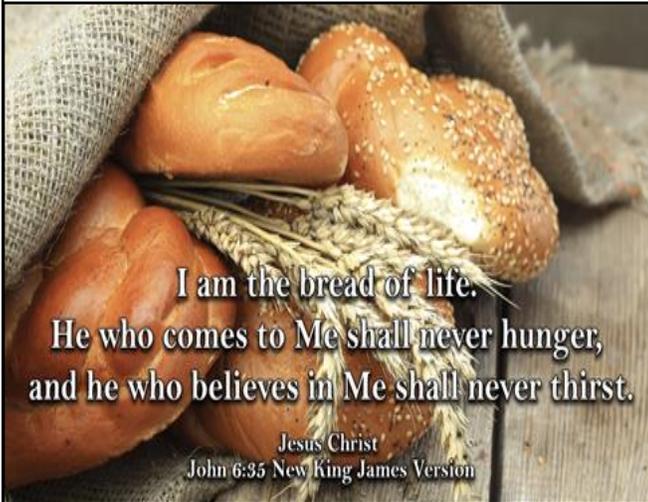




In-Person Holy Communion - August 1st



During morning worship on Sunday, August 1st, we welcome you to join in a modified version of Communion presented at the altar railing, as you are comfortable in doing so. We will use a historical BGUMC set of individual glass communion cups to share the grape juice and a historical BGUMC platter to share the bread. The congregation will be invited to stand or kneel at the altar railing in small groups of 4 persons at each railing. Pastor Kathy and two servers (masked and wearing gloves) will provide the communion elements to each person - using a no-touch method so as to respect individual health needs in these ongoing days of COVID. A receptacle will be available in the center aisle in which used communion cups will be placed as individuals return to their seats. In the words of "All Who Hunger" - #2127, from "The Faith We Sing"

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Hymnals for Sunday Worship

Due to ongoing dust related to our exciting construction project, hymnals will continue to be stored in plastic bins at the back of the church rather than in the pews. There will be a bin for the red United Methodist hymnals and a bin for the black Faith We Sing hymnals. Each Sunday, please pick up a bulletin, check for the hymns included in the worship service, and then pick up one or both hymnals as needed. At the end of the service, please place the hymnals back in their respective bins.

Sunday, August 8th Recording of BGUMC Congregational Singing



We often speak of the "congregational choir" that our pastors and musicians have the pleasure of hearing during each Sunday morning's worship at BGUMC. We would like to incorporate that gift of music in our virtual worship services, posted each Sunday morning on our Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook page. How? During morning worship on Sunday, August 8th, Pastor Kathy will record

our BGUMC congregation as they sing the "Gloria Patri" and the "Doxology". She will then weave our congregational singing of those two responses in with future virtual worship services. We hope that you can be in attendance on August 8th to lend your voice in our singing. No need to worry or stay away - no individuals will be "viewable" or singled out in the process of recording. Come and enjoy the service as you usually do! We may have some extra laughter in the process along the way!

Prairie Lakes Parish Social Justice Conversations

The Prairie Lakes Parish Sand Creek Massacre Book Study and Social Justice Conversation - led by Cindy Saufferer - is set to continue throughout the summer months. This is a lively and engaging group, and welcomes new participants at any time! You don't have to have read the book to be included. The first 10 minutes are spent discussing the book and the remainder of the time together is spent in conversation about social justice. Contact Cindy Saufferer for more information and/or to join in the group! (507-363-9380)





Called to Care

Philippians 2:4: Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ESV

During COVID, I was part of an online class about Creation Care. The virtual class was available nationally to United Methodists who have an interest in being involved in caring for our world. Each month, I receive an online newsletter with ways that we can live into our covenant with God who calls us to care for the gift of his creation. In caring for Creation, we care for one another and for our grandchildren and the generations to come. Each of us is called to be good stewards of our world. Here are a few of the tips from the August United Methodist Creation Care, Creation Justice newsletter.

Not by choice, 68% of Black Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant. As a frontline community, they suffer greater ill health and shorter life expectancy as well as lesser property values and fewer economic resources because of the predatory practices of the fossil fuel industry. **Write or call your legislators** to speak up for the [Environmental Justice for All Act](#) and for a future of renewable and non-polluting energy sources.

It's an outdoor party—lots of people, including kids, having a good time. Go ahead and use plastic cups. But put out a bin, labeled Cups Only. Afterward, wash the cups. With children, you don't have to worry about a possible broken glass. Just recycle any damaged cups, if possible. But **think Reuse before Recycle**.

You are leaving your mark on planet Earth. Check out this fun and informative [carbon footprint](#) calculator. With the resulting benchmark and the helpful tips the website provides, you can **choose ways to live more lightly**.

God's prophet, Isaiah, long ago connected the state of the earth with actions of the people: "The earth dries up and withers... The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated statutes, broken the everlasting covenant" (Isaiah 24:4-5). **Renew your part of the covenant with God** to be a good steward.

Ask to **have your packages shipped plastic-free**. Activate live-chat and request that your order and all future ones come without the single-use plastic that envelops our habitat and harms life for all. Amazon is one company that provides the service.

Drought is more and more in the news and will continue to plague us as the climate shifts. Water wasted anywhere ultimately affects everywhere. (Be mindful of ways you can cut your water usage?)

Don't beat yourself up! **You don't have to be perfect** in making earth-friendly changes in your lifestyle. Remember John Wesley's point that we are "going on to perfection." As in our faith, we are on a journey toward a goal. God's grace covers our failings, and God's Spirit enables us to continue. Hold the vision of perfection and keep taking steps toward it.

Please consider how it is that you might be a better steward of God's gift of our amazing Creation? As always, you are in my prayers in these times.

Live kindly!

Pastor Kathy

August 2021

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

**Janesville
Morning Worship 10:45 am**

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

1 	2	3	4 	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7
8	9	10	11	12 6 pm "Brew & Bible Talk" at the Half-Pint Brewery 	13 Pastor's Day Off	14
15 4:30—7 pm Fish Fry at Half Pint Brewery	16	Steele County Free Fair				21 Pastor's Day Off
22 Steele County Free Fair	23	24	25	26	27 Pastor's Day Off	28
29	30	31			Pastor's Day Off	

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.

- August 12 6:00 pm "Brew & Bible" at the Half-Pint Brewery
August 15 4:30-7 pm Fish Fry at Half-Pint Brewery

Parament Colors

The parament color for August is Green.



- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 4 | Cris VanZuilen |
| 4 | Mike Nicholson |
| 7 | Chuck Danks |
| 11 | Brian Kanne |
| 11 | Brian Loken |
| 13 | Cecilia Nicholson |
| 20 | Mikayla Janke |
| 25 | Jacob Blake |
| 25 | Tyler Kosel |
| 27 | Summer Goldsmith |
| 1 | Bob Jesse |
| 1 | Emily Howe |
| 3 | Ben Sutter |
| 3 | Randy Southworth |
| 4 | Dawson Gasner |

Happy Anniversary

- 13 Brad & Tracie Spinler
17 Elizabeth & Jeff Bartosch
22 Jessica & Aaron Buchholz
23 Chuck & Linda Danks
26 Kyle & Becky Lustig
28 Greg & Tanecka Poe
31 Gerard & Karen LaFond

Council Chair Position Open for 2022

As a follow-up invitation from our July Visitor, Hjordi Churchill is just concluding her 5th year of her current stint as Council Chair, and will be stepping down from this position at the end of 2021 - providing the opportunity for others to enter into this leadership role. Please consider your calling into service and leadership at BGUMC and let Pastor Kathy know if you would be interested in exploring the role of BGUMC Council Chair - to begin in 2022.



Congratulations Callie

Congratulate to Callie Nagel on passing her boards and becoming an official RN! She has a job at Faribault District One Hospital.

Treasurer's Report

June 27—July 26, 2021



General Budget Income

\$ 7,180.00

Expenses

Pastor's wage: April, May, June	4,784.10
Century Link	50.78
Cell Phone	83.40
Mileage	69.66
Parish Musicians	159.60
Annual Conference	28.50
Zoom License	56.96
NACOS (Pastor Kathy's Native American Course of Study)	114.00
New Checks	32.45
Lawn services	490.00
Loan Interest	<u>738.60</u>
Total Budget Expenses	\$ 5,869.45

(Net Income: + 1,310.55)

Other Income Received

Restoration	250.00
Cemetery	25.00
Nail Crosses (\$ to New Addition Cost)	900.00

Building Addition

Restoration Fund Balance	\$32,307.19
Building Addition Loan	
Balance to date	\$222,365.82
Monies Dispersed	\$11,605.00
Monthly Loan Payment	\$2,585.00

400 Cookies Needed

for August 15th

Fish Fry



We are looking for 400 cookies, 2 per bag, for dessert for the upcoming fish fry at Half Pint Brewery on August 15th! If you want to help out, cookies can be dropped off at either Brad & Tracie Spinler's or Brad & Cindy Saufferer's homes. Please contact Carolyn Kanne in advance to let her know of your plans and the number of cookies you can provide. Thanks for your support!

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FISH FRY AT HALF PINT BREWERY



Blooming
Grove's famous
Walleye will be
served with all
the fixings!



When: August 15th, 4:30-7 PM

Where: Half Pint Brewery (40099 150th St Waseca, MN)

Cost: FREE WILL DONATION. 100% of the proceeds will go towards the church's handicap accessible addition and local high school senior scholarships.



For more information follow us on
Facebook or call Brad 507.363.6579



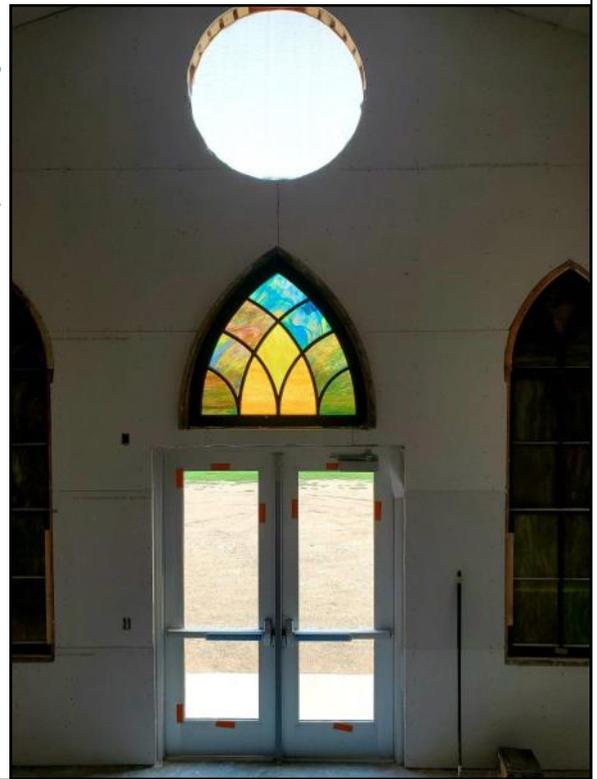
Worst Job Ever By Brad Saufferer

One of the worst jobs ever, I've worked in construction in my misspent youth, and living on a dairy farm I still have occasion to build or repair things. The worst job in construction, in my humble opinion, is hanging sheet rock. Some will argue shingling a roof under a hot sun or insulating with all the itch is worse. I argue that hanging 12x4 foot, 5/8-inch-thick sheets of sheet rock is worse by far. They are heavy, bulky, and when cut, disperse a fine white powder everywhere but mostly up your nose. I bring this up because three young gentlemen hung almost all the sheet rock in the addition in a day and a half. They would have finished except the old entry doors have not been removed and reframed yet. Oh, to be young, in shape, and filled with endless energy. The addition is really taking shape, you can see bathrooms, the gathering area, and the small room where we'll lock misbehaving youth. The small room for misbehaving youth is my idea, it hasn't caught on yet.



I urge everyone to stop by and attend worship to see what's happening.

The progress on the addition is very exciting and so is the Pastor.



BGUMC Building Project - We Need Your Help!

For years, we have dreamed of creating an accessible entryway at BGUMC that provides inclusion for all who gather to soak in stories of God's love and that safely sends us back into the world to carry that love, care, and inclusion to others. We are seeing exciting progress - made by our building contractors, as well as local craftsmen and women, and our own BGUMC Trustees. We thank them for their commitment to this project.

We're now at the point where we actively need your help! We invite, encourage, and welcome you to become part of the village that makes our addition a reality by joining in the following:

- Contact Brad Saufferer to help with weekly construction dust clean-up each Saturday at 9:00 A.M.
- Contact Pastor Kathy King to become part of a brainstorming team for fund-raising events and activities to be carried out by the congregation.
- Support the building project with your ongoing donations - mailed to BGUMC at PO Box 171, Medford, MN 55049-0171. Enter "Restoration Fund" in the memo line.

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



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.

- Marge, Cindy Saufferer’s mom, who is experiencing ongoing health concerns.
- Pastor Kathy’s mom, Dee - and all of Dee’s family - as Dee continues in hospice care at Whispering Creek, the skilled nursing care facility in Janesville, MN.
- Del, of Janesville United Methodist Church, whose aggressive cancer has returned. Hold Del, his family, and his doctors in your prayers, as he journeys through heavy-hitting rounds of treatments.
- Marlis Mahler’s friend, Jodi, whose father passed away in August.
- Mitch, son of a former co-worker of Marlis Mahler, who is recovering from a successful surgery for ongoing health issues.
- The extended family of Perry Halstead, of Alma City, who passed away in July. Perry is survived by five siblings, including Ervin (Sharon) Halstead, of Waterville Evangelical UMC, and Darla (Lonny) Zell, of Janesville UMC. When their father passed away at an early age, Perry came back home to help raise his younger brothers and sisters, and over the years, has been lovingly known by their children as “Uncle-Grandpa Perry”. Perry’s funeral was held at Janesville UMC.
- Traveling mercies - and traveling joys - for all who are vacationing this summer.
- All who are working to contain the new COVID-19 variations, as well as those who are contracting the new variations, and those who are caring for them.
- 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.

Building Accessibility Project Grant Exploration



Through connections made during our Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference (held in June), we have learned of several organizations within our conference whose focus is to support and serve Minnesota United Methodist churches that are taking bold steps to better connect with their community and welcome new people. In the last month, we have reached out to these organizations and held initial conversations about possible funding that may be available to assist us in our goal of making BGUMC more welcoming and accessible through our new addition. Judy Mahler, Carolyn Kanne, Brian Kanne, and Brad Saufferer are now in the process of completing applications, summarizing financial information, and gathering supporting documentation that tells the story of BGUMC - all with an eye on the grant application deadlines of August 1st! Please hold our application/grant writers in your prayers, as they tell our BGUMC story. Please hold the MN Conference review committee members in your prayers as they consider our project, as well as those of other churches in the state.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



To Blooming Grove Prayer Shawl Ministry
 My sister (Lisa Rae) and I most humbly thank you for our prayer shawls. The power of prayer that passed thru each person saying a prayer and thru the shawls has been truly amazing. God’s love and healing have been amazing.

My sister (Lisa Rae) just a few weeks ago had a pet scan—all the tumors that had blocked her one kidney and colon were gone. From stage 4 cancer to none found shocked the doctors: they said it was a miracle. Lisa Rae is on Immunotherapy treatment and is doing very well and back to her sassy self. Truly the power of prayer.

Thank you again -

Sandy Janke and Lisa Rae Shalicky



Story of the Square Nail Keepsake Crosses

While removing old siding in preparation for the addition, we discovered square nails, used in the 1863 construction of the second Immanuel Church. (See BGUMC History at right.) For 158 years, they helped hold together a place in which generations of people gathered to soak in stories of God's love, and from which, generations went back out into the world to carry that love to others. Now, fashioned together as Keepsake Crosses, may these nails remind us of our forebears who built well - and of their dreams and intentions. May they encourage us, and call us, as we live into new dreams and visions in our ongoing journey with God.

Square Nail Keepsake Crosses Limited Edition

Heartfelt thanks go to Linda Kosel, one of our artistic BGUMC members, whose vision, creativity, time, and materials, converted a supply of the original square nails from the Immanuel building portion of BGUMC into 30 Limited-Edition Keepsake Crosses!

Each Limited-Edition Cross is available for purchase at \$50 - with all funds going to our Accessibility Building Project.

The crosses were almost sold out before they were even fully packaged and we only have 6 left! See either Chery Southworth or Judy Mahler at the front of the church (by the piano) on Sunday mornings if you and/or a family member are interested. Thank you to everyone for their wonderful support of this project.

A Brief BGUMC History The Two Steepled Church on the Prairie

In March of 1856, a German Methodist missionary began preaching in homes in the rural area southwest of Faribault - now known as Blooming Grove Township. In the fall of that year, 14 members were accepted into the mission, and it was made into a self-supporting preaching establishment.

Out of these humble beginnings, two Methodist congregations were created - Bethel and Immanuel. Through the years, they built churches, established cemeteries, shared a pastor and a parsonage. The two congregations also developed programs that nurtured the rural community and emphasized mission giving to the world.

The first Immanuel Church was built in 1862, and a replacement was built in 1863 - both at a site 3.5 miles west of where BGUMC currently stands. The Bethel Church was built between 1870 and 1873 - at the current BGUMC site.

In 1951, a merger symbolizing the unity of the Bethel and Immanuel congregations took place. The two congregations voted to take the name Blooming Grove Methodist Church. That same year, the Immanuel building was moved to the Bethel site and the buildings were joined together. (Immanuel on the south and Bethel on the north.) Both church steeples were kept as a physical symbol of cooperation, compromise and trust.

In 2020-2021, we again stepped out in faith - to construct a south addition that provides accessibility for all. The new entryway includes a 3-level lift, ground-level restrooms, and a gathering space. It incorporates the architectural style and heritage of both the Immanuel and Bethel buildings, as well as stained-glass windows from Immanuel. Our two steeples remain - standing tall and welcoming on the prairie.

Kamisamba Farm

2021 BGUMC Mission

Our BGUMC Council is pleased to share the news that the Kamisamba Farm and Training Center (KFTC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo will be our avenue of partnering with others in mission for the remainder of 2021! Please join us as we support their important work. Here's what you can do:

- Learn more about the KFTC in each month's Kamisamba Farm Corner in the BGUMC Visitor.
- Drop off weekly offerings of loose change and/or other larger donations for the KFTC in our "Noisy Can" offering receptacle in the back of the sanctuary.
- Support the KFTC in your Advent, Christmas, and Year-End gifting.
- Pray for the leaders, staff, and community members of KFTC who are integral parts in sharing God's love, justice, and caring for neighbors.

For donations for that you would like noted on your annual BGUMC giving statement, please write a check (to BGUMC) or place your donation in an offering envelope with your name identified on the front. On each, please indicate "Kamisamba Farm". Thank you.

On a personal note:

Cindy Saufferer has had the great experience of traveling to the KFTC as part of her work with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). While there, she met Lorraine Charinda, a missionary with GBGM, serving as an Agricultural Rural Economic Development specialist in the North Katanga Episcopal Area in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lorraine is the primary leader at the KFTC, and has become "friends" with BGUMC over the years through our Facebook page, and through our past support of the work of the farm.



Kamisamba Farm Corner - August

Taken from the writings of Lorraine Charinda, United Methodist Missionary serving as the Agricultural Rural Economic Development

Specialist at the Kamisamba Farm and Training Center:

This legendary farm comprises of a training school that gives trainings to farmers from different communities on crop production, animal husbandry, marketing and monitoring and evaluation. There is also approximately 200 Hectares (494 acres) of land. Part of this is used for production and also as a model for the different training that occur at the school centre. We have had great success and testimonies of lives being impacted due to the trainings which have happened. People testify on improved production, nutrition, sustainable utilization and conservation management of natural resources. After the training, community trainers are allocated in the different communities to give trainings and monitor their progress.

"Brew and Bible" At Half-Pint Brewing Company

6:00 P.M. - Thursday, August 12, 2021
Gather at the big table reserved for this group
Wrap-Up will be around 7:15 or 7:30

Once-a-month opportunity to join as families and friends in a new way to consider faith through fun, fellowship, and food! Hosted by Pastor Kathy King, we gather together to enjoy each other's company, as well as a guided discussion - with a new faith topic each time we gather - based on the resource "Pub Theology".

Sponsored by churches of the Prairie Lakes Parish:
Blooming Grove, Janesville, and
Waterville Evangelical UMCs

Half-Pint Brewing has craft beer and root beer available. Upon arrival, you can also order pizza to be delivered from neighboring Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm.

For more information, contact
Pastor Kathy King @ 507-382-2483
kking5@hickorytech.net



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

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

August 2021

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Physical Address:

43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN 55052
(NE corner of Waseca County)

Mail to: P.O. Box 171

Medford, MN 55049-0171

Website: www.bloominggroveumc.org

Email: bloominggroveumc@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook!

**Pastoral Care and Emergency
and General Pastoral Questions:**

Pastor Kathy King
kking5@hickorytech.net
507-382-2483



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

kking5@hickorytech.net

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7/28/2021

