

Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."  
<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

\*HYMN TFWS #2108  
*O How He Loves You and Me*

MESSAGE Rev. Shon  
*The Cross—Foolishness and Wisdom*

**THANKSGIVING & SENDING FORTH**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

"Jesus was tested in the wilderness, learning to rely on the providence of God alone. As we begin our own Lenten journey, let us bring our gifts not only to sustain this ministry but as a sign of our trust in God's care. Let us offer our lives and our substance as a living sacrifice."

\*DOXOLOGY UMH #94  
*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

\*CLOSING HYMN UMH #384  
*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

POSTLUDE Carol Prindle



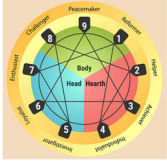
**Dinner Church**  
**Wednesday's—5:30-6:30 PM**  
**EVERYONE is welcome!**




**REQUEST: Dessert Items**  
(Homemade or storebought cookies, cakes, bars, etc.)  
**Volunteers** Sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAAAC2AAAFBC16-47489118-dinner> or scan the QR above. User Name//Password not required. Contact Marcia Hagen or Charlene Galston for questions.  
**Menu this week: Meatballs with Mushroom Gravy, Rice, California Blend Vegetables, Fruit and Dessert**

**Spiritual Formation Group**

A new group is forming to support your spiritual growth and introduce the Enneagram as a tool for reflection and making a Spiritual Autobiography.  
Sessions will start during lent and continue afterwards.  
Times to be announced.  
Please contact the Pastor if interested.



*This week's WWIS Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Sarah & David Shon in honor of their father's 60th Birthday!*



**Happy Birthday Pastor Shon!**

*Can we collect 280 pounds of food in 28 days?*

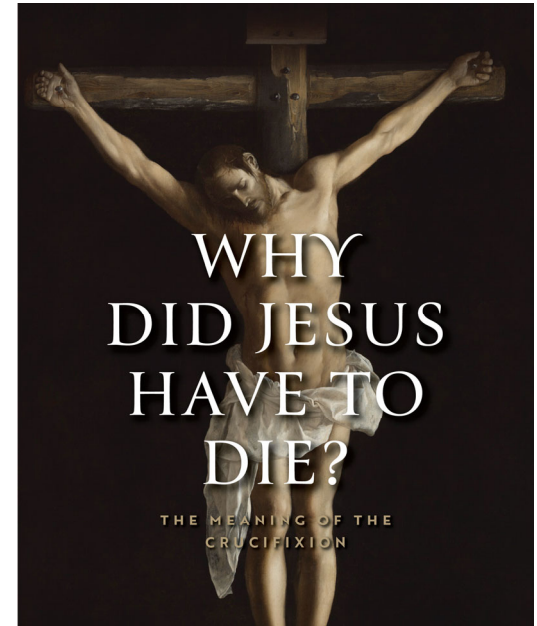
Please continue to put donations in the cart by the front door

Ushers: Joe & Maria Williams  
Fellowship: Esther Shon

**Upcoming Meetings**

Sun	Feb 22	Mission Outreach	10:15 am
Sun	Feb 22	Hilltop Garden	10:15 am

## Black River Falls United Methodist Church



**UMC Mission Statement:**  
*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."*

Pastor: Rev. Inwha Shon  
Pianist: Carol Prindle

100 North Fourth Street  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
Phone: 715-284-4114

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8am-1pm  
Website: [brfumc.org](http://brfumc.org) YouTube: [brfumc](https://www.youtube.com/brfumc)  
Facebook: Black River Falls United Methodist Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026 9 AM

Liturgist: Dan Brauner

PRELUDE

Carol Prindle

### INVITATION AND GATHERING

#### \*CALL to WORSHIP

L: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

**P: We follow, trusting in God's mercy.**

L: We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

**P: We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.**

L: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

**P: We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.**

L: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

**P: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and Loving God, we seek the freedom found in the grace we receive through Christ Jesus. We seek to know more fully your great love. Turn us from our temptations. Inspire us to open ourselves to the way of Christ, that as we examine our lives and live out these days, we may become examples of your abundant love for all people. May your Divine Spirit tend us as angels attended Jesus in the wilderness, and may we feel revived and sustained to follow Jesus. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

\* OPENING HYMN

UMH #297

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

**Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

*... A time of silence for personal confession ...*

**Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## WORDS of ASSURANCE

As the apostle Paul wrote: "...if you confess with your lips that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) These words contain the good news that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the grace, the steadfast love, and the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:8–9

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

Mark 8:31-37

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

<sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?