



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE VISITOR

Volume 85, Issue 6

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

June 2021



Prairie Lakes Parish  
Pastor Kathy King  
Blooming Grove, Janesville,  
And Waterville Evangelical  
United Methodist Churches

## Minnesota Annual Conference Move to Blue Phase

Dear Ones,

Our Minnesota Annual Conference announced our conference's move to the Blue Phase of our COVID 19 Response as of May 28, 2021.

What does this mean for our parish?

Your Leadership Team determined our parish will follow the CDC's guidelines for people who are fully vaccinated to stop wearing masks as people are comfortable doing so. The CDC and your parish leaders still recommend that masks continue to be worn by:

- Those who are not vaccinated
- Those 12 and under and
- Those who may be immunosuppressed

Our Wesleyan principles to do no harm compel us to always consider what is in the best interest of all. Please consider kindness and allow one another to do what they feel most comfortable with—mask or not.

Of you have concerns or comments, please contact one of your Leadership Team representatives.

BG: Hjordi Churchill, Allison Janke, Chuck Danks, Judy Mahler

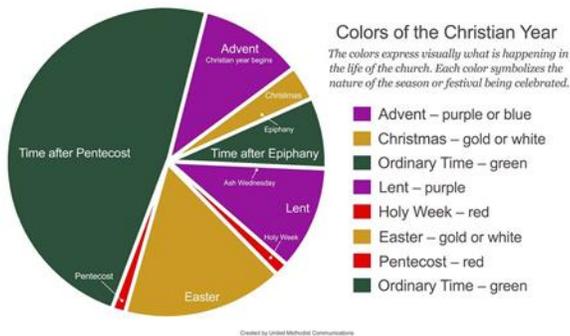
JV: Vern Benson, Sherry Wandrie, Jodi Olson, Del Brouwers, Gail Johnson

WV: Al Baker, Karen Olson, Arlene Wetzal, Dave Wollin

Thank you for your understanding and kindness!

Pastor Kathy and your Leadership Team.

## The Christian Year



## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

### 2021: Our Prairie Lakes Parish Year of Kindness and Peace

*Colossians 3:15 NIV*

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

Our final Sunday in May, we celebrated Memorial Day and Trinity Sunday. Now we put away the White and Red altar cloths as we move into our Ordinary Time or the time after Pentecost. For many of us, it is a time we think of as the days of Summer. Do we really enjoy “the lazy days of summer” (as the old Nat King Cole song lyrics went) or do we find ourselves even busier with vacations and activities like summer ball and swimming?

However we fill our summer days, we can live in the peace of Christ as we read in Colossians 3 as we go about our lives. When we trust God to watch over us, we are assured that we are joining the members of the one body of Christ—the Church. As a parish family, we have opportunities to join together to walk alongside one another on our faith journeys. Our Book Study group is having good discussions about social and racial justice. On Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. until 8:30, we have an opportunity to join Susan Mullin (Deacon) for a discussion regarding Line 3. If you would like to join in the discussion but have questions, contact Cindy Saufferer—our parish Deaconess candidate. Cindy has a heart for justice.

Our parish has a new opportunity beginning June 10, 2021 as we join at the Half-Pint Brewery to consider our faith in a new way of enjoying fellowship. The Half-Pint Brewery has craft beer for those who enjoy a beer, root beer for those who like a lighter drink, and pizza can be ordered from the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm if you’d like something to eat at that time. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. and try to wrap up by 7:15 or 7:30. We will plan on once a month unless those joining would like to gather twice a month. It will be a question for those gathering. (For more information, see the article located on the insert page.)

Our time of pandemic taught us that we can try new things. Our online service became a new ministry when we could not gather in our sanctuaries. People were willing to try something new. Our Bible-Talk and Beer evenings may be a new way of reaching out to those who are willing to try new experiences. All are welcome to join us. If you have questions, contact me at 507-382-2483.

Know I am thankful for you and you are in my prayers always as we walk our faith journeys together. I pray God’s rich blessings on your summer of 2021.

Live kindness!

*Pastor Kathy*

# June 2021

**Blooming Grove**  
Morning Worship...8:15 am

**Janesville**  
Morning Worship 10:45 am

**Waterville Evangelical**  
Morning Worship...9:30 am

		1	2	3 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. RE Enbridge Line 3 Tar Sands Pipeline via Zoom	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 
6	7	8	9	10 6 pm "Half-Pint Thursdays" - Bible Talk and Beer at the Half-Pint Brewery	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 WV Bullhead Days
13 WV Bullhead Days	14 	15	16	17	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 
20 	21	22 7 pm BGUMC Council Meeting in Brian Kanne's Garage. Bring a chair.	23	24	25 Pastor's Day Off	26 Minnesota Annual Conference
27	28	29	30		Pastor's Day Off	

## Happy Birthday



1	Deb (Brecht) Maurer	20	Kathy King
3	Michael Kanne	20	Caitlin Needham
4	Shane Yule	21	Gil Christesen
6	Beth Christesen	22	Raelyn Janke
7	Christ Karsten	23	Dylan Carty
7	Penelope Morgan	27	Megan Schmitz
8	Jenny Nicholson	28	Klye Lustig
14	Dave Brisel	29	Tyler Morgan
14	Mike Nicholson, Jr.	29	Lanie Ahlman
15	Brian Martin		
18	Sierra Lustig		

## Happy Anniversary

2	Brian & Carolyn Kanne
11	Ron & Carolyn Engebretson
14	Robert & Sharon Nelson
17	Dave & Sheryl Brisel

## Treasurer's Report

April 27—May 20, 2021



**General Budget Income**      **\$ 2,395.00**

### Expenses

Cell Phone (2 months)	56.52
Annual Conference	1,145.18
Excel Energy	73.57
Century Link (land line for new lift, Installation and 2 month's service)	158.88
Lawn services	490.00
Lenton Book	6.59
Ash Wednesday cups	2.66
CVLI video license	37.86
CVLI streaming license	33.44
CVLI copyright license	129.50
Loan Repayment	2,585.00
Loan Interest	<u>738.60</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,872.80</b>

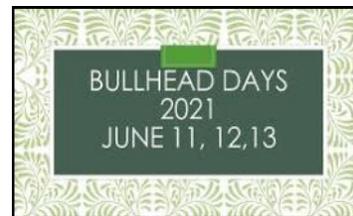
**(Net Income: – 3,062.80)**

### Other Income Received

Restoration	150.00
Insurance Refund	133.00

### Parament Colors

The parament color for June is Green.



## Waterville Bullhead Days

The yearly community celebration is back on! While it may look a bit different than it has in the past, Bullhead Days will be taking place in Waterville on June 11-13. So, WEUMC will be serving up their tasty food at the Hamburger Stand! Be sure to stop down often during the weekend to enjoy a hamburger, hot dog, giant pickle, chips, or pop at the stand. It all helps the church!

Once again, we are looking for some help to run our Hamburger Stand at Bullhead Days. If you want to lend a hand, contact Arlene or Don Wetzel. They would certainly appreciate it!



## Emery Ann Krell

May 9, 2021

8 lbs. 11 ounces  
22 inches long

Welcome to Emery Ann Krell, born May 9, 2021. Congratulations to mom and dad (Justin and Kristin), big sisters Leah and

Kaylee, Grandma and Grandpa (Brad and Tracie), Aunt and Uncle (Lacey and Alex), and Cousin (Bowen)!

## Colorado Peaches



The Waterville Evangelical United Methodist Church is getting ready for our Colorado Peaches again this year! Word has come that there was not a spring freeze like last year, so we are planning to sell the amazing peaches again this year! We will be taking pre-orders soon. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

## Medford FFA News

The annual Medford FFA Award Program was held in May and included honors going to FFA members from Blooming Grove UMC. Their hard work and commitment brought great results. Congratulations to them all:

Seniors: Mason Nagel and Mikayla Janke.

State Proficiency Degree: awarded to Mikayla Janke.

Medford FFA Poultry Evaluation Team: 2021 CDE State Award Winner at the MN FFA State Convention.

Team members include Mason Nagel and Weston Janke of Blooming Grove UMC.



Left: State Championship Poultry Team - (Weston Janke on the left and Mason Nagel on the right)



Right: BGUMC FFA Cousins (Mikayla Janke, Mason Nagel, Weston Janke).



### Fit for Britt Walk/Run 2021

Sunday, June 27 at 1:00 P.M.

Shager Park, Faribault

Please consider joining in on the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fit for Britt Walk/Run. Brittney Landsverk is the niece of Cris and Karrie VanZuilen. In 2010, Britt lost her life in the Cannon River as the result of a car accident.

This year's annual walk/run, organized by the Landsverk family, will be held at Shager Park - 21387-21865 MN 60, Faribault, MN. Registration begins at 1:00 with the walk starting at 1:30. The length of the walk is totally up to each participant. There is no registration fee, but any proceeds will be donated to MADD.

This important walk is held to remember Brittney, to promote healthy lifestyles, and to remind ourselves - **Don't drink and drive.**



Brittney Landsverk



## Graduation Recognition Sunday - June 6th

During our 8:15 A.M. Worship on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, we will honor our youth who are graduating from high school and college this spring. Our graduates this year:

- Mikayla Janke (high school)
- Mason Nagel (high school)
- Emily Engebretson (high school)
- Brandon Martin (high school - Mike Nicholson's grandson who now lives in Colorado)
- Mikayla Spinler (college)
- Callie Nagel (college)
- Marcus Deleon (college - and Callie's fiancé)

We invite you to stay afterwards for a brief reception of individually wrapped goodies!

And - the next time you are at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm - please also extend your congratulations to the owner, and our church neighbor, Emily Knudsen, who graduated this spring with her BA from Metropolitan State University!

## In-Person Holy Communion Sunday June 6th



We are excited to announce that in-person Holy Communion will be now be offered on a monthly basis, beginning Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. We will use individual/disposable communion packets - to be picked up at back of the church upon entering the sanctuary. Please dispose of the packets in the garbage can available at the back of the church upon exiting the sanctuary.



## Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference

The 2021 Annual Conference is scheduled to take place June 22-24, 2021 with June 22 and 24 being entirely virtual and June 23 being in small in-person groups at various sites across the state. The theme of our 167th Annual Conference is "Jesus, Way-maker." Judy Mahler will serve as the representative from Blooming Grove UMC. Cindy Saufferer will also be present in her leadership role as the President of the MN United Methodist Women's organization.

## "Half-Pint Thursdays"

### At Half-Pint Brewing Company

Once-a-month opportunity to join in new ways to consider faith through fun, fellowship, and food!

Sponsored by the churches of the  
Prairie Lakes Parish:  
Blooming Grove United Methodist  
Janesville United Methodist  
Waterville Evangelical United Methodist

Hosted by Pastor Kathy King

Begins Thursday, June 10, 2021

Gather at 6:00 P.M.  
at the big table reserved for this group

Wrap-Up will be around 7:15 or 7:30

Half-Pint Brewing has the following menu items available: craft beer for those who enjoy a beer, root beer for those who like a lighter drink, and pizza - which can be ordered upon arrival at Half-Pint Brewing - for delivery from our neighborhood Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

Our faith component will invite us to enter into guided discussion led by Pastor Kathy, with a new faith topic each time we gather

For more information, contact  
Pastor Kathy King @ 507-382-2483  
[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)



<https://halfpintbrew.com>  
40099 150<sup>th</sup> Street  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507-461-9235

## **God with Us, God in Us, God through Us** **Stories from the Steeples: BGUMC Past and Present**



### **Token of Appreciation** **Kristi Cambas**

My daughter, Brayleigh Kuball, has attended Vacation Bible School there twice even though we aren't members. I was also given a prayer blanket when my mother passed away a few years back. I can't forget about the homemade hot chocolate. As a token of appreciation I'd like to help with the cost of the elevator that has been installed, or whatever you might need it for. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Your neighbor down the road, Kristi Cambas

### **Incarnate Emmanuel, God with Us, God in Us, God through Us**

In these days of the pandemic, while we are limited in our ability to connect in-person, it becomes easy to lose sight of God's goodness that continues to surround us. In times like these, story-telling becomes a life-line...a candle that helps illuminate the darkness...a message of God, and from God, that brings hope.

In that spirit, we invite you, throughout 2021, to join in a story-telling adventure and share your "Stories from the Steeples: BGUMC Past and Present"! We look forward to hearing your memories of where have you seen God's Spirit, and God's people, working and moving, laughing and weeping, caring and sharing - in our midst, or moving out into the world from our twin steeples.

We invite you to jot down your "Stories from the Steeples - BGUMC Past and Present" - and email them to Judy Mahler ([hcjm@charter.net](mailto:hcjm@charter.net)) or Chery Southworth ([CherySouth@gmail.com](mailto:CherySouth@gmail.com)). They can be stories from years ago, or from as recently as yesterday! They can be random short snippets or full-fledged descriptions of events. Chery and Judy will pull them together to share them here in the Visitor in the months ahead as reminders of God's ongoing presence - with us, in us, and through us - even in the midst of a pandemic. Thank you.

### **Building Update — I've Got My Trailer Back**

**By Brad Saufferer**

Sometime last winter I pulled my trailer to church and with the help of several church friends we loaded up window frames and parts that had been removed for work on the new addition. These items were stored in the sanctuary and needed to be removed in preparation for return to worship. The trailer was backed into my machine shed and there it sat, until last week. Last week I received word that Kirchner Siding and Window had the new windows and would begin installation, I think I cried a little, it's been a long time waiting for those windows.

I needed help moving the parts into the addition. Our young adults were still in school so I called James and Kris Nagel, they said they would be at the church in forty-five minutes, they beat me there, my trailer got buried in the back of the shed during planting. James, Kris, Cali, and Cali's fiancé Marcus started hauling frames and parts in and ten minutes later all was in the addition. You have to love a Church that has people willing to show up and work on a moment's notice.

All the lower windows are in and some siding has been installed. The two upper windows (the round one and the arched one) hopefully will go in soon. As soon as all the windows are installed the sheet rocking can begin and that is exciting. Getting to use my trailer again is also exciting. Stop by and take a look, join us for worship, things will be happening fast now, and you don't want to miss it.

Please pray for the following persons and situations shared publicly within our community of BGUMC in the past month.



**Note from Pastor Kathy King:**

*Please call or text me if you would like me to visit or if there is a prayer concern that you prefer to keep private. We are a community strengthened by the power of prayer. We are stronger when we intercede on the behalf of our brothers and sisters in the faith. Please know that does not mean your name needs to be on a public prayer list. It means that your Pastor can pray for you and help you in any way you define.*

- An acquaintance of Hjordi Churchill who is critically ill with COVID-19 and has been hospitalized in Rochester for over a month. He continues to be on a ventilator in efforts to help heal his lungs.
- Lilah, 3-year- old daughter of Hjordi and Judy’s friends Ariana and Ryan. Lilah is recovering from open heart surgery to repair two holes in her heart that the doctors had hoped would close on their own.
- Family and friends of Mara Anne Hoffner, as they mourn the unexpected death of this vibrant 13-year-old. Mara is the daughter of a school staff friend of Marlis Mahler.
- Family and friends of Joan Hoffman, neighbor of the Michael & Allison Janke, and retired gym teacher and coach in the Owatonna school system, who passed away in May after battling cancer.
- Prayers for Pastor Kathy’s mom, Dee, who was hospitalized in Rochester in May for serious health concerns related to COPD.
- Harley, brother of Marlis Mahler, as he continues his journey with an aggressive form of cancer.
- Prayers for little Bowen, and his Mom and Dad Lacey and Alex, as they continue working with doctors to look for answers for Bowen’s health concerns. Prayers of thanks for the glimmers of hope that have come their way - and continued prayers for more clues to the puzzle.
- Prayers for all of the people living in Israel and Gaza in the wake of the bombings that took place in May. Prayers for all those in leadership in Israel and Hamas - that the fragile ceasefire may find a longer-term solution. Prayers for those from around the world who are assisting in the negotiations.
- Prayers for the family and friends of Edna Deering of St. Louis, whose memorial service was

held the last week in May. Edna is the aunt of Judy Mahler and sister of Dallas Saufferer Mahler and Ardis Saufferer Sutter.

- All in our circle of family, friends, neighbors, communities - as we continue living in the pandemic.
- All in our faith community who privately hold heavy concerns in their hearts. Help us to reflect God’s love and care through our words and deeds that they may know BGUMC as a place of solace, comfort, and trust.



**June 22<sup>nd</sup> BGUMC Council Meeting**

Our June BGUMC Council Meeting will be held in-person on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. Due to construction considerations at BG, we will meet in Brian and Carolyn Kanne’s garage. Council members are asked to bring their own folding chairs. By Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, please let Hjordi Churchill know of any items to be placed on the agenda.

**Prairie Lakes Parish Conversation with Susan Mullin  
RE Enbridge Line 3 Tar Sands Pipeline  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.**

Dear Friends,

You are *invited to join me* in welcoming Susan Mullin, a United Methodist Deacon and Director of Faith Community Organizing for Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light. She will lead us in conversation as we learn about the **Enbridge Line 3** tar sands pipeline, why there is growing resistance to the construction of this pipeline, and what we can do. Together, we will discuss the intersection of climate change with justice issues, and how the beliefs, practices, and teaching of the United Methodist Church might inform our response. The meeting will be held via **Zoom on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00-8:30 pm.**



Connecting our faith with current events can ground us in the love we are in the world. I look forward to being in community with you. If you have any questions, and/or would like access to the ZOOM connection, please email me at [cindy.saufferer@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.saufferer@gmail.com).

Much Peace, Cindy Saufferer



## 2021 Love Offering

### Feeding the Hungry/Ministering to Migrants



Each year, churches in the MN Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the 2021 Annual Conference—taking place June 22-24—is “Jesus. Waymaker.” The Love Offering provides the opportunity to experience the joy of doing way-making work with Jesus—feeding the hungry, reaching out to the migrant, and providing ongoing opportunities to touch lives with God’s compassion and grace. Bishop David Bard invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as a generous expression of God’s wild and extravagant love. Funds from this year’s offering will go to recipients, as described below.

We invite you to be part of this mission! ***Please make your contributions by Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>—to Blooming Grove UMC - and include a note in the memo line or envelope indicating “Love Offering”.***

You may place your contribution in our Sunday morning offering or mail it to Blooming Grove UMC, PO Box 171, Medford, MN 55049-0171.

#### **The Methodist Border Friendship Commission Recipient of 50 percent of 2021 Love Offering**

The Methodist Border Friendship Commission (MBFC) is a ministry of the El Valle District of the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC. It supports a number of immigrant and refugee service organizations along the Texas border. One such organization is La Posada Provencia shelter in San Benito, Texas. For over 30 years, La Posada Provencia has served individuals and families who flee to the United States due to political oppression, natural disaster, and other life-threatening actions in their native countries. Currently it provides housing, English lessons, and life skill classes for six-12 months to about 24 people who are awaiting resolutions to their legal cases. These clients also receive assistance navigating paperwork and the complex immigration process. School-age children are enrolled in local schools so they don’t fall behind in their education. Due to a recent influx of immigrants, La Posada is also helping more than 20 newly arrived immigrants and asylum seekers per day with meals and shelter before they continue to their destination. La Posada provides them with backpacks, clothing, snacks, and children’s activities for the final leg of their journey.

Funds from the Love Offering will help provide supplies, shelter, and transportation for both the long-term and short-term clients.

#### **Ruby’s Pantry host churches**

##### ***Recipient of 20 percent of 2021 Love Offering***

Albert Lea UMC, First UMC (the Coppertop) in Duluth, and Forest Hills UMC in Forest Lake each host monthly Ruby’s Pantry grocery distributions at their churches as a way to live out Jesus’ call to feed the hungry and love our neighbor. For a \$20 donation used to cover food storage and transportation, each guest receives an abundance of high-quality grocery items. Between the three churches, groceries are provided to about 750 households each month. This portion of the 2021 Love Offering will be shared by the three churches and will be used to purchase supplies needed to facilitate the distribution and to pay for shares for families who are unable to pay the \$20.

#### **Matthew 25 food distribution**

##### ***Recipient of 20 percent of 2021 Love Offering***

Originating at Spirit River Community UMC in Isanti 12 years ago, this food distribution ministry has been relaunched as a partnership between Spirit River, the Spirit River Foundation, and Coon Rapids UMC. Matthew 25 is based on Jesus’ words: “Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me.” Once a month, groceries sourced from corporate and community partners are prepared by volunteers and distributed to everyone who comes, no questions asked. Currently, groceries are freely given to 600-800 families per month. Soon, a second location in partnership with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in East Bethel will serve even more people. This portion of the Love Offering will go towards the purchase of storage shelves, a pallet jack, refrigerators, and packaging materials so that Matthew 25 can expand its ministry.

#### **Volunteers in Mission (VIM) scholarships**

##### ***Recipient of 10 percent of 2021 Love Offering***

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM) participants of every age serve in all 50 states and more than 100 countries. Most teams from Minnesota spend up to two weeks working on hands-on projects in construction, disaster response, teaching, health care, and packing supplies for overseas shipment. Team members pay their own way. Every year, 10 percent of the Love Offering goes to help offset the cost for first-time participants.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED to:  
Box 171, Medford, MN 55049

June 2021

**The Blooming Grove Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

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Check us out on Facebook!

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and General Pastoral Questions:**

**Pastor Kathy King**  
[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)  
507-382-2483



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)

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