

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



**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

Worship Service: 9:00 am

Office Hours: Wednesday/Thursday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Telephone: 715-284-4114

Website: brfumc.org

We are also on Facebook and YouTube!



“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRF,

Peace and grace be with you. It is a time of harvest and Thanksgiving. When I drove by cornfields lately I found that the crops looked not as abundant this year as last year due to shortage of rain and some very hot weather. As you might know, we had a sizzling summer without any rain for a while. So that weather must have affected the harvest this year. Besides COVID-19 still prevails all over the world and the war in Ukraine has not stopped. Even another war has occurred in Gaza and in the West Bank. Also, natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and wildfires are still going on. We see the weather changes impacting our lives severely. As a result, we see numerous innocent people die. What a tragedy! When will our hatred and enmity stop?

As we see ourselves around this country, people have started the harvest and decorated spooky costumes and décor in their houses to entertain the Halloween spirit. I see that our life is interwoven with joys, concerns, and suffering. Our life is not unpredictable and incomprehensible. What are you looking for in this life? What do you live for?

As we have been going through the **“Dynamite Prayer 28 Days Experiment,”** I found from one of the days’ devotions that the words “eternal life” Jesus used in the Gospels indicated something that would never cease nor have an end. The Greek word Jesus used here, *zoe*, translated into English as “life,” actually refers to the life of our soul and spirit. Our life on earth is not just all there is. We are destined to live in eternity. Our life on earth is preparation for eternity.

Then, how to prepare for that? We are created in the image of God. In other words, we cannot live apart from the grace of God. As King Solomon who was called king of wisdom says in Ecclesiastes 1:2, *“Everything is meaningless.”* It is only in God that our life is meaningful and purposeful. No matter what our circumstances are, let us remember we are God’s creatures and God is in control so live in gratitude.

May God bless you all.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon



What Happened on This Day in the History of Christianity?

Bobby Wild Goose

November 3



Robert Raikes was born in 1735 in Gloucester, England, where his father published the Gloucester Journal. When the elder Raikes died in 1757, Robert, 22, inherited the newspaper, and immediately used it to crusade for moral reform. English prisons, for example, were inhumane places of misery where prisoners, crowded into tiny compartments with no ventilation or sanitary facilities, died of “gaol fever.” Raikes visited them, raised money for them, and taught them to read. His penetrating newspaper columns repeatedly called attention to their plight.

One Saturday afternoon in 1780, Robert discovered another cause to champion. He entered a slummy suburb of Gloucester to interview a prospective gardener. Swarms of children surrounded him, and Raikes recoiled in horror at their fighting, profanity, stench, gambling, and filth. He returned home shaken and almost immediately conceived a plan for Sunday schools. Such schools had already been tried, but without widespread backing. Raikes hired four Christian women to open schools on Sunday. Why Sunday? Children worked in the factories the other six days of the week, but on Sunday they ran wild.

The portly Raikes, primly dressed and carrying an elegant snuffbox and tasseled cane, ambled through the ghettos day after day recruiting pupils. The children began calling him “Bobby Wild Goose.” But in his Sunday schools, they were taught to read, then they learned the Bible, the Catechism, and other subjects.

Three years later, after the schools were clearly working, Raikes used his newspaper to promote them. On **November 3, 1783** the Gloucester Journal published an article on the success of Sunday schools. To Raikes’s surprise, London papers picked up the story and inquiries poured in from across England. The movement spread rapidly. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The form of Sunday school changed, yet millions of all ages find their way each week to Sunday school to learn of Christ.

Some people brought their children to Jesus, so that he could place his hands on them and pray for them. His disciples told the people to stop bothering him. But Jesus said, *“Let the children come to me, and don’t try to stop them! People who are like these children belong to God’s kingdom.”* Matthew 19:13,14



Robert Raikes and the House where the First Sunday Schools was held



Mission Outreach Committee Report

Our committee's primary focus is getting dinner church up and going. We are making progress getting the teams organized and everything set to start after the new year. We are still needing families or other committees to sign up to do meals for our Wednesday Connection. Please talk with Pastor Shon if you can bring a meal.

Looking for other ways that you can serve others? The Wisconsin Conference Volunteers in Mission (VIM) website [Volunteers in Mission - Wisconsin Conference of the UMC \(wisconsinumc.org\)](http://volunteersinmission-wisconsin.org) lists several opportunities some of which are nearby. I would encourage you to check out the web site for more information or the mission outreach web site for a full listing. If you prefer to remain local, check with the pastor as to whom might benefit from a friendly visit or phone call. Does your neighbor need a window washed or leaves raked? Additionally, Interfaith volunteer caregivers have many volunteer opportunities and are always welcoming new volunteers.

Reminder, we will have a sewing day for the Patricia Project on November 8 from 10-3. We will be partnering with members from Home and Community Education (HCE) as they celebrate HCE week. We will be meeting at the Evangelical Lutheran Church basement. This will allow us more room to do our work. The goal is to make as many pads as we can using up all our supplies. This will be our final sewing day for Patricia Project. Please mark your calendars now if you are interested in joining us.

Submitted by

Charlene Galston



United Methodist Global Missionary Temba Nkomozepe will be visiting many local Wisconsin congregations between October 17 and November 6.

Temba will be at our church on **Wednesday, Nov. 1st at 5 pm** for dinner at Wednesday Connections and presenting his project in Mujia Falls, Kanyama, Zambia since 2017.

We invite anyone to hear his mission and to have breakfast with him at **Gimi's Family Restaurant on Thursday, 8 am.**

YOUTH MINISTRIES

November 2023

Happy November

The youth have a quieter month then they did in October, but God will still be working in them in great and many ways.

November gatherings:

- Wednesday Nov. 1 Youth 5:30-7pm
 Tuesday Nov. 7 **Youth packing bags** at the neighborhood food pantry. Meet at church at 5pm.
 Wednesday Nov. 8 Youth 5:30-7pm
 Wednesday Nov. 15 Youth 5:30-7pm
 Sunday Nov. 19 Youth and families Thanksgiving Dinner 12:30pm (all youth and families invited. A letter was sent home)
 Wednesday Nov. 22 **NO YOUTH** please attend Thanksgiving Eve Worship at 6pm
 Wednesday Nov. 29 Youth 5:30-7pm

The youth are looking to add a couple things to their fellowship time, in which they would need to do some fund-raising. Please watch for some fun events soon that will help them reach their goals.

Worship is at 9am each Sunday.

If you need a ride to any gatherings or worship, please contact Suzanne.

Blessings

Suzanne Goldsmith

BRF UMC Youth Director

715-896-0224

suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth

Website: BRFUMC.org



From your BRF UMC Finance Committee



This November 2023 Update will give you the status of Church finances through the first 10 months of 2023

As of 09/29/2023, our general fund account balance of.....\$24,646

We have had income over the first 9 months of.....\$185,039

We have had expenses over the first 9 months of.....\$204,202

We made a payment towards our Conference Apportionments of \$7000 in October 2023

We have made a total of \$14,000 in payments for 2023, 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 9 months of 2023 as you can see and with proper management, we will come through 2023 OK.

We are close to having a new Sound and Video system ordered for our sanctuary. We will need between \$44,000 and \$46,000 to cover the costs of this new system. This is over and above our regular general expenses. If you have considered extra giving to the church, this would be a good opportunity to make that commitment. More information will be published soon.

We still see a shortfall when it comes to 2023 pledges versus pledged giving in 2023. We ask that if you did make a pledge in 2023, that you make sure and fulfill your pledge for 2023. If you have questions about your pledge, please contact Howard Gomer.

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

30 Thankful Prayers

When was the last time you focused your prayer on being thankful? Often, prayer becomes a one-way conversation to God with a list of our needs. This resource is all about praying from a heart of gratitude. At the beginning of your day or at the end of your day, start the habit of thanking God for your blessings and praying these verses out loud. Invite a friend or your family to join you for 30 days of thankful prayers. Then, continue to foster a thankful heart and way of life. Create a gratitude journal—adding specific praise verses and prayers that are personal to your own life.

Day 1

Father, thank you for your love for me (John 3:16).

Day 2

Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice and for the gift of salvation for me (Philippians 2:6-8).

Day 3

Father, thank you for both your mercy and your grace for my life (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Day 4

Father, thank you for your Word and the ways you communicate through Scripture to guide my life (2 Timothy 3:16).

Day 5

Holy Spirit, thank you for living in me and being a guide and comforter (John 14:16-17; 16:13).

Day 6

Father, thank you that you are always with me (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Day 7

Father, thank you for creating me and knowing me even when I was in my mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-14).

Day 8

Father, thank you for every breath you give me (Isaiah 42:5).

Day 9

Father, thank you for the ways you change my heart. Help me to abide in you all of my days (Ezekiel 36:26).

Day 10

Jesus, thank you for coming to offer abundant life for all who know you (John 10:10).

Day 11

Father, thank you that I may have eternal life in Jesus Christ (John 3:15).

Day 12

Abba, thank you for the oceans, mountains, fields, deserts, and all the amazing landscapes you created for our enjoyment (Isaiah 40:12).

Day 13

God, thank you for your light—for the sunrises, sunsets, and the moon and the stars that add light to darkness (Genesis 1:14-19).

Day 14

God, thank you the animals you created—from the largest whale to even the smallest goldfish (Genesis 1:21).

Day 15

Father, thank you for how I notice your beauty in the people around me through their smiles, laughter, and the unique ways you created them (Genesis 1:27).

Day 16

Father, thank you for my family and for those friends I call family—may we love each other well (John 15:12-13).

God, thank you for the gift of children and the way they remind me how to approach you (Matthew 19:14).

Day 17

Father, thank you for adopting me into your spiritual family (Romans 8:14-17).

Day 18

Father, thank you for the fellowship of believers and what we share together in you (Acts 2:42-47).

Day 19

Father, thank you for marriage and the ways this relationship reflects Christ's relationship with the church (Ephesians 5:21-33).

Day 20

God, thank you for the gift of children and the way they remind me how to approach you (Matthew 19:14).

Day 21

Lord, thank you for any strangers I might meet today, who could well turn out to be blessings directly from you (Hebrews 13:2).

Day 22

Father, thank you for the work you give me to do so that I may honor you (Colossians 3:23).

Day 23

Lord, thank you for the plans and purposes you have for me (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Day 24

Jesus, thank you that in you I'm a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Day 25

God, thank you for being sovereign so that I can trust in your work in my life (Psalm 71:5).

Day 26

Lord, thank you for the truth and the foundation you laid through Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Day 27

Jesus, thank you for your peace that surpasses all understanding (John 14:27).

Day 28

Father, thank you for guiding me to have a greater faith (Hebrews 11:1).

Day 29

Father, thank you for the hope you give me in Christ Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Day 30

Father, thank you for infusing me with your love, so others may know your love (John 13:34-35).

Prayer: God you are so good. Thank you for being my Father, God in Heaven whom I love and want to follow all of my days. Amen.

The Meaning of Thanksgiving Day for Christians

By Chris Holland, October 19, 2023

For many, Thanksgiving is a time to spend with family, good friends, and even better food. But, on this special day that is all about gratitude and thanks, it's time to take it back to the basics and remember who we have to thank most of all—Jesus.

Don't lose the true meaning of Thanksgiving day in the mountains of food and endless games—remember to focus on the thanksgiving meaning in the Bible and take the opportunity to reconnect with God. Keep reading for an outline of the Christian meaning of Thanksgiving and the best practices to follow.

When Is Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States that falls on the last Thursday of November each year. This year, in 2022, it will fall on November 24th in the US. Canada also has a national holiday called Thanksgiving, but they celebrate it on the second Monday in October instead.

What Is the Point of Thanksgiving?

The meaning of Thanksgiving day is centered on gratitude, urging people to look inward at what they have instead of outwards at what they want. From the food on our plates to the people around us, this holiday urges us to be content.

What Is the Meaning of Thanksgiving?

For Christians, Thanksgiving Day is a chance to ask God for forgiveness for our sins, repent for our disobedience, and express gratitude for all He has given us. President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863 during the civil war.



In his speech, Lincoln outlines the thanksgiving meaning as a day: “to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks.”

That’s why, for Christians, this special day is about more than good food shared among friends—it’s about singing the Lord’s praises. He created everything we enjoy in this world, and all good comes through His grace.

The Deeper History of Thanksgiving



But Lincoln didn’t speak the holiday into existence. We can follow its roots back all the way to 1621 when the Plymouth Colony settlers and the Wampanoag people supposedly shared a meal in celebration of the harvest.

The year that followed was bleak for these colonizers, as they suffered through a cruel New England winter that saw the passing of half of the Mayflower’s 102 passengers. But fortunately, a bountiful Harvest blessed them the following fall, offering a much-needed miracle.

Now, this festival is celebrated annually to thank God for sending another bountiful harvest, feeding hungry mouths, and letting the people of the United States thrive. Today, the meaning of thanksgiving day is about staying humble and remembering our ancestors' struggles.

Thanksgiving for Native Americans

No telling of the Thanksgiving story would be complete without recognizing the tragedy that accompanied the ship full of British colonizers. With them, came many diseases like smallpox and yellow fever that the Native American people had not encountered.



Once prosperous and thriving, the Wampanoag suffered enormously at the hands of these diseases during a period known as the “Great Dying,” which lasted for three years. Research shows that around 55 million Native American people died from violence and extreme exposure to a plethora of unknown deadly pathogens.

This staggeringly large number means Thanksgiving Day is a time for mourning for many people. We are all God’s children, so include a prayer for the lost souls of this tragedy. Without the help of the Wampanoag people, the United States would not be what it is today.

How to Celebrate Thanksgiving



On a deep level, the spiritual meaning of Thanksgiving is that everything can regenerate and restore. Even within bleak and devastating moments, there is a glimmer of hope, and we can always look to God to guide us.

Dedicate some time to understanding the meaning of Thanksgiving in the Bible by reciting some of these prayers. Read scripture about His grace and sing songs that chant his praises. Staying humble and being grateful is essential, so use this day to feel the power of thanks.

Spend the day cooking incredible food for your family, but make sure you say Grace before you eat. Take the opportunity to mourn the suffering of the Wampanoag people and donate to preserve their culture here. Pray for the souls of every single one of God’s children who passed, whether Native American or Pilgrim.

Conclusion

Don’t forget the meaning of Thanksgiving day as you engage in the festivities, and keep gratitude at the forefront of everything you do. Ask yourself if you could be doing more to help the community around you, as you could have more to share than you think. What Thanksgiving means (in a religious Christianity Thanksgiving context) is simple. Just like anyone who celebrates this holiday, Christians will spend their time saying thank you for the food on their table and the people around them. But most importantly, give thanks to the Lord.



Remember the people out there who cannot afford a hot meal this Thanksgiving, and do what you can. Lend a helping hand through this project by Feeding America, which includes tips on how to volunteer this Thanksgiving.



United
Women
in Faith



Happy November to United Women in Faith Members and Friends,

We are thankful! As UWF, we are thankful for the gifts we have been able to give to others through our actions and prayers in 2023.

Mission giving is the focus of our organization. We pledge monetary donations annually that are combined with the donations of our sister organizations around the world which help fund projects, education and jobs that support women and their families here and abroad.

We are thankful that we learned about the work of Chris Stewart in her Community Health Worker position in the School District of Black River Falls and how we can reach out to get involved in being a partner to help meet the needs of families right here in our community.

We are thankful that we could learn about the work Andrew Epps is doing to in an urban community to bring the families and a healthy environment together. We are thankful that we could, in a small way, give a donation that Andrew, along with the staff and families he works with, can put back into a Sweetwater Foundation project.

We are thankful that we could give donations on the wish list of our local Foster Closet that provides support to foster families in our area.

We are thankful for learning about the ministry at the Jackson Correctional Institute and how the staff works to give families skills to deal with the incarceration of a loved one and the support needed when rejoining family and community.

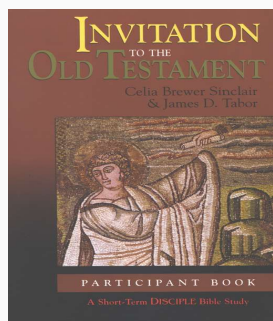
We are thankful for the fellowship we experience with our fellow UWF members and how we can support each other and those in our church family and community.

Our upcoming monthly meeting will be **Monday, November 6 at 5:30 pm** in the Wesley Room. We will be sharing fellowship that evening as we put the UWF Thank Offering and Pledge to Mission programs in action. All are welcome to join us. Call Luane at 715-284-9839 if you would like more information on UWF or have questions about our upcoming meeting.

Have a safe and thankful November. Go Forward with God's blessing.

Luane Meyer





Invitation to the Old Testament

This ongoing bible study meets Thursday's at **7:00 PM** in the **Library**.

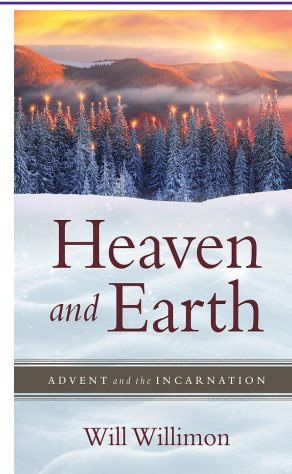
Please feel to join and if you have any questions, please contact **Paula Voskuil** for more details.

Advent Bible Study

Heaven and Earth by Will Willimon

December 3, 10, 17, 24 Sundays, 10:30 am

It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.



November 4th at 8:00 am

Changing of light bulbs will take place after the meeting.

Friday, Nov. 3rd at 4 PM help is needed to rearrange seating in preparation for above.

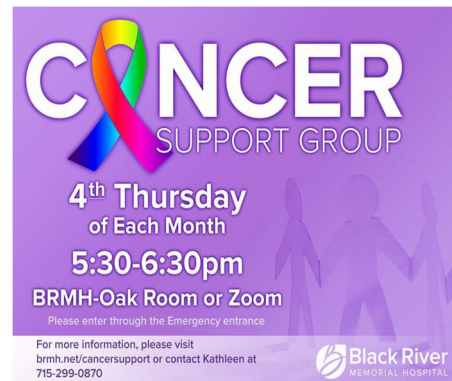
Greetings Faith Community -

I am sharing information about our local Cancer Support Group, led by cancer survivor Kathleen Clemons. Kathleen is a passionate member of our community and works as an exercise physiologist for the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Kathleen has been working hard for a couple of years to get this support group going but participation has been low.

The group meets the 4th Thursday of each month, from 5:30-6:30pm at Black River Memorial Hospital.

Reach out to Kathleen with any questions, kathleen.clemons@ho-chunk.com



CHURCH STAFF OPENINGS AVAILABLE

Praising God through Music



To continue our excellence in music ministry, Black River Falls United Methodist Church is seeking 1-2 persons to serve as pianist and as coordinator and director of our music program.

***Pianist** position is a 2-4 hour/week position serving currently for Sunday morning worship.

***Director of Music** requires training and experience in music performance as well as familiarity with Christian music. This is part-time and would consist of 6-10 hours/week. Enthusiasm and creativity are encouraged.



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



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 the church office know or send email to brfumc@gmail.com.



It is never too early to think about Christmas, birthdays, special occasions or just because gift giving. The Scrip program has cards for 24 different places, in Black River Falls, Eau Claire and La Crosse, available at church on Sunday mornings or by calling Marcia at 715-284-3346. If your recipient doesn't live close by, mailing a gift card is a lot easier and less expensive than mailing a package. There is a list of retailers, who participate in the program, hanging in the Narthex on the bulletin board across from the coffee fellowship table. This list is over five pages of three columns each listing what can be ordered. That is a lot of choices. If you would like to take a list home to look at in your leisure time, talk to Lois or Marcia at the sales table on Sunday mornings to pick up a copy.



NOVEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship 9 am	Trustees, 4:30 pm		1 Wed. Connections 5 pm-6pm Missionary Temba visit 5-7 pm Youth Group 5:30 Confirmation 7:00	2 Bible Study 7 pm	3	4 UMM 8am Light bulbs at sanctuary change
5 All Saints Day Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30am Daylight Saving Ends	6 United Women in Faith 5:30 PM	7	8 Wed. Connections 5 pm-6 pm Youth Group 5:30 Confirmation 7:00	9 Bible Study 7 pm	10	11
12 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 am	13	14 Worship Comm. 5:30 pm Ad Council, 6:30 pm	15 Wed. Connections 5 pm-6 pm Youth Group 5:30 Confirmation 7:00	16 Bible Study 7 pm	17	18
19 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 am	20	21	22 Wed. Connections 5 pm-6 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:00 PM	23 THANKSGIVING DAY	24	25
26 Worship 9 am	27	28	29 Wed. Connections 5 pm-6 pm Youth Group 5:30 Confirmation 7:00	30 Bible Study 7 pm		

WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH:

Wednesday Connections 5 pm-6 pm
Youth Group 5:30 pm-7 pm
Confirmation Class 7 pm-8 pm