

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you. I pray that you are doing well these days.

As you might know, our current situation related to COVID-19 is not likely to improve; rather, it is getting worse. According to a news lately, positive cases have been increasing through summer, many countries in Asia and Europe as well. Even a variation of coronavirus has been found in some place. It is very sad to hear that someone who tested positive but was later cured has tested positive again. It seems that there is no vaccine that works. I anticipated that this pandemic would have ended by this fall. My hope has not come true.



How long will this pandemic go on? When will this situation end? When can we return to normal life? Why did God allow this problem? There are more questions than answers to this situation. The hope that I have is that we live in a world in which we can learn something from the past. We have many resources to help us figure out what is going on and how to handle it.

What can we do now? What should we do now? It is not too much to say that we, human beings, have lived along with death, diseases, wars, and disasters from the beginning. We should remember that we are limited and we are heading to the final destination, which is heaven. Thus, I'd rather ask myself, "Why am I here and now?" It is a fundamental question. Let us pause to think of why God sent us on this planet.

The psalmist was also concerned about this matter long ago: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:4-5). If God made us in the image of God and crowned us with glory and honor, why do we suffer and experience grief? I believe that God has purposes for that suffering and grief. "For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone" (Lamentations 3:33). It is true that God is love (1 John 4:8) and God so loved us that He gave us His Only Son (John 3:16).

Then, how can God's love for us and humans suffering be compatible? How can the love of God for us be reconciled with human suffering? C.S. Lewis (1898 – 1963, the well-known English writer, lay theologian, professor of English literature at both Oxford University and Cambridge University and author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*) stated that this problem "cannot be solved so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word 'love,' and look on things as if man were the centre of them. Man is not the centre. God does not exist for the sake of man. Man does not exist for his own sake" (p. 41, 1940). The Bible says, "Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

He continued to write, "We were made not primarily that we may love God (though we were made for that too) but that God may love us, that we may become objects in which the divine love may rest 'well pleased'" (p. 41). We cannot be separated from God. God loved us first (1 John 4:10). God wants us to be the existence in which God's love abundantly dwells. How can we be that kind of being?

Everything comes from God. God's love has poured over us. So we have to worship, obey, and prostrate before God. When we dwell in God, we can be like Jesus Christ and can be happy and can share in God's goodness. I encourage all of you to put God at the center of your life. God is good.

God bless you all. Amen.

Pastor Inwha Shon





SEPT 2	Jaida Decorah
SEPT 4	Leyah Staszak
SEPT 5	Bonnie Burnham Candy Christianson Jann Dahl
SEPT 6	Tom Epps
SEPT 9	Tyler Bue
SEPT 11	David Gjerseth Tyler Woods
SEPT 12	Pam Bjerke
SEPT 13	Orville Amborn
SEPT 15	Lois Epps Cathy Whaley
SEPT 17	Maria Lee
SEPT 18	Rod McGillivray
SEPT 23	Breanna Amborn
SEPT 24	Anne Boehm
SEPT 26	Cheryl Dolsey Dennis Farnsworth Bill Perry
SEPT 28	Georgia Earl
SEPT 29	Jill Prochaska Jim Talley



SEPT 5	Don & Charlene Galston
SEPT 7	Larry & Sharon Nemec
SEPT 8	Harley & Kathie Boehm
SEPT 15	Darrin & Anne Boehm
SEPT 20	Tyler & Michelle Kapfer
SEPT 21	Lance & Jennifer Leisgang Larry & Cathy Whaley
SEPT 23	Orv & Beth Amborn
SEPT 27	Ken & LuAnne Schoolcraft
SEPT 30	Jim & Jill Kaphengst Derek & Marcie Peterson



We will continue to have
Our Live Worship Service
at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday
in the Sanctuary

We will also continue to
have our worship service
on Facebook Live, and
on WWIS Radio 99.7 FM
every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School will
start on September 20 and
will run from 9:05-10:00 a.m.



**YOUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE at brfumc.org
or it will be sent to you by email. Only a limited number of newsletters are
being sent by mail. Call the church office for more information!!!**

Hello to UMW Members,

You are invited to a **Fall Frolic**, a time for UMW members to join together for a September picnic and time of fellowship. We will meet on Monday, September 14 from 5:00-6:15pm. We will gather at the large Lunda Park Shelter. Bring your own "Brown Bag" supper and beverage and we will eat at 5pm followed by a short program and fellowship. We will have enough picnic tables for safe social distancing but feel free to bring a chair if you wish. We also suggest masks if you feel more comfortable in the group.



We have all experienced uncertain times in the past few months. Although we are slowly getting back to some of the activities and routines we were used to, we are still feeling anxious and emotional about the effect the pandemic has had on family and friends. Now with the start of a new school year, children and youth, families, teachers and staff are experiencing a new anxiety. We all have children in our lives, family, friends, neighbors, children we see at church.

An article in the July-August 2020 *response* seems very timely as it is an interview with Trudy Rankin and Faye Wilson, authors of the 2020 Children and Youth Spiritual Growth Studies, *Managing Our Emotions* and *Managing Our Anxiety*. The women were asked, "What advice do you have for children and youth during this exceptionally anxious time? The authors shared that children and youth need adults who can help them channel the energy of anxiety into understanding and growth. Check in with your children offering physical and emotional support for the feelings they are experiencing. If interested in the article in its entirety, you can contact Luane Meyer.

Hope to see you at the **Fall Frolic**!



January 1, 2020-July 31, 2020

General Fund:

Actual Income:	\$135,420.14
Actual Expenses:	\$108,905.91
Positive Balance:	\$ 26,514.23

Building Fund (Capital Campaign):

Balance:	\$11,757.00
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All expenses are paid in full to date. Three payments have been made from the General Fund this year to the Conference for our apportionments. Additional payments are anticipated if our income permits.

Many thanks to everyone for their financial support of our church. If you listen to our worship services on the radio or watch on Facebook Live, your contributions are still important and needed to support our ministries and obligations. Contributions may be mailed or dropped off at the Church Office, or put in the offering baskets provided at our Live Worship Services on Sunday.

Our Capital Campaign does not end until May of 2021. Contributions are still coming in to complete pledges made at the start of the campaign. One of the projects that is yet to be done is replacement of worn carpeting. No date has been set for the completion of that project. Even if you did not make a pledge to the campaign, your donations would be welcome and appreciated!



SOUND SYSTEM

When the COVID-19 quarantine began last March, our sanctuary was closed to the public to help control the spread of the virus. At that time, we began experimenting with offering Facebook Live so members of our congregation would be able to continue to worship with our pastor and a small crew of people who organized a service in the sanctuary. Many were able to join in for the Facebook Live services, even though the quality of the sound and video was poor.

We have now been able to open the sanctuary for Live Worship each week, wearing face masks and observing with social distancing. However, many are not comfortable yet being inside with a group of people.

We want to continue to offer Facebook Live and are making plans to upgrade our sound and video capabilities in the sanctuary which will enhance the quality of our Facebook Live and other videos that are used during worship services.

The cost of this upgrade will be approximately \$7,000, with a down-payment of \$5,000 that is due before the project is begun. We have started a SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE FUND for any donations that are received. Your help with this equipment upgrade would be greatly appreciated!!



SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE FUND:

In Memory Of;
Russell Sheppard from Judy Sheppard.

UNDESIGNATED FUND:

In Memory Of:
Donna Odonovich from Marlene Taylor.

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.



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.

E-GIVING - EASY AND CONVENIENT!

Electronic Giving (E-Giving) is a way for individual congregation members to direct gifts to the church without having to write out a check or fill out an envelope. In E-Giving money can be automatically transferred from your savings or checking account to the church's bank account. — and there is NO CHARGE for this service. A number of our members are already taking advantage of this easy way of giving contributions to the church..

If you would like to sign up for E-Giving, please call Jill in the Church Office. She will be glad to answer any questions you may have and help you fill out an easy authorization form. Now would be a great time to take advantage of this easy and convenient way of giving to your church!

What Happened On This Day in the History of Christianity?**The Pagan Pontiff - September 1**

The history of the church tells lessons good and bad. Its heroes include the noblest saints who ever lived, but its rosters also record scoundrels who have blackened its name. For example...

In 1460 29-year-old Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia of Spain fumed as he opened the letter from the reigning pope. Pius II was upset over news of another wild Borgia party. "None of the allurements of love was lacking," the pope complained. He condemned Borgia's orgies, warning him of "disgrace" and "contempt."

But Borgia, ever more unrestrained, advanced in office until he purchased the papacy itself in 1492. He called himself Pope Alexander VI. His sinful exploits increased with age, and he always kept a stable of women.

But Pope Alexander was upstaged by his illegitimate daughter, Lucrezia Borgia. What we know of Lucrezia is sketchy but vivid. She was charming, shrewd, and bewitching. Her long, golden hair crowned her angelic face and reached almost to her feet. She inherited her father's lustiness as a teenager.

Her brother Caesar had become a cardinal who mixed church work with immorality and murder. And another Borgia brother, Juan, was equally immoral.

In the 1490s Rome gossiped that Lucrezia was sleeping with her father and both her brothers—incest upon incest and that the brothers were violently jealous. On the morning of June 15, 1497, Juan's corpse was found in the Tiber, bearing nine dagger wounds. Caesar was suspected, though nothing was proven.

Lucrezia became pregnant. The Vatican sought to hide her condition, but word filtered out. The child was named Giovanni. But who was his father? On September 1, 1501 Pope Alexander VI issued two extraordinary edicts. The first, which was made public, identified Giovanni as Caesar's child. But the second, hidden in church vaults, identified Giovanni as the pope's own son, making Pope Alexander both the child's father and his grandfather. A young monk named Martin Luther was watching.

I have heard terrible things about some of you. In fact, you are behaving worse than the Gentiles. A man is even sleeping with his own stepmother. Don't you know how a little yeast can spread through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast! 1 Corinthians 5:1,6,7a

- ***On This Day*** by Robert J. Morgan



The Black River Falls UMC Confirmation Program is a two-year program designed to help youth who are entering 8th grade or higher grow their faith by gaining an understanding of the vows that were made for them when they were baptized.

There will be an important informational meeting on **Sunday, September 13, at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** to explain the program, rules, and requirements. All Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation students and their parents are invited to attend.

Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation Classes will begin on Wednesday, October 7, and run from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Pre-Confirmation students will receive their Bibles during Worship on Sunday, October 11. That Sunday will also be Covenant Sunday for Pre-Con and Confirmation students.

**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.





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."

Summer Fam Jam, an alternative to Vacation Bible School, was held the last week of August. Families played games, heard Bible stories, completed crafts, and watched puppet skits. Hoping to bring back regular VBS in 2021!!!! A HUGE THANKS to everyone who volunteered their time for Summer Fam Jam, programs like this cannot happen without people like you!

The first day of Sunday School is Sunday, September 20. Sunday School will begin at 9:05 a.m. and end at 10:00 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). Watch for more info within the next couple of weeks!

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 for photos and other information.

Our Sunday School Team:

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Beth Bue

Pre-Kindergarten: Candy Christianson

Kindergarten/1st Grade: Penny Goldsmith

2nd/3rd Grade: Ann Smetana

4th/5th Grade: Barb Goldsmith

6th/7th Grade: Roxie Hostrawser

Please continue bringing in your ink cartridges and old cell phones. There are boxes in the front entryway, by the Church Office, and by the Youth Rooms for the ink cartridges and cell phones.

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS:

SEPT 2	Ember Kapfer Ian Phillips
SEPT 3	Mackenzie Dougherty
SEPT 6	Tucker Peterson
SEPT 12	Maddison Jessen
SEPT 21	Channing Goldsmith Owen Zenz
SEPT 23	Brayden Olson
SEPT 28	Henry McCullough
SEPT 30	Erika Phillips

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPT 6	Basil & A.J. Holder Rich & Judy Lee Dennis Melichar Theresa & John Paul
SEPT 13	Leota Simonson Joan Zenz Ed & Vione Brauner Sylvia, Rachel & Amelia Crocker
SEPT 20	Don & Charlene Galston Jim Harmer Jim Holt Lorraine Leffingwell
SEPT 27	Sharon Melichar Marge Paulin LeRoy & Fran Simonson Ann Zillmer





YAY!! Fall is here...a new year for Youth Group. After a longer break than usual, we are excited to meet in person with all the youth.

Our first in-person meeting will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9th.

Youth Group will look a bit different this year. A letter was sent home to the youth outlining our plans. If you have not received a letter yet, please let me know and I will get one to you.

Please keep in mind that as we monitor changes, we will keep you updated on how these changes affect Youth Group meetings. Thank you for your flexibility on this.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via call, text, or email.

Suzanne Goldsmith
715-896-0224
suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Scrip Cards



During this time of pandemic, you are still able to purchase Scrip Cards. Call Rhoda Gulso at 715-284-9393 to place your order and arrange a time with her to pick up your cards. We are hoping to be able to resume selling the cards in the Gathering Area as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, Rhoda is very willing to work with people so they can continue to purchase their gift cards and support our church as well!

BRF UMC Calendar of Events for September 2020

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

5:30 p.m.—Ad Council Meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:00 a.m.—Live Worship Service

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

LABOR DAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Rehearsal

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:00 a.m.—Live Worship Service

10:30 a.m.—PreCon & Confirmation

Information Meeting for Parents & Students

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

5:00-6:15 p.m.—UMW Fall Frolic
at Lunda Park Shelter

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:00 a.m.—Live Worship Service

9:05-10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

5:00 p.m.—Spirit! Rehearsal

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9:00 a.m.—Live Worship Service

9:05-10:15 a.m.—Sunday School

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

6:00 p.m.—Youth Group

