



Interfaith Volunteers CONNECTIONS

AUGUST 2026

A Note from Interfaith

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Jackson County,

Welcome to the summer edition of the Interfaith Volunteers Connections newsletter!

This publication celebrates the power of compassion, community, and service. Every day, individuals, throughout Jackson County, come together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of their neighbors. We are honored to share those stories with you.

In this edition, you will find exciting updates and inspiring stories that highlight the impact of our shared mission. You will discover news on our ongoing initiatives, details about upcoming events, heartfelt messages from our dedicated volunteers, meaningful testimonials from those we serve, and practical ways you can support and be involved in our work. Together, we continue to strengthen our community and make a difference in the lives of others.

Our volunteers are the foundation of Interfaith. The generosity, dedication, and kindness of community members are essential in enabling our organizations to support vital support to seniors and other residents throughout Jackson County. These contributions—whether through donations, volunteerism, or small acts of kindness, help bridge gaps in resources, services, and social connection.

We are proud to be part of such a caring and compassionate community and look forward to expanding our reach and impact together in the months ahead.

*With gratitude,
Interfaith Volunteers of Jackson County*

Bee the Difference: Celebrating Our Amazing Volunteers

In April, Interfaith Volunteers and the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Jackson County had the pleasure of honoring volunteers who make our community stronger at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This year's theme was, **"Bee the Difference!"**. Throughout the year, volunteers have been busy spreading kindness, lending a helping hand, and making a positive impact throughout our area. Like busy bees, volunteers continually go from project to project, ensuring that our senior neighbors in need receive support and care. A thank you goes to L&M Café and Brittini Bakes for providing a delicious meal and beautifully decorated cupcakes that were enjoyed by all. We are also grateful to the Black River Falls music students, under the direction of Paula Neuzilf for

filling the room with sweet sounds. Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our volunteers. Your generosity, compassion, and commitment truly make a difference in the lives of others every day. Quite simply, you are so sweet it's almost un-bee-lievable!



Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The ADRC and Disability Support Services of Jackson County enjoyed a celebration in partnership with Interfaith.

Participants enjoyed a variety of activities, including games, crafts, piñata fun, and face painting.

Guests were also treated to a festive meal offered by L&M Café, which made the celebration even more special. The event was an example of community organizations working together to create meaningful experiences for individuals of all abilities. Plans are underway for a fall event. Stay tuned for more details.



Welcome Volunteers

(New since March 2026)

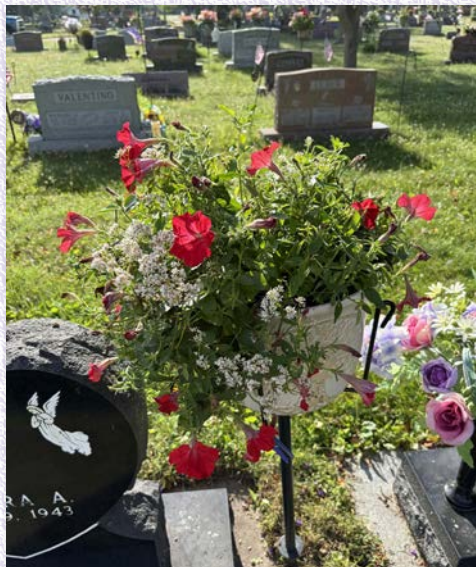
Amy Bloczynski	Catherine Nielsen
Kathy Boe	Lydia Nordahl
Teria Brown	Mary Jo Radcliffe
Pat Carlson	Heidi Strey
Melinda Derus	CCLS (Creative Community Living Services)
Amy Erickson	Waumandee Bank
Jennifer Jelinek	
Nicole Jessie	
Carla Knight	

*"I know you got me covered.
I love you guys."*

Cemetery Watering

Thank you to Falls Florist for including a special note with their cemetery arrangements and plants.

*"Ever wonder who takes care of your flowers~
Interfaith Volunteers, known as the Riverside Angels, water the blooming plants-including your urn arrangement-throughout the summer. Their care helps create a beautiful, comforting space for those who are mourning and honoring our loved ones.
Please consider making a donation to Interfaith Caregivers."*



Giving Voice Memory Choir, The "Forget-Me-Nots"

Music-based therapeutic choir programs represent one of the most accessible and evidence-supported interventions for supporting memory in people with dementia. Singing in a group setting engages cognitive pathways simultaneously—music activates memory centers in the brain even after other cognitive abilities have declined, while the social component of a choir combats the isolation that often accompanies memory loss.

For someone in the mild to moderate stages of dementia who has lost the ability to hold a conversation, singing a familiar song can trigger recalled lyrics and create moments of clarity and connection that medications often cannot.



Interfaith Volunteers
Forget Me Nots
Memory Choir

The Interfaith memory choir "The Forget-Me-Nots", are planning another series of singing sessions. The choir will begin rehearsals on **September 15th from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, with the concert taking place on **December 15th at 2:00 PM**. We would love for you to join us if you are able to participate.

If you have memory loss, are a caregiver for someone with memory loss, or just love to sing, please join us. The choir meets on Tuesdays, from 2-3 PM. Call Interfaith if you are interested in more information.

Local Churches Gather for Safety Preparedness Presentation

Local church leaders and members gathered in July for a Breaking Bread luncheon featuring a special presentation from the Jackson County Sheriff's Department focused on church and campus safety preparedness.

Deputy Nosbisch led the presentation, sharing practical guidance on how churches can effectively respond to crisis situations and strengthen their overall safety readiness. Attendees received valuable information on emergency response planning, situational awareness, and proactive measures that can help protect congregations and visitors.

The event provided an opportunity for area churches to learn from local law enforcement while also connecting with one another over lunch and discussion.

Breaking Bread gatherings continue to serve as a forum for fellowship, learning, and community partnership among local churches.

The next Breaking Bread gathering is scheduled for **October 13, 2026**. Those interested in attending are encouraged to reach out by calling 715-284-7058.

Alzheimer Walk

The Alzheimer Association will be having their annual walk in Black River Falls on Saturday, October 3rd at the Lunda Community Park. The **Interfaith Time for You** program will be having a walk team this year. There will be a light lunch, for a free will offering, following the walk. Our team mascot, "Mini Muffin" will be at the kissing booth again this year. If you would like to join the Interfaith walk team, give us a call. We would love to have you join us!



2026 Board Members

President: Pastor John Cowles

Vice President: Mikayla Hurd

Secretary: Geri Allen

Treasurer: Lori Meinking

Steve Aldach, Paul Anderson,

Wendy Everson, Pam Johnson,

Kathy Potter, Dana Rave,

Lonnie Simplot, Jane Tande,

Timothy Vue

"Thank you for the care you provide at Riverside and at my grandparents' gravesite. You are true blessings."

Annual Golf Outing

The 28th Annual Interfaith Volunteers Golf FUNdraiser was held at the beautiful Skyline Golf Course on Friday, June 19th. This annual event helps Interfaith support vital programs and services for individuals. Twenty-seven teams joined in a great day on the course, enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by L&M Café, and participated in prize giveaways, raffles, costume contest and a 50/50 drawing. Interfaith would like to thank the golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and donors who gave generously to make this another very successful year!



JUMP-Jackson County United Mentoring Program

The JUMP program serves elementary students by pairing each student with a dedicated one on one mentor who provides guidance, encouragement, and a positive adult role model. Mentors and students meet for one hour each week during the school year. Students are referred to by teachers or school counselors and thoughtfully matched with a mentor by Interfaith Volunteers. With the new school year approaching, now is the perfect time to become a mentor. Please contact us if this opportunity might be a good fit for you.



Aging Gracefully Conference

Interfaith, in partnership with the ADRC of Jackson County, hosted its annual Aging Gracefully Conference on May 20th. The event brought together community members for a day of education and resources focused on healthy aging. Attendees learned about a variety of important topics, including vision loss support, fall prevention, fraud and scam protection, and oral health as we age. Our featured speaker, Rita Meyers, shared her wisdom and insight on aging with purpose. We also extend our appreciation to Lena and Tina, who entertained with their humorous comedy skit, offering their unique perspective on what it means to age gracefully.



MUGS & MATCHES

A social coffee group for Interfaith Volunteers!

Volunteers are invited to gather at Interfaith on the First Monday of every month at 10:00 a.m. to build relationships and converse with your Interfaith family.



Come join us for coffee, tea and snacks!



Interfaith can't ESPRESSO how much we appreciate you all! We have the perfect BLEND of volunteers!

"The volunteer you sent to help me was marvelous. She worked her little heart out. I can't thank her enough. Thank you!!"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Interfaith Volunteers relies on the generous support of communities throughout Jackson County to continue our mission of assisting older adults and individuals with disabilities. Without the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors, our work simply would not be possible.

Rather than sending individual thank-you letters, we use our newsletter as a meaningful way to recognize the many contributions we receive throughout the year. We are deeply honored when families choose Interfaith Volunteers for memorial gifts in remembrance of loved ones. We are also sincerely grateful for the many "in honor of" donations made to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other joyful milestones.

Every effort is made to ensure that all donations received during this period are acknowledged. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, please accept our sincere apologies and contact our office so we may promptly update our records.

Your kindness and generosity make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for being such an important part of our mission. **Donations included in this edition are from January 1 – June 31, 2026**

We extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the following for their generous support.

IN MEMORY OF

Al & Jeannette Lahmayer

• Dr. Carol Martin

Al Spaulding

- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Jane Szymanski
- Kurt & Karen Konkol
- Perfect Touch Massage
- Scott & Nancy Spaulding
- Mark & Lisa Muth
- Beth Rose
- Maggie Rewald
- Nyla Musser
- Emily Batchner

Alyce Schreider

• Dr. Carol Martin

Ann Zillmer

• Dr. Carol Martin

Arby Nandory

• Nyla Musser

Mr. & Mrs. Art Anderson

• Richard Anderson

Barb Ehlen

• Skip & Grace Nordahl

Bonnie Brunner

• Nyla Musser

Bonnie Walton

Nyla Musser

Bruce Casper

• Jane Szymanski

Bruce Poff

• Kurt & Karen Konkol

Chris Emerson

• Nyla Musser

Christopher Danielson

• Nyla Musser

Chuck Jensen

- Charles & Mary Ann Jensen Rev. Trust
- Bob & Cheryl Gabrielson
- Tom & Kathy Tomter
- Patricia Mulry

Chuck Waughtal

• Mike & Cindy Dougherty

Corrine Young

- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Kurt & Karen Konkol

Dale Montag

• Luke Thompson

Darlene Lunde

• Todd & Lynn Gates

Dave "Woody" Meyer

• Dr. Carol Martin

Dennis Caldwell

Rita Schultz

Dick Camlek

- Mike & Cindy Dougherty
- Skip & Grace Nordahl

Dave & Mary Mack

Dick Valentino

• Dave & Mary Mack

Dorothy Hadland

- Dave & Mary Mack
- Nyla Musser
- Jon & Julie Warmke
- Bill & Kathy Potter
- Roger Wiste
- Ray & Dana Olson
- Algie & Sherry Iverson
- Barbara Mason

• Carol Anderson

• Bob & Cheryl Gabrielson

• Gary & Rhonda Ammann

• Paul & Bonnie Lynde

• Judy Hansen

• Joanne Pryga

• Erin Rodenberg

• Elwin & Rosalie Walsted

• William & Karen Foust

• Connie Gates

• Rozanne Ruzic

• Mark & Carol Jarrett

• Young Modern HCE Club

• Troy & Marianne Torkelson

• Debbie Eberhardt

• Don & Charlene Galston

• Dr. Carol Martin

Doug Hurlburt

• Mitch & Sue Wester

• Richard Anderson

• Bob & Jan Eckles

• Charlotte Heller

• Connie Gates

• Joanne Johnson

• Clarice Franke

• Kurt & Karen Konkol

• Bonnie Gomer

• Judy Hunter

• Tim & Angie Barnum

• Timothy Woodworth

• Teresa Guerrero

• Black River Country Abstract Co

• Tom & Kathy Tomter

• Lois Ferries

• William & Barbara Rogstad

• Jim & Jill Kaphengst

• Steven & Diane Aldach

• Ellen Hurlburt

• Mary Mulry

• Trudy Ward

• Skip & Grace Nordahl

• Vickie Hurlburt

• Wesley Hurlburt

• Patricia Mulry

• Hazel Peterson

• David & Paula Epstein

• Jackson County Farm Bureau

Duane Steien

• Paul and Judy Olson

• Marsha Harmer

• James Harmer

Elva Larson

• Nyla Musser

Ethel Burnett

• Charlotte Heller

Eugene Clark Jr.

• Gordon Clark

Freddie & Donna Dolesy

• Karen Danielson

• Dr. Carol Martin

Gene & Janet Krohn

• Dr. Carol Martin

Gerald Pennekamp

• Mark & Brenda Miles

Gladys & Dick Santas

• Darlene Hostrawser

Glenn Stuve

• Richard & Barb Loomis

Jan Eckles

• Young Modern HCE Club

Jean Lovelien

- Nyla Musser
- Chuck & Ruth Buswell
- Lisa Stock
- James & Doris Dingeldein
- Ev & Alice Larkin
- Donna Jennings
- Corey & Lisa Eddy
- Dean & Elizabeth Peterson
- Dave & Mary Mack
- Linda Dexter

Jessie Bible

• Nyla Musser

Jo Ann Dougherty

- Larry & Georgia Button
- Nyla Musser

Joe & Chipper Wyss

• Dr. Carol Martin

John "Hoagy" Hogenson

- Ed & Darlene Dugan
- Tom & Kathy Tomter
- William & Karen Foust
- Debbie Eberhardt
- Kurt & Karen Konkol
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Jean Moseley
- Connie Gates

John Jacobson

• Kathy Powell

Jeanette Gilbertson

• Darlene Hostrawser

Continued on next page

"To all staff and volunteers, thank you! I did not know how important your program at Interfaith is, until now."

IN MEMORY OF

Continued

Jule & Illa Johnson

- Mark & Carol Jarrett

Katherine Pettitt

- Mark & Brenda Zuehlke

Lois Becker

- Becky Wyss
- Calvin & Kathy Thompson
- Ken & Julie Forsting
- Hazel Peterson

Lyle Chandler

- Nyla Musser

Mark Gilbertson

- Nyla Musser

Mary Ann Duncan

- Dave & Mary Cooley

Mary E. Waughtal

- Mike & Cindy Dougherty

Mary O'Brien

- Alden Hoefer & Marion Stuart
- Max & Sue Michaelson
- Tom & Kathy Tomter
- William & Karen Foust
- Gil Homstad
- Judy Hansen
- Roger Wiste
- Carol Thomas
- Dave & Mary Mack
- Nyla Musser
- Liz Lund
- Mrs. Phyllis Myers
- Danny & Mary Jo Rozmenoski
- Tuesday Club
- Mike & Cindy Dougherty
- Connie Gates

Merlin Anderson

- Claire & Lois Bahnub

Mildred "Millie" Evenson

- Tim & Lynn Pratt
- Perfect Touch Massage
- Mike & Cindy Dougherty
- Skip & Grace Nordahl

Mildred "Millie" Olson

- Jan Bjerke
- Glen & Jean Tamminen

Orville Hagen

- Lynda Hagen
- William & Karen Foust
- Nyla Musser
- Tim & Lynn Pratt
- Patricia Mulry

Patricia Gearing

- Kristi & Mike Hanson

Pat White

- Hegna Revocable Trust

Ray Thompson

- Becky Wyss
- Nyla Musser
- Ken & Julie Forsting

Richard Scholze

- Anita Scholze

Richard Valentino

- Mary A. Peterson
- Connie Gates
- Pamela & William Johnson
- Lorraine McDonald
- Roger Wiste

Robert Galster

- Patricia Mulry

Robert E. Pearson

- Alden Hoefer & Marion Stuart
- Susan Pearson

Robert Petterson

- Jane Szymanski

Roger & Sharon Anderson

- Richard Anderson

Ron Kimball

- Kurt & Karen Konkol

Ronald Hanson

- Jan Bjerke

Ruth Burnett

- Charlotte Heller

Steven Moseley

- Arlene Quinlan

Stuart Hagen

- Kurt & Karen Konkol

Terry J. Anderson

- Mike & Cindy Dougherty

Terry Mahlman

- Megan Finch
- Chris & Priscilla Goldsmith

Tim Yeskie

- Rob & Cheryl Olson
- Rozanne Ruzic

Tom Harkner

- Roger Wiste

Vivian Clark

- Gordon Clark

William Gaister

- Barb Waughtal

Willis & Doris Rhyme

- Marjorie Halverson

IN HONOR OF

Carl Holmquist on his retirement from the Lunda Center

- Nyla Musser

Cindy Anderson's Birthday

- Avis Thompson

Connie Gates

- Delone Hoagenson

Dr. Mike & Christina Mahan on his retirement

- Chuck & Nancy Nibbe

Jerry & Lori Kitowski's 50th Anniversary

- Debbie Eberhardt

JoAnne Forsting

- Maryann Johnson

Mary E. Waughtal's Birthday

- Mike & Cindy Dougherty

Michael Anderson's Birthday

- Avis Thompson

Nyla Musser's Birthday

- Barbara Knutson

Reverend Barbara Knutson

- Chuck & Ruth Buswell

Steve Aldach

- Maryann Johnson

Tom Ristuben

- Delone Hoagenson

Women of New Hope Lutheran Church

- Karen Foust
- Diane Anderson

THANK YOU

Cemetery Care

- Selmer Salvesen
- Leslie Mead
- Marilyn Evers
- Frederic & Bonnie Schunke
- Vernon Metzger

Yard Work

- Shirley Austin

INDIVIDUALS

Marilyn Curran

Kevin & Diane Cain

Grady Gutknecht

Melanie Simon

Tim & Mary McCann

Rozanne Ruzic

Carl Holmquist Family Fund

Eugene Hart

Robert Burnett

Diane Andraska

Roberta Boyea

Betty Steele

Bob & Jan Eckles

Marilyn Curran

Carl & Bernadine Gavelek

Connie Gates

Don & Dorothy Havlicek

John (Hoagy) Hoagenson Trust Fund

Dr. Carol Martin

Joyce Huseboe

Clarice Franke

Troy & Marianne Torkelson

Bill & Kathy Potter

CHURCHES

Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Hixton

Community Christian Church

Upper Pigeon Creek Lutheran Church

Spirit Creek Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Trout Run United Methodist Church

ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES

Lions Club

Blossom Barn Greenhouse

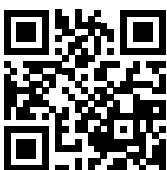
Co-op Credit Union

American Online Giving Foundation

Serene Clean

Black River Country Bank -BRF

MAKE AN IMPACT - DONATE TODAY!



Donate: **Scan the QR code** with your smart phone

Online: **JCIVC.org**

Mail: **Interfaith Volunteers**
1451 Tyler Street
Black River Falls, WI 54615

"To all of you- Many thanks for your concern & prayers. It was so wonderful to know I could count on you to help us when needed! Mom loved her visitors and I sure appreciated knowing she was in good hands."



Interfaith Staff

Carol Jarrett

Volunteer Coordinator

Shawn Callisto

Time for You Coordinator

Bev Zink

Time for You Assistant



Interfaith Volunteers

1451 Tyler Street

Black River Falls, WI 54615

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LMMAIL



Volunteer: "Thank you for taking such good care of your volunteers."

MISSION STATEMENT: Driven by volunteers, we provide faith-based services to seniors (60+) and individuals with special needs who face unmet needs, empowering them to maintain their independence.



CONNECTIONS is a publication of Interfaith Volunteers. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

Interfaith Volunteers | 1451 Tyler St, Black River Falls, WI 54615 | 715-284-7058 | interfaith@jcivc.org | www.jcivc.org

INTERFAITH'S *Time for you* RESPITE PROGRAM

Providing stimulating activities for those experiencing memory loss, valuable resources for family members and a few hours of respite for caregivers.

Time For You offers social interaction to individuals with memory loss or dementia, which helps them enjoy a better quality of life.

Families interested in participating or volunteers looking for a rewarding experience should contact Interfaith at 715-284-7058 or email interfaith@jcivc.org for more information.



Parkinson's Support Group

**Meets the
Third Tuesday
of each month**

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pine View Terrace

404 County Road R
Black River Falls

Interfaith Volunteers is honored to offer a free support group to people diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, their family members and caregivers.

Coordinated by Luane Meyer



For more information call Interfaith at 715-284-7058 or email interfaith@jcivc.org

Family CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**Meets the
Second Thursday
of each month**

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Interfaith Volunteers

1451 Tyler Street, Black River Falls

2026 MONTHLY TOPICS

April: Nutrition

May: Moving Towards Long Term Care

June: Assistive Technology

July: Coping with Caregiver Emotions

August: Summer Picnic

September: Grief & Loss

October: Adjusting During the Holidays

November: National Family Caregiver Appreciation

December: Sleep Strategies



For more information call Interfaith at 715-284-7058 or email interfaith@jcivc.org

