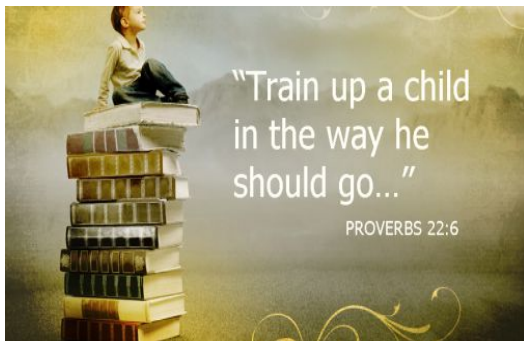


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Black River Falls
United Methodist Church
100 North Fourth Street
Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615
Return Service Requested
54615
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September



**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: Monday - Thursday
9:00 am to 2:00 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 and grace be with you all.

We have had unusual climate changes this year. Drought, flood, wildfire, and typhoon. As you can remember, it was very dry and hot due to no rain for a while. My wife and I had a hard time growing plants in our garden in the community garden in the last couple of months. I believe most of you also had the same problem growing flowers, corn, and plants and caring for grass. The green grass was turning brown and the leaves of the plants were faded. Everybody was waiting for rain. When it was raining, people were shouting and posting it even on Facebook.

Reflecting on this, I realized that every living being needs water. Water is a source of life. Even the human body is made up of 50-75% water. Some experts recommend drinking about 2 liters of fluids a day. Of course, the amount of fluid is different depending on gender and age. By the way, without water, one cannot live. Water is essential to most bodily functions.

What about our soul? We do not usually know whether our soul is healthy or not. But we can feel whether our life is dry or abundant when we face difficult times. When we lose a loved one, a job, lost friends, or when we are hurt by someone, lose our control, or break our relationship with someone, how do we handle it? The world is not your oyster. Sometimes we laugh, sometimes we cry. Then, how can we manage our uncertainty?

People look for some solution to maintain their happiness and comfort such as money, sports, sex, drugs, and approval of people. Because they believe there are something in the world to satisfy themselves and they know how to get those. The worldly things are actually easy and wide open for us to find and get those. But these are temporal. We will be thirsty no matter what we take from the world.

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14). Jesus is the fountain of living waters (Jeremiah 2:13) and water of life (Revelation 22:17).

Also, Jesus promises His peace, not as the world gives to those who dwell in His spirit. The world is constantly changing. Our lives are also insecure. But our Lord Jesus Christ is true all the time. He never changes. He is in control.

May God bless all of you to live abundantly in the Spirit.

In Jesus' love,

Pastor Inwha Shon



What Happened on This Day in the History of Christianity?

The Niger Expedition

September 4

In 1840 three strands of purpose—missionary advance, humanitarian resolve, and slavery abolition—merged into the Niger Expedition, brainchild of Foxwell Buxton of the Church Missionary Society and of the Society for the Extinction of the Slave Trade. The British government funded the enterprise, and all England followed the course of the three new state-of-the-art steamships named Albert, Wilberforce, and Soudan. The iron vessels had a novel system of ventilation using chemical filters to “neutralize” the swamp gases thought to produce malaria.

The fleet sailed in early 1841, loaded with sailors, scientists, agriculturists, philanthropists, liberated slaves (as interpreters) and missionaries, J. F. Schon and Samuel Adjai Crowther. They arrived in African waters in mid-August; but on **September 4, 1841** the chief medical officer, Dr. McWilliams, logged that “fever of a most malignant character” had broken out and the whole expedition was paralyzed. The sick were loaded onto the Soudan to return to healthier harbors, and the Wilberforce followed her.

The Albert forged up the Niger River alone, but soon the captain and crew were sick. Men threw themselves overboard in their deliriums. The dead were buried on the riverbanks by the missionaries. With no one left to navigate the ship, Dr. McWilliams did his best to control the reeling ship, using a textbook found in the captain’s cabin. But he had to repeatedly leave the bridge to attend the sick and dying. Of the 145 Europeans on board, 130 contracted malaria and many died.

But the mission wasn’t a complete failure. The missionaries returned with valuable recommendations that led to establishing a missionary center in Fourah Bay for training liberated slaves to evangelize West Africa. Within four years its foundation stone was laid on the very spot where 40 years before a factory had stood that engaged in the slave trade. And the rafters of the new roof were made almost entirely from the masts of old slave ships.

*Tell the whole world to sing a new song to the Lord!
Tell those who sail the ocean and those who live far away
To join in the praise.
Tell the tribes of the desert and everyone in the mountains
To celebrate and sing.
Let them announce his praises everywhere.
- Isaiah 42:10-12*

Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day*





Black River Falls United Methodist Church September 2023 Newsletter Mission Outreach Committee report

The mission outreach committee is moving forward to support our church in mission as we ramp up after a bit of a summer break.

Our biggest project this year will be to establish dinner church program which expands and enhances our Wednesday night meals into dinner church based upon the book **Fresh Expressions of the Rural Church** by Michael Adam Beck and Tyler Keeberger.

Members of the mission outreach committee along with others in our church have read this book. I would encourage you to do so as well if you are able. We are in agreement that this is a worthwhile endeavor to have dinner church. To accomplish this, we have purchased a workbook that coincides with the book, that will provide us with guidelines and instructions for holding dinner church. We hope to have a process in place by early next year.

The Administrative Council will be having an extra meeting on September 7th at 6:30 PM to work on completing a grant application to the United Methodist Foundation to financially support this project and set up a work team/taskforce to set up and organize the needed committees. This meeting is open to all. Please join us if you would like to be a part of this process.

The disaster on Maui has touched many lives. UMCOR is providing disaster relief and if you would like you can donate directly on their web site [UMCOR - Global Ministries \(umcmmission.org\)](https://umcmmission.org) or if you prefer we will be doing a special collection on September 10. Special envelopes will be provided to place donations in and all monies collected will be sent on to UMCOR. Please designate Maui if this is where you would like your funds to go, otherwise there are many other disaster sites within the US and internationally that UMCOR is currently working with and your monies may go to their "general fund".

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 \(wisconsinumc.org\)](https://volunteersinmission-wisconsinconference.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.

Help is needed;

- Tentatively on September 15 weekend at Pine Lake Campground
- September 25 for one week at Lake Lucerne Campground
- Tentative October 22 for one week in Kentucky





Though some of us never took a knit or crocheting break over the summer, we will soon be beginning our World Vision challenge for the 2023-2024 year. Our goal will be 125. There remains a need for sweaters, hats, mittens, scarves, and school age children's blankets which can be either knit, crochet or fleece size 36 inches by 42 inches. Let's go!

Marcia Hagen has some mission trips to Guatemala with focus on vision health coming up in the next few months. She will be able to take a few pillowcase dresses with her. I have a sewing day planned for September 12 at 1:00 pm in the Wesley room. All sewers are needed to meet our goal of 10. Please RSVP to me so that I have enough supplies. 715 896 9055

I would like to extend a thank you to:

- Evangelical Lutheran Church for the sharing of yarn from their supply
- Karen Brandt for donation of trims for sewing
- Donation of fabric and yarn from an anonymous sources

We have received thank you's from World Vision for sweaters etc. and Midwest Mission for our donation to the In Gathering mission relief.

Dates to remember: Sunday, September 10 next Mission Outreach meeting @10:30 am and special collection for UMCOR on **Tuesday, September 12 @ 1:00 pm Sewing Day**

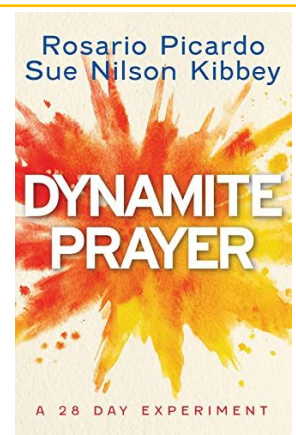
Submitted by Charlene Galston

Join the FALL 2023 *Dynamite Prayer* 28 Day Experiment

God's Spirit is on the move across a rapidly increasing number of congregations—each hungry to discover miraculous next steps forward into an exciting new season.

What might happen if, for 28 days, our congregation or group moves the daily practice of simple, heartfelt collective prayer asking for God's new possibilities, open doors and next steps to the center of everything? Would you also like to learn that type of prayer habit yourself, for your own life—and discover what God may have in store just for you?

If you are interested in "Dynamite Prayer", please contact the Pastor.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

September 2023

Our first Wednesday night youth meeting will be on September 13th. We will meet from 5:30-7pm this year. The first half hour will be devoted to fellowship and the last hour will be our nightly planned activity. Adding this additional half hour will give us a little more time to gather. Dinner will be served beginning at 5pm each Wednesday. The youth will be serving October 25th.

Upcoming dates to calendar:

September 7th at 5:30pm CYF (Children, Youth and Family) committee will meet
September 13th is our first weekly youth meeting 5:30-7pm.

September 16th we will meet at Rod and Katrina McGillivray's for dinner and an outdoor movie night.

September 17th is confirmation Sunday during 9am worship.

September 20th regular youth meeting 5:30-7pm

September 23rd Trustee's committee is looking for help with tree clean up after a few trees are taken down. Please be to the church by 8am if you are available.

September 27th the youth will go to Lake Wazee for an outdoor worship, during our regular meeting time.

A letter is being sent home with dates, times and info of each event coming up.

As always, if you have any questions please call/text Suzanne at 715-896-0224.

Suzanne Goldsmith

715-896-0224

suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group

website: www.BRFUMC.org



From your BRF UMC Finance Committee:

This Sept. 2023 Update will give you the status of Church finances through the first 8 months of 2023.

As of 08/15/2023, our general fund account balance of.....\$30,311

We have had income over the first 7 months of.....\$154,276

We have had expenses over the first 7 months of.....\$153,110

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

We made a second 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 7 months of 2023 as you can see

We still have a segregated "Building Fund" Account locally of\$7971

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 \$143,224. 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





United
Women
in Faith

Greetings to Members and Friends of UWF,

Please note that our September program will be held at the church.

Internationally, United Women in Faith organizations around the world accepted the challenge of learning and taking action on the effects of climate change in our communities. Our local unit welcomes **Andrew Epps** who will be giving a presentation on **Climate Justice** on **Monday, September 11 at 6:00 pm** at the Black River Falls United Methodist Church, 100 4th Street, Black River Falls.

He is the son of Tom and Lois Epps and was born and raised in Black River Falls. He grew up in the BRF UMC. He currently works in Chicago at Sweet Water Foundation, a nonprofit organization that runs a two-acre community farm on the city's South Side. Driven by values of regeneration and "small is beautiful," Sweet Water has developed an intergenerational social justice practice that creates safe and inspiring places grounded in the local ecology. Andre graduated this spring from Cornell University with a degree in city planning where he focused on urban adaptation to climate change and community-led development.

He will be talking about the uneven impacts of climate change and how taking small actions can have big impacts that can heal ourselves and our communities. Andrew will be joining us through ZOOM technology as part of the United Women in Faith social action focus. Everyone is invited to attend from the church and community. You are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 pm-5:45 pm and bring an "environmentally friendly" bag lunch to be followed by the presentation at 6:00 pm in the church sanctuary. A free will offering will be collected and given to the Sweet Water Foundation in support of their efforts.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on **Monday, September 11**. We look forward to seeing you.

Go Forward with God's Blessing,

Luane Meyer



Invitation to the Old Testament

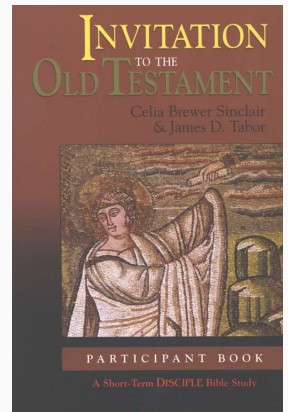
Explore the Old Testament's story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. Hear the magnificence of a Creation hymn, discover the law and wisdom teachings, listen to the warning of the prophets and explore the poetry of the Song of Solomon.

In the two weekly video segments, first gain insight from biblical scholars and then take a visual tour of archaeological sites, ancient artifacts, and other physical remains, related to and illuminating scripture and events.

Ideal experience for adults who are interested in the practice of prayer and worship and would like to connect prayer practice with Scripture. The study is accessible for adults with little prior Bible experience.

Participants gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Old Testament as an integral part of the Christian Bible and a renewed discovery of our identity in God and God's vision for all things.

This eight-week study includes a participant book outlining daily reading assignments for group preparations, a leader guide suggesting discussion activities for use in the 60–90-minute weekly meeting, and a video component providing interpretation and context for the biblical texts.



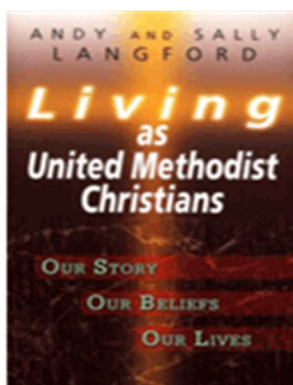
Sessions:

The Making of the Hebrew Bible
Out of Bondage
Israel Has a King
Exile and Response

The Creation Story of Israel
Promise and Problem in the Land
Division and the Rise of Prophecy
Restoration and Renewal

The Prep Meeting will be **on Sunday, September 17th at 10:15 am in the library.**

Please contact **Paula Voskuil** for more details.



Want to know about the Methodist?

1. What is our biblical story?
2. What do we share with other Christians?
3. What is our United Methodist story?
4. What do United Methodists believe?
5. How do United Methodists serve God and Neighbor?
6. How do United Methodists live and worship?

Class begins on Sunday, **September 17th at the Keefe Room at 10:30 am.**

This Study is a 6-week program. Please contact the Pastor for more details.



ROOTED IN CHRIST

How is it with your soul?

This question is from the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. He taught, we are either growing in grace or declining. We pray for you to stand on the rock of faith firmly no matter what circumstances.

We invite you all to join us for “**Rooted in Christ**” to experience God’s love and grace so that we could be a part of a community of friends who go through life together, providing support and a place to belong.

Week 1, Sept. 10: Rooted In Sharing

Matthew 28:19-20 // 2 Corinthians 5:20

Week 2, Sept. 17: Rooted In Faith

Colossians 2:7 // John 15:5-8 // Hebrews 10:24-25

Week 3, Sept 24: Rooted In Prayer and Study

Hebrews 4:12 // Psalm 119:105 // Philippians 4:6

Week 4, Oct. 3: Rooted In Community (Reunion Sunday)

Romans 12:3-13 // Acts 2:42-47

Why Are Small Groups So Important?

Every one of us needs a support system. A brain surgeon wouldn’t operate without first hooking their patient up to a life support system. A deep-sea diver wouldn’t explore the depths of the ocean without first connecting to a life support system.



You, as a pastor, can’t send your congregation into the world each week without a life support system to help them navigate life’s challenges and help them grow spiritually. It doesn’t matter how strong of a preacher you are. Your congregation can’t survive without a life support system.

That support system is called a small group. God wired us for community. The very first thing God said when he made humans is, “It is not good for man to be alone.” Whether or not we ever marry, we’re better together. We need each other, even during seasons when social distancing is recommended and we have to get creative with ways to connect safely.

Why are small groups so important in the life of your church? Biblical small groups do five things that help your congregation sustain themselves spiritually and live out God’s purposes. You can find all of them in Acts 2:42-47, in the lives of the first small groups of the early church.

1. Small groups study God’s word together.
2. Small groups practice how to love
3. Small groups eat together.
4. Small groups pray for one another
5. Small groups help one another.

If you are interested in planning small groups, please come on **Tuesday, September 19th at 5:30 pm.**

UNITED METHODIST MEN



September 23 at 8:00 am

We are going to be doing **tree removal** and cleanup in the east parking lot, across 4th street, the north side of the lot has overgrown trees that need to be removed. Anyone who would like to help please Contact **Paul Hoffman** for details or **Just Show Up!**

Regular Men's group meeting starts this month. We will meet on **Saturday, September 9th at 8 am at Sunnyside Café.**

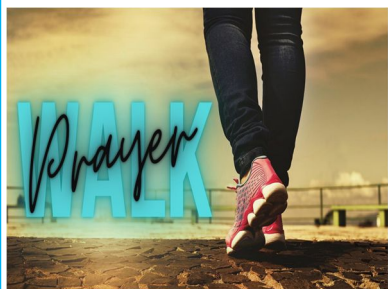


Bible Trivia

What does the Bible say concerning those persons who claim to be religious but are unable to control their tongues?

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Their religion is vain | B. They are undefiled |
| C. They speak great words | D. They need the gift of tongues |

See: James 1:26



Prayer Walk

Join us for Prayer Walk for our community.

September 4, 9 am at the church parking lot.
Fellowship will be following.

We are in the middle of an invisible spiritual war!

Explore strategies for faith and prayer that can win the battle! Just imagine for a moment--living in a community where children meet to pray, crime is almost nonexistent and people fill the churches.

In the book, **Taking Our Cities for God**, you will explore dynamic and life-changing strategies to help you tear down the strongholds that have held our community back from its full spiritual potential.

Let's remove the roadblocks that prevent our city from experiencing spiritual renewal and revival!

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.

Administrative Assistant

Looking for a creative, self-reliant person to oversee the church office, assist the Pastor as needed, and create and oversee a marketing program that serves to connect our church family and reach into our community. Position is 10-20 hours/week.



Illustration by Chris Gash

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.



There are bad habits and good habits. A good habit would be using Scrip Cards for your shopping. Using a card does not cost any more money than what you are planning on spending and it also helps raise money for the church. When I buy the cards, I can purchase them at a discount.

They are available for you to buy and spend at face value. The difference between the face value and the purchase price is what the church makes for profit. Depending on which cards you purchase, the profit is anywhere from 2.5% to 10%. Stop in the Gathering Area on Sundays to see the variety of cards are available.

I also have a list of cards that I can order, for places not local. Maybe you need a gift for an out of state friend or family member.

You can call me, Marcia, at 715-284-3346 if Sunday doesn't work for you.

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Worship 9 am Communion	4 Prayer Walk 9 am	5	6 Confirmation, 5 pm	7 CYF, 5:30 pm Dinner Church, 6:30 pm	8	9 UMM 8am
10 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30am Mission Out- reach 10:30am	11 Trustees 5 pm UWF 5:00 pm Presentation 6 pm	12 Worship, 5:30 pm Ad Council, 6:30 pm	13 Pine View/ Meadowbrook wor- ship, 2 pm Wednesday Conn. 5 pm-6 pm Youth, 5:30 pm Confirmation, 7 pm	14	15	16
17 Worship 9 am Confirmation Day Bible Study 10:30 am	18	19 Small group plan, 5:30 pm	20 Wednesday Conn. 5 pm-6 pm Youth 5:30 pm Confirmation 7pm -8pm	21	22	23 UMM Tree Removal 8am
24 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 am	25	26 SPRC, 5:30 pm	27 Wednesday Conn. 5 pm-6 pm Youth Group 5:30p Confirmation 7pm -8pm	28	29	30

WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH:

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