

Black River Falls
United Methodist Church
100 North Fourth Street
Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615
Return Service Requested
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April



Happy Easter

**THE BLACK RIVER FALLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

Mission Statement:

*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world."*

INWHA SHON, PASTOR

Pianist	Matthew Schluntz
Music Director	Amanda Lang
Youth Director	Suzanne Goldsmith

Worship Service: 9:00 am

Sunday School: 9:15 am

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9 am to 2 pm

Telephone: 715-284-4114

Website: brfumc.org

Facebook: BRFUMC

"You Tube Live: BRFUMC



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at BRFUMC,

Happy Easter! Grace and peace from God the Father and from His risen Son, Jesus Christ to you.

What a day! What a glorious and wonderful day! The sun is shining and the birds are singing, and our sanctuary is dressed in a thousand different colors. It is Easter: the One who was dead is now very much alive!

To this Easter, however, we have been in such a long and hard season of Lent since Ash Wednesday. There have been so many happenings in the world this year, such as the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, tensions between nations, shootings at schools, wild fires, floods, snow storms, and so on. Also, so many people died unusually from a flu or cold. Some said they have never had a worse winter season than this year.

But nothing can block our hope. Everything changes in the end. Spring came to us. Nature changes its colors. It is time to till the soil and plant seeds. Especially it is time to plant the seeds of peace, love, justice, and reconciliation. I, personally, look forward to the spiritual revival movement that started at Asbury University, KY last February, so that people can be saturated in the Holy Spirit and can renew their hearts.

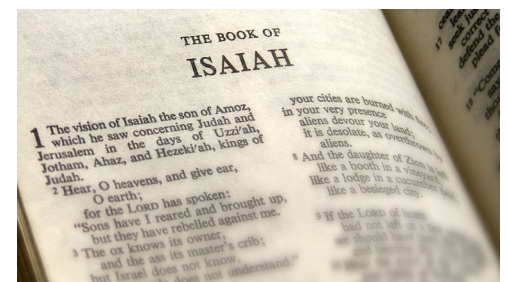
I believe, that Easter is not only individual event, but also worldly. We live eternal life through His resurrection beyond the death, sorrow, and despair. We live peacefully with each other, hopefully beyond hatred, discrimination, resentment, greed, and wars. I am sure that this kind of life is what Jesus' resurrection means. Because He came to us as the Prince of Peace.

*“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).*

May God bless all friends that the meaning of Easter could be realized in all your life.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon





Mission Outreach Committee report by Charlene Galston

We have made plans for our participation in the **Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP)** bed build. This will be held on **April 22 at Jackson Electric at 8 am**. Please mark your calendars. Marcia has been in contact with the coordinator and we will join other area churches and community volunteers to build 100 beds that day.

Our church has committed to being a part of this by donating 20 pillows, blankets and sheet sets and volunteering our time and talents on the build day. A sign up sheet for volunteers will be placed in the gathering area beginning this month and donations of bedding (twin size) will be accepted. Donations can be brought to the church.

We will have a **Sewing Day** on **April 4, from 1-4** to finish 1 quilts to donate as well. We will be hand tying off the quilt so many hands are needed. You do not need a sewing machine to participate. Please let me know you are able to participate in this sewing day. Call 715 896 9055.

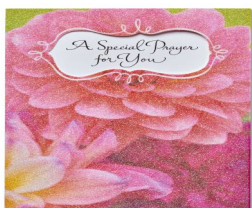
Our pillowcase dresses were well received and appreciated. Unfortunately as Marcia was not able to hand deliver them but relied on a trusted contact. Thanks to everyone that participated with their time or donations to make the pillow case dresses to send with her. Marcia reported that they were able to meet the health and vision needs of many.

We are making great progress toward our goal for the Knit for Kids project. We have 99 items so far toward our goal of 100. Our final date to turn in completed projects will be April 30 with preparations for a blessing and then send off to World Vision in early May. Yarn donations are always greatly appreciated as some of us work on projects throughout the year. Pastor would also like to have some prayer shawls available to give to individuals or families. Patterns are available in the Wesley room with the other patterns if you need it

As part of our church's outreach, Pastor Shon visits shut-ins in their homes or in residential centers. In addition he also shares responsibility with other pastors to lead a service at Pine View Nursing Home every 3 months. We are considering creating a prayer card or some small item that could be left with people during these visits. Our committee has reached out to the Women of Faith group for some assistance with this project.

As bulletin board space is limited, Pastor Shon will now put notices of upcoming volunteer opportunities through our United Methodist Church Volunteers in Mission (VIM) if you would like to serve outside of the local community. All contact information is there so be sure to check this out. Remember there are some scholarship monies available to you if needed.

Please consider joining our next committee meeting **March 26th at 10: 30** in the Keefe room.



What Happened on This Day in the History of Christianity?

Another Brilliant Bishop

April 4



Isidore was born about 560 in Seville, Spain, into a noble Christian family. He was the youngest child and was personally educated by his much-older brother, Leander, the close friend of Pope Gregory the Great. Though severe in his methods, Leander managed to furnish his little brother with both a brilliant mind and a tender heart.

When Isidore became pastor in Seville he concerned himself with establishing schools for the young, converting false teachers to orthodoxy, and evangelizing Jews. He established seminaries in every Spanish diocese for training young ministers.

But he did more. He compiled history's first encyclopedia, the *Etymologiae*. It became the most used textbook of the Middle Ages, containing entries on medicine, arithmetic, grammar, history, science, and theology. Isidore also developed a dictionary of synonyms, a book on astronomy, a summary of world history, a set of biographies of illustrious men, books on biblical characters, and many books of sermons and theological studies. He became known as the greatest teacher in Spain.

The highlight of his career came late in his 37-year ministry. He presided over the great Spanish church council of Toledo which opened on December 5, 633. At this council, it was determined that baptismal candidates should be plunged into water only once, not three times. The council also approved the singing of hymns, not just the words of Scripture. And it forbade the compulsory conversion of Jews.

Two years later when he sensed he was dying, Isidore began distributing his goods to the poor. Four days before his death he asked two friends to carry him to the church of St. Vincent the Martyr. Once there he had one of them cover him with sackcloth and the other put ashes on his head. The old scholar then raised his hands to heaven and prayed loudly, confessing his sins and pleading for grace. A crowd assembled, and Isidore requested their prayers and forgave his debtors. He preached to the people about love, then distributed his remaining possessions. Returning home, he took to his bed and died peacefully on Thursday, **April 4, 636**.

"When God divided out the wind and the water, And when he decided the path for rain and lightning, He also determined the truth and defined wisdom. God told us, "Wisdom means that you respect me, the Lord, And turn from sin."" - Job 28:25-28

Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*



⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising

God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." - Acts 2:42; 46-47

Wednesday Night Connections are great tools to have fellowship in Christ. Meals begin at 4:45pm and a small group Bible study for Lent begins 5:30-6 pm. Below is the current schedule:

March 29, Mission Outreach

April 6, Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

April 12, Imelda Kelly

April 19 Paul Hoffman

April 26 Katrina McGillivray

May 3, volunteer (s) needed

May 10, Mission Outreach

May 17, Esther Shon

(Last Day till Fall)

Seeking Applicants for Children's Ministry Coordinator

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

We are blessed to have younger families with children in our church. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is looking for a person to lead the of Children's Ministry.

This rewarding 5-10 hour/week opportunity for someone with love and enthusiasm for helping children learn about the Bible, God's unending love and grace, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The coordinator works closely with the Children and Youth Activities Committee to select curriculum for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School (VBS). Additionally, they will help to recruit teachers for Sunday School (grade 4K – 5th grade) as well as coordinate and oversee VBS. Other responsibilities for this paid position, include the ability to evaluate the need for additional programs to support our families and children and work with our music coordinator to provide music for Church School.



If you, or someone you know would be interested in this position, please contact Carol Hornby at 715-896-7684 or chornby@centurytel.net

Katrina McGillivray, Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Spring is here?? There is hope. Usually, spring symbolizes rebirth, renewal and a fresh start. It also is associated with love, hope, youth and growth. I think we are all ready for all of this after a harsh winter.

For us as Christians and believers, Spring is a testament that God fulfills His promises, after all our sufferings, there is hope to renew and start again.

Upcoming Youth Events:

April 2nd—Camp Celebration Breakfast after worship

April 3rd—UWF meeting, young women and their mom's are welcome 5:30pm

April 5th—Youth Group 6pm

April 6th—Maundy Thursday Seder Supper 6pm

April 7th—Good Friday Worship 6pm

April 9th—Easter Sunday (Easter Egg hunt following)

April 12th—Youth Group 6pm

April 19th—Youth Group 6pm

April 22nd—Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build

April 26th—Youth Group 6pm

April 30th—Youth Led Worship 9am

We will be celebrating and promoting UMC camps during worship on April 2nd. There will be a pancake breakfast to follow. Please come support the Church Camp Scholarship program with the free will offering breakfast.

The youth are making 2 twin sized fleece tie blankets and 2 sets of twin sheets for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build. As of now, we have a \$20 donation towards fleece and 1 set of sheets. If you would like to donate, please contact Suzanne.

The Youth will be leading worship on April 16th at 9am. The youth have been working hard to create a memorable worship experience and would like everyone to join them as they highlight their gifts and talents given to each of them.

There will be an Easter egg hunt on Easter morning following worship. If you would like to donate plastic eggs or candy, you can leave it in the basket in the gathering area.

Suzanne Goldsmith

715-896-0224

suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group

Website: BRFUMC.org





United
Women
in Faith

To UWF Members and All Church Members,

YOU ARE INVITED:

UWF had a discussion at our March monthly meeting on **Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline**, one campaign theme for UWF local units to learn more about. The facts focused on the high percent of children and youth of color who face criminalization or incarceration following suspensions and expulsions from school for minor offenses, racial and gender biases, zero tolerance policies, and status offenses of which youth are often criminalized for. Supporting our youth through their opportunities and challenges can often help prevent youth from getting caught up in negative situations.

To become more informed on how faith and the community can impact those incarcerated, **Chaplain Myron Olson from Jackson Correctional Institute** will speak on **Monday, April 3 at 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall**. He will speak on his faith journey and how his journey led him to JCI. He will share more background on his work with the JCI population and the impact of the surrounding community. UWF will be hosting a potluck to be served from 5:30-6pm. All church members, men, women, and youth, are invited to join us for the evening.

“As a community, we do not have to be experts in education equality but we do have to be willing to learn from those affected. We do not need all the answers but we must be willing to ask questions and listen to what being said. We do not have to fix it all but must be involved in taking action.” UMW.org

Freewill donations will be accepted and given to Chaplain Olson to be used in programs that benefit the JCI population.

If you have questions, call Luane at 715-284-9839.



SCRIP CARDS are an easy way to raise funds for church. It is just getting into the habit of using them that is difficult. There are businesses in town that we stop at every week or every other week. Groceries and gasoline are two examples. Why not buy a Kwik Trip, Hansen's or Wal-Mart card on Sunday to use later in the week. We sell cards for \$25, \$50, and \$100 for each of these three places. If you will be traveling to La Crosse or Eau Claire, maybe you want to treat yourself to a meal you can't buy in BRF.

Just plan ahead and have a Scrip card in your wallet and enjoy that meal.

From your BRF UMC Finance Committee:

Income Thru Feb 2023 Budget 2023

Weekly Offerings

Pledged Offering 21,441.00 32,666.00

Unpledged Offering 7,023.51 9,166.00

Loose Plate Offering 370.00 834.00

Other income 1369.93 2244.00

Total 30,204.44 44910.00

Expenses

Total Expenses 40,436.43 41,952.00

You will see that we have had less income for 2023 than expenses. We have expenses in the winter that we do not have for 7 to 8 months per year. This will balance out as we go through 2023.

We are still working out the "details" with our new Accounting Firm Dobson Accounting. We are processing the change from Church Windows to Quicken. Both platforms are similar but we are getting used to the way the numbers come to us. By the end of March, we will have a better handle on both our income and expenses, as we understand the Quicken Balance Sheets. Dobson Accounting is doing an excellent job for us.

As we continue to move forward through 2023, we expect that income will balance out expenses.

Howard Gomer - Chairperson



Prayer Walk

At the heart of any successful church relaunch is discernment and prayer. One very effective method is a neighborhood prayer walk.

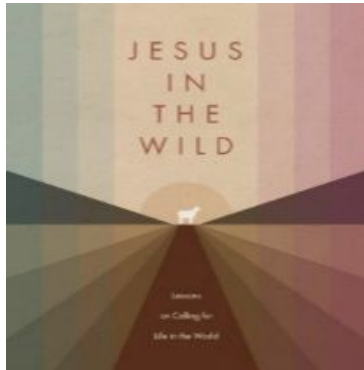
As the weather turns warmer, I encourage you to meet at the church on **Sunday, April 2 at 1 pm** to learn more and pray as we walk to discover new ministries and opportunities to which God is calling us.

Katrina McGillivray, Chair SPRC

Small Group Bible Study with Video

Jesus in the Wild

Sunday	Feb. 26 – Apr. 2	10:30 – 11:15 am
Wednesday	Mar. 1 – Apr. 5	5:45p – 6:30pm



What is the meaning within the remarkable scene in Luke 4:1–14 of Jesus being challenged by the devil in the “wild”—the untamed and

unruly wildness? And what are the surprising implications of this event for followers of Jesus today?

In Jesus in the Wild you will take a forty-day journey into the heart of one of the most unusual, and often most misunderstood, stories in the Gospel accounts.

In this encounter, following his baptism in the Jordan and before the inauguration of his ministry, Jesus is alone with the adversary—the one whose works he had come to destroy (1 John 3:8). He faces three tests, or “temptations”—all aimed at unseating him from his identity, his belovedness, and his purpose as the Son of God.

United Methodist Men

A huge thanks to UMM for “Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner” on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17.

United Methodist Men meet at a local restaurant on the first Saturday every month. The men of God regularly meet together over food and talk about how to grow and serve our community and the church. We welcome you to join us anytime!

April 8, Saturday at 8am at Sunnyside Cafe.

Paul Hoffman, serving as a chair of UMM.





Time for a ReLaunch

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, utilized Christ's example, and thousands were introduced to a different life through Christ. Wesley's ministry was radical in his time, and far from the way that the church had always worked in the past. He recognized the need to change methods to reach more people.

Today, how does the church re-invent itself for the future? On February 24th/25th Reverend Scott Carlson, Director of Congregational Development lead a workshop for the 19 in attendance presenting insights and instruction. 80% or more of our community is unchurched. Most people think the Christian church no longer cares about them and has become irrelevant in their lives. We were encouraged to seek opportunities to meet people in the immediate neighborhoods outside our church building and to develop new relationships and introduce our new friends to a relationship with Christ.

Examples of this type of ministry include sponsoring a "Splash" event and then inviting guests to follow-up events. Rather than Vacation Bible School in the church building with kids from other churches, taking VBS to an apartment complex, meeting unchurched children and parents on their turf, and listening to needs, then having follow-up opportunities to continue conversations. One such follow-up was a series of mother's nights out. 15 of 20 mothers and their children joined the church.

Once relationships are made, invitations to explore faith development within our church are more welcome. The ideas keep rolling – from selling egg rolls at the fair, handing out hotdogs on our church property, and offering community musical events. We realized how much we do with food could reveal our slogan, "Feeding People" quickly emerged as a possible brand for our new ministries. Look for more information over the next two months through newsletter, worship, and phone calls.

Rod McGillivray

Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6 pm

The Seder Meal bridges the history and prophecies of the Old Testament and the celebration of new life in Jesus Christ. Holy Week is full as we remember the last week of Jesus' life and attempt to understand by living it. The Seder meal allows us to celebrate the Jewish tradition of the Passover with a focus on sharing the last meal Jesus shared with his closest friends.

Celebrated in the choreographed remembrance of the Passover, you will be participating in a meal meant to awaken the senses. Food, drink, prayers and fellowship all help us share in the final happy moments Jesus experienced before he was betrayed. Holy Week is a barrage of emotions. Please come share happiness with your church family.

In all of Christ's love,
The Worship Team



What is Holy Week?

Is your Easter all about eggs and bunnies and dressing up nice for church? What about the deeper meaning of the celebration? Try adding one or more (or all) of these Holy Week activities to make your Easter celebration more meaningful and fully experience the joy of the hallelujahs on Easter Sunday.



Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter. It begins with Palm Sunday and is a week of somber reflections on the events leading up to Easter.

Palm Sunday is the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This is the Sunday prior to Easter and is often celebrated by waving palm branches, reenacting the parade with Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Maundy Thursday (or Holy Thursday) commemorates the Last Supper. Many Mandy Thursday services include foot washing and stripping of the altar – removing all signs of Jesus from the church for observing the days Jesus was dead.

Good Friday observes the day Jesus was crucified. This day is often observed with praying stations of the cross. It's the most solemn day of the church year.

Holy Saturday reflects the day Jesus was buried in the tomb.

The week concludes with **EASTER**, a celebration of Jesus' resurrection.



Make your own Holy Week devotional

You are invited to a Scripture and Prayer Plan for Holy Week.

Palm Sunday: Read and pray through Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-11)

Monday: Begin reading the account of Jesus' final week in John. Today, read and pray through Jesus' anointing at Bethany, when Mary pours perfume on his head (John 12:1-11)

Tuesday: Read and pray through Jesus' prediction of his death (John 12:20-36)

Wednesday: Read and pray through Jesus' prediction of his betrayal (John 13:21-30)

Thursday: Read and pray through the Last Supper (John 13:1-17, 31-35) and Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-45)

Friday: Read and pray through Jesus' arrest and crucifixion (John 18:28-19:37)

Saturday: Read and pray through the burial of Jesus (Matthew 27:57-66)

Sunday: Read and pray through the resurrection of Jesus (John 20:1-18)



April 2 Mary Jelinek
 April 4 Basil Holder
 April 5 Leanne Kappen
 April 6 Robert Rush
 April 8 Breanna Caponigro
 April 9 Richard Hilliker
 April 12 Kyle Nosbisch
 April 13 Jeremy Brown
 Samuel Rogstad
 April 19 Kate Allen
 Steven Hansen
 April 20 Donna Dolsey
 April 21 Cathy Ambruster
 April 25 Anita Berry
 Katrina McGillivray
 April 28 Zackery Olson
 April 30 Lauren Lind

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

April 4 Jack Gunn
 April 5 Dreyden Sandersw
 April 10 Rachel Crocker
 April 12 Annaliese Rave
 April 15 Brooks Cowley



April 17 Michael & Leanna Kappen
 April 22 Kyle & Renee Nosbisch
 April 27 Howard & Kristie Gomer
 Jeremy & Stacy Brown



Upcoming Events in April:

**Palm Sunday: April 2, Pancake Breakfast by the Youth
Prayer Walk at 1 pm**

Maundy Thursday: April 6, Seder Meal at 6 pm

Good Friday: April 7, Service at 6 pm

Easter Sunday: April 9, A Church Photo & Egg Hunt

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed: Saturday, April 22, 8 am
At Jackson Electric Cooperative**

APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast Camp Sunday Lent Bible Study, 10:30 am Prayer Walk, 1 pm	3 UWF 5:30 pm	4	5 Sewing Day, 1-4 pm Wed. Connections 4:45-6 pm Bible Study, 5:30 pm Youth: Pre-Con/Youth/ Confirmation Class	6 Maundy Thursday, Seder Meal 6 pm	7 Good Friday Ser- vice, 6 pm	8 UMM 8am
9 EASTER Communion Church Photo Egg Hunt	10	11 Finance 5:30 pm Ad Council 6:30 pm	12 Wed. Connections 4:45-6 pm Youth Activities: Pre-Con/ Youth/Confirmation Class	13	14	15
16	17	18 Worship Comm. 5:30 pm	19 Wed. Connections 4:45p-6 pm Youth Activities: Pre-Con/ Youth/Confirmation Class	20 Children/Youth/ Family, 5:30 pm	21	22 Heavenly Peace Bed Build, 8 am
23 Youth-led Worship	24	25 Farmers Market Board of Directors Meeting, 6 pm	26 Wed. Connections, 4:45-6 pm Youth Activities: Pre-Con/ Youth/Confirmation Class	27	28	29

Routine Activities on Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 10 am
Pre-Confirmation Class, 5-6 pm
Choir Practice, 6-7 pm
Bell Choir Practice, 7-8 pm

Wednesday Connections, 4:45-6 pm
Youth, 6-7 pm
Confirmation Class, 7-8 pm