



# THE VISITOR

## Readers, Greeters & Treats

- Oct 6 Reader Needed  
Greeter/Treats: Carol Karsten
- Oct 13 Reader Needed  
Greeter/Treats: Dave & Sheryl Brisel
- Oct 20 Reader: Linda Danks  
Greeter/Treats: Faye Kanne
- Oct 27 Reader: Patti Ellingson  
Greeter/Treats: Linda & Chuck Danks

## Meet & Greets

A Great Time of Fun and Fellowship!



Thank you to all who gathered in fellowship in August and September to meet, greet, and welcome Pastor Kathy King and her husband Jerry! It was a great way to be together as we move from the season of summer into fall. We shared amazing food, stories, laughter, and conversation – and just enjoyed one another’s company! These gatherings also provided the time to get to know folks better within our own church community – and deepen friendships and connections.

## Pie Trivia

Pie as a desert is a relatively recent development. In the 19th century, fruit pies were more commonly a breakfast food.

## Order Your Pies for Thanksgiving!



The UMW will be taking orders for homemade Thanksgiving pies over the next several weeks. Available flavors will be apple and pumpkin, cost is \$15 per pie. Funds raised from pie sales will go toward the UMW Scholarship fund for graduating Medford seniors. Pies will be frozen and available for pickup on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, unless you make alternate arrangements. You can fill out the order form below or sign up on the clipboard circulated at church. Orders can be given to any UMW member (Char Frankenberg, Theresa Riecke, Faye Kanne, Carolyn Kanne, Tracie Spinler, Cindy Saufferer). We also welcome donations to the scholarship fund, or donations of/for pie ingredients!

Special thanks to our hosts:

- Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> - Muffin Mixer: at the host farm of Allison & Michael Janke, with help from Weston & Raelyn Janke.
- Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Ice Cream Bar: at the host farm of Faye Kanne, with help from family members Brian, Carolyn, Deanna, & Michael Kanne.
- Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Lunch Bunch: at the host farm of Brad & Cindy Saufferer, with help from family members Beth & Gil Christesen, as well as Chuck & Linda Danks, Tyler & Alex Morgan, Cris & Karrie VanZuilen, Hjordi Churchill & Judy Mahler.

People were invited to attend one or more of the events. It was delightful to have the following groups gather:

- Muffin Mixer: 16 people
- Ice Cream Bar: 17 people
- Lunch Bunch: 25 people

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

Pie Order - \$15 per pie

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # Apple \_\_\_\_\_ # Pumpkin \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost

## Holy Conferencing



*Colossians 3: 13. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

In our United Methodist MN Annual Conference, we use “Holy Conferencing” as a way to discuss topics among those who have passionate viewpoints on issues that we face as Christians. Holy conferencing is the method or way to come together when we know the things being discussed may lead to outbursts that can fuel anger and hurt. It is a preparation for gatherings that may be approached with anxiety. Our 2019 Annual Conference used Holy Conferencing to discuss the issues surrounding the LBGTQIA community and the outcome of the Special Conference vote in February 2019. Doesn’t it seem strange to think that Christians need to be reminded to care for one another with compassion?

All of this is even more incomprehensible for your Pastor as I find myself in your midst. Even though our time as a three-point charge has been brief—nearly three months now—I feel your compassion as we bring forward our prayer concerns each week and I am touched by the warmth I feel in each of you. It is your love for your neighbors that I see shining through each face. I am so humbled by your care of one another and I am grateful to be a part of each congregation. How amazing that we can reach out to one another—across congregational “lines”—to support one another as we do all we can to be disciples for Jesus Christ.

As I reflect on our time together, we have much work to do. Each faith community has those who serve and ensure the business of God’s church is done. Your nominations or congregational care teams will gather soon to begin the work of discerning who might fill important positions in each congregation. Those who accept positions for our 2020 year will be brought forth at our three-point annual charge conference that will meet on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm at our Waterville Evangelical UMC. Pastor Dean Wolfe graciously offered to preside at our conference as Elder. This is a good time for our three congregations to gather to do the business that pertains to our three-point charge. It is also a great time to gather in fellowship with one another. The Southern Prairie district-wide charge conference is November 16<sup>th</sup> in Windom, MN.

Thank you for being the incredible people you are! You bring such warmth to my and Jerry’s lives and we are so very blessed to walk alongside you on this journey!

*Pastor Kathy*

# October 2019

**Blooming Grove**  
 Worship ..... 8:15 am  
 Sunday School..... 9:15 am

**Janesville**  
 Worship ..... 10:45 am

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

		1	2	3	4	5
			6:30—7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry	7 pm Joint worship team meeting at Janesville		4:30—7 pm WV Annual Chicken & Biscuit Dinner
	Pastor's Day Off			6:30 pm WV at RC Jail		11:30 am WV at SCDC
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
 World Communion Sunday	5-7 pm WV Ad Council		5—6:30 pm WV Spaghetti Supper  6:30-7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry & Confirmation  7:30—8:30 pm PPRC at WV	7 pm BG Nominating Committee		
	Pastor's Day Off			6:30 pm WV at RC Jail		11:30 am WV at SCDC
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Pastor Kathy away at Course of Study						
	 Columbus Day		6:30—7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry			
	Pastor's Day Off			6:30 pm WV at RC Jail		11:30 am WV at SCDC
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
 LAITY SUNDAY			6:30—7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry & Confirmation	United Nations Day 		
	Pastor's Day Off			6:30 pm WV at RC Jail		11:30 am WV at SCDC
27	28	29	30	31		
11:30 am-1 pm JUMC Fall Roast Beef Dinner (with Culver's for dessert)			6:30—7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry	<b>Halloween</b> 		
	Pastor's Day Off			6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	<b>Coding Information</b> SCDC—Steele County Detention Center RC—Rice County	

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:15 am



## Treasurer's Report

August 25—September 21, 2019

- 3 Thurs 7:00 pm Joint Worship Committee  
In Janesville  
10 Thurs 7:00 pm Nominating Committee

### Cleaning

October 13 Nancy & Susan  
October 27 Nancy & Susan

### Paraments

The parament color for October is green.

### Happy Birthday

- 3 Elenora Christesen  
4 Cody Blake  
4 Andrew Engebretson  
5 Ashley Pitzer  
6 Tyler Jesse  
9 Karen LaFond  
19 George Sharp  
26 Bruce Saufferer



### Happy Anniversary

- 5 JJ & Stefanie Morgan  
10 Deecy & Bob Jesse  
19 Brian & Katie Martin



### Emily Nagel & Brandon Church Wedding

Congratulations to Emily Nagel & Brandon Church who were married on Saturday, September 28th, with Pastor Kathy King officiating. We thank them, and their families, for sharing their special day here at BGUMC. Emily & Brandon make their home in Sioux Falls, S.D.

### Pie Trivia

Pie as a desert is a relatively recent development. In the 19th century, fruit pies were more commonly a breakfast food.

### General Budget Income \$3,480.00

Expenses	
Pastors Salaries	1,393.33
Housing allowance	380.00
Health Insurance	428.00
Pension	212.22
Disability Insurance	17.73
Mileage	119.04
Cleaning	126.00
Pirkl Gas	1,678.50
Mowing	540.00
Confirmation	35.28
Total Expenses	\$ 4,920.10

(Net Income: - \$ 1,440.10)

### Other Income Received

Kamisamba Farm	100.00
Restoration	1,050.00
Run for the Loaves	1,796.00

### Chicken-N-Biscuit Dinner

Saturday, October 5

4:30 pm—7 pm

Waterville United Methodist Church

Adults	\$10.00
Ages 5-12	\$5.00
Under 5	Free

Take-outs available  
Handicap Accessible



### Sunday School Message

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday School lesson was about. He said. **"Be not afraid, they comforter is coming."**



## 10th Annual Run 4 the Loaves

Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> proved to be a perfect day for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Run for the Loaves four-mile run/walk. Forty-seven runners and walkers helped make the event another success. At last count, over \$1,800.00 had been raised for the area food shelves.

The Owatonna boy's cross country team once again led the way. Coach Chatelaine's team not only excelled with the athletic portion, they also demonstrated what it is to walk (and run) the path Christ put down before us. Adam Beer, a team member in every sense to the word but unable to run, took first place after the team took turns pushing his wheelchair the four miles. A more polite, generous, and kind hearted group of young men would be hard to find.

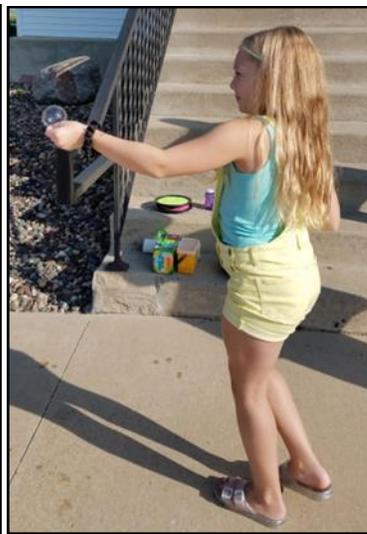
As always, when called upon, the Blooming Grove congregation stepped forward and volunteered to do what was needed to be done to make the event a success. From set up to tear down, baking treats for the food stand, registering runners and walkers, driving the lead vehicle, and pulling the sag wagon, there was no lack of volunteers. The youth of the group once again designed the t-shirt every contestant received. Their understanding of computer design, knowing what would look good and passing on the message of love and giving, which we hope the run is about, was outstanding. All of this was done without fanfare or complaint, thank you all.

Start looking after the first of the year for the date of next years run. Ideas are being bounced around and it promises to be bigger and better than ever.



# Education & Events

September 15<sup>th</sup> saw the kick-off to our Sunday School year with Rally Sunday. Pastor Kathy got the kids out “shakin’ the Noisy Can” as coin offering was collected during service – in support of our brothers and sisters at Kamisambi Farm in Africa. Following church, rice crispy bar treats were enjoyed by all, then the youth (and teachers) headed outside to play a selection of corn-hole toss, sidewalk chalk, frisbee toss, and bubble blowing, with a side of gymnastics thrown in to boot! Frisbee toss (5-cornered) seemed the highlight. Though student numbers on Rally Sunday were low, energy was high. We look forward to a great new year of Sunday School with teachers Patti (and Marlis & Karrie subs) with the younger kids, and Mike (and Marlis & Brad subs) leading the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Remember, our Sunday School time remains 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. even when our 3 churches swap worship times.



## Second Sunday Funday!



Guess what’s right around the corner? Our first Second Sunday, Funday of the semester! Back by popular demand will be tying fleece blankets, with several different options for where to donate them. Join us on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am with your nimble fingers and an opportunity to share time with church members young and old (hey – that’s just an expression..... not saying anyone’s “old”) as we all take part in a worthwhile project.

Stay tuned for November’s BGUMC Believe It Or Not event!



## Volunteer Opportunity



Last year a group of us packed meals for Feed My Starving Children when they had their ‘remote pack’ in Owatonna. We followed that with a delightful meal out (there seems a bit of a disconnect there – as we had a great plenty to eat as we broke bread together, though the opportunity to socialize together was thoroughly enjoyed by all!) If there is interest in doing this again, there will be a sign-up sheet in church.



## Building Project Update

In late August, our Building Project Team received an updated – and comprehensive - version of plans from our architect from Widesth, Smith, and Nolting (Rochester). Based on these plans, throughout the month of September, we have reached out to local contractors to request bids on the following work:

- Demolition
- Excavation
- Concrete & Fill
- Siding
- Septic System
- Heating and Air
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Handicapped accessible lift
- 

### Bid-Taking

In most cases, we are requesting 2-3 bids per type of work in order to make a good faith effort in comparing ideas and quality of work, as well as price. Please note that our local contractors are facing the same timing concerns as our area farmers this year. The wet and late spring, combined with a wet summer, have put them behind in all of their scheduled work, for which they want to honor their commitments of completing before winter. As a result, their “bid work” is a little delayed, and often needs to wait for a rainy day. They hope to get back to us by mid-October.

### Handicapped Accessible Lift

We met with, and received bids from, two contractors for installation of the handicapped accessible lift. We have awarded the bid to Premier Lift Products, Inc. of Owatonna, MN, Dixon Rypka, President.

### Request for Prayer

As always, our team will appreciate your ongoing prayers and support as we continue forward with all that is left to do before actual building can begin. This includes completion of bid-work,

identifying contractor availability, modifying the plan per suggestions gathered along the way, obtaining approval of final plans and costs from our council (and/or congregation if needed), obtaining the same from the MN Conference of the UMC District Board of Church and Building, and contacting all members and friends of BGUMC to invite support of the project and to gather estimates of giving toward the project.



## UMW Minutes

The UMW met at the home of Carolyn Kanne September 18<sup>th</sup>. Cindy presented the lesson.

The Secretary's report was accepted as read. Tracy reported there is \$98.50 in the Scholarship fund and \$850.71 in the budget. \$200.00 given to the ladies of the church for serving at Eleanor's funeral will be added to the \$48.00 in the Legacy Fund.

We will start taking orders for pies for Thanksgiving. Apple and pumpkin pies will be baked and sold for \$15.00 as a fund raiser for the Scholarship Fund. The pies can be picked up the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Joint UMW meetings with Janesville and Waterville was discussed. Two or three program meetings throughout the year starting next year will be planned.

The next meeting will be Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup> at Cindy's. Faye will have the lesson.



## Women's Prayer Retreat

This November 9th, women from Blooming Grove, Janesville, and Waterville Evangelical UMCs are invited to a Prayer Retreat at the Deb Brecht lake home at 2818 Lind Trail, Waterville. The retreat will be a day long retreat beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We will spend the day sharing through devotions, music, and fellowship centered around prayer. We will have morning coffee refreshments and lunch. Plan to spend a day away; a day to focus on prayer and fellowship.



## Please keep the following people in your prayers.

- Gary, of Spooner, WI - friend of Hjordi Churchill and her brother Jeff's family. Gary owns a construction business – and was working on a roof when he fell from a ladder, which then fell on top of him. Gary was severely injured with many broken bones and a punctured lung. Please pray for both Gary and his wife Cindy.
- Carol Karsten's great nephew, a fireman in Duluth, who was one of the responders in the September synagogue fire. Pray for his recovery from a concussion sustained when a small wall in the synagogue fell on him.
- Prayers of thanks for the safety of Emily Nagel and Brandon Church during the September tornado in Sioux Falls. Their home, as well as their places of work, were not damaged.
- Connie, the mother of Amanda Riecke's friend, who is recovering from surgery.
- Dee Bruce, Pastor Kathy's mother, as she struggles with continuing medical concerns.
- Prayers for all of the children in school who come from situations of homelessness, food insecurity, and trauma, for whom school is one of the only places of security they know. Pray for them to find (and trust) the calm at school that is offered to them – and that it may open doors in their heads and hearts to push out some of the fear – and to make room for the chance to learn. Pray for teachers and staff who reach out to these children in their care.
- Pastor Jan Redman, as she and her family clean up their farm after the 9/24/19 storm that took down trees and a power line across her yard.
- Carol Karsten's nephew Larry, from Milroy, MN, battling an aggressive cancer. He is in his 40's and is married, with three children.
- Jerry King's older brother, as he undergoes chemotherapy for cancer that has returned.
- Children and youth in our communities and families and circles of friends who are struggling with mental health issues.
- Prayers of thanks for the gift of music and our youth who share it with our communities through their events involving band, marching band, and choir.

- Tena Harren, of Waterville, as she recovers from a complicated hand surgery.
- Jane Harvey and her family as they mourn the sudden death of her brother at age 54, and as they provide support for her brother's wife and family in Illinois. Jane is married to Mike Harvey, a friend to many in our congregation.
- Samona Grubish, Federated co-worker and friend of several of our BGUMC members. Samona's mother, Jeannette passed away in September.
- Edna Deering, aunt of Judy Mahler, from University City (St. Louis), MO. On 9/20/19, she underwent emergency surgery for which recovery is extremely difficult, and for her, will be even more complicated due to underlying health issues. Edna is the youngest sister of Dallas Saufferer-Mahler, Judy's mom.
- All members of our farming community as they work long hours around dangerous equipment, as they prepare for, and enter into, fall harvest.
- All people who lead our nation, and countries around the world.
- All those 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.



## Thank You

Thank you from Larry, nephew of Carol Karsten, for the prayer shawl. Larry told Carol that he keeps it with him on his recliner all the time. Larry is fighting a very aggressive form of cancer.

Tena Harren sends her love and prayers and thanks for her BGUMC family and requests our prayer support in the days and weeks ahead as she heals from hand surgery. She took her BG prayer shawl – that has been prayed on and blessed by all of us – with her to the hospital.

# Pray for our farmers

Bishop Bruce R. Ough

September 05, 2019



Kathleen Norris in her remarkable book, *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*, writes about rain in the Upper Midwest: “Until I moved to western South Dakota, I did not know about rain, that it could come too hard, too soft, too hot, too cold, too early, too late. That there could be too little at the right time, too much at the wrong time, and vice versa” (page 143).

This has been a year when across much of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area, the rains were either too early or too late, too much or too little. Combined with a weak market resulting from the trade war with China, our farmers are facing

another farm crisis. As I drive across the Dakotas and Minnesota landscape, I see corn, bean, wheat, and hay crops looking normal, but the late planting season, or drought in northern North Dakota, has already taken its toll and yields will certainly be delayed, diminished, or devastated.

But, perhaps, the real cost is the emotional strain being born by our farmers and their families. Depression is a reality for many. Suicide rates are climbing. Feelings of failure and anxiety about the future are rampant. The economic base of many of our smaller farm communities is stressed. We are losing more farms and the fabric of many of our rural churches and towns.

This growing farm crisis is not always covered in the news. So, I urge you to raise awareness in your congregations. Learn more about what hurts our farmers. Reach out to your neighbors who farm, run grain elevators, own farm implement dealerships, or depend on farm income to sustain their local businesses and offer them your support and assistance. And, pray! Pray for our farm families, a return to normal market conditions, and a safe harvest.

O creator and faithful God,  
you have promised strength for the weak,  
rest for the laborers,  
hope for the distressed.  
Keep us from calling disaster your justice.  
Help us, in good times and in bad times,  
to trust your mercy and goodness.  
Grant us light for the way, unfailing compassion;  
grace for the trials, help from above;  
faith in the future; safety in the harvest.  
O creator and mighty God,  
enfold our farm families in your loving arms  
and help us all to continue in your promise.  
Amen.

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

October 2019

**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](http://www.bloominggroveumc.org)

Email: [bloominggroveumc@gmail.com](mailto:bloominggroveumc@gmail.com)

Check us out on Facebook!

**Pastoral Care and Emergency  
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)

**Visitor Staff:**

Chery Southworth, Visitor Coordinator

26651 Elmore Avenue

Morristown, MN 55052

(507) 339-3534

[CherySouth@gmail.com](mailto:CherySouth@gmail.com)

Judy Mahler, Editor

Carolyn Kanne, Writer

Patti Ellingson, Writer

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## Save the Dates

***Prairie Lakes Parish  
BGUMC, Janesville UMC,  
and WV UMC  
Combined Annual Charge Conference***

Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

3:00 P.M.

At Waterville UMC

Dean Wolfe, retired minister serving the Elysian UMC, will be the presiding elder.  
All persons within the congregation of BGUMC are invited.

***Southern Prairie District of the UMC  
All Churches in the District  
Combined Annual Charge Conference  
& Worship***

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Time TBA

At First UMC, Windom

Fred Vanderwerf, District Superintendent, will be the presiding elder.  
Contact Pastor Kathy if you would like to carpool.