

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



July ★ ★ ★



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

Mission Statement:

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

REV. INWHA SHON, PASTOR

Pianist	Matthew Schluntz
Music Director	Amanda Lang
Youth Director	Suzanne Goldsmith

Worship Service: 9:00 am

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9 am to 2 pm

Telephone: 715-284-4114

Website: brfumc.org

We are also on Facebook and YouTube!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF,

Peace be with you. I hope you stay cool during this hot season. Recently my wife and I were embarrassed about the conditions of our lots in the community garden when we went there right after coming home from our vacation in Korea. We couldn't take care of the grounds before we left on vacation due to the weather.

When we returned home, the weather was nice enough to plant seeds, and we went there to see what the grounds looked like. Others had already tilled the land and planted seeds in their lots. We had better till and plant seeds as soon as possible.

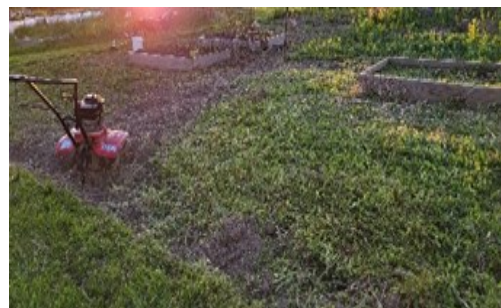
We also rented one additional lot this year which was unused last year. It was abandoned and full of weeds; it was just a mess. So many weeds grew rankly in the garden. I didn't know what I had to do first. I borrowed a tiller and a weed trimmer from our friends at our church to till the grounds. Cutting the weeds and tilling the land was difficult, and it took several days to prepare the ground for planting.

While cutting the weeds and tilling the ground, I realized that our spiritual life is like this if it is abandoned in the wilderness. If we don't keep our hearts clean and sound to have spiritual food, our hearts will be barren like the prodigal son in Jesus' parable in the New Testament. Instead, we will be full of the worldly. Should we not keep an intimate relationship with God, we could stumble. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

Besides, it is difficult to plow our hearts again to receive God's words and grace. Because they are full of weeds, it can take a long time to make the hardened ground into good soil to plant seeds. Our soul is the same as this spiritual principle that our soul can be defiled if we do not care for it. When we ignore or neglect our spiritual growth with God's grace, our soul cannot be nourished and grow; instead, it can be defiled by bitter roots and worldly worries.

The Bible says that we are created in the image of God in Genesis 1:27. In other words, we are born with God at our center, and we are in intimate union with God in the center. We are in God's presence. Thus, we are to be fed by God, not the world. We are to grow only if we are fed by God's grace. Brothers and Sisters, let us make every effort to keep good soil of the heart and produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit abundantly.

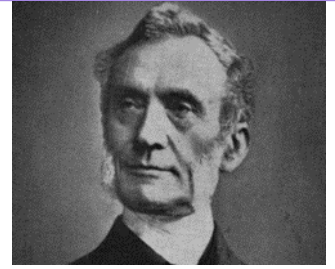
In the hope Jesus offers us,
Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon



What Happened on This Day in the History of Christianity?

The Trial of Faith

July 3



It's possible to love our families more than we love God, a sin that turns our children into idols. The Lord once tested two men along these lines—the patriarch Abraham with his son and the philanthropist George Mueller with his daughter. Mueller's ministry was primarily to orphans, but it was his own child who most tested his faith. His journal says:

My beloved daughter and only child, and a believer since 1846, was taken ill on June 20, 1853. This illness, at first a low fever, turned to typhus. On July 3rd there seemed no hope of her recovery. Now was the trial of faith. But faith triumphed. My beloved wife and I were enabled to give her up into the hands of the Lord. He sustained us both exceedingly. Though my only and beloved child was brought near the grave, yet was my soul in perfect peace, satisfied with the will of my Heavenly Father, being assured that He would only do that for her and her parents, which in the end would be best. She continued very ill till about July 20th, when restoration began.

Parents know what an only child, a beloved child, is. Well, the Father in Heaven said, as it were, "Art thou willing to give up this child to me?" My heart responded, "As it seems good to Thee, my Heavenly Father. Thy will be done." But as our hearts were made willing to give back our child to Him, so He was ready to leave her to us, and she lived.

Of all the trials of faith that as yet I have had to pass through, this was the greatest; and by God's abundant mercy, I own it to His praise, I was enabled to delight myself in the will of God; for I felt perfectly sure, that, if the Lord took this beloved daughter, it would be best for her parents, best for herself, and more for the glory of God than if she lived. This better part I was satisfied with; and thus my heart had peace, perfect peace.

"Don't hurt the boy or harm him in any way!" the angel said. "Now I know that you truly obey God, because you were willing to offer him your only son." Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in the bushes. So he took the ram and sacrificed it in place of his son." Abraham named that place "The Lord Will Provide." - Genesis 22:12-14

Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*



The Müller's Orphanage, Bristol, England



Black River Falls United Methodist Church
Mission Outreach committee

Pastor Inwha blessed the sweaters and other knit/crochet items at the June 25th service. The final count was 128 items. They are now on their way to World Vision for distribution. I want to thank everyone that has been working hard to help us surpass our goal. Many children will be warm on cold days thanks to you. Please don't let the conclusion of our focus on Knit for Kids prevent you from continuing to work on projects. Just set them aside for when we start up again in full swing in the Fall. Yarn donations are desperately needed so if you are spring cleaning or see some on garage sales think of us.

No new sewing dates have been set yet for either Patricia Project or quilt making, Keep posted for a new date and time.

Pastor in his sermons recently has asked us how we are using our talents to serve others. Since each of us have talents that are unique we can reach and serve others in many different ways. You do not have to do huge things to honor Him. Here are some ideas if you are puzzled on what you might do;

- Call a friend, shut in or relative that you haven't talked to lately
- Say "yes" if you are asked to volunteer
- Seek out volunteer opportunities
- Become a foster parent
- Visit your neighbor
- Share garden produce or flowers
- Share an ice cream or other cool summer treat with someone
- Pray

The next meeting of the MIssion outreach committee July 2 at 1030.

Submitted by Charlene Galston



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Summer is in full swing. We will be meeting once in July and once in August yet before our regular fall meetings begin. July 12 from 5-8pm at the church for a pizza/movie night and August 9th from 5-8pm at the Lunda Park Pond shelter for a family picnic.

Watch our Facebook page and your messenger for more information.

Suzanne Goldsmith

Phone: 715-896-0224

Email: suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group

Website: www.BRFUMC.org



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

From your BRF UMC Finance Committee:



This July 2023 Update will give you the status of Church finances through the first 5 months of 2023.

We will have a meeting on June 26th and then no meeting in July 2023; our next meeting will be in August 2023.

As of 06/01/2023, our general fund account balance of.....\$32,211

We have had income over the first 5 months of.....\$109,542

We have had expenses over the first 5 months of.....\$101,850

We made a payment towards our Conference Apportionments of \$3500 in May.

We expect to make another payment of \$3500 in July; we want to be sure and make our Conference Apportionments paid by the end of the year (\$21,042 total)

We are maintaining expenses versus income for the first 5 months of 2023 as you can see

We still have a segregated "Building Fund" Account locally of\$7961.23

We do not use this building fund account without request from Trustees. This is an account that we maintain, should a future Capital Project be taken on in the future.

We hold an account at the WI Methodist Foundation. The current balance on that account is \$137,315.15. This was money that we had following the sale of "Our Church Parsonage" some years ago. WI Methodist Foundation invests this money for us. We can only use this money to either buy a new parsonage or assist in paying a housing allowance to our Pastor. We use a small percentage of this money each month to help fund the Housing Allowance we pay to our Pastor.

Your support of this church is so valuable in maintaining the ministries of our church.

We ask that you continue your pledges and offerings so we can continue to serve our Church members and our community.

Thank you again for all that you do.

Howard Gomer - Chairperson



Do you know that people still listen to the radio? We do not know how many lives we touch with our weekly worship service on WWIS Radio, but we know our reach goes all the way to Washington state where one person communicated their thanks for a meaningful service heard on I heart Radio. You have an opportunity to give to this ministry. We invite you to sponsor a Sunday broadcast.

First come, first serve! You can sponsor a week in the name of someone or for a special event. Each week is \$100.

If you are interested, please let Kathryn know in the church office or brfumc@gmail.com.



Even though it is summer we still need to do some shopping. Don't forget to take a Scrip Card along to pay for your purchases. We have cards for Target, Kohl's, Bath & Body, Barnes & Noble & Amazon. Then when you are done shopping, have a card along to buy yourself some lunch. We have many restaurant cards for sale.

I don't want to depress anyone, but in approximately four to five weeks the back to school sales will be running, if not sooner.

Stop in church on Sunday or give me, Marcia, a call at 715-284-3346 to get the cards you need.



United
Women
in Faith

Greetings to UWF Members and Friends,

The summer issue of our church newsletter brings to mind, for me, a couple months to read and follow up on ideas our local unit can use come September. With that in mind, I just received the July/August response magazine and can always count on the 4 pages titled think, learn, live and give each sharing a brief message that stirs our faith and creates excitement in what might be a new direction for our unit.

This issue learn – the Dwelling Place is written by Maryann Verghese, Managing Editor. She writes about routine changes taking place in summer and that some use the summer months as a time of relaxation and rejuvenation. Consider that our dwelling places where we meet with God during the “regular” months of the year can change to the cabin, a summer camp or vacation spot, homes of relatives and friends we don’t see often, and yet we can still ponder, pray, listen, breathe and ask with and of God, and feel our spirit rejuvenate.

To women of the church, the No-Bake Bake Sale mailing just went out inviting support for the UWF Mission Pledge for 2023. I apologize for anyone I may have missed, please know that any donation can be mailed directly to Lois Epps or dropped off at the church with a note attached for UWF Missions. Checks can be made out to UMW or UWF. In advance to all, thank you for support of the many mission projects that are initiated and continued to support women, children and youth.


Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 11, 5:30pm, at the Lunda Park Large Shelter. We hope you can join us as we enjoy our “bring our own meal” and a program.

Go Forward with God’s Blessing,

Luane Meyer



JULY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship 9am Communion Mission Outreach 10:30am	3	4 Independence Day Happy 4th of July! 	5	6	7	8
9 Worship 9am Heritage Sunday Golf Outing 1pm Dinner 6pm	10	11	12 YOUTH: Pizza/Movie Night 5 pm– 8 pm	13	14	15
16 Worship 9am	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship 9am	24	25 Farmer's Market BOD 6pm	26	27	28	29

AUGUST 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship 9am Communion	7 Trustee Meeting 5 pm	8 Worship Comm. 5:30pm Ad Council 6:30pm	9 YOUTH: Family Picnic at Lunda Park Pond 5 pm– 8 pm	10	11	12 Vacation Bible School
13 Worship 9am Vacation Bible School Summerfest Pic- nic 10:30a-lp	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Worship 9am	21 Finance Meeting 5:30 pm	22 Farmer's Market BOD 6pm	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 9am	28	29	30	31		