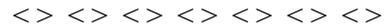
Thank you for supporting the Senegal Wellness Project! The dear people you helped with your monetary gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be — *Thank you!*

Through your financial support you are partnering with others to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need. Together may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace,

Thomas G. Kemper and Roland Fernandes

Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church



A huge THANK YOU to all who have helped around the grounds of the church this spring, summer and fall. Because of your hard work and dedication, the garden areas around the church are looking beautiful and well cared for! Please be sure to convey your thanks to the following people: Bill Perry, Sue Lindahl, Jim Hornby, Carol Hornby, Katrina McGillivray, and Dave Dettinger. Also a big THANK YOU to Orville Amborn, our maintenance person, who kept the church yard mowed and trimmed all summer long. There may be others who have helped that we did not know about. Please accept our thanks for your contributions as well.



Celebrate
WITH ALL THE BOUNTY
THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD
HAS GIVEN TO YOU.

DEUTERONOMY 26:11, NRSV

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Date: Thanksgiving Day, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church in Black River Falls

Meal: Turkey (dark and white meat), stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, coleslaw, cranberries, bun and pie.

Cost: Free, but donations are appreciated

For reservations: Call 715-284-4657 or 715-896-0409. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are preferred to make sure everyone has a place to sit.





Our church has been blessed with new families who have children, and our Sunday School program is growing!!!! Currently there are 60 children registered for Sunday School with an average attendance of 40 to 45 children. Sundays are filled with excitement, energy, and learning about God, Jesus, and stories from the Bible.

The Rotation Model Sunday School has been going well! The children have enjoyed music, playing games, art, and edible projects as they learned about FAITH. The Rotation Model for November and December is "In the Manger." This rotation will teach the children about the birth of Jesus, the meaning of Jesus is the Messiah, and they will be able to locate the story of Jesus' birth in the book of Luke.

The church was filled with children, parents, grandparents, friends, music, energy, and smiles for the first Family Sunday. The children honored Pastor Wendell with a poem and a "5 Things I Love About My Pastor" book for Pastor Appreciation Month. 14 Pre-K and 4th graders received their Bibles as well. It was such a blessing from God to see all of the families in Worship! The next **Family Sunday is November 17**. All Sunday School children will sing at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. **Families and children are encouraged to attend this special Sunday and remain in church for the full service.** What a great opportunity to involve our younger youth in worship!

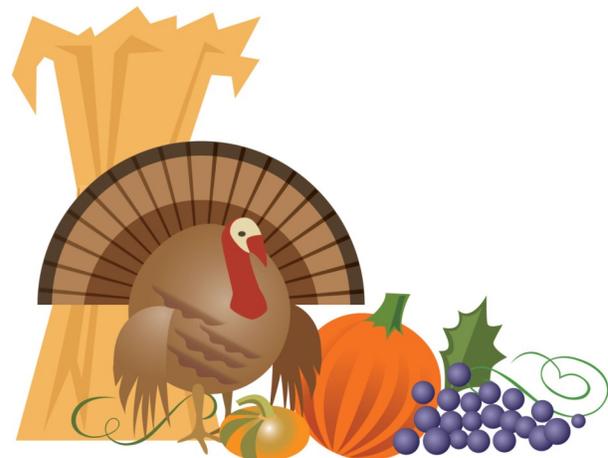
It seems early to begin practicing for the Sunday School Christmas Program, but it is only 7 weeks away, CRAZY! **Our Christmas Musical, "The Inn Crowd" will be held Sunday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m.** We will be practicing for the program every Sunday including the day of the program. We will also be practicing Wednesdays, from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. A calendar will be handed out soon. Sunday School attendance is very important at this time. All students ages 3 years to 7th grade will be a part of the program. Roles have been assigned, so please let me know ASAP if your child is unable to do their role.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, FOR AN ADVENT EXTRAVAGANZA!!!! This event will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. **Sunday School will be ending at 10:00 a.m. so we can begin the event after Worship.** (You will have plenty of time to get home for the Packers!) Everyone is invited. Breakfast snacks and beverages will be served. Watch for more info in the upcoming bulletins and announcements! What better way to begin the Advent Season!?!?!?

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. 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.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

NOV 3	Xavier Olson
NOV 5	Julia Smetana
NOV 7	Amelia Crocker
NOV 10	Ella Hatleli
NOV 22	Ella Goldsmith
	Madyson Schultz
NOV 23	Daniel Goldsmith





YOUTH GROUP NEWS . . .



UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- November 6th - Youth 6-7pm
- November 8th 6-10pm - Youth pizza/movie night. Youth are invited to come watch "Grace Unplugged". We will provide pizza and drinks. Feel free to bring snacks to share. Friends are welcome.
- November 13th - Youth 6-7pm
- November 20th - Youth Thanksgiving Supper beginning at 5:30pm. A letter was sent home with information. Please contact Suzanne if you haven't seen it.
- November 27th - NO YOUTH. Happy Thanksgiving.



PRAYER FAMILIES FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 3	Emily & Harper Ward Ed & Vione Brauner Jeff & Cheryl Dolsey Krystle & Channing Goldsmith, Avery & Esmee Brooks
Nov. 10	Dick Hilliker Patty Iverson Dave & Linda McCullough Bruce Odeen
Nov. 17	Ken & Luanne Schoolcraft Jessica & Jonas Whitegull Pat, Judy & Stephanie Brauner Rosemary Dvorak
Nov. 24	Howard & Kristie Gomer Nancy Hindes Dan & Mary Jelinek Marilyn McKeeth

E-GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT!

It will soon be time to renew the automatic contributions to the church for 2020. Those who already have their contributions set up for 2019 will be contacted to renew or make changes to their contributions for next year.

If you would like to have information about how this program works, please contact 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!





Van Etta Library Book Review

Wisconsin Day Trips

by Mary M. Bauer

This handy guide covers hundreds of unique attractions all around the Badger State, encompassing a wide range of interests. The book is divided into sections by theme, such as waterfalls, garden tours, lighthouses, family days and extreme adventures. You will find Wisconsin's cheese factories, Amish country, the best of Door County and Wisconsin Dells and the state's finest sport fishing and skydiving.

Take notes while you are browsing through this book and plan a trip somewhere in our beautiful state!

Rhoda Gulso, Librarian



Mark your calendars!



The annual **United Methodist Women Cookie Walk**
will be held on:

Saturday, December 14, 2019

in the Gathering Area of the United Methodist Church in Black River Falls.

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m.

Come and fill your container for \$6.00 per pound.

Cookies, candies and specialty breads will be available!

The church Youth Group will also hold a

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall

beginning at 10:30 a.m. also.

(free-will offering for lunch)

BRF UMC Calendar of Events—November 2019



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

8:30 a.m.—UM Men's Group Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:05 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—A Firm Foundation Study

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

1:30 p.m.—Circle of Hope Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

5:30 p.m.—Staff-Parish Relations Committee Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:15 p.m.—PreConfirmation

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

6:00-10:00 p.m.—Youth Pizza/Movie Night

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:05 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—A Firm Foundation Study

10:30 a.m.—Education Committee Meeting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting

5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting

6:15 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:15 p.m.—PreConfirmation

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Practice

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

FAMILY SUNDAY

COMMUNION SUNDAY

10:30 a.m.—A Firm Foundation Study

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

1:30-3:30 p.m.—Patricia Project Sewing Day

5:15 p.m.—PreConfirmation

5:30 p.m.—Youth Group Thanksgiving Dinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:05 a.m.—Sunday School

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

NO PreConfirmation

NO Youth Group

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

FOR THANKSGIVING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00 a.m.—Christmas Decorating

