

*Black River Falls*  
*United Methodist Church*  
100 North Fourth Street  
Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615  
Return Service Requested  
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: Monday - Thursday  
9 am to 2 pm

Telephone: 715-284-4114

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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF,

Peace and grace be with you. I hope you are enjoying the warm weather this spring.

As you might know, we Christians are the people of Easter. Easter is a significant event to believers in Jesus' days and to us today because it changed everything. He was acknowledged by people as a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of sinners and tax collectors (Matthew 11:19). He indeed became a friend of sinners and ate with the marginalized and minority. Once prejudice is deeply entrenched in our mind, it is hard to break. Prejudice is often used to refer to a preconceived (usually unfavorable) evaluation or classification of another person based on that person's perceived personal characteristics. People tend not to change their mind unless they encounter the ultimate power like Jesus Christ.

Actually, Jesus came to us to break stereotypes and prejudice in our heart and mind. He met shunned people, such as a Samaritan woman, a tax collector, and even a member of the assembly in the ancient Land of Israel unconditionally in grace and love, regardless of family background, appearance, race, education, etc. Above all, Jesus shattered the belief that death is the end by His resurrection from the grave.

One day in 1874, Pastor Robert Lowry was reading the story of Jesus' resurrection recorded in Luke 24. The angel said to the women who had visited Jesus' tomb. "Why seek the living among the dead, for he is not here, but he is risen. He is not here, but he is risen." When he read the phrase, Pastor Lowry's body soared like a spring. Then, he ran to the organ and expressed his excitement that Jesus had been resurrected in a hymn, which is "Up from the Grave He Arose" #322 in the United Methodist Hymnal.

At the beautiful Easter musical which celebrated Jesus' resurrection last Easter Sunday, we rejoiced that Jesus arose from death. He defeated the power of darkness. He revealed the hope that we are living for in this world that a new life, a new humanity begins from those who believe in Him. It is the Christian life that we have received a new and eternal life through the risen Lord and live by faith waiting for Jesus to come "again," which is the kingdom of God.

*"We should no longer be slaves to sin. Our old self was crucified with Jesus. Just as we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His"* (Romans 6:5-6).

I encourage all of you to live the resurrection life beyond the darkness and despair. *"We were called to be free and serve one another humbly in love."* (Galatians 5:13).

In Jesus' love,  
Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon



Black River Falls United Methodist Church May 2023 newsletter  
Mission Outreach committee

At the time of this writing we have not yet met to complete the building of the beds for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace project but will in 3 days. The goal is to complete 30 beds. It was great to have Tom Twesme and his wife tell us about the program on Sunday April 16th. It is wonderful how many lives this program has already affected. At our special collection that day we collected \$197.00. This money will be given to the SHP organization to help support their programming or buy supplies. Our church has put together 3 quilts to be donated to the SLP program. Many thanks to our youth, along with many other adult volunteers that participated to help make this possible. Other bedding donations will be given to SHP on April 22 the day of the build. Thank you also to all that have donated their time and talents for the bed build. It is definitely a team effort.

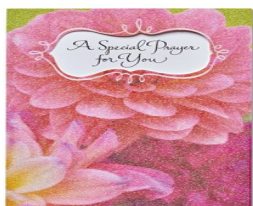
Our Knit for Kids project wrapped up April 30. We ask that all items be turned in no later than May 15th. We were able to surpass our goal of 100 items. As items are still coming in I will have a final count for you in our next newsletter. No date has been set yet for a blessing of the items before they are sent off to World Vision. I want to thank everyone that has been working hard to help us meet this goal. Many children will be warm on cold days thanks to you. Please don't let this deadline 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.

Be watching the United Methodist Church website for other volunteer opportunities through the UMC Volunteers in Mission Program. Volunteers are still needed to help get the camps ready for summer campers.

The next meeting of the Mission outreach committee May 7th at 10:30am.

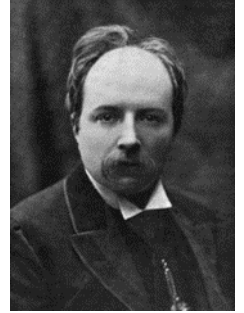
Submitted by Charlene Galston



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

### Weak Lungs

May 4



Sickness proved a blessing for W. Robertson Nicoll, for it determined his career and ministry. He was born in 1851 with weak lungs. His mother, brother, and sister died from tuberculosis. He was raised by his father, Pastor Harry Nicoll, whose church numbered 100 souls—but whose library numbered 17,000 books.

Inheriting his dad's love for literature, Robertson began a weekly column for the *Aberdeen Journal*. He started pastoring, but doctors told him his lungs were too weak for preaching. He contracted typhoid and pleurisy, resigned his church, and retreated to his books. Here Robertson found his calling.

He was already editing a magazine called *The Expositor*, and in 1886 he began *The British Weekly*. It became a leading Christian journal in Britain. He then started *The Bookman*, and two years later *The Woman at Home* appeared in magazine stalls. While editing his four periodicals, Robertson began publishing books (he read two books a day throughout his life).

*The Expositor's Bible*, a series of 50 volumes, was released between 1888 and 1905. Then *The Expositor's Greek New Testament* appeared. Robertson persuaded Alexander Maclaren to issue his expositions; then he found and developed other writers. In all, Robertson edited hundreds of titles and wrote 40 books of his own. He became the most prolific and respected Christian journalist in the English-speaking world.

In 1909, while being knighted, he said, "I never contemplated a literary career. I had expected to go on as a minister, doing literary work in leisure times, but my fate was sealed for me." His illness forced him to do much of his work propped in bed amid the clutter of newspapers, books, pipes, and cigarette ashes. His cats purred nearby, and he always kept a fire burning, claiming that fresh air was the devil's invention. His library contained 25,000 volumes, including 5,000 biographies. "I have read every biography I could lay my hands on," he said, "and not one has failed to teach me something."

Sir W. Robertson Nicoll died on **May 4, 1923**. Among his last words were, "I believe everything I have written about immortality!"

*"Rain and snow fall from the sky. But they don't return without watering the earth that produces seeds to plant and grain to eat. That's how it is with my words. They don't return to me without doing everything I send them to do."* Isaiah 55:10-11



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:

May 3	Youth Group
May 10	Mission Outreach
May 17	Esther Shon <b>(Last Day till Fall)</b>

## 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

The youth have been working hard on their upcoming worship service. We invite all to join us on May 7th as they lead the worship.

May 3rd, the youth will provide the meal for Wednesday Connections. We will begin serving at 4:45. The youth will leave after supper to help pack food bags at the neighborhood food pantry.

May 10 Youth group

May 17 Last youth group for this school year.

We will send information on our summer activities as soon as dates are set.

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



## From your BRF UMC Finance Committee:

This May 2023 Update will give you the status of Church finances through the first three months of 2023

We started out the year with a balance in our general fund account of.....\$22,687.63

We have had income over the first 3 months of.....\$78,670.28

We have had expenses over the first 3 months of.....\$68,650.49

Balance in our general fund account as of 03/31/2023 was.....\$32,707.42

We are maintaining expenses versus income for the first three months of 2023 as you can see  
We still have a segregated "Building Fund" Account locally of .....\$7921.23

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 \$136,595.78. 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.

We did not have a Finance Committee Meeting in April because we have not been getting financial reports by the second Tuesday of the month. When we can establish a timely date to have meetings, we will again be holding regularly scheduled monthly meetings to discuss Church finances.

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



## Prayer Walk

### National Day of Prayer May 4th

At the heart of any successful church prelaunch 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 **EVERY SUNDAY AT 1:00pm (in the parking lot)** to learn more and pray as we walk to discover new ministries and opportunities to which God is calling us.

Katrina McGillivray, Chair SPRC



United  
Women  
in Faith

Greetings to UWF Members and Friends,

Guests at our April meeting, Chaplain Myron Olson and Volunteer Montana Brit, each shared inspiring views of their journeys that led them to Jackson Correctional Institution. Chaplain Olson brings messages and resources to meet the spiritual needs of inmates who practice many different faiths. As a volunteer within the prison ministry, Volunteer Brit also volunteers within another Institution and serves as an Assistant Pastor. He ministers by sharing how his experiences growing up have impacted the testimony he shares with others. We greatly appreciated having them spend time with us.

Our May meeting will focus on family and is coming up right away on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm. A young mom will give a testimonial on how her faith, family and community support her family. Just as our worldwide UWF community continues to support women, children and youth throughout our country and world.

And be sure to put June 5<sup>th</sup> on you calendar, the date of our Indoor Picnic Potluck. We will meet at 5:30pm at the Black River Area Chamber of Commerce meeting room.

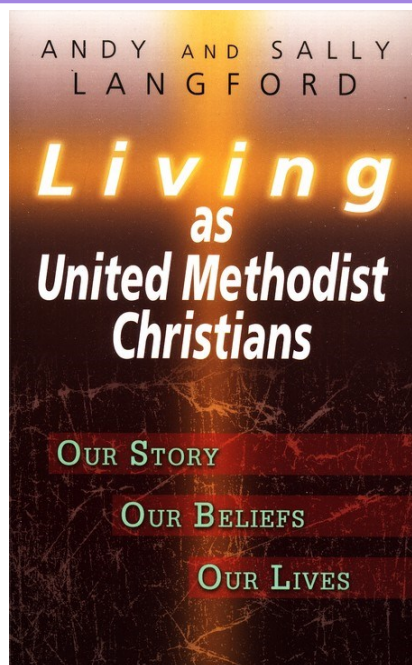
UWF invites you to join us at any of our activities for devotions and programs that guide us as we put our faith, hope and love into action.

Go Forward with God's Blessing,  
Luane Meyer



Along with your personal shopping needs, Scrip cards can be helpful in the many activities happening over the summer. There are graduations, mother's day, father's day, bridal showers, weddings, etc. Even using cards to buy supplies for a backyard get together. There are lots of possibilities and a good way to help raise funds for the church. Stop and pick some up at church on Sundays, or if that doesn't work, call Marcia at 715-284-3346 and I will see if I can help.





## Small Group Bible Study

**“Living as United Methodist Christians”**

**By: Andy & Sally Langford**

**May 7th - June 11th**

**at 10:30am**

**(Study will last 6 Sundays)**

**Please sign up, so we can order books as needed.**

## 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 welcome you to join us anytime!

May 6, Saturday at 8am, Location : TBA

Paul Hoffman, serving as chair of UMM.





May 1 Todd Perry  
 May 2 Vione Brauner  
 Mark Hoffman  
 Emily Ward  
 May 8 Mary McCann  
 May 9 Ruth Hart  
 May 12 James Hornby  
 May 14 Clarice Rush  
 Chelsey Gile  
 May 15 Marcia Devendorf  
 May 18 June Koehler  
 May 19 Leroy Simonson  
 May 20 Lynda Overman  
 Marcia Peterson  
 May 21 Suzanne Hefty  
 May 22 David Meyer  
 May 23 Elvina Dambach  
 May 25 Suzanne Goldsmith  
 Jashua Ward  
 May 3 Robert Uhrig  
 May 27 Mary O'Brien  
 Steve Harelson  
 Leah Olson  
 May 29 Ann Zillmer



May 1 Freddie & Donna Dolesy  
 May 4 Mark & Carol Jarrett  
 May 9 Charles & Marcia Devendorf  
 May 10 David & Kimberly Gjersest  
 May 15 James & Debra Ward  
 May 16 Jerry & Lynda Overman  
 May 18 Gary & Rhonda Ammann  
 May 29 Jeffery & Barbara Hagenbrock  
 May 30 Patrick & Diane Moe  
 May 31 Todd & Lisa Perry



### Upcoming Events in May:

May 3 Youth Group will serve Wednesday Connections  
 May 4 National Day of Prayer  
 May 7 Prayer Walk (parking lot) 1pm  
 May 7 Youth Led Worship 9am  
 May 7 Bible Study  
 May 17 Last Day of Youth Group

# MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Trustees 5pm UWF 5:30pm	2	3 National Day of Prayer	4	5	6 UMM 8am
7 Youth Led Worship 9am Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Walk 1p	8	9 Finance Comm. 5:30p Ad Council 6:30pm	10 Wed. Connections 4:45-6pm Youth: Pre-Con/Youth/ Confirmation Class	11	12	13
14 Worship 9am Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Walk 1p	15	16 Worship Comm. 5:30pm	17 Wed. Connections 4:45-6 pm Youth Activities: Pre-Con/ Youth/Confirmation Class (Last Day of Youth Group)	18 Children/Youth/ Family 5:30pm	19	20
21 Worship 9am Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Walk 1p	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 9am Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Walk 1p	29	30 Farmers Market Board of Directors Meeting, 6 pm	31			

**Routine Activities on Wednesday:** **Wednesday Connections, 4:45-6 pm (May 17-Last Day till Fall)**  
**Pre-Confirmation Class, 5-6 pm**  
**Youth Group 6pm**  
**Confirmation Class, 7-8 pm**