

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

“Serve, Teach, and Love As We Grow In Faith”

SEPTEMBER 2018



Finding “The Way Forward”

Dear Church family and friends:

I don't know if you are aware but over the last 40+ years the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has debated, discussed, and been divided over how the UMC should minister with LGBTQ individuals. The General Conference meets every four years and is made up of delegates, both clergy and lay, who have been voted into that position by the Annual (state) Conferences. The last several General Conferences have become more and more heated and divisive over the issue. As a result, at the 2016 General Conference a commission was formed and given three years to develop a plan to present to the 2020 GC for consideration in the hopes of finding “A Way Forward.”

This is not a simple matter that will ‘fix’ the church. There are layers upon layers that make this human issue very complicated; most of us don't like life to become complicated. We want to do our work, love our family and neighbors, and pray and worship a God who is safe and undiluted by worldly concerns. And yet... or instead, we get life in its fullness, including our big, complicated, wonderful world which God created and then called the Creation good.

I believe that when we struggle with the complications in life we begin to look at the world as not so wonderful. We struggle with issues, circumstances, and our relationship with God and others. It is hard to see the wonderful in people who are different than we, or who simply disagree with us. But, there IS good news!

There is a way through life that allows hope and love. We believe that Jesus Christ redeemed us when he died on the cross 2000 plus years ago. He died so that we might be forgiven and made perfect for eternal salvation. It causes me to wonder how it is at all possible that issues can derail us and keep us from this good news. Our challenge is to keep the main thing the main thing. When each of us accepted Jesus into our heart, we began a relationship with God and God's people . . . all of them. In *Matthew 25:39-40* Jesus was asked, “*And, when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?*” Jesus answered, “*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*”

I believe the Lord created the Church specifically to help us not only worship Him, but to bring us together to contemplate complicated matters in light of God's love and grace. The Commission on “The Way Forward” met for hours and days throughout the last two years and has come up with three possible plans for the UMC to move forward. The plans are: The One Church Plan; The Connectional Conference; and the Traditional Plan. An understanding of the scope of each of these three plans can be found at www.um-insight.net/the-way-forward or at www.umnews.org/the-way-forward. The Conference is also offering listening sessions for clergy and laity to help us get a better understanding of just what is being proposed. The two closest listening sessions will be:

Monday, Oct. 1, 7:00pm, Lake Street UMC, 337 Lake St., Eau Claire

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 7:00pm, Onalaska UMC, 212 4th Avenue N., Onalaska

A special General Conference will take place in the spring of 2019 to present the plans and, prayerfully, find a way forward that will allow the United Methodist Church to remain united.

May God Bless Us As We Continue the Journey,

Pastor Kathy

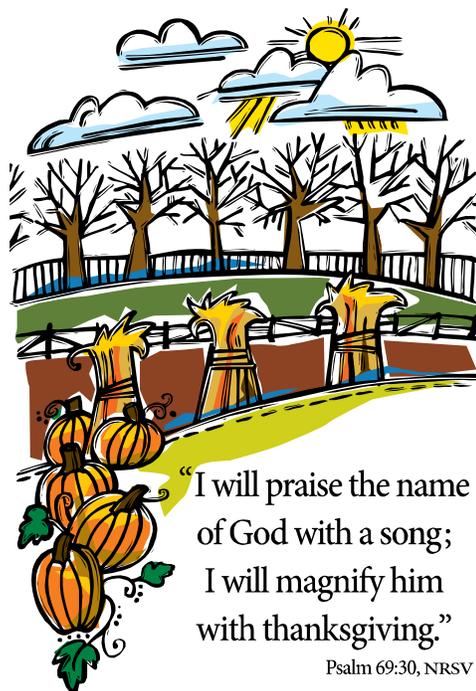


Birthdays

- SEPT 3 Ann Berry
- SEPT 4 Leyah Bailey
Cindy Chrisinger
- SEPT 5 Bonnie Burnham
Jann Dahl
- SEPT 6 Tom Epps
- SEPT 8 Verland Casper
- SEPT 9 Tyler Bue
- SEPT 11 David Gjersest
- SEPT 12 Pam Bjerke
- SEPT 13 Orville Amborn
- SEPT 14 Kyle Kostohryz
- SEPT 15 Lois Epps
Cathy Whaley
- SEPT 17 Maria Lee
- SEPT 18 Marlee Slifka
- SEPT 19 Ben Crocker
- SEPT 22 Loretta Charneski
- SEPT 23 Breanna Amborn
Sue Lindahl
- SEPT 24 Anne Boehm
Michael Firkins
- SEPT 26 Cheryl Dolsey
Dennis Farnsworth
Bill Perry
- SEPT 28 Eric Chrisinger
Iris Holder
Phyllis Nesbitt
- SEPT 29 Molly Saavedra
Jill Prochaska
Jim Talley
- SEPT 30 Sara Baker
Seth Harelson



- SEPT 5 Larry & Sue Gaede
Don & Charlene Galston
- SEPT 7 Larry & Sharon Nemece
- SEPT 8 Harley & Kathie Boehm
- SEPT 15 Darrin & Anne Boehm
- SEPT 16 Bob & Anna Becker
Dick & Bernice Moldenhauer
- SEPT 17 Don & Janet Gilbertson
- SEPT 20 Tyler & Michelle Kapfer
- SEPT 21 Lance & Jennifer Leisgang
Larry & Cathy Whaley
- SEPT 23 Orv & Beth Amborn
- SEPT 27 Eric & Cindy Chrisinger
Ken & LuAnne Schoolcraft
- SEPT 30 Jim & Jill Kaphengst
Derek & Marcie Peterson



“I will praise the name
of God with a song;
I will magnify him
with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 69:30, NRSV



SEPTEMBER IS KETCHUP MONTH!!!
Help us “ketchup” on our current budget shortfall by bringing your giving up to date during September!!

YOUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE at brfumc.org or it can be sent to you by email. Call the church office for more information!!!

United Methodist Women – Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God and Neighbor

The UMW Spiritual Growth study at Mission u “Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living” by Jessica Stonecypher explores our relationships with our church community and the world we live in.

At Mission u Overview Day, Carol Hornby and I were introduced to this study. Our instructor, Rev. Mary Catherine Pearce, suggested that if we were serious about spiritual growth, we should begin each day with two prayers.

First, pray . . . “Lord, may others see you in my actions and words today.”

Secondly, pray . . . “Lord, may I see you in the individuals I encounter today.”

If we pray these each day, we will be more aware of God’s presence in the world around us and more conscious of our own Christian behavior.

*I hope we see each of you at UMW this fall. Join a Circle. Come and study with us. Share in devotions. Enjoy the support and fellowship provided in a Circle.

Circle meetings will be on Sept. 10 and Oct. 8. Check the bulletins for more information.

*Invest some time in yourself and join us at Annual Gathering on Sept. 15. Registration materials are on the kiosk in the Gathering Area.

Carol Anderson, UMW President

Do You Know the Three Simple Rules?

In this complicated and uncertain world, John Wesley discovered there is a way to bring faith and practice into a harmony of faithful living. This practice included acts of piety (goodness), mercy, and justice that resulted in a renewed love for God and neighbor. Those who followed this way of living discovered that it changed their lives, and they in turn changed the world around them.

In our busy, fragmented, and divisive world, following Wesley’s *Three Simple Rules* can still be life-changing.

What are the *Three Simple Rules*. They are: 1) Do Good; 2) Do No Harm; and 3) Stay In Love With God.

On September 23 and 30 and October 7 and 14 the focus of the Sunday messages will be the Three Simple Rules. In addition, beginning **Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m.** I will be leading a 4-week study on to help us better understand and incorporate the *Three Simple Rules* into our lives. There will be a sign-up sheet in the gathering area during the month of September or you can call the church office to secure your space in the small group study.

RESTLESS? SEARCHING?

If you experience a spiritual hunger...
If you desire to bring a deeper dimension to your faith...

We invite you to

COMPANIONS *in Christ*

- A small group of people praying together
- An opportunity for daily individual reading and reflection
- A focus on how you experience God
- A group supporting your spiritual growth
- An opportunity to experience different forms of prayer
- A journal of your walk with Christ
- An invitation to let scripture form your faith
- A time to reflect where God is calling you and to affirm the gifts God has given you
- A discovery of spiritual friends who will listen to and pray for you

This 20-week journey is divided into 5 sections:

- Embracing the Journey: the Way of Christ
- Self-formation through the Word: the Mind of Christ
- Deepening our Prayer: the Heart of Christ
- Responding to our Call: the Work of Christ
- Exploring Spiritual Guidance: The Spirit of Christ – Retreat in April

Thursdays 5:30-7:00 pm starting September 20th. A light meal will be served. Child-care will be provided if known ahead of time. For more information and to sign up, see the display in the Gathering Area or text Katrina McGillivray 812-657-1290.



FINANCE COMMITTEE



General Fund:

We have made it through the first half of 2018, and I would like to say that our finances are looking great, but I can't. We are still running behind from where we would like to be. As of the end of June, we should have been at 50% of our income and expenses, but at that point we were at 42%, with a shortfall of \$8,304.00. In reality we are \$25,000.00 behind in our total budget numbers. While most of this has been averted by us not paying our full apportionment payments, we have been able to conserve costs in other areas.

We have just been informed by the United Methodist Conference that they had to let four staff members go because there are a number of churches not able to pay their full share. I would like to think that we can overcome this deficit on our end and pay our full amount to the conference by the end of this year.

Over the course of the next month or two, we are asking all members to step up a little and help us **KETCHUP!!** You will be hearing more about this during the month of September.

Capital Campaign:

I am pleased to let you know that we did exceed our goal of raising the funds needed for our campaign! We all should be excited to see that things are coming together for several of our projects. The sidewalks in the rear of the church have been repaired, the east parking lot has been seal-coated and new lines were painted for parking stalls, the back parking lot will be completed in the next couple of weeks, and we have received two new boom microphones to help with the sound system.

If you made a pledge, please consider making your payment to the church. Keep in mind that this was a three-year campaign, so 1/3 of your pledge should be in by December of 2018. We are hopeful that we can keep our building and grounds looking in top shape for years to come.

Wayne Bue
Finance Committee and
Capital Campaign Chair

If you know of someone who is in the hospital or who is working through medical issues at home, please call the church office so that the Pastor is aware of the need and can respond accordingly.

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If you know of an individual or family that is working through health issues, hospitalization, or some other crisis and could benefit from the gift of a meal, please call the church office and Jill will pass the information to our Caring Meal Crew.

## Scrip Cards



Be sure to see Rhoda, Rhonda, Lois, or Joan on Sunday Mornings to purchase your Scrip Gift Cards! Now is a perfect time to get ready for extra school expenses, something new to wear for fall, groceries, gas for your car, or a date night dinner! Scrip Cards are also great to give as gifts. And, with the proceeds the church gets from the sale of each card, you are helping your church, too. What could be better than that?!



**KETCHUP**  
on your giving  
in September!!





Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Francis Heller** who passed away on August 15, 2018.



**Memorials & Gifts**

**UNDESIGNATED FUND:**

**In Memory Of:**

**Francis Heller** from Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, Ann Nordstrom, and Winston Zeman



**Gustavo Calderon Morales & Madelyn Hoffman**  
**August 5, 2018**

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:**

Did you know that you can sponsor the Bulletins or the Radio Broadcast on a Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones? The cost is as follows:

- Bulletins — \$20.00 per Sunday
- Radio Broadcast — \$100.00 per Sunday

You can also provide Altar Flowers for a special Sunday. Please call Jill in the Church Office (715-284-4114) to schedule the Sunday of your choice.



Come and join your church family on Wednesday nights starting September 12 for food, fun, fellowship and more. The meal will be served from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Below is the menu for September: (Brochures with menus for the year are available at the Information Station)

September 12

- Baked Potato Bar
- Lettuce Salad
- Desserts
- Beverages

September 19

- Barbecues
- Baked Beans
- Chips
- Desserts
- Beverages

September 26

- Tacos
- Desserts
- Beverages

Every week there will be hot dogs and peanut butter/jelly also available. A free-will offering of \$4.00 per person or a maximum of \$10.00 per family **if possible** will be taken to cover the cost of the food. You are invited to come whether you can pay or not. Don't let the cost stop you from coming.

Volunteers are needed for cleaning up the kitchen and Fellowship Hall each week, as well as for furnishing bars or cookies for dessert each week. Please be willing to take your turn to help continue this program.



**Matthew 19:14: But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."**

**Take the Plunge! Make a Splash with Jesus Vacation Bible School** was a success! 47 children ages 3 years to 10 years came to listen to Bible stories, do arts and crafts, and learn new songs. A HUGE THANKS to everyone who contributed items or volunteered their time for VBS! Programs like this cannot happen without people like you!

It's a Carnival! The first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 9, with registration and a **Carnival Extravaganza!** Watch your mail for a postcard! The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will receive a postcard inviting them to help at the Carnival Extravaganza. Registration forms are also available on our webpage, [www.brfumc.org](http://www.brfumc.org). On September 23 and 30, all children will be combined and participate in Group Sunday. This will enable the Sunday School Team and children to get to know each other. Sunday School will begin at 9:20 a.m. and end at 10:15 a.m. (Children are encouraged to attend church with their families at 9:00 a.m. They will be dismissed to go to Sunday School following the Children's Message).

In October, we will continue the Rotation Model Sunday School. This is a way to teach Bible Stories and concepts through child-friendly, creative, and interactive areas. The name of our rotation is JAM, Jesus and Me. The children will rotate to a different area each week: Creation Station (Art), Sunday's Diner (Cooking), Godly Games (Games), and Hollywood (Stories/Music). They will focus on one story for 4 weeks. Rotation Leaders do not rotate, but stay in one place, preparing one lesson (with some age-appropriate modifications) for the four week rotation. All children will begin in the Hollywood Room and be dismissed to their rotation. The Hollywood Room is located downstairs by the elevator.

**FAMILY SUNDAY:** The third Sunday of each month has been designated as Family Sunday. Our first one is September 16. Families and children are encouraged to attend this special Sunday and remain in church for the full service. October 21 all Sunday School children will be singing at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. Pre-K children and 4th graders will receive their Bibles. Families and children are encouraged to attend this special Sunday and remain in church for the full service. What a great opportunity to involve our younger youth in worship!

Like our Facebook page Black River Falls Sunday School to see photos of our activities. You can also go to the church's website, [www.brfumc.org](http://www.brfumc.org) for photos and other information.

**Our Rotation Model Sunday School Team:**

**Children's Ministry Coordinator:** Beth Bue

**Hollywood:** Beth Bue, Penny Goldsmith

**Creation Station:** Ann Smetana, Barb Goldsmith, Ashley Jessen

**Sunday's Diner:** Megan Finch, Ashley Jessen

**Godly Games:** Mike Rave

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be taught by Roxie Hostrawser. She will be using her own curriculum for the students.

**YOUTH BIRTHDAYS:**

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| SEPT 2  | Jaida Decorah<br>Ian Phillips |
| SEPT 3  | Mackenzie Dougherty           |
| SEPT 6  | Tucker Peterson               |
| SEPT 11 | Tyler Woods                   |
| SEPT 21 | Channing Goldsmith            |
| SEPT 30 | Erika Phillips                |





We will start the year with a welcoming of our 6th graders into our youth program on Sunday, September 9, during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. After worship, you are invited downstairs for some fun and games.

Join us on Wednesdays starting September 12th for dinner, fun, and games, Bible talk, life lessons, and gain new friends. Dinner starts at 4:30 p.m. each week and youth group starts at 6:00 p.m.

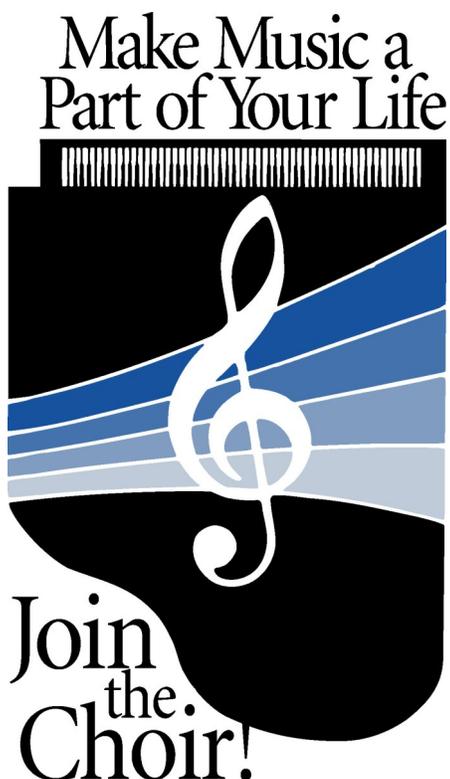
- September 12—6-7 p.m. Youth Gathering
- September 19—6-7 p.m. Youth Gathering
- September 26—6-7 p.m. Youth Gathering

#### **YOUTH 2019:**

We have a group of youth and leaders who will be heading to Kansas City, Missouri July 10-14, 2019. There is still an opportunity to sign up if you would like to join us.

Every four years, youth from throughout the United Methodist Church gather for 4 days of discipleship, fun, and fellowship at the YOUTH event. This event is filled with interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and fellowship time.

Please contact Suzanne at 715-896-0224 (call or text), [suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com), or check out and like our facebook page "black river falls UMC youth group" with any questions.



## **Do you love to sing?? Come and join the UMC Choir!!**

Whether you sing soprano, alto, tenor or bass, there is a place for you in the choir!

Our practice time will be on Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, beginning Wednesday, September 5.

Come and help us make a joyful noise to the Lord!  
You will be glad you did!!

## PRAYER FAMILIES FOR SEPTEMBER

|         |                                                                                                      |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SEPT 2  | Howard & Kristie Gomer<br>Nancy Hindes<br>Patty Iversion<br>Tim & Mary McCann                        |
| SEPT 9  | John, Shirlie, Keisha & Hunter Nimmo<br>Rich & Jill Prochaska<br>Jim Talley<br>Gene & Linda Atkinson |
| SEPT 16 | Chuck & Ruth Buswell<br>Kay Finch<br>Sun Gorski<br>David & Marilyn Hoffman                           |
| SEPT 23 | Dan & Mary Jelinek<br>David & Linda McCullough<br>Mary O'Brien<br>Les & Linda Rhoades                |
| SEPT 30 | Marlene Taylor<br>Jack & Traci Bailey<br>David, Rita & Ryan Casper<br>Megan & Mallory Finch          |

# VISITATION TEAM



### Help Wanted:

We are looking for others to join our Visitation Team. Members of the Visitation Team go to the care centers or homes of some of our members who are no longer able to get out to church. If you love to visit, please prayerfully consider joining this team. It will not take a lot of time, just a short visit (15-20 minutes) would brighten someone's day. And if you feel

comfortable giving communion, Pastor Kathy will instruct members of the team on how it should be done. We have prayers and other ideas you may want to use during your visits. Our shut-in members love to have visitors! Imagine the joy your visit would bring to someone living alone. In addition, your visits will let them know that their church family cares about them. Please call the church office (715-284-4114) to let us know that you would like to join our Visitation Team!



## Van Etta Library

### BOOK REVIEW

#### Before We Were Yours

by Lisa Wingate

Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals, in which the director of a Memphis based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country, Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching tale takes the reader through the paths one family walks because of the injustice.

In 1939, twelve year old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shanty boat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and placed into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents. They quickly realize the dark truth and are at the mercy of the facility's cruel director. Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

This novel is soon to become a movie—you will want to read the book first!

Rhoda Gulso



## Sunday School Carnival!!!!



HURRY, HURRY...COME ONE, COME ALL  
*Step right up and have a ball!*

For: First day of Sunday School

Date: Sunday, September 9

Time: 9:20 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Place: BRF UMC Fellowship Hall

# BRF UMC Calendar of Events—September 2018



## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9:00 a.m.—Worship Services

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

LABOR DAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

5:30 p.m.—Confirmation Orientation Meeting

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

8:30 a.m.—UM Men's Group Meeting

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:20-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship Committee Meeting

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

PASTOR KATHY DAY OFF

1:30 p.m.—Circle of Hope Meeting

5:30 p.m.—Circle of Faith at Mocha Mouse

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

5:30 p.m.—Board of Trustees Meeting

5:30 p.m.—Finance Committee Meeting

6:15 p.m.—Administrative Council Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal

5:15 p.m.—Confirmation

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:20-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

PASTOR KATHY DAY OFF

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

6:00 p.m.—Mission Outreach Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal

5:15 p.m.—Confirmation

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

6:30 p.m.—Bible Study

7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:20-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School

Communion Sunday

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

PASTOR KATHY DAY OFF

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

5:30 p.m.—Women's Retreat Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

9:00 a.m.—Prayer Group

4:30-6:00 p.m.—Church Family Night Meal

5:15 p.m.—Confirmation

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

6:00 p.m.—Bell Choir Practice

6:30 p.m.—Bible Study

7:00 p.m.—UMC Choir Practice

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

5:30 p.m.—Companions in Christ

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:00 a.m.—Worship Service

9:20-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School

