

**THE BLACK RIVER FALLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement:

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ

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



“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” - 1 Corinthians 15:20

Dear brothers and sisters in Risen Lord, Christ Jesus: Peace and grace to you all from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Since we celebrated Easter Sunday a month ago, we have now entered into the great season of Eastertide for fifty days until Pentecost on 19th of May. We indeed are sons and daughters of New Life. The Lord Jesus, through his cross and resurrection, has destroyed the power of sin and death and brought us into His life. Christ has won for us victory over the grave.

As we see this world, we could easily hear bad and sad news from all around the world about conflicts, wars, terrors, hatred, fear, refuge, discrimination and so on, even though the King of kings and peace came to us as we waved palm branches. We know that Easter is so much more than flowers, cards, Easter eggs, and even beautiful music. It is the historical event that gives ultimate meaning and purpose to our lives. Because Jesus died and rose from the dead, we no longer have to fear sin and death. The victory has been won in Christ. But do we live a victorious life? Is victory yours? Resurrection is not something that we see every day.

In fact, it's something that we have never seen, only experienced. It has only happened once in the history of the world, two thousand years ago. So if a crucified world is to know resurrection, we Christians must practice it. We must think of new ways to bring the power of Easter to this world. We must act it out daily. We must become channels and conduits of the love and energy of the Almighty God. We are to proclaim that death – in all its forms – is not the final word. As we are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20), we are called to be heralds of God's incredible power, love and grace.

Thus to practice resurrection is to put the power of Easter into our lives; it is to live in the way that Jesus commanded us to live. It is to love our enemies: both our corporate enemies and our personal enemies. Practicing resurrection means to love all of these. And loving them also means praying for them. This is easier said than done, and it's not humanly possible. But it is like God, and God can transform us if we desire it.

At this point, we need faith of Jesus Christ. We are called to build bridges between gaps, differences, discrimination, tensions, and so forth. Practicing resurrection is also not repaying evil for those who do us evil: *“Do not rejoice when your enemy meets trouble. Let there be no gladness when he falls.”* (Proverbs 24:17).

I invite you to hear the words of Clarence Jordan who founded *Koinonia Farm* in Kentucky which eventually birthed Habitat for Humanity International under the leadership of Millard Fuller, who was deeply inspired by Clarence: *“The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the full hearts of his transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled-away stone, but a carried-away church.”*

This Easter season, I cordially invite you to give it a try: practice resurrection. Who knows what it will look like. May God bless you all.

May 5



The fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries rumbled with prolonged controversy about the nature of Christ, and numerous councils convened to grapple with this issue.

The Council of Nicaea in 325 said that *Christ was fully divine*. Fifty years later, the Council of Constantinople proclaimed *Christ fully human*. The Council of Chalcedon in 451 formulated the famous creed that Christ is “*truly God and truly man... two natures without confusion, without change, without division, or without separation....*”

On this day in Christian history, **May 5, 553**, another council was convoked, this one by Emperor Justinian in Constantinople. Justinian, brilliant and tireless, longed to be religious. He spent many nights in prayer and fasting, and endless days in theological study. He built the fabulous cathedral of Hagia Sophia and spoke longingly of a unified church.

But Justinian was also vain, ambitious, ostentatious, and easily influenced. His beautiful wife Theodora, daughter of a bear trainer, was ruthless, and she played him like a marionette. Unable to understand the two natures of Christ, she held the Monophysite view—that Jesus had no human nature but possessed only a divine nature, clothed somehow in human flesh. At the Council of Constantinople, Justinian, manipulated by his wife, issued a decree favorable to the Monophysites.



Pope Vigilius had refused to attend the council due to fear for his safety and because of the preponderance of Eastern bishops. In Rome he received news of the council's actions with disdain but eventually accepted its decisions as unimportant.

Monophysite views, however, continue to this day in Abyssinia, Syria, and in the Coptic church of Egypt.

And Justinian? He eventually became a full-fledged heretic, preaching that the body of Christ, being incorruptible, could not have experienced suffering and death. He died in 565, unrepentant, at age 83, his later years darkened by perpetual disasters.

Healthy Christianity demands both a correct theological knowledge of Christ and a personal knowledge of the Savior through faith and obedience. Justinian grappled with the former, never arrived at the latter, and makes us wonder what the Lord thinks of his title in history—Justinian the Great.

“In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word.” - John 1:1-3a

The mission outreach committee continues to focus on ways that we can support each other to be Disciples of Christ. We feel that this is primarily accomplished by our church providing everyone opportunities to serve others in our community and abroad.

Most recently our primary effort has been getting Dinner Church launched. We've been going now for 6 weeks and are pleased with the response from the community. On average we serve about 90 meals each week. Numbers vary but there seems to be a near equal number of people that "eat in" versus "take out". We have been collecting information to evaluate our program's effectiveness at reaching our mission. We will be having a meeting soon to review this information and make adjustments as needed. As always, your constructive feedback is always welcome.

On Sunday May 5 will be the blessing of the sweaters and other items to wrap up our Knit for Kids project for the year. As items are still coming in I do not have a final count at this time but we will reach over 100 for sure. Last day to get things to church for shipment will be May 10. Thank you to everyone that has contributed to this project either by donating yarn, knitting or crocheting. A special thank you goes out to The Bunko Club who have donated \$60 to help defray our shipping costs and the Evangelical Lutheran Church for additional yarn. Remember we accept donations of yarn year round, so as you spring clean or go to garage sales please pick it up.

On April 17 we joined efforts with HCE of Jackson County to make pillow case dresses for Marcia Hagen to take with her on her next medical mission trip to Guatemala. That day we were able to make 8 dresses but there will be more as some ladies took 2 or more home to put together before the deadline of May 15. If you wish to contribute, there are some kits available in the gathering area. Just have them back to me by the May 15 deadline. We are always in need of double fold bias tape. This is used to make the ties at the shoulders. Donations of bias tape are needed and deeply appreciated. As always, be looking for gently used cotton pillow cases too.

Be checking out the Wisconsin UMC website for volunteer opportunities both locally and abroad. Help is still needed for camp preparation. You can use this link to check out more.
[national+vim+trips+2024+-updated+4-2-2024.pdf \(wisconsinumc.org\)](#)

We have had some conversations about how we might further support those in our community that are homeless or unhoused. Though none on our committee now are part of the task force that is looking at this issue, we keep abreast of their progress. On a church level though we feel that we could help out by having a few essential personal needs items available at church on Wednesday to people to take if they like. We know the items are available at the food pantry as well but we feel that some may prefer smaller travel size items as they are easier to carry with them from place to place. If you have some items that you would like to donate, place them in the small tote in the gathering area. Another way that we thought we could help was by making sleeping mats out of plastic garbage bags. This is a great way to use and recycle and help out others plus people of many ages can participate in this. As it takes between 500-700 bags to make a mat we are going to start. **Clean bags**, Walmart or Hansen's type are needed though any type can be used. The bin once used for Sleep in Heavenly Peace will be in the gathering area for you to place bags in.



A big thank you to everyone that has helped to make the garden come alive. It was a great turnout especially considering the weather. Everyone is coming together to help with this. The Men's Group is funding the bulk of the project, The Youth and Women's Groups are involved. It is really great to see the coordinated effort by all.

Thanks to Dave Olson for donating most of the wood for the benches. Additionally, Joe was able to get a donation from the Scotts / Miracle-Gro Company of 20 bags each of Raised bed soil and potting mix which saved us about \$600.00. We had a very good Earth Day Celebration on the 20th. Thanks to Katrina for organizing that and for procuring the signs. Thanks to the Youth for having the kids projects and making plant label signs for the garden. Thanks to Paul and Hoffman Construction for the use of the drill truck for putting the fence posts in.

Our next step is to get the neighborhood excited and involved. Spread the word, personally invite someone. You may know someone that could enjoy volunteering and supplementing their food with fresh produce. Volunteer times are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Harvest days will be Wednesdays and Saturdays. More information on volunteering will be out soon.

Next scheduled work day will be on **May 4th at 10:00** weather permitting. We will need to obtain some more soil for the benches and plant some cold weather crops.

Beginning May 4th the schedule will be as follows:

Volunteers work times: Mondays 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM (Dinner Church 5 – 6)
Saturday 9:00 – noon

Harvest Hours: Wednesday 4:00 – 5:00 (Dinner Church 5 – 6)
Saturday 11:00 – noon

Any questions, please contact Joe Williams.



May 2024



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR GARAGE SALE...

Hello Everyone!

May 3-4th. The youth are having a Yard Sale at the church. Proceeds will go towards outdoor equipment for the youth. Thank you to all who have donated items. If you still need anything picked up, please contact Suzanne 715-896-0224 and we will send someone to bring your items to the church.

On Sunday May 19th during worship, we will be honoring the Graduating Seniors. Please join us as we honor Madyson Schultz, Aaron Dawley and Hunter Nimmo.

May 22nd is the last regular meeting for the school year. We are making plans for the summer. We will meet 3 times during the summer. Watch the June newsletter for dates and info.

Please contact Suzanne with any questions.

Suzanne Goldsmith

715-896-0224

suziegoldsmith@hotmail.com

Website: BRFUMC.org

Facebook: Black River Falls UMC Youth Group



Volunteers to visit Shut-Ins

Would you like to visit our members to encourage, pray for, and...

ers on a near monthly basis. Quite possibly, some of you may be doing this on your own already but we would like to formalize the process to make sure all are getting reached.

For others, here is an opportunity for you to join in this rewarding program. If you have one or two days a month that you could commit to visiting a member of our church family please let Pastor know. If you would like someone to visit you, please also let us know by calling the church office. 715-284-4114.



Using Scrip cards is a nice way to help the church make some money the easy way. We purchase the cards at a discount and sell them to our members at face value. The difference is profit for the general church fund. In the month of April, I was able to transfer \$1,000 to the general budget from Scrip profits. Depending on how many people use the cards, will determine the next time we can transfer funds.

Also, this is the time of year that there are lots of reasons to give Scrip cards as gifts or use them for your own personal use. Graduation gifts, Mother's Day, Father's Day, bridal showers, weddings, etc. You can even get a Kwik Trip card to pay for the gas needed to get to where ever Stop and buy some cards at church on Sunday mornings or call Marcia at 715-284-3346 and we can arrange a different time to get them to you.

Biblical Italy Tour

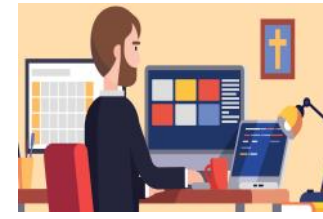
If you are interested in visiting **Italy** this November 1-11 (or 3 day elective: Florence and Renaissance Italy, 11-14), please contact the office or the Pastor.



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.

Cost is \$100/week and it is first come, first served.

for further information or if you would like to apply for the position.
Thank You!



CHURCH STAFF OPENINGS

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.

***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 coordina-





As of the printing of this newsletter, we find ourselves with a positive balance in our General Checking Account. We are able to keep up with our monthly bills. Expenses for Dinner Church are manageable. We have no other major projects in the works to have to pay bills for.

After our Joint Service with Ho Chunk United Church of Christ, we were able to send a check for \$282.00 to Ho Chunk UCC and part of that Sunday offering.

We are keeping up with our commitment to the United Methodist Conference as far as apportionments that we have committed to.

As long as Pledged Offerings continue to be paid, we can continue to meet our expenses and meet obligations to our missions.

Thank you to everyone who gives to Your Church to keep the bills paid. If you should have any



Supporting Midwest Mission

Each year at the Wisconsin Annual Conference each church is asked to help support the Midwest Mission Project. The conference calls this “in gathering”. At our April 21st church service a special flyer about Midwest Mission was in our bulletin. They are asking us to make Home Care Kits. We committed to making three kits to send with Pastor to the conference in June.

There is a bucket in the gathering area for these supplies. Attached to it are tabs, each having an item listed to help fill the three buckets. Grab a tab, buy the item, and bring it back to church. If you wish you may make your own bucket.

Below is a list of items needed. As always, monetary donations to Midwest Mission are welcome as well. Just place in the collection plate with Midwest Mission on the envelope. THANK YOU!

HOME CARE KIT SHOPPING LIST

- Liquid household cleaner - 56-80 oz. total (no spray bottles)
- Dish soap - 42-64 oz.

I looked up “May is the Month for...” and was surprised by the inspirations that surfaced from people celebrating the kindness and goodness they had experienced from medical professionals, volunteers, family, friends, and special events that had helped them through challenging times.

That kindness and goodness showed in the generous donations to the Jackson County Essential Needs Pantry drive during April. Your generosity will help many families build a strong connection within their family and the community.

We have chosen one more drive to help families in Jackson County. We will be collecting donations of disposable diapers to be delivered to the Essential Needs Pantry. The drive will begin Sunday, May 12 through Friday, May 24. Donations can be left in boxes by the Front and Back doors. We appreciate and thank you for your part in supporting these projects that support Jackson County families.

Be sure to include our upcoming monthly meeting on your calendar. We will meet Monday, May 6 at 5:30pm in the Wesley Room. Look forward to creating May baskets to share in our neighborhood, join in some Spiritual Growth activities and share fellowship with those joining in on Monday evening.

Go Forward with God’s Blessing,
Luane Meyer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May Trustee Report

Trustees met on Monday April 8th

Meeting opened a short prayer from pastor. The new system seems to be working fine so far. Any issues can be directed to Pastor InWha or myself. Some fine tuning is needed and is being performed. Jim Hornby has asked for help with sound in the dinner hall and need to contact Justin to see what can provide.

Pastor explained what an upgrade to our web site would cost and at this point will be something for the future and will be discussed with the Ad council.

A new custodian is still n the works and eating on SPRC to finalize someone for the position. Another person has inquired about doing our lawn and snow removal on a contract. His information was sent to Jim Bible to discuss with the SPRC.

In other business, a list of repairs and upgrades to the church property was put together and Pat will



Vione	Brauner	William	Hoffman
Benjamin	Breining	Mark	Hoffman
Elvina	Dambach	Jim	Hornby
Marcia	Devendorf	Mary	McCann
Brett	Dougherty	Marilyn	McKeeth
Alvin	Gentry	Dave	Meyer
Henry	Gentry	Mary	O'Brien
Everett	Gile	Leah	Olson
Chelsey	Gile	Lynn	Overman
Suzanne	Goldsmith	Todd	Perry
Steven	Harelson	Clarice	Rush
Susanne	Hefty	Robert	Uhrig
Isaac	Hoffman	Ann	Zillmer

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**



Gary & Rhonda Ammann
 Chuck & Marcia Devendorf
 David & Kimberly Gjerseth
 Jeff & Barbara Hagenbrock
 Pat & Diane Moe
 Tom & Lynn Overman

Any errors are
 unintentional.
 Please contact
 the church office
 for any changes,
 additions, or de-
 letions so we can
 update the data-
 base as well.
 715-284-4114
 Thank You!



LITURGISTS

May 5th
Tom Epps

May 12th
Roxie Hostrawser

May 19th
VACANT

May 26th
Dan Brauner



USHERS

May 5th
Pat & Diane Moe

May 12th
Pat & Diane Moe

May 19th
Jim Bible & Imelda
Kelly

May 26th
Jeff & Barb
Hagenbrock



CHILDREN'S TIME

May 5th
Tom Epps

May 12th
Roxie Hostrawser

May 19th
Katrina McGillivray

May 26th



FELLOWSHIP

May 5th
Jone Hoffman

May 12th
VACANT

May 19th
VACANT

May 26th
VACANT



Living with Diabetes

is a chronic, life-long, on-going health care provider several of your diabetes through g, nutrition, exercise and your symptoms. **Healthy Living Diabetes** is a researched and proven designed to help you do that.

Healthy Living Diabetes?

hop is designed to help adults with diabetes or pre-diabetes learn self-ent skills and increase their e in managing their diabetes.

hop meets once a week for — 2-1/2 hours each session.

Living with Diabetes complements treatments a participant receives.

Who should take the workshop?

- Adults with type 2 diabetes,
- Adults with pre-diabetes, or
- Adults living with/caring for someone who has diabetes

People who take this workshop:

- Learn techniques to deal with the symptoms of diabetes.
- Learn about appropriate exercise, use of medication and healthy eating strategies.
- Report improved health, health behavior, and a sense of confidence in managing their diabetes.
- Show improvements in blood sugar levels and a decrease in health distress and hypo- and hyperglycemia.
- Feel more confident in their ability to communicate with physicians.
- Have fewer doctor and emergency room visits and fewer hospitalizations.

Workshop Information

Where: Virtually

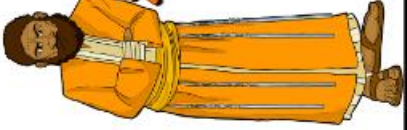
When: Wednesdays, May 26, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Cost is \$30 to participate.

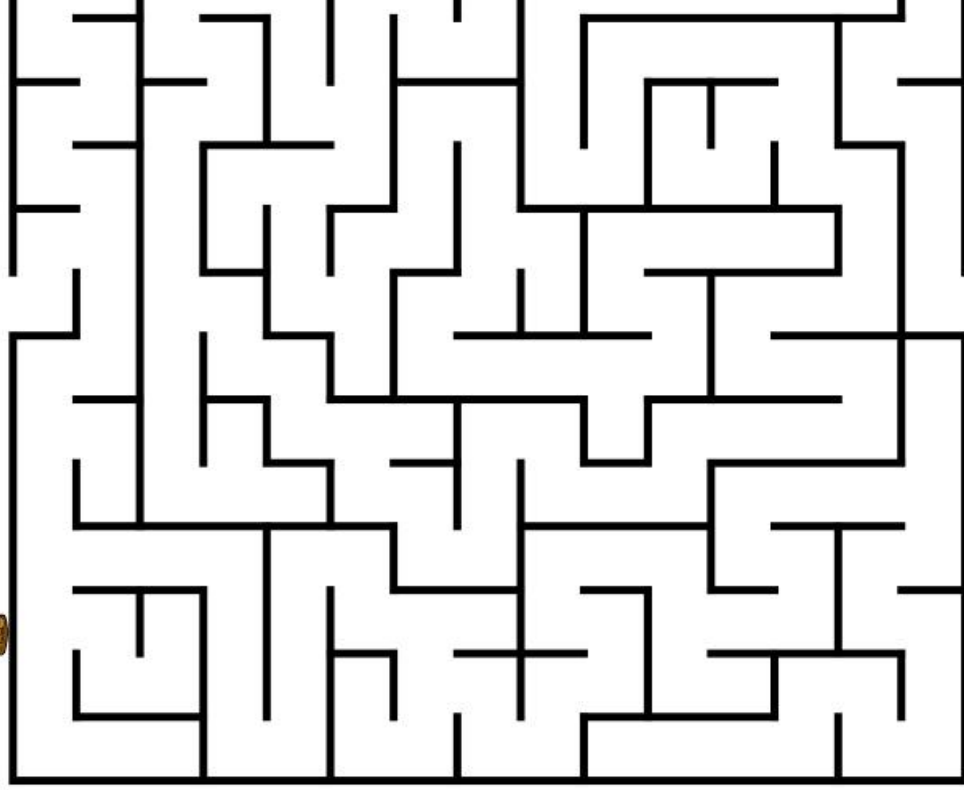
Pre-register by calling (608) 775-6870 or visit gundersenhealth.org/livingwithdiabetes

Children's Page

Bible Pathway Adventures



Yeshua said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"
(Luke 22:48)



Jesus and the Children Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.



CHUTO

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TITTLE

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ERTEN

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NEVHAE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DOMKING

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COWMEEL

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Who did Jesus want to bless?

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MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 p 9 am	6 United Women in Faith 5:30 pm	7 Children/Youth/Family, 5:30 pm	8 Bible Study: Luke 6:30 pm	9	10	11 UMM Garden Workshop Garage Sale
12 p 9 am s Day	13	14 Worship Committee 5:30 pm	15 Bible Study: Luke 6:30 pm	16 Ad Council Mtg 5:30 pm	17	
19 p 9 am st, ion, Out- 0:30 am	20	21	22 Bible Study: Luke 6:30 pm	23	24	
26 p 9 am	27 Memorial Day	28	29 Pastor, Clergy Session of Wis. Conference in Stevens Point	30	31	

WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH:

Dinner Church
Youth Group
Confirmation Class

5 pm-6:30 pm
5:30 pm-7 pm
7 pm-8 pm