

*Black River Falls*  
*United Methodist Church*  
100 North Fourth Street  
Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615  
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**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: 9 am - 2 pm  
Monday - Friday

Telephone: 715-284-4114

<u>Website:</u>	brfumc.org
<u>Facebook:</u>	BRFUMC
<u>"You Tube Live:</u>	BRFUMC



## Via Dolorosa

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at BRFUMC,

Peace and grace be with you all. We have entered into Lent, a season of 40 days of spiritual renewal. I want to reflect on the meaning of this Lenten time with you so that we all could appreciate Jesus' sacrificial love for us. But, first, let's back up a bit and talk about the Super Bowl.

I would guess most of you enjoyed the Super Bowl, known as the world's largest single-sporting event, that took place last Sunday, Feb. 19. The game ended with the Kansas City Chiefs defeating the Philadelphia Eagles to lift the 57th Super Bowl trophy. I heard this Super Bowl marked a few historic records. First, this Super Bowl was the first one with a black quarterback matchup. Second, the star of this year's Super Bowl halftime show was pop star Rihanna. Third, the pilots who flew the jets during the Super Bowl celebration were all women commemorating the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Navy allowing women to fly planes.

Among these stories, the one that caught my attention was the story of 94-year-old George Toma. For 57 years, since the first Super Bowl, his job has been to care for the turf in the stadium. George Toma is known as the "Sodfather" or "the God of Sod." People call him the Groundskeeper. As the Groundskeeper he manages the stadium. Eighteen months ago, George started sowing and tending the grass to ensure the game was played in the best conditions for Super Bowl Sunday. Two weeks before the game, he laid the grass on the field, adjusted the temperature to make sure it was well-rooted, and provided adequate water and sunlight. George said he has fulfilled his mission as a manager and that he was retiring from his position as turf "keeper" for the last time. Toma was honored by the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2001 as the recipient of the Ralph Hay Pioneer Award and also he was inducted into the Major League Baseball Groundskeepers Hall of Fame on January 8, 2012, as one of its charter members.

When I heard the term keeper, the idea that there are multiple managers in the world such as gatekeepers, beekeepers, shopkeepers, housekeepers, occurred to me. It seems that much of what people do in the world is the job of managers, that is, stewards. To be a Christian is to be a manager or steward of the world in which God allows us to live. In addition, we, as stewards of God, should take care of some values that the world usually ignore, such as "love, grace, faith, hope, joy, gratitude, patience, self-control, faithfulness, the gospel, and the mysteries of God."

Sometimes God entrusts us with things that are more important than even these things. It is suffering. When God entrusts suffering to anyone, He does not entrust it to just anyone. He entrusts it to the most trustworthy, to those who can bear the suffering. The people of faith in the Bible were so called "the bearers of suffering", who all bore their sufferings on account of Jesus Christ. Paul says, *"Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church"* (Colossians 1:24).

We are called by God to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Jesus who went through the Way of suffering, *Via Dolorosa* for us. When we finish our course of this world well as God intended us to do, God will reward us and give us *"life as our victor's crown," "Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:23 and Revelation 2:10).

I invite you to reflect on our faith journey again in this Lent season. Are you willing to bear the suffering for God and the church? What suffering are you bearing for the sake of God and the church? May God bless you that you could walk in the journey of suffering with the Holy Spirit.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Inwha Shon





### Mission Outreach Committee Report by Charlene Galston,

The mission outreach committee had a very productive meeting in February. We made plans for our participation in **the Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) bed build**. This will be held on April 22 at Jackson Electric. 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 March 8 from 1-4 to try to assemble 1 or 2 quilts to donate as well. Donations of fabric and batting will be needed. Please let me know you are able to participate in this sewing day. Call 715 896 9055.

Thanks to everyone that participated with their time or donations to make **the pillow case dresses** to send with Marcia Hagen. We surpassed our goal of 25 by 3, sending 28 dresses with her. If you enjoy this project, "kits" are available in the gathering area to work on at your leisure in preparation for the next mission trip. I will have a summary report of Marcia's experience in our April newsletter.

We are making great progress toward our goal for **the Knit for Kids project**. We have 70 items so far toward our goal of 100. Please keep those donations of yard coming in. 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. If you have some ideas or thoughts about this please let us know.

For our **Christmas project** we collected 162 varied items to be used as bingo prizes. These items were split between Pine View Nursing Home and Meadowbrook. In addition we collected 82 pounds of grocery items that were donated to the Food Shelf. Thanks to everyone that participated. We have received thank you notes expressing their appreciation. You make a difference in others lives.

We have set up a separate bulletin board in the gathering area highlighting 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.

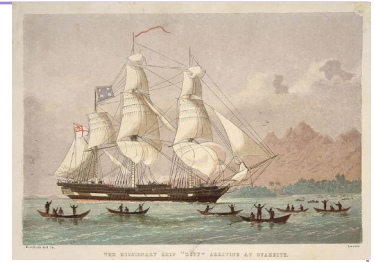
Please consider joining our next committee meeting on **Sunday, March 26th at 10: 30 in the Keefe room.**



## What Happened on This Day in the History of Christianity?

### A Practical Examination

#### March 4



↑ *Duff (1794 ship)*

The sailing of the mission ship *Duff* was an event to remember.

Thirty missionaries and their families set out from England to the South Pacific in August 1796. The morning was foggy, but the crowds were celebrative, singing hymns and offering prayers. The ship crossed the horizon and seven months later, on Saturday, **March 4, 1797**, the missionaries landed safely on Tahiti. The next day they held a worship service, then set to work.

The *Duff*'s captain, a Christian, was entrusted with the responsibility of seeing the missionaries established on various islands in the region. After several weeks on Tahiti, he felt secure enough to leave some of the workers there and take others to neighboring islands. He planted ten missionaries on Tonga, then proceeded to the islands of the Marquises to deposit two men, **William Crook** (1775-1846, England) and **John Harris** (1754-1819, England).

But an unexpected problem arose, one that their theological and missions training had not equipped the preachers to handle. No sooner had the ship anchored than beautiful naked native women swam out to welcome the missionaries. Crook and Harris nervously bundled their things and went ashore.

Such curious crowds met the two that Crook became separated from Harris and found himself alone with the chief's wife. To his horror, she immediately began seeking his attentions. When he refused, she seemed bewildered. As it turned out, she wondered if he was, in fact, a *man*. Resolving to find out, she and a mob of other women attacked Harris during the night and conducted a "**practical examination**" to clear up the matter.

The *Duff*'s crew found Harris sitting on the beach the next morning, suffering from shock, humiliated, and very anxious to leave. The work in the Marquises was abandoned. The work on Tonga proceeded with difficulty. The Tahiti mission showed more promise and eventually led to many conversions.

Joseph was well-built and handsome, and Potiphar's wife soon noticed him. One day, Joseph went to Potiphar's house to do his work, and none of the other servants were there. Potiphar's wife grabbed hold of his coat and said, "***Make love to me!***" Joseph ran out of the house, leaving her hanging onto his coat. *Genesis 39:6b-7a, 11-12*



← *Missionary William Crook*

- from Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*





*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> 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 1	Rod & Katrina McGillivray	March 8	United Women in Faith
March 15	Mary Loveland	March 22	Imelda Kelley
March 29	Mission Outreach	April 6 (Thur.)	Maundy Thursday

Thank you all who have made Wednesday Night Connections a huge success.

## 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chornby@centurytel.net)

Katrina McGillivray, Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

Lent Season is here. We will be discussing Jesus' journey into the wilderness. A journey of a thousand miles that begins with a single step. We will find ourselves on our own faith journey where we can find our calling, pray for our needs and ask for forgiveness where it needs to be given.

During the first week of March, we need a group to help at the Neighborhood food pantry packing food bags. Watch for more info on what day we will be doing this.

March	1st	Youth group	6-7pm
March	8th	Youth group	6-7pm
March	15th	Youth group	6-7pm
March	22nd	Youth group	6-7pm
March	29th	Youth group	6-7pm

If you have never attended the Black River Falls Figure Skating Ice Show, consider it this year. "All That Glitters" will be held at the Milt Lunda Memorial Arena on March 17-19. Tickets are \$8.00 and are available through members of the Skating Club. Support a great program while watching some of our congregation members, Lauren Beck, Abigayle & Annaliese Rave, Avory & Esmee Brooks, showing their talents.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**April 2nd: Camp Sunday.** We will highlight this years United Methodist Summer Camps during

worship with a pancake breakfast to follow.

**April 16th: Youth will lead 9am worship.**



Youth Snow Sledding Day



February 5, at Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area



United  
Women  
in Faith

To Members and Friends of UWF,

UWF focuses on an annual campaign each year. In 2023, our members will be discussing the campaign: Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline at our March and April meetings. An increase in incarceration in the US of children and youth, including youth of color, as a result of school-based arrests and law enforcement referrals is an important focus of working to build a better future for children and youth.

At our March meeting, we will be looking at the facts behind this campaign. When we meet in April, we are planning to invite a staff person from Jackson Correctional Institute to help us look at the structure of the JCI population and how we might be able to support families impacted by incarceration.

The African proverb says: **“It takes a village to raise a child.”** In that same spirit, we keep needing that village for the rest of our lives. We are all a part of that village that supports others. May we as members of BRF UMC build a community that turns faith, hope, and love into action that supports families.

We invite all women to join us for our meetings on the **1st Monday of the month at 5:30pm.**  
Go Forward with God’s Blessing,  
Luane Meyer



Scrip cards are used for more than gifts. The majority of cards bought at our church are for personal use. How many times a week/month do you buy something at Hansen’s, Wal-Mart or Kwik Trip?

We have cards for each of those places. Maybe you want to pick up a quick meal or beverage. We have cards for Arby’s, Subway and Revolution’s. Maybe your sweet tooth is calling. Pie from Perkins or custard from Culver’s should take care of your cravings.

Stop in the gathering area before or after service on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346 to get what you need or want.





### **From your BRF UMC Finance Committee:**

We are 2 months into 2023 and all is going well. There have been quite a few changes that have taken place over the last few months. Let's get you up to date on who is a member of the Finance Committee for 2023: Howard Gomer - Chairperson, Pastor Inwha, Jim Bible, Chuck Devendorf, Tom Epps, Karolyn Gjersest, Jim Hoffman, Gil Homstad, Katrina McGillivray, Dave Olson.

We could use an additional two people on the Finance Committee as we usually find ourselves short handed at the meetings. Anyone willing to volunteer and serve would be appreciated. Please let Howard Gomer know if you are interested or have questions about serving.

Here us a breakdown of our proposed budget for 2023:

Expected Income: \$275,950.00

Expected Expenses: \$272,709.50

To date, we have met expenses and income is at an expected level. Please continue to pray for our church to be able to meet our expenses and continue to fulfill our commitment to goals and missions and outreach.

You may or may not know we have hired Dobson Accounting to handle our accounting for our church. They will handle the general accounting as well as handle payroll for staff. We hope we can simplify the accounting and help clarify the month to month "numbers". At the time of this update, we are still looking to hire an Administrative Assistant to help with day to day office needs. This position will be a 20 hour per week paid position.

We continue to ask that you reaffirm your commitment to our United Methodist Church by your attendance at church worship and continue to volunteer your time and talents. Your gifts to our church can make sure sure we can meet expenses.

In the April newsletter, we will have a more detailed breakdown of income and expenses. I will also detail a few areas where we have found we can cut expenses while still meeting the needs of our church.

Thanks to you all and bless you each and every day.

Howard Gomer - Chairperson

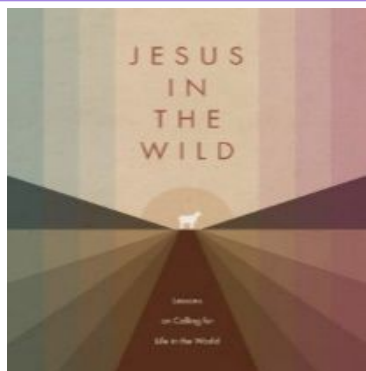




## Small Group Bible Study with Video

### Jesus in the Wild

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



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

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 are going to serve **“Corned Beef and Cabbage”** on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, at 4-7 pm. We welcome you to join us at any time.

Paul Hoffman is serving as a chair of UMM.



# Lenten Bible Reading Plan

## Gospel of Mark

☐ Mark 1:1-20

☐ Mark 1:21-39

☐ Mark 1:40-2:12

☐ Mark 2:13-28

☐ Mark 3:1-19

☐ Mark 3:20-35

☐ Mark 4:1-20

☐ Mark 4:21-34

☐ Mark 4:35-5:20

☐ Mark 5:21-34

☐ Mark 5:35-6:6

☐ Mark 6:7-29

☐ Mark 6:30-44

☐ Mark 6:45-56

☐ Mark 7:1-23

☐ Mark 7:24-37

☐ Mark 8:1-21

☐ Mark 8:22-33

☐ Mark 8:34-9:13

☐ Mark 9:14-29

☐ Mark 9:30-37

☐ Mark 9:38-50

☐ Mark 10:1-16

☐ Mark 10:17-31

☐ Mark 10:32-45

☐ Mark 11:1-25

☐ Mark 11:27-12:12

☐ Mark 12:13-34

☐ Mark 12:35-44

☐ Mark 13:1-20

☐ Mark 13:21-37

☐ Mark 14:1-26

☐ Mark 14:27-42

☐ Mark 14:43-65

☐ Mark 14:66-15:15

☐ Mark 15:16-39

☐ Mark 15:40-47

☐ Mark 16:1-8

☐ Mark 16:9-14

☐ Mark 16:15-20



### Upcoming Events in March & April:

**Corned Beef & Cabbage, Friday, March 17**

**Palm Sunday, April 2, Maundy Thursday: April 6, Good Friday: April 7**

**Easter: April 9, Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed: April 22, Sat.**



MAR	2	Shirley Nimmo
MAR	14	David Olson
		Nancy Iuliano
MAR	15	Megan Finch
MAR	18	Olivia Lee
MAR	19	Carol Anderson
		LuAnn Gaede
MAR	20	Freddie Dolsey
MAR	21	Carol Hornby
MAR	26	Edward Brauner
MAR	28	Patty Harleson
MAR	30	Harley Boehm

March 17	James & Georgia Earl
March 18	Michael & LuAnn Gaede
March 24	Barry & Freda Goldsmith
March 30	James & Andrea Hoffman



### Youth Birthdays

MAR	6	Lily McCullough
MAR	20	Macie Goldsmith
MAR	27	DraMontae Sanders
MAR	28	Ava Gilberg
		Hanna Goldsmith

### New Church Directory

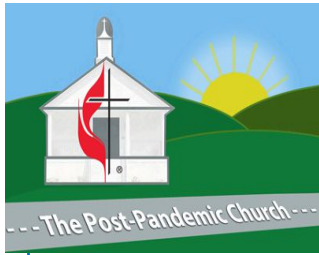
The church directory is in the process of being updated. Many of you have either received phone calls or emails regarding your current directory information and requesting any changes in your individual information.

Thank you to all who have responded to these requests. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

If you have not received a call or an email, please take the time to call Carol Hornby at 715-284-9655 or email her at [carolhornby71@gmail.com](mailto:carolhornby71@gmail.com). Thanks for your help!

JESUS LOVES YOU.





## Time for a ReLaunch

The Christian Church has been in decline for 2 decades, made worse by secular views of the church and Covid-19 Pandemic. How, as a church, do we reinvent ourselves for the future?

Reverend Scott Carlson, Director of Congregational Development lead a workshop this past weekend presenting insights and instruction. 80% of our community is unchurched. Most people do not think the Christian church cares and has become irrelevant. The answer is as simple as creating opportunities to meet people outside our church building, developing new relationships and introducing our new friends to a relationship with Christ by sharing our own stories.

This follows Christ's example, one that John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church utilized when thousands were introduced to a different life through Christ. Many examples of this process from growing churches were shared: Starting with a "**Splash**" event and then having pre-determined 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. In one circumstance 15 out of 20 ended up joining the church.

Focusing on what we already do well, we springboarded off the upcoming **Men's Group St. Patrick's Day Corned beef and Cabbage Dinner** – Calling that our "**Splash event**". Ideas included tickets to be raffled on WWIS radio, invitation to our nearby neighbors to offer food and conversation, marketing on Main Street and more. Invitations for upcoming Wednesday Connections would then be given to encourage people to follow-up events.

Once relationships made, invitations to explore faith development within our church community are done. From that, the ideas kept rolling. Look for more information over the next two months through newsletter, worship, and phone calls.

Part of Starting a ReLaunch is **Discernment and Prayer**. Reverend Scott Carlson encouraged developing prayer teams and opportunities for prayer and discernment of what direction God wants our church to go. One very fruitful method is **a Neighborhood Prayer Walk**.

**Starting Sunday, March 19**, we will start at the church at 11:30 am and walk and pray for the neighborhood immediately surrounding the church for 30-60 minutes. All interested are encouraged to participate and see what answers the Lord brings.

Katrina McGillivray, chair of SPRC

### Welcome Kathryn Steere!

Staff Parish Relations is please to introduce *Kathryn Steere* as our new Administrative Assistant. She starts her new role this week and will be in the church office Monday – Thursday 9 am – 2 pm. Kathryn has 3 children, her youngest, Tyler, is in 3rd grade. She is described as creative, friendly, and dependable. She is a great addition to our team. Please stop by the church office and give her a friendly welcome!



# MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			Prayer Mtg 10 am <b>Wed. Connections</b> <b>Lent Bible Study, 5:30 pm</b> Youth: Pre-Con/Youth/ Confirmation Class			<b>UMM, 8 am</b>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Communion</b> Lent Bible Study, 10:30 am	<b>UWF, 5:30 pm</b>		Prayer Mtg, 10 am <b>Sewing Day, 1-4 pm</b> <b>Wed. Connections</b> <b>Lent Bible Study, 5:30 pm</b> Youth: Pre-Con/Youth/ Confirmation Class			<b>SPRC Training</b> 9 am– noon. <b>ZOOM</b>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Lent Bible Study, 10:30 am	<b>Board of Trustees, 5 pm</b>	<b>Finance, 5:30 pm</b> <b>Ad Council: 6:30 pm</b>	Pastor, <b>Bishop's Day Apart,</b> 9 am–3:30 pm, Wausau <b>Wed. Connections</b> <b>Lent Bible Study, 5:30 pm</b> Youth Activities: Pre-Con/ Youth/Confirmation Class	Pastor, <b>DCOM,</b> 9am–3:30pm Stevens Point	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b> <b>Corned Beef &amp; Cabbage Dinner</b> 4-7 pm by UMM	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>UMCOR Sunday</b> Lent Bible Study, 10:30 am		<b>Worship Comm. 5:30 pm</b>	<b>No Youth Activities</b> (School Spring Break) <b>Wed. Connections</b> <b>Lent Bible Study, 5:30 pm</b>	<b>Children/Youth/ Family Comm., 5:30 pm</b>		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Lent Bible Study, 10:30 am	Farmers Market Board of Directors Meeting, 6 pm		Prayer Meeting, 10 am <b>Wed. Connections, 4:45-6 pm</b> <b>Lent Bible Study, 5:30 pm</b> <b>Youth Activities: Pre-Con/ Youth/Confirmation Class</b>			

**Routine Activities on Wednesday:** **Prayer Meeting 10 am** **Wednesday Connections, 4:45-6 pm**  
**Pre-Confirmation Class, 5—6 pm** **Youth, 6-7 pm** **Confirmation Class, 7-8 pm**  
**Choir Practice, 6-7 pm** **Bell Choir Practice, 7-8 pm**