

*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](http://brfumc.org)

We are also on Facebook and YouTube!



Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

Peace be with you all. I would like to share with you an interesting story about President Grover Cleveland in a book *Strength You Need: The Twelve Great Strength Passages of the Bible* written by Robert Morgan, 2017.

Grover Cleveland was the only chief executive to serve two non-consecutive terms. He occupies the twenty-second and twenty-fourth spots in the roll call of presidents. He was also the man who dedicated the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, and he was the only president to have gotten married in the White House. He was forty-nine at the time; his bride, Frances Folsom, was twenty-one, making her the youngest First Lady in history. Their romance took the nation by storm.

Grover Cleveland was a Presbyterian preacher's kid who was thoroughly trained in Christian truth. He grappled with titanic issues in office, and in the middle of a national financial panic, he faced a personal crisis. He was diagnosed with cancer and endured top-secret surgery aboard a friend's yacht, the news of which was hidden from the nation for years. Nevertheless, Cleveland kept up his strength and routinely worked past midnight. Historians have lauded him for his industry, integrity, courage, and common sense. His dying words summed up his life: *"I have tried so hard to do right."*

The secret of President Cleveland's energy is found in the motto he lived by. It was a biblical promise, which he framed and hung directly over his bed so he could see it every night on retiring and every morning when awakening. I don't know who crafted the engraving for him, but he valued it so highly that it hung on the wall of his law office before his election and afterward in his bedroom at the White House. Throughout his life, he kept it within eyesight. It contained a family crest, beneath which were a set of words taken from the King James Version of Deuteronomy 33:25: *"As thy days, so shall thy strength be."*

When asked about it, Cleveland said, "If I have any coat of arms and emblem, it is that." He awoke every morning with the firm conviction God would give him the strength required for the work assigned. He believed God would give him sufficient strength for each day's tasks as long as he lived.

That promise can sustain all of us when we awaken in the morning and when we retire at night. It's lifelong promise of lifetime strength. The Living Bible puts it: *"May your strength match the length of your days!"* The Amplified Bible renders it: *"As your day are, so will your strength, your rest and security be."* That's a line in the Bible with high voltage. This biblical promise is so relevant to our lives the writer of the hymn "How Firm a Foundation" devoted an entire stanza to it, saying: *"In every condition, in sickness, in health; In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth; At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea, As thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be."*

As we enter the sacred season of Lent on the 18<sup>th</sup>, I would encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ to live by the Bible, God's Words as President Grover Cleveland did. God promised us to strengthen us through Christ (Philippians 4:13). Where does your strength come from?

In Christ,

Pastor, Rev. Inwha Shon

## Adoniram Judson

### February 6

Christian parents often worry about sending their sons and daughters to colleges and universities. Sometimes with good reason. Young people can “lose their faith” there. But some lose it only to regain it later with added strength.

**Adoniram Judson** grew up in parsonages around Boston in the 1700s. He entered Brown University at age 16 and graduated valedictorian of his class. While there he became best friends with Jacob Eames. Jacob was a deist and, in practical terms, an atheist. Ridiculing Judson’s faith, he challenged him with the writings of Voltaire and the French philosophers. When Adoniram returned home, he told his parents that he, too, had become an atheist. His mother broke into gentle sobs. His father roared and threatened and pounded the furniture.



Adoniram, 21, migrated to New York City to establish himself as a playwright. But then, hearing tales from the American frontier, he saddled his horse and headed west. One evening, weary from traveling, he stopped at an inn. The proprietor said, “Forgive me, sir, but the only room left — well, it’ll be a bit noisy. There’s a young fellow next door awfully sick.” Adoniram, too tired to care, took the key.

The night became a nightmare. The tramping of feet coming and going. Muffled voices. Painful groans. Chairs scraping against the floor. Adoniram was troubled by it all, and he wondered what his friend Jacob Eames would say about fear, illness, and death.

The next morning while checking out, he asked about the young man in the next room. The proprietor said, “I thought maybe you’d heard. He died, sir, toward morning. Very young. Not more than your age. Went to that Brown University out East.” Adoniram stiffened. The man continued, “His name was Jacob Eames.”

The West suddenly lost its lure, and Adoniram turned his horse toward home. Soon he gave his life to Christ, and, shortly afterward, devoted himself to missions. On **February 6, 1812**, Adoniram Judson was commissioned as America’s first foreign missionary. He, his wife, and companions sailed for Burma on February 18.

The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, you must tell everything that has happened. *Luke 24:46-48*

## Walking with Christ Through Lent: A Call to Scripture and Prayer

As we enter the sacred season of Lent on the 18th, we step into a time the Church has long set aside for reflection, repentance, and renewal. These forty days invite us to slow down, look inward, and draw nearer to God. Lent is not simply about giving something up—it is about making space for God to speak, transform, and lead us toward resurrection life.

At the heart of this Lenten journey are two practices that have shaped the people of God for generations: Bible reading and prayer. This season offers us an opportunity to rediscover the richness and power of both.

### 1. Returning to the Word: Listening for God's Voice

Lent is a season of returning—returning to God's presence, returning to God's promises, and returning to the stories and truths that shape our faith. Scripture becomes our guide in this journey. When Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, He responded to every temptation with Scripture. He showed us that the Word of God is not only a source of knowledge but a source of strength, identity, and hope.

During Lent, consider making intentional space each day to open your Bible. You might choose to:

- \* Read through a Gospel to follow Jesus' journey to the cross
- \* Pray the Psalms as your own prayers
- \* Sit with a single short passage each day and let God speak to you slowly

Even five attentive minutes with Scripture can change the tone of your day. The goal is not to "get through" the Bible—it is to allow the Bible to get through to us.

### 2. Deepening in Prayer: Making Room for God

If Scripture is how God speaks to us, prayer is how we respond. Lent calls us to honest, heartfelt conversation with God. Prayers do not need to be complicated. It can be as simple as:

*"Lord, have mercy." "Here I am." "Speak, Lord; your servant is listening."*

You might incorporate a few practices this season:

- Set aside a daily moment of silence

Begin or end your day with two or three minutes of quiet before God.

- Pray for specific people or situations

Let this season be a time of intercession—standing in the gap for others.

- Use Scripture as prayer

Turn words of the Bible into your own prayers—from Psalm 23, Psalm 51, or the Lord's Prayer. Prayer slows us down. It recenters us. It opens our hearts to the work God longs to do within us.

### 3. A Season of Transformation

Lent is not meant to be a somber endurance test. It is a season of formation—shaping us to look more like Christ. Through Scripture and prayer, we learn again to trust God, to listen for God's guidance, and to receive God's grace.

Imagine what might be possible if our entire church community journeyed through Lent with a renewed commitment to God's Word and prayer. Imagine the depth of compassion, peace, and spiritual restoration that could unfold in our homes, our relationships, and our fellowship.

As your pastor and fellow traveler on this journey, I invite you this Lent:

Open your Bible daily—listen for God. Pray with intention—speak with God. Create space in your life for God to restore, redirect, and renew you. May these forty days lead us closer to the heart of Christ. May we walk with Him to the cross in humility and hope. And may we rise with Him on Easter morning with hearts made new.

Blessings on your Lenten journey.

Pastor, Rev. Inwha Shon

## United Methodist Church Bishops Condemn Violence in Minnesota

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

In recent days, events in Minnesota and beyond have caused deep grief, concern, and alarm across our connection. The use of lethal force in public spaces, the detention of naturalized citizens, members of our indigenous communities, children, documented and undocumented immigrants, and the treatment of other vulnerable persons have weighed heavily on the hearts of many in our church. These actions have unsettled communities, strained trust, and intensified fear among those already living at the margins.

Scripture reminds us that “when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer with them (I Corinthians 12:26). As a Connectional church, we are reminded that we are one body that cares for and needs each other. The whole body is suffering, right now, today! The violence being perpetrated on our streets, the loss of safety, and the inhumane treatment of God’s children, are hurting us all. We cannot stay silent in the face of the evils of our day.

The United Methodist Church deplores the use of violence, fear, separation, and intimidation as a means of creating social order. Such means do not build beloved community. We reaffirm our longstanding commitment to the sacred worth of every person and to the way of peace taught and embodied by Jesus. We stand against the separation of children from their families. We detest the inhumane, evil actions that are perpetuated by governmental authorities.

Our Social Principles are clear: “We reject governmental use of threats, extortion, unlawful detentions, extrajudicial killings, and other forms of coercion to silence political opponents and those objecting to unlawful or immoral government policies and practices.” They further affirm that the church has both the right and the responsibility to educate and equip its members to be advocates for justice in the wider world (¶163D).

This is a moment that calls for prayerful courage to speak against actions that are bringing harm to our neighbors. This is our time to have an effectual faith that stands with those who are suffering. This is our faithful response to our baptismal vow that summons us into what is required of us “to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). We must continue to work for justice to help heal the brokenness in our communities and in the world.

We ask you to pray for peace and for justice. And we ask that we work together with our communities so that we can create a world where the sword is turned into plowshares, and the lion lays down with the lamb. May we be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit, do our part to bring comfort, just practices, and healing for all God’s suffering people.

In Christ’s peace,

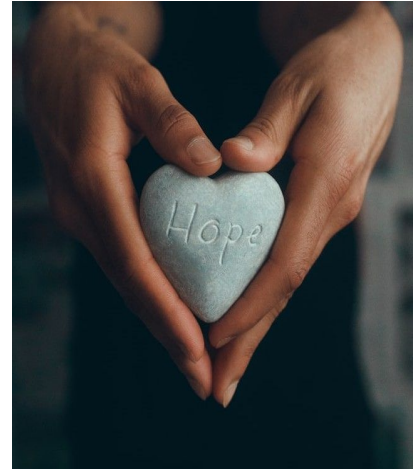
Bishop Tracy S. Malone  
President, Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

## Our Time is Now: Building a 2026 Year of Hope!

In a world that is hurting and amidst a nation in conflict, the Methodist Church has declared 2026 a **Year of Hope**. This is not just a slogan; it is a divine calling for our church to be a beacon of light!

At our December Church Conference, District Superintendent Peace Kim asked us: *“Where do you see hope in and through your church? What is your vision?”*

While that question brought a quiet moment of reflection, it also sparked a realization within our Administrative Council: **We have exciting work to do!** We are moving from reflecting to acting, transforming how we “go and make disciples” to truly impact our community.



To lay the groundwork for this new season, the Council has agreed to take two bold, intentional steps:

**1. Streamlining for Ministry:** We are exploring a **Simplified Accountable Structure** led by **Joe Williams**. This isn't just about changing meetings; it's about freeing up your time and energy to focus on ministry rather than bureaucracy, holding us accountable to our mission. If you are passionate about helping our church run effectively, please reach out to Joe to join this team!

**2. Shifting for Impact:** The Council is reading *“Shift – Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry.”* We are committed to changing the culture, focusing on vibrant Worship, deep Hospitality, intentional Discipleship, sacrificial Service, and generous stewardship to bring true vitality to our church.

### What's Next?

This is a journey for all of us. Once the Leadership Team has reviewed these new paths, we will invite the *entire* church family to a **Town Meeting**. We want your input, your ideas, and your vision to help us map out our future.

Let's step into 2026 with expectation. The best is yet to come!

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.”* Hebrews 11:1

Katrina McGillivray  
Administrative Council Chair 2026



## Fresh Expressions

## United Methodists National Gathering

February 26-28, 2026

First UMC Ocala, Florida

*See firsthand how ordinary people are cultivating communities of grace in extraordinary ways!*



UMC mission outreach committee February 2026

Thank you to one and all for a successful Christmas season with holiday giving. With the Giving Tree set up to focus on hunger reduction we collected money for both Friends Sharing Food and Dinner Church. \$835.00 was collected for Dinner Church and \$325.00 for Friends Sharing Food. Our financial secretary has already distributed the monies to the appropriate group and/or account.

Some of you may recall that Dinner Church applied for grant monies from the Mike Anderson Memorial Fund at Jackson Electric and we were awarded \$1000.00. Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Supervisor at Jackson Electric will be attending dinner church to gather more information and take photos for an article she is writing for the Spring Jackson Electric newsletter. This article will inform members about what we do and how the money will be used. Be watching for this article if you are a Jackson Electric member. We will be awarded the money at their annual meeting this Spring.

Our sewing date this month is February 19. We will be focusing on pillowcase dresses but there is also an opportunity to work on quilt blocks if you would rather. We have all the supplies you need and a sewing machine if you need one of those too. As always, donations of thread, (all colors are ok) and trims are appreciated.

How are you doing with your knit or crochet projects? I have purchased some yarn to add to our stock so we have some really nice choices of yarn if you don't wish to use your own. Donations of yarn are always appreciated. Did you know that depending on the pattern, it may take 2 skeins of yarn to make a sweater or hat? Items are slowly trickling in but I am still hopeful that we will reach our goal of 125 by April 30.

I often pray that more of you will find it in your heart to give some time to support our primary mission outreach project of Dinner Church. If you could just once a month for 1-2 hours help to serve the meal or even just come to eat with us that would be so wonderful. We really do serve a great need in our community and are so appreciated. I wish that you could all see the joy this meal brings and hear the many thank you's. It is so rewarding.

Charlene Galston  
Mission outreach committee Chair

### *February Dinner Church Menus*

#### **4 Feb**

Hot Turkey Sandwiches  
Napa Cabbage Salad  
Pickles  
Fruit  
Dessert

#### **11 Feb**

Spaghetti with Meat  
or Marinara Sauce  
Garlic Bread  
Lettuce Salad  
Fruit  
Dessert

#### **18 Feb**

Chicken Noodle  
Soup  
Crackers  
Fruit  
Dessert

#### **25 Feb**

Meatballs with  
Mushroom Gravy  
Rice  
California Blend  
Veggies  
Fruit  
Dessert



CYF

Children Youth and Families

*Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 10:15-10:45. Each week we explore God's word and grow in faith together. We offer lessons for 4 year olds-5th grade. Hope to see you all there.*

*Youth group meets each Wednesday night starting at 5:30pm for supper. Come hang out with us as we dive into our faith, have fun and figure out life.*

Upcoming date:

Confirmation Retreat. February 27-March 1

Lake Lucerne United Methodist Church Camp

Youth are \$140.00 but we have scholarships available to anyone who wishes to attend

Youth will learn about the foundational aspects of our Wesleyan tradition and how they apply to our lives as United Methodists today.

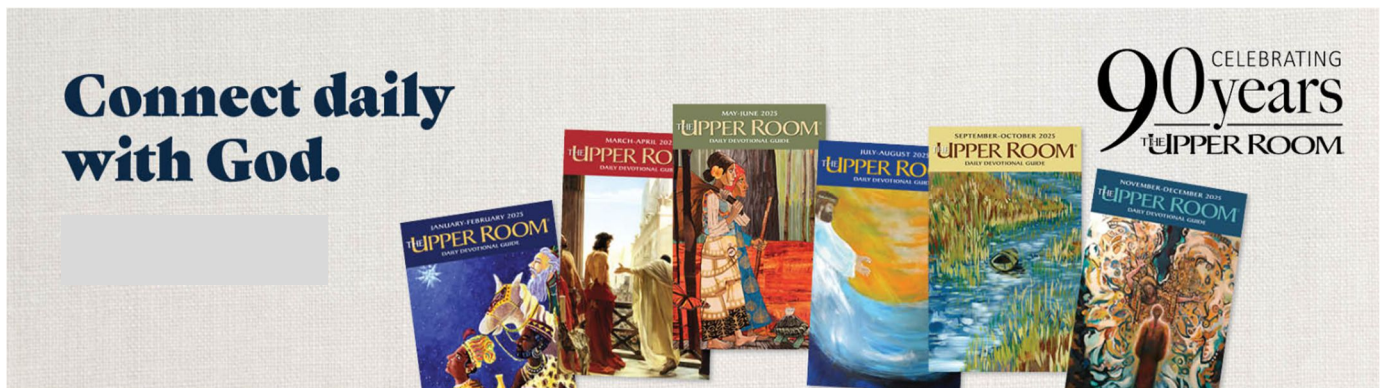
Any youth in pre-confirmation, confirmation or already confirmed are welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact

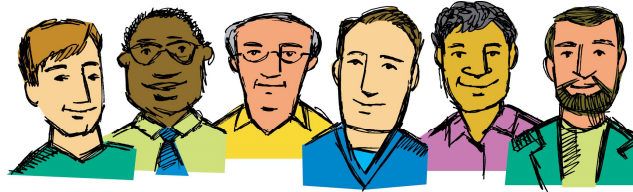
Suzanne Goldsmith

715-896-0224

Church website: [www.brfumc.org](http://www.brfumc.org)



*Copies are available at the church*



## MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group –

Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be on SUNDAY March 15. Serving will begin at 4:00 and available until sold out. Tickets will be available after service and at the door. Carryout's will be available although you are encouraged to dine-in and share in the fellowship.

A challenge from the men's group. The shopping cart in the entrance for donations to the food pantry could use some assistance. The challenge is to collect 280 pounds in 28 days. Can we do it? Items collected on Sunday's are delivered to the pantry on Monday. There are lists of the most frequently requested items in the cart. Thanks for considering helping!

The next Men's Group meeting will be on Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> after service. We will continue planning the corn beef supper. All men of the church are invited to attend.



The Hilltop Gardeners will be meeting on Sunday February 22 following church service.

We will start scheduling the spring activities including building the new beds.

Everyone is welcome!

## 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!





## News from United Women in Faith

Our local unit is looking forward to getting our 2026 year underway!

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 2, 5:30pm in the Wesley Room. We invite you to join with us and be a part of “Mapping Our Way Forward.” The theme for 2026 encourages our group to look at ways to reach out and put our Love into Action locally, to be involved in a state outreach effort, or contribute to an international program for women, children and youth. We are excited for the ideas that can come to the table.

One of our local projects in Action right now is Karen’s Kare Kits. Karen Dolsey was long-time member of United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women). As a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, she spent as much time as possible caring for and supporting her family. Karen’s strong faith came alive through her dedication to her church and UWF. Karen showed kindness and care to everyone she worked and served with. Through her daughter’s financial gift to UWF in her mother’s memory, we are continuing Karen’s legacy of kindness through Karen’s Kare Kits. The kits are delivered to persons who could experience comfort through the contents of the kit along with a prayer for peace and hope.

For more information on UWF, you can reach out to any of our members.

Go Forward with God’s Blessing,  
Luane Meyer



## For Our BRF UMC Readers

During November and December, our library featured a special display of Christmas books. Many of our UWF members selected and enjoyed these titles, and at our December UWF meeting, several ladies shared brief reports on what they read. It was both interesting and fun for everyone!

For January and February, we have a new display of books from our library. This collection focuses on individuals as well as groups of people. (A special thank-you to Roxie for helping select these titles!)

Join the fun—pick out a book and give your mind a pleasant escape from the cold winter weather.

Maria Williams



# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BLACK RIVER FALLS

## Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026

### Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order at 5:32 PM

Attendees: Katrina McGillivray, Roxie Hostrawser, Pastor Shon, Luane Meyer, Jim Bible, Suzanne Goldsmith, Carol Anderson, Joe Williams, Paula Voskuil, LeAnne Byrum

Opening Prayer led by Pastor Shon

### Pastor's Report - Devotional

Shared article "Reflections: The Purpose of the Church" by C.S. Lewis.

Purpose of the church is to create disciples. To do this seek training as needed and talk to others-bible study

Sermon series-5 Things Every Christian Needs to Grow. Next five Sundays until Lent. Bible study after worship-or discuss in small groups.

Personal Spiritual Survey will be given out Sunday.

### Welcome-Katrina

Handout *United Methodist Guidelines: Church Council* followed by discussion of format for meetings and changing the agenda-possible follow up before next meeting instead of giving reports.

Where are we going as a church in 2026? Who are we? Who do guests think we are?

What are we known for in the community? Does the community know about us?

Katrina is working on marketing ideas.

Dinner church-new people following us on Facebook

Hilltop Garden-works with Boys & Girls Club, Need to go to Chamber events

Radio-issues with sound quality-Joe will contact WWIS

Katrina-How can we grow, become a church that loves & talks about God? We need something new/changes. What is our Vision? Discussion followed including setting goals, asking people to come to church, talking to members and asking people to complete surveys (attached). Surveys could be done as part of a gathering with meal.

Discussion about book by Dr. Phil Maynard *Shift 2.0 Activation Guide*. Office will order 10 copies and Ad council members will try to read before next meeting.

### Simplified Accountable Leadership-Joe

Joe, Jim and Katrina have been looking into this concept with *Mission: Possible A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness* by Kay Kotan & Blake Bradford

A way to simplify the leadership and committee structure and have a Leadership Board of 9-12 people who make decisions.

Discussion of if other committees would be necessary and concerns that a few people will control everything and the opinions of the congregation will get lost. Currently have several people on multiple committees-could help with number of meetings they need to attend.

Consensus that it is worth looking into further and Joe will present more information at the next meeting.

## Committee Reports/Requests

### Men's Group-Joe

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> this year at 4pm. 100 meals will be prepared and price will not change. Profits will be spent toward a yet to be determined project

Hilltop Garden will expand beds this season and have gotten a grant. Will continue to work with the Boys & Girls Club and will try to work with the school district as well.

### Children, Youth & Family-Suzanne

Two youth members are preparing lunch for the Community Connect event in January. They are using it as an FCLA project.

### United Women in Faith-Luanne

Planning for the year ahead

### Mission Outreach

Charlene Galston submitted a report (attached)

Discussion on prices to sponsor Dinner Church meals-Committee suggests offering levels of sponsorship for more options. Also suggested working with local restaurants and service groups- to expand outreach. Dinner church can make that decision.

Discussion of Dinner Church becoming part of the church budget. Jim reported that they took in enough to cover expenses in 2025. Grants will eventually run out and may not cover all expenses. Committee concurs that Dinner Church can be integrated into the church budget.

### Finance-Jim

Pledged offering for 2026 is \$170K and meets the budgeted amount.

2025 Profit/Loss Statements will be sent out by email. Finished 2025 financially healthy. Paid \$20K in apportionments. 2026 apportionments request is for \$40K

Finance meetings will now include Adam Bantell, Financial Secretary

Discussion on need for a financial audit. Determined not needed since we are a smaller church.

Discussion on process for signing checks. Carol made a motion to add Jim Bible as an authorized signer to the checking account, Seconded by Suzanne and motion carried.

Next Meeting February 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

Adjourned 7:45 PM



James Bible	2/3	James Hoffman	2/18
Aubrey Goldsmith	2/5	Pastor InWha Shon	2/20
Kimberly Gjerseth	2/7	Dorothy Hefty	2/22
Samantha Blazek	2/9	Logan Hoffman	2/23
Kay Finch	2/9	Jerry Overman	2/24
Judith Sheppard	2/13	Linda Heller	2/26
Roy Hefty	2/16		

Paul & Robin Hoffman	2/17
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**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

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!

## Save the Date

Tuesday February 24th  
Volunteers Needed for a Kitchen  
Clean Up day!  
9 am—Noon



# Sunday Volunteers



February	Worship Leader	Greeter/Usher	Fellowship
1st	Tom Epps	Jim & Carol Hornby	Esther Shon
8th	Roxie Hostrawser	Bonnie Burnham	Bonnie Burnham
15th	Dan Brauner	Suzanne & Ella Goldsmith & Anne Boehm	
22nd	Jim Bible	Joe & Maria Williams	Judy Sheppard

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

# Children's Page

**START**

G	O	C	A	X	B	O	S	E	W
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V	W	A	N	Y	P	K	U	Y	E
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**FINISH**




**COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE**  
"God wants you to have faith in the one he sent"

Help the crowd find Jesus to listen to his parable.



**START** **END**




**God**  
**is Love.**



**1 John 4:8**

# February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-10:45am 5 Things Bible Study 10:15am	2 UWF 5:30 pm	3	4 Dinner Church 5:30pm Youth Group 6pm	5 SPRC 5:30 pm	6	7
8 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-10:45am Men's Group 10:30 am 5 Things Bible Study 10:15am	9 Board of Trustees 5:30 pm	10	11 Dinner Church 5:30pm Youth Group 6pm	12 Ad Council 5:30pm	13	14
15 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-10:45am 5 Things Bible Study 10:15am	16 	17	18 Dinner Church 5:30pm Youth Group 6pm ASH WEDNESDAY	19 Mission Outreach Sewing Day 10am-3pm Ad Council 5:30 pm	20	21
22 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-10:45am Mission Outreach 10:30 am Hilltop Garden 10:15 am	23	24 Church Kirchen Cleaning 9am-Noon	25 Dinner Church 5:30pm Youth Group 6pm	26	27	28

## Why Did Jesus Have to Die? New Sermon Series in Lent

January 30, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus at BRFUMC,

Peace and grace be with you. As we move through the season of Lent, we are taking time to explore the most central moment of the Christian faith: **The Crucifixion**.

We know Jesus died for us, but have you ever stopped to ask how that works? Or why it had to happen that way? Often, we struggle to make sense of the crucifixion. It can seem confusing, or the explanations we were taught in 20 years ago might not resonate today.

Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way.

Join us for a powerful 6-week series as we explore *Why Did Jesus Have to Die: The Meaning of the Crucifixion* by Pastor Adam Hamilton. Together, we will walk through the New Testament to unpack the different metaphors of the cross—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, and victory—to see the profound love of God in a new way.

Whether you are a lifelong Christian or just curious about the meaning of the cross, this series will help deepen your faith and understanding.



0: Preface and Introduction

1: Lift High the Cross: The Crucifixion as God's Word and Recapitulation

2: O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done: Penal Substitution and Sacrificial Offering

3: *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)*: Atonement as New Passover, New Covenant, and Redemption

4: Were You There: The Moral Influence and Moral Example Theories of Atonement

5: What Wondrous Love Is This: Moral Influence Theory, Part II

6: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today: *Christus Victor (Christ the Victor)* Theory of Atonement

Join us Sunday at 9 am from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday.

Bring a notebook and pen to take notes!

Blessings,

Pastor, Rev. Inwha Shon