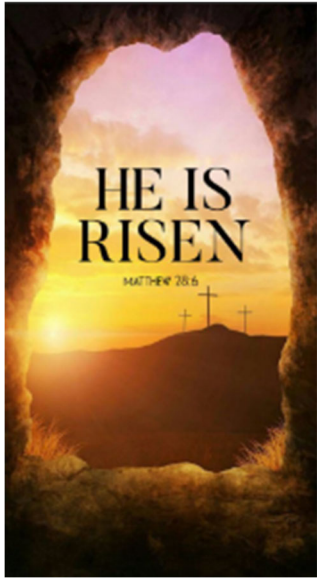


Black River Falls
United Methodist Church
100 North Fourth Street
Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615
Return Service Requested
54615



**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 Sundays

**Office Hours: Tues/Wed/Thur
8:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Telephone: 715-284-4114

Website: brfumc.org

We are also on Facebook and YouTube!



Dear Beloved in Christ at BRF,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

As we approach the joy of Easter morning, I find myself returning to a question many of us have asked at some point in our faith journey: *Why did Jesus have to die?* It is a question that sits at the center of our Christian story, one that carries both mystery and immeasurable love.

Scripture tells us that Jesus' death was not an accident of history nor the triumph of darkness, but the very expression of God's heart for the world. Jesus' life revealed God's kingdom—he healed the sick, welcomed the outcast, forgave sins, and announced good news to the poor. Yet this life of holy love collided with fear, oppression, and human brokenness. Rather than turn away from us, Jesus stepped even deeper into our suffering.

Jesus died *to reveal the depth of God's love*, a love that does not stand at a distance but enters the darkest corners of human experience. On the cross, Jesus bore the weight of our sin—not as a transaction, but as an act of self-giving love that breaks the power of sin and death. He died *to reconcile us to God*, to restore what was fractured, and to open a way home for every one of us.

But Easter reminds us that death does not have the final word. God raised Jesus from the dead, proclaiming forever that love is stronger than death, forgiveness is stronger than sin, and hope is stronger than despair. The resurrection is not only something that happened *to* Jesus long ago; it is *the promise of new life* that God is working *in us and through us even now*.

This Easter, may you hear the risen Christ speaking your name with tenderness and calling you into renewed life. May you know that Jesus' death was not the end, but the doorway into a life overflowing with grace. And may the hope of the resurrection steady your steps and fill your heart with joy.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.

With love and blessings this Easter,
Pastor, Rev. Inwha Shon

Dear Members and Friends of Black River Falls UMC,

Your Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has been working with DS Rev. Peace Kim, Bishop Sherwin and the Conference Cabinet to facilitate a change in our pastoral appointment. We learned recently that Pastor Inwha and Esther will accept an appointment to the Menomonie UMC. They will be here to worship with us and to minister to us until the end of June.

We will miss Pastor's guidance and teaching through his sermons and Bible study groups, his heart for mission, his devotion to visiting our shut-ins and the depth of his Bible knowledge. We will miss Esther's devotion to this church and our mission projects.

SPRC will be planning a celebration in June to recognize and celebrate Pastor Inwha's ministry here at Black River Falls. If you have ideas to share, please contact an SPRC member.

The SPRC has met with our superintendent, who represents the bishop, to help him understand our ministry and pastoral needs. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Bishop Schwerin has appointed a new pastor for our church.

On March 6 our SPRC met again with the superintendent who introduced our new pastor to us. In July we will receive Pastor Eric Taylor who has accepted the appointment to Black River Falls UMC. Pastor Taylor is currently serving Trinity Church -United Methodist in Beaver Dam, WI. Since his graduation from Boston Theological Seminary, Pastor Eric Taylor has served churches in Wisconsin. He and his wife Holly are originally from the Steven's Point area. Eric and Holly have two daughters, Evelyn who is 7 years old and Ivy who is almost 3 years old.

When SPRC met Pastor Taylor, he spoke of his gifts for ministry and how he will work with us to advance our ministry plan and witness. The SPRC saw that this pastor has the gifts we have asked for, and we look forward to building a healthy relationship with him beginning in July.

Please join our committee and leaders in praying and working for a smooth transition, grateful for our current pastor and for what has been, and hopeful for our new pastor and for what will be.

In Christian Love,

Carol Anderson, Co- Chair

Carol Prindle, Co-Chair

Jim Bible

Dan Brauner

Howard Gomer

Roxie Hostrawser

Judy Shephard

Paula Voskuil

Dear Church,

My name is Eric Taylor, and along with my wife, Holly, and children, Evelyn and Ivy, we are eagerly anticipating our life with you all in Black River Falls. We've had the blessing and privilege of serving at Trinity Church - United Methodist in Beaver Dam for the past five years. We know that God has been at work with both congregations and I cannot wait to see where the Spirit leads us together as we move through this time of transition and into this new appointment. Thank you for your faith-filled ministry. Please keep my family and Trinity Church in your prayers as we keep you all and Pastor Inwha in our prayers. May God bless us all in the months to come.

God bless,
Eric, Holly, Evelyn, Ivy, and Lassiter (our dog)



What Happened on This Day?

Ordeal by Fire

April 7

How could the crowd that cheered Jesus on Palm Sunday have crucified him on Friday? How can public opinion turn so quickly? That's what **Jerome Savonarola** asked on **April 7, 1498**.



He lived in Florence during the height of the Italian Renaissance. His flashing dark eyes and blazing sermons electrified the city. Throngs waited for hours for cathedral doors to open, and thousands clung to his every word. "I preach the regeneration of the church," he thundered, "taking the Scriptures as my sole guide."

Eventually Savonarola became city-manager and made Florence a republic. He initiated tax reforms, aided the poor, cleaned up the courts, and changed the city to a virtual monastery. He inspired the populace to build bonfires for burning pornographic books and gambling equipment. Having reformed Florence, he rebuked the clergy, denouncing papal corruptions. When Pope Alexander VI excommunicated him, he demanded the pope's dismissal.

A Franciscan proposed an "ordeal by fire" to settle the matter. In this medieval custom a man was forced to walk between walls of fire, and his survival or death was deemed to indicate God's favor or disfavor. Savonarola's close friend Fra Domenico agreed to walk through the fire, and the ordeal was set for April 7.

Great preparations were made as the news spread across Italy. Two rows of wood, laid out for 60 feet, were soaked with oil. The two feet between them was just wide enough for a man to pass. The excitement was tremendous, and people began to arrive the night before. Windows and roofs adjoining the square overflowed with people. The ordeal was set for 11 A.M.

But the hour came and went. The impatience of the crowds increased as Savonarola delayed sending Domenico out. A storm rose and fell. Evening came, and the crowd rioted when the ordeal was called off. Savonarola's power was gone. He was arrested, tortured, and shortly afterward executed on the same public square where the ordeal was to have occurred. The crowd who honored him as a prophet and appointed him a statesman made him in the end a martyr.

These unfaithful prophets claim that I have given them a dream. ... Their dreams and my truth are as different as straw and wheat. But when prophets speak for me, they must say only what I have told them. My words are like a powerful fire; they are a hammer that shatters rocks. - Jeremiah 23:25a, 28, 29



Savonarola's execution in the Piazza della Signoria, painting by Filippo Dolciati (1498)

Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day: 365 Amazing and Inspiring Stories about Saints, Martyrs and Heroes*



GOT IDEAS? GOT STYLE?



Church T-Shirt Design Contest!

Artistic?
Not artistic?
Doodle-on-a-napkin artistic?
Perfect. We want YOU!

We're creating a brand new church t-shirt – something bold, eye-catching, and fun to wear out in the community. And the design could be **YOURS!**

Here's How It Works:

- Submit your best t-shirt design** (Icon: envelope with t-shirt)
- All designs will be displayed for everyone to see** (Icon: display board with t-shirts)
- The design with the most votes WINS!** (Icon: trophy)
- The congregation will choose their favorite design** (Icon: ballot box labeled VOTE)
- We print the winning design for everyone to wear!** (Icon: printed t-shirt)

What We're Looking For:

- ★ Shares our faith
- ★ Shows our church spirit
- ★ Makes people smile
- ★ Sparks conversation

Big ideas. Simple ideas.
Creative ideas.

Surprise us!

- 📅 **Submission Deadline: April 12, 2026**
- 📍 **Submit to:**
- ✉️ **Suzie.ryp@gmail.com**
- 📄 Or give a printed copy to **Suzie Goldsmith** at church

 **Black River Falls**
United Methodist Church



CYF

Children Youth and Families

The youth continue their Lenten season talking about what they gave up and/or added to their lives for a time of sacrifice, service or self reflection. Come join us for supper each Wednesday night and fellowship after at 6pm.

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Come join us for some fun activities for Earth Day. We will be making some crafts and snacks to celebrate our earth. Our table will be set up near the Community Garden on Wednesday April 22nd at 4:30pm.

If you have any question, please contact
 Suzanne Goldsmith
 715-896-0224
 Church website www.brfumc.org

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday April 2nd 6pm

Good Friday Reflection April 3rd 6pm

Easter Celebration Service April 5th 9am

Congregation Picture April 5th after worship



Hilltop Garden: Growing Together This Spring

Spring is officially here—well, kind of! Our first meeting of the year will be **Wednesday, April 1**, following Dinner Church.

We'll be finalizing plans for the **Boys and Girls Club planting day** and preparing for our **Earth Day presentation at the LLC Hub on April 22 at 5:30 PM**. We'll also begin mapping out our 2026 projects, including:

- Replacing some raised beds with planters
- Upgrading soils
- Setting possible planting dates
- Brainstorming ideas for future community events



New garden signs have arrived and will soon be placed around the neighborhood to help recruit new gardeners. Most of our seeds are in, and the plant list has been updated. We also recently met with the Kane Street Garden Manager, who shared several new ideas we're excited to explore.

Know someone who wants to learn how to grow their own vegetables or who might enjoy helping in the garden? Please pass their name along to the office, Joe, Dave, or Tom.

Men's Group – April Gathering

The Men's Group continues to meet on the **first Wednesday of each month**, with our next gathering on **April 1 at 8:00 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant**.



All men of the church and community are invited. Our time together includes a brief devotion, breakfast, fellowship, and conversation.

As we look ahead to 2026, some of our discussion topics will include:

- Supporting the **Hilltop Neighborhood Garden**
- Helping with **grilling for Dinner Church**
- Exploring **fundraising opportunities**
- Other ideas for service and connection

We'd love to have you join us and encourage you to invite others who may enjoy being part of this group.



Mission Outreach Committee April 2026

Well here we are in April already and it's time to wrap up our Knit for Kids project. At the time of this writing we are nearing 80 items that have been brought in. I am sure that we will accomplish our goal of 100. Please try to have all your items in by the end of the month. Come May we will have a blessing and then send them off to Pennsylvania. For those of you that enjoy knitting or crocheting it is OK to keep on going. What you bring over the summer will be seed for when we get into full swing again in September. Once again, bring your completed items to the church office or place in the Wesley room by April 30. Thank you all for your donations of yarn and the many hours you put in knitting or crocheting to keep a child warm.

We have an opportunity to go to Midwest Mission in Pawnee Illinois February 13-20 of next year. This site assembles and processes the many kits that are distributed during times of natural disasters for UMCOR and also food, hygiene and layette sets. I have been in contact with our local contact and in consultation with other committee members have agreed that we would send 5 people. The cost of this mission trip is \$275 per person which includes food and lodging. It does not include our transportation costs to Pawnee. **There is scholarship money available if the cost of the trip is holding you back.** Prayerfully consider going on this fulfilling mission trip. If you have questions about what it is like, consider talking with Carol Anderson. She has been there in the past and would be happy to share with you. I need to submit a list of names to the team lead by the end of the month. Please contact me or leave your name at the church office.

Once again we are looking to develop a visitation program for those that are home bound or ill. Pastor Shon and Esther have done an amazing job with this on their own but our new Pastor Eric Taylor will be asking for help. We plan to organize a team that would do friendly visits, phone calls and or note writing to our church family. Training will be provided. How much time would you be able to give to show God's love through these acts of kindness? Please consider being a part of this team.

Oh dear, some of you missed it. We had a wonderful evening March 18, celebrating the second year anniversary of Dinner Church. The evening was full of fun, laughter, music, games, good food and fellowship. Thank you again to Kris Wrobel for sharing his musical talent with us.

Just a reminder our next sewing day will be April 28.

Charlene Galston
715 896 9055

Tired of Cooking? Dinner Church Has You Covered

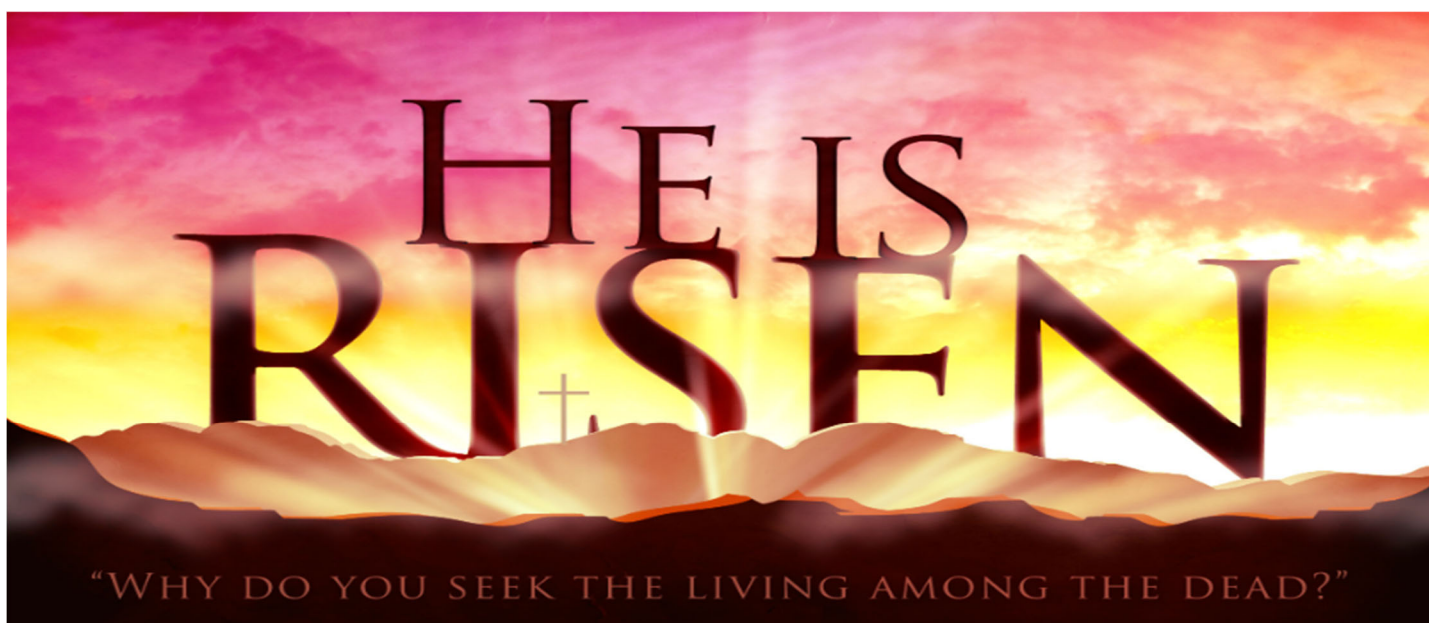
Feeling cooped up by the cold weather? If winter has you spending too much time at home, staring at the TV or the same four walls, you're not alone. Maybe you're tired of deciding what to make for supper every night, or dreading the dishes that follow. And with food costs rising, even a simple meal can feel stressful.

Dinner Church is a simple, joyful answer to all of that. As the days grow a little longer and the temperatures begin to climb, it's the perfect time to get out of the house and gather with others. At Dinner Church, you can enjoy a hot meal without planning, cooking, cleaning, or paying a bill. Just come as you are, share good food, and maybe even make a new friend along the way. What could be better?

Join us every Wednesday from 5:30–6:30 p.m. Come experience this wonderful ministry firsthand. There's a place at the table for you.

April Dinner Church Menus Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 pm

- April 1* Pigs in a Blanket (Hot Dogs Wrapped in Crescent Rolls), Ranch Beans, Fruit Salad, Fresh Veggies & Dessert
- April 8* Homemade Pizza, Fruit & Dessert
- April 15* Sliced Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Carrots, Fruit & Dessert
- April 22* Sloppy Joes, Macaroni Salad, Fruit & Dessert
- April 29* Roasted Pork Loin, Roasted Red Potatoes, Rutabaga, Lettuce Salad, Fruit & Dessert





United Women in Faith – News & Upcoming Events

To UWF Members and Friends,

In *response*, one of the lead sections features reflections from national team members on the impact of United Women in Faith. A recent message reminds us: **“Your giving, your prayers, your witness, your connections – all make an impact.”** That impact is felt not only around the world but right here in our own community.

April 6 – Heart Spirits Presentation

At our April 6 meeting, we will welcome presenters from **Heart Spirits**, an important program begun at Black River Falls High School. They will share information about human trafficking and the crisis of missing Indigenous women and girls. **How might our growing awareness make a difference?** Join us as we learn together.

April 11 – Social Action Day Watch Party

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 11**, when we will host a Watch Party for the **2026 Social Action Day**. This year’s focus highlights the impact congregations are making as they address immigration issues within their communities.

- **Zoom Program:** 9:00 a.m.–Noon
- **Light Breakfast:** Served at 8:30 a.m.
- **Registration:** Forms are available in the Gathering Area or by contacting Luane at 715-299-1539.

A Prayer for Our Work

From Jessica Cain, Southside Community Center, San Marcos, TX:

“God who makes a way: give us the strength to carry out the work to which you have called us. Make us faithful to your mission of peace and justice, especially when we work with those most in need of your gentle ways. Amen.”

—response, Jan/Feb 2026

Library program is on temporary hold. But the Church Library remains open for your use.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BLACK RIVER FALLS

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2026

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

Attendees: Katrina McGillivray, Pastor Shon, Jim Bible, Carol Anderson, Joe Williams, Maria Williams, Roxie Hostrawser, Carol Prindle, Carol Anderson, Charlene Galston, Paula Voskuil, Luane Meyer, LeAnne Byrum

Opening Prayer led by Pastor Shon

Pastor's Report - Devotional

Shared devotion *What is the purpose of your coming to church?*

Our church is strong in the Service area

Jackson County Homeless Coalition Discussion

Emergency Response Team present—Chris Stewart, Vicki Michalski (BRF School Counselor), Sherri Larson (Ho-Chunk Domestic Violence)

Reported on the emergency shelter that was held at our church during the cold snap. A total of 10 people sought help. A family of 7 was put up in a hotel and two males and one female stayed at the church. Very successful with lots of donations and volunteers.

Trustees have approved a request from them to make our building the permanent location when a shelter is needed. This would streamline planning and make the process easier for participants. Tentative plan to open a night time shelter when the temperature falls below 15'. They would staff. They would also appreciate some office/storage space if available.

Due to Dinner Church and other events, the homeless population is comfortable at our church.

Admin council will discuss this next meeting.

Welcome-Katrina

Discussion about book by Dr. Phil Maynard *Shift 2.0* Chapter One on Hospitality.

Carol Anderson discussed talking with newer members about what can be improved to make people feel welcome. Possible survey to congregation-what's working & what's not working.

Possible behavior covenant in the future. We want a positive, welcoming environment at our church. Intentional Hospitality.

Discussed greeters to specifically reach out to visitors and adding more chairs to the coffee area to be sure all feel welcome.

Church Brochure discussion-Needs to focus less on committees and more on what we offer. More to follow.

Joe questioned the role of Ad Council and how we can streamline meetings.

Library Report- Maria

Creating a new display of books every two months

Our library has many books of all types, not just spiritual. Discussion on how to determine if books are appropriate. Should we only have spiritual books?

Committee Reports/Requests (Reports submitted prior to meeting are attached)

SPRC-Carol P and Carol A

Interviewed an applicant for the Communication Coordinator-Plan to hire her on a provisional basis pending a background check.

Finance-Jim

Finances are moving along well so far in 2026

Under budget on staff, over budget on utilities due to the cold weather

Monthly emails are being sent to congregation on the financial status of the church

Trustees-Joe

Presented a security plan from Per Mar Security for the building

Total would be \$3,955 with a monthly fee of \$155 for 3 years. Jim said we would find the funds.

Jim motioned to proceed with the system as presented, Carol A seconded and the motion carried.

Status of radio broadcast-We need a new box installed-in the meantime Joe will see if WWIS can use our YouTube stream.

Venmo is no longer working. We will have to establish a new account.

Special offering envelopes-need to be sure to include in bulletin.

Next Meeting April 16th at 5:30 PM

Closed in Prayer by Jim

Adjourned 8 PM

CYF

Children Youth and Families



The youth continue their Lenten season talking about what they gave up and/or added to their lives for a time of sacrifice, service or self reflection. Come join us for supper each Wednesday night and fellowship after at 6pm.

Sunday School meets each Sunday from 10:15-10:45. Each week, we explore God's word and grow in faith, have fun and figure out life together.

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If you have any questions, please contact
Suzanne Goldsmith 715-896-0224

Church Website www.brfumc.org



Mary Jelinek	4/2	Katrina McGillivray	4/25
Basil Holder	4/4	Joe Williams	4/29
Leanne Kappen	4/5		
Richard Hilliker	4/9		
Annaliese Rave	4/12		



Michael & Leanne Kappen	4/17
Howard & Kristie Gomer	4/27

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

WWIS Sunday Morning Radio Broadcast



Do you have someone's birthday or anniversary coming up and you'd like to recognize their special day?

You can do so by sponsoring a Sunday morning WWIS Radio Broadcast! Contact the church office for with any questions you may have.

THANK YOU!



April	Worship Leader	Greeter/Usher	Fellowship
5th Easter	Tom Epps	Alan & Paula Voskuil, Jim Bible	
12th	Roxie Hostrawser	Larry & Karen Pennekamp	
19th	Dan Brauner	Kristin & Ben Breining	Judy Sheppard
26th	Jim Bible	Carol Anderson & Linda McCullough	

***Volunteers are needed for Sunday Coffee Fellowship.
Sign up sheet is at the coffee station.***

Just for Kids

Easter Activity Sheet

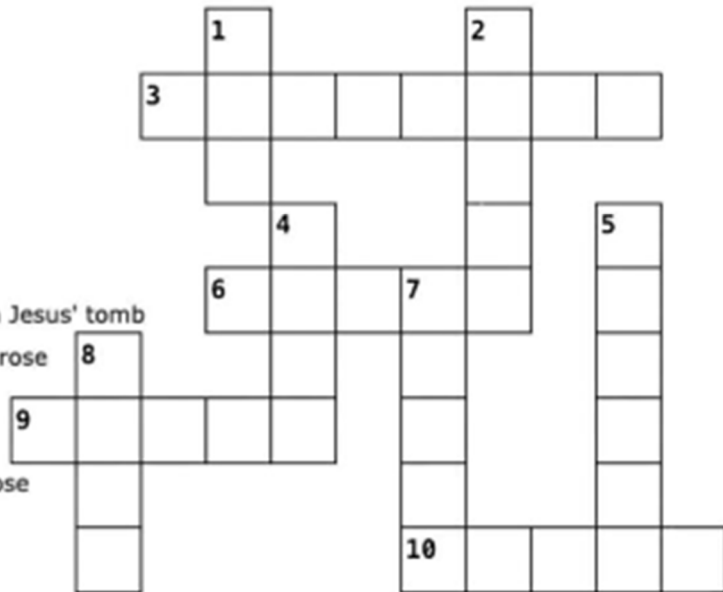
"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."
Matthew 28:6 (NIV)

Across

- 3. The place where Jesus was crucified
- 6. The book that tells the story of Easter
- 9. Believing in Jesus and His resurrection
- 10. Jesus rose after ____ days

Down

- 1. Easter is a time of ____ and celebration
- 2. The large rock that was rolled away from Jesus' tomb
- 4. Jesus ate this with His disciples after He rose
- 5. Jesus had ____ disciples
- 7. Jesus is the ____ of the world
- 8. She was the first to see Jesus after He rose



C H N P X R I N H C R R
 T H A V A T M A L E U Z
 Z L M R F M R A C L O W
 M L O Z S L M S H E I I
 C J B T E B L U R B V M
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celebrate

palm


faith

saviour



- | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|---------|
| redeemed | Christ | lamb | crown |
| cross | rejoice | risen | miracle |

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>5</p>  <p>Worship 9am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Dinner Church 5:30pm Youth Group 6pm</p> <p>Men's Group 8am @ Perkins</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Worship 6pm</p> <p>SPRC 5:30pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Worship 6pm</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>UWF Social Action Day 9 am - Noon</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-10:45am Men's Group 10:15 am</p>	<p>13</p> <p>UWF 5:30pm Trustees 5:30pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Dinner Church 5:30pm Sponsored by Lions Club Youth Group 6pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Ad Council 5:30pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-10:45am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Dinner Church 5:30pm Youth Group 6pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Hilltop Garden Work Day</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-10:45am Mission Outreach 10:30am</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Mission Outreach Sewing Day 10am-3pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Dinner Church 5:30pm Youth Group 6pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>