



THE VISITOR



What's in a name.....

By Allison Janke

BGUMC Lay Leader

Our church family has so many quality characteristics, trades, knowledge, strengths and adoration that I could go on and on with the positive roles we all bring to our church community. Some of us have taken on additional “names” as we fill the positions required to ensure the church keeps up with all the tasks to support the needs of the membership. Whether we are on the church council, worship committee, trustee or other roles within the church; they are all needed and appreciated. I have been privileged to serve as Blooming Grove’s Lay Leader. When I agreed to this role, I wasn’t even sure what responsibilities I needed to complete. According to the United Methodist Church discipleship website (www.umcdiscipleship.com); the lay leader represents the people in the congregation in working with the pastor for the mission and vision of the congregation. Seems like a big job, but I see the lay leader as the team captain. We are all in this together; working on the same team. I’m always amazed how awesome our church family is and continues to be. We all step up to the plate and are ready to take the next pitch. As your team captain, I wanted to thank everyone for all their hard work and support to our church community and local communities. We are all working through some challenging times with the extra stress of the pandemic, but what does our team do? – work together to make masks and donate to anyone that needs them. Especially to our health care workers and local school students. Thanks for being patient as we managed to get our services online and then outside as we were all eager to see each other’s smiling faces. ☺ So many people helped to get these things accomplished. Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors is a true statement for our church community. I am proud to be a member of BGUMC and proud of our “team.”

1 Corinthians 12:14

“For the body is not one member, but many.”

GO TEAM!!

Be the Light, Live Hope 2020 Minnesota Annual Conference

By Cindy Saufferer
Blooming Grove UMC Lay Delegate
to Annual Conference



Five hundred Minnesota United Methodists gathered virtually for the 166th Minnesota Annual Conference on August 29th, 2020. We gathered around computer screens in our respective spaces and not seated around 8 foot tables as we came together to worship, celebrate what we have accomplished together, enact legislation, and be reminded what it means to be the light and live hope in a world.

“Our world has changed. And our methods of doing ministry have changed...Being a leader in the church today requires a new imagination for what the church looks like and acts like. But what has not changed is our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ who are equipped and motivated to change the world.” Bishop Ough shared this message during his final Episcopal Address, “A Light Rising in the Darkness”, as he plans to retire January 1, 2021. Bishop David Bard, one of Minnesota’s own and current Bishop of the Michigan Conference, addressed the group as he will serve in the interim until a new Bishop can be appointed at the North Central Jurisdictional meeting in November, 2021.

Legislation took on a new feel as we learned how to properly operate under Roberts Rules of Order utilizing Zoom’s polling option. Three key pieces that we discussed and approved are as follows:

- **Reduced 2021 budget:** Members approved a 2021 apportioned budget totaling \$5,629,157. This represents a reduction of \$698,000, or 11 percent, from the 2020 approved budget.
- **Separately incorporating the Minnesota Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits:** Members voted by a margin of 415-2 to authorize the Minnesota Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits to separately incorporate as a subsidiary of the Minnesota Annual Conference

(continued on next page)

- **Affirming amendments to Hamline University Articles of Incorporation:** Members voted 410-15 to affirm several amendments to the articles of incorporation for Hamline University in St. Paul, a United Methodist-affiliated institution. One gives the Hamline's Board of Trustees sole authority to nominate and elect its Board of Trustees without requiring ratification from the MN Conference. Another allows the Hamline University Board of Trustees to determine the location of the university without annual conference approval.

We may not have had late night ice cream runs but we came together in community and we used the chat box (a lot!) to greet one another. 2020 will be a year to remember. If you would like a little more information about the legislation or want to listen to Bishop Ough's Episcopal address, go to www.minnesotaumc.org and click on 2020 Annual Conference. Thank you for the privilege of representing you!

Run For The Loaves 2020

By
Brad
Saufferer



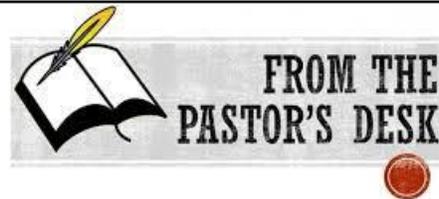
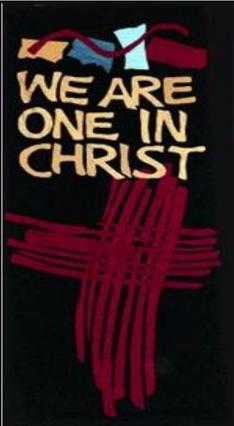
September 19th was a clear, cool day, perfect for a four-mile run. Complying with the churches COVID19 rules, we limited the number of those present to fifty people or less. Coach Chatelaine brought twenty-seven members of the Owatonna cross country team plus a former team member who ran with his brother. The Janke family provided Mikayla, Weston, Raelyn, and a Polaris Ranger side by side to help with set up, take down and to lead the runners. Theresa Riecke photographed the event. Pastor Kathy welcomed everyone and spread a little joy throughout the gathering. Beth Christesen registered the runners and Mike Nicholson once again showed up early, stayed late and helped with everything, including driving the sag wagon. The Race was on.

Pastor Kathy blessed the runners, Coach Chatelaine blew his whistle, and they were off. It was the fastest run we've ever had. With no walkers everyone was back at the church in less than twenty-five minutes. All runners were safe, uninjured and a little winded. Just another workout. It would have killed me.

For the first time ever, we also held a virtual run. We are still counting those who ran or walked four miles wherever they chose and hopefully will post a selfie to the church's website.

I'd like to thank Coach Chatelaine and the Owatonna High School for devising a way for the team to safely attend and the team and their parents who drove them to the run. A thank you to the Waseca Sheriff's department who sent deputy Jay Dulas and one other to slow traffic and keep the runners safe on the road. Thanks to Culligan of Owatonna for providing water and Cash Wise of Owatonna for providing bananas for the post run. A thank you to the virtual runners/walkers who donated and participated. The biggest thanks to Pastor Kathy and the Blooming Grove Congregation for supporting the run and making it possible.

Planning has already started on next year's run. We are looking to make it bigger and possibly more diverse. As always, it's never too late to send a donation. Send it to the Blooming Grove Church, PO Box 171, Medford MN 55049, with "Run for the Loaves" on the memo line.



October 2020 Unity

As I write these words, October is less than a week away. The trees are beginning to color the landscape with the vibrant reds, yellows, and oranges that make this time of year a favorite for so many. I often hear exclamations that “fall is my favorite time of the year—the colors!” It is something that most of us agree on. It is good to have something in common! It is what many of our Gospel lessons have encouraged these past few weeks. 2 Corinthians 13: 11 offers words our churches and our country need to hear in these times.

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Our three churches have reason to celebrate in these times—in spite of the pandemic. Our outdoor worship services have given us opportunities to gather and worship in community. It is good to see those of you who attend services at your sister churches. Thank you for your willingness to join as a parish to offer praise to a God who grants us these opportunities. I am looking forward to our Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Service on October 4th. I hope you and your family can join us as we gather in a place where there is plenty of room to keep a safe distance that will enable us to sing and take part in our service liturgy.

Our outdoor services will end for this season with our October 24th and 25th services. Each congregation will have a service with Janesville meeting on Saturday at 5:00 p.m., Blooming Grove meeting at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, October 25th, and Waterville meeting at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 25th. Jaden Elkhe will be confirmed at the Janesville service. Tegan Flatau and Emma Ready will be confirmed at the Waterville service.

Your leadership team is working to create opportunities for our Sunday School aged kids to have online lessons and crafts. If you're interested in helping, please let me know? Kids from all three churches are welcome to participate. Our Confirmation classes will also meet online with Janesville and Waterville youth participating.

Our Bible Study gatherings continue every other Tuesday morning and every other Saturday. If you're interested, send me an email or text if you'd like more information.

We have many opportunities to gather in our virtual world where there are no community boundaries. It is the perfect place to realize we are all God's family with many things in common. Let us encourage one another. Above all, let us remember our unity as the body of Christ!

Be well dear ones, wear your masks, and keep washing those hands.

Pastor Kathy

Happy Birthday

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



Anniversary

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

Mikayla Spinler Receives Scholarship



This year the Minnesota Pork Board awarded five scholarships to young people pursuing careers in agricultural related fields. Mikayla Spinler is one of the youths receiving this scholarship. Mikayla is a senior at Iowa State

University, majoring in animal science with a minor in agronomy. This summer she was a research intern with Iowa Pork Industry Center based out of Ames, Iowa, where she worked on research projects with professors from Iowa State, Purdue and Kansas State. She is a past intern at Christensen Farms and Ag Partners. After graduation, Mikayla plans on attending graduate school to study monogastric nutrition. Her goal is to become a swine nutritionist and work for a feed nutrition company formulating swine rations.



Thanks to everyone who donated to this year's ALS Walk. The Rochester Walk raised \$66,349, which was 10.6% over the goal! Our family team raised \$3,445.

Hopefully, we can actually all gather and walk together next year.

Brian & Carolyn Kanne

1st John, Chapter 4, Verse 12

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us..

Treasurer's Report



August 25—September 26, 2020

General Budget Income **\$ 3,160.00**

Expenses	
Salary Expense	\$ 1,417.15
Disability Insurance	17.97
Health Insurance	438.90
Pastor's Non Health Flex	15.83
Pastor's Housing	380.00
Pension	212.69
Lawn Mowing	950.00
Excel Energy	81.38
Total Expenses	\$ 3,513.15

(Net Income: – \$ 353.92)

Other Income Received

Restoration	250.00
Run For The Loaves	1,145.00

Thank you for your continued financial support of Blooming Grove UMC

Thank you for your continuing financial support of BGUMC in these difficult days of the coronavirus and social distancing. Your gifts make our ongoing ministry in our church family and community possible, even while we cannot be together, and as we now reach out to people through the use of technology. Your contributions help pay our pastor, building expenses, utilities, insurance, our United Methodist apportionments, and all the other components of life in the church. During this time when we are unable to physically gather, please send your gifts/checks to Blooming Grove United Methodist, P.O. Box 171, Medford, MN 55049-0171. Again, thank you.



Church family,

I will be having surgery on October 8th to repair my left shoulder's rotator cuff. Jon Schultz will lead our outdoor services on October 10, 11, 17, and 18th. I will pre-record our online services for those two weekends. I am hoping to be well enough to answer my phone in my down time. Jerry has promised to cook for me while I am recuperating. He already has the menu planned—hot dogs and toast. Sounds like I'll be well cared for.

Pastor Kathy



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.

- Melvin, friend of members of BGUMC, and father of church neighbors, as he works to rebound from some set-backs in his rehab and recovery process following an aortic aneurism in May.
- Dee, Pastor Kathy's mom, as she continues in her journey of living with ongoing health concerns.
- Marlis Mahler's brother, Harley, as he begins his second intense round of chemotherapy treatments for an aggressive form of cancer.
- The son of a co-worker of Marlis Mahler, and his family, as he recovers from surgery to remove his colon - compromised by a long battle with Crohn's disease. He has one of our prayer shawls and would appreciate our reloading it with our prayers.
- Little baby Kinsley, granddaughter of Ken and Tena Harren, who has been hospitalized in Rochester for the month of September following a tracheostomy, insertion of ear tubes, and extensive hand surgeries. She is getting used to her trach and all of the care it requires. Her new ear tubes never bothered her at all and she has adapted to casted hands and arms. Each day she learns new things and can play with her toys thanks to Velcro strips on her casted hands and arms. She will be in her glittery purple casts for a bit more - and then true miracles will appear - separated fingers! Soon she will be able to return home. Please continue in prayer for Kinsley's family and her medical team.
- Alex and Lacey, and baby Bowen, as they give thanks for medical conditions ruled out for Bowen - and for the gift of his gaining weight. Continue to hold them in prayer as they work with doctors in the months ahead to find answers for Bowen's medical concerns.
- Sam Kanne (son of David and Jenny), who will have extensive wrist surgery on October 7th to repair an undiagnosed break from past sports injuries. He is looking at 16-17 weeks of healing

and will do rehab through his football coaches and trainers at Bemidji State.

- The safety of our farming community, as people begin long/late hours in the fields with fall harvest.
- All in our circle of family, friends, neighbors, communities - as we continue in the "fall phase" of COVID-19. Pray for students, teachers, and staff in school/college - in ever-evolving formats of "live", hybrid, virtual, or home-school learning, for employees who have returned to their physical work locations rather than working from home, and for all in the medical field who are working so hard to keep up with increased demands of testing as well as increased demands for care.
- 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.

**Thank You to
Faye Kanne
55+ Years on the
BGUMC Worship Com-
mittee**



Our deepest thanks go to Faye Kanne as she "retires" after 55+ years of creative volunteering with the BGUMC Worship Committee! Her gifts of music, art, fabric design, banner design, altar and sanctuary design, and planning unique worship experiences have been treasures that have ministered to us all - touching our hearts, minds, and souls. We also thank her for serving as one of our church organists and for sharing her gift of song in the alto section of the BGUMC choir.

Faye began her journey with this committee as a group of two, meeting with Dallas Mahler (Judy's mom) in what was then the upstairs apartment in Faye's farmhouse. Over the years, the committee expanded to include more members - and pastors - as it fit their interests and their availability. Faye said that it was the most fun of all committees - being able to brainstorm with a creative group of people who were open to freely bouncing ideas back and forth, and laughing and caring for one another along the way.

When the day comes that we can once again gather in the sanctuary, Faye looks forward to still being involved in decorating the altar for each season of the church year, and any other fun cooked up by the Worship Committee!

Bishop's message: Staying safe as we head into fall

September 18, 2020

By Bishop Bruce R. Ough

Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area

The United Methodist Church



Friends in Christ,

As you know, this has been an intense season for our churches. But you have risen to the occasion by pivoting to move your ministry online. You have responded to the call for racial justice and played a key role in rebuilding our communities following the killing of George Floyd. You have been diligent in developing practices to keep your congregation safe amid COVID-19 by caring for one another and gathering in creative ways. I am so thankful for your perseverance and innovation in the face of these unrelenting challenges.

As we turn the page to fall, a time when we're used to kicking off a new year of programming and children's ministries, we find ourselves still in "[Stay Safe MN](https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-mn.jsp)" mode (<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-mn.jsp>) and needing to continue to significantly limit our in-person gatherings. Everything is different, and it looks like this will be our new normal for the foreseeable future. As we head into this new season, I want to offer some reminders and encouragement:

1. Pandemic fatigue is real, but we cannot relax in our efforts to keep people safe. With cold weather approaching, it will be tempting to think we can be the exception—that we can gather like we used to and no one will get sick. Unfortunately, there are tragic stories of church-related coronavirus outbreaks from all over the country. Gathering indoors in groups is still a high-risk activity. It is critical that you, as leaders, have developed your [COVID-19 preparedness plan](https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan) in accordance with our [phased re-gathering plan](https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan) (<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan>) and that you hold to it for the sake of the most vulnerable in your midst. We are called to make our love for one another incarnational. We do this by protecting each other and our neighbors. If you and your church leadership team or council has made a thoughtful and prayerful decision to resume in-person worship, your preparedness plan needs to include:
 - a. a requirement for masks to be worn by all persons
 - b. people staying at least six feet apart
 - c. strict adherence to the [state-mandated capacity limits](https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp) (<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>) (we strongly recommend staying well below them) [phased re-gathering plan](https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan) (<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan>)
 - d. no congregational singing
 - e. cleaning and sanitizing public spaces between each group gathering
2. Christmas is coming. As painful as this is to think about, it is unlikely that we will be able to have a large number of people together, shoulder to shoulder, on Christmas Eve holding candles and singing "Silent Night." Take a moment to lament this loss. And then, remembering Mary and Joseph who left what was comfortable to go on a journey to Bethlehem, start planning for how you can help bring Christmas to your community in fresh and new ways. Things won't look and feel like they used to, but that was the case at Jesus' birth too—he was God's in-breaking in startling new ways. We have an important opportunity to try something completely different that reaches people in our mission fields in new ways.
3. Continue to be kind and generous to yourselves and one another. This is a hard time for all of us. Give yourself grace. We are all doing the best we can, and we are all making decisions based on our particular context. Be wise about how you steward your time, resources, and energy. Ask the tough questions that lead to clarity about where to invest and where to let go so that you stay true to your mission while continuing to adapt and refine your methods for growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people, and healing a broken world in this unique season of ministry.

I pray for you and our world daily. May we be people who offer light and hope to a weary world!

A pandemic of kindness

September 23, 2020

By Cindy Gregorson

Director of ministries for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Please be kind. Even when it's hard to be kind, be kind, be tolerant. This is our COVID year. We're gonna get through this. We just have to get through it with as much grace and class as possible. Be safe. Be kind.

—Dr. Michael Osterholm, Osterholm Update Podcast, Episode #24

I have always had this simple dream for the church: that we would be known by our love. I know, it seems so sappy and simple. Love.

But...what about our great online presence? Our awesome children's ministry? Our famous pasties/apple pies/roast beef dinner...? Our beautiful building? We have invested so much in these things. Wouldn't it be great if everyone knew about them? Maybe. But perhaps the world needs something very different from us right now.

Bishop Ough shared at this year's Clergy Session what he called the four "P's" affecting our lives: pandemic, protests, politics, and postponement (of General Conference). I think he could have added peril given the increase of natural disasters related to climate change that we are experiencing. All those pressures are having an impact. People are angry. We are scared. We are tired. And we are divided. More divided as a nation than I can ever recall.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control seem to be in short supply. Oh, certainly there are daily acts of kindness in our communities and our world, but overwhelmingly the airwaves are filled with animosity. We don't give each other the benefit of the doubt. We don't have the patience to listen to others. We are easily irritated. We have little appetite for nuance. We have made up our minds and don't you dare infringe on my rights.

While out conducting community surveys and doing random testing to better understand the spread of COVID-19, state and federal health workers were threatened not once, but twice, in recent weeks just for doing their job, for trying to figure out how to manage this pandemic. Really?

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way. You know those words, right? Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Calling them to a more excellent way.

So here is my little proposition: The church is supposed to be an alternative to the culture. We are to embody what the kin-dom of God looks like. *God is love—and if we do not love our brother or sister whom we can see, then we cannot say we love God whom we cannot see.* Love is the heart and root of who we are. It is our calling. It is what sets us apart. *They will know we are Christians by our love.*

There are a zillion articles and webinars out there about how to navigate this pandemic and what church will look like into the future and what we need to do as we adapt to a new reality. And, yes, we need to pay attention to some of that. But I wonder if what we really need to be doing in this time is going back to our origin story, steeping ourselves in 1 Corinthians 13, Romans 12, Philippians 2, and Colossians 3, to name a few...and becoming people who truly embody that vision of the church. If we commit ourselves to those practices and attitudes, and we keep striving to live them out collectively and in our daily lives, can we infect the world with a different kind of virus that multiplies—one of love and compassion? I find it ironic that an epidemiologist (and a good Lutheran to be sure) is the evangelist for a "pandemic of kindness," as Dr. Osterholm calls it. It's what we need right now, he says. I couldn't agree more.

I am under no illusion that this is easy. I live with people, and we get on each other's nerves. I know the challenge of choosing love rather than harboring resentment and irritation. But I also know that I would be drawn to a community that is serious about helping people grow up in love because that is the kind life I want to live and the kind of world I want to live in. So church, a pandemic of kindness. An outbreak of love. Can we start something that would change the current trajectory of our nation? If not us, then who? If not now, then when?

Blooming Grove Church Council Meeting
September 9, 2020
Carolyn Kanne, Council Secretary



In attendance (socially distanced in Dave & Sheryl Brisel's garage): Hjordi Churchill, Pastor Kathy King, Brad & Cindy Saufferer, Tracie Spinler, Carolyn Kanne, Judy Mahler, Dave & Sheryl Brisel

Prior Meeting Minutes

No one had anything to add.

Finance

- Treasurer and Financial Secretary report. Tracie had a question on how to handle the CD coming due. The Council decided to leave it for another 6 months. Cindy asked whether our mission outreach has been the same as previous years. Carolyn said she would check with Brian. (answer: no, it isn't – mostly due to not meeting in person and bringing forth opportunities)
- Pastor Kathy - Clarification RE Conference 3 month pension/health holiday clarifications from Parish Treasurer and Conference rep – No update.
- Final cost of steeple repair – On Tracie's report: \$23,056.00
- Conference Love Offering update – On Brian's report: \$145. It was asked if we could continue to collect for this. Cindy said she would check. (answer: yes, we can collect through 12/31/2020)
- Council conversation - how are things going for BGUMC financially in these days of COVID-19? We are okay with the budget; mission outreach question above.

COVID-19

- Pastor Kathy - Updates, if any, from MN Conference regarding COVID-19 Guidelines (currently still in Yellow Phase and our "Yellow" PLP COVID-19 Response Plan still in effect) – Refer to survey from the conference that she shared via email. Per the survey, it appears that our combination of offering weekly virtual worship on our Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook page, plus offering weekly drive-up worship from end of July through October among our three Prairie Lakes Parish Churches, is reflective of what the majority of Minnesota UMCs have been providing.
- Judy - Tech Team update RE use of \$3,000 PLP grant money (Tech team members - Judy, Mason, Weston) – We haven't used all the grant money yet. So far, the following items have been purchased: 2 outdoor speakers, mixer board, FM tuner, etc. needed for outdoor worship. Still intending to invest in a laptop
- Worship Team and Pastor Kathy - On-Line and

Drive-Up Worship – Drive-up is working well. We will be continuing our online presence

- ◊ Pastor Kathy would like to investigate online kids' gatherings
- ◊ Discussion of adding a screen to the new addition's gathering space and/or our historic building. Cindy knows of a couple of churches who have done it without distracting from their building. Judy mentioned Jerry Mahler as a possible resource.
- ◊ Cindy moved that a Technology Strategy Team be created to explore AV systems and Social Media in the church. Tracie seconded the motion. The motion passed. Discussion followed, and Cindy amended the motion to include a review and recommendations for our Website. Brad seconded. The motion passed. Pastor Kathy will contact several people to serve on this committee.
- Judy - Cleaning and sanitizing supplies - and request to re-start once a month cleaning with our regular cleaners on the "off" weekends in the 6-week worship rotation – Tracie will check with our cleaners.
- Carolyn - Outreach - Mission of Masks for the Public Schools – 106 masks have been donated already.

Trustees (Updates from June council meeting minutes)

- Filling in the ruts left by the lift used in the steeple project – This will be done later, since there will be more construction traffic.
- Estimate to waterproof the basement - \$21,799.50. The cement blocks in the walls are full of water and it seeps out. The Trustees think it should be done, but can wait until after the construction project (and we'll see how much money we have). The good news is that the kitchen walls are okay. In addition, it would cost another \$11,000 to anchor the walls, which are bowed again.
- Building use policy – Per Brad Saufferer, we are fairly up to date with the going rate. \$350 to use the building for a wedding for non-members. Building use is free for members.

Building Project

- Trustees - Estimated timeline for excavation/concrete — and for construction - and any other construction updates (i.e. septic) – End of September. Depending upon Dahle's schedule, the

steps could come out this next week.

- Brian - Line of Credit/Construction Loan – Brian contacted Hjordi with a couple of items of information he will need. He plans to have the loan ready to use by 10/1/2020.
- Brad/Brad/Brian - Premier Lift contracts – Per Dixon Rypka, the price won't change. We should order close to the time we need it, as the warranty will start at that point.
- Carolyn - Update RE MN Conference Builders East Grant Status and/or other grant information – No further information. The need-by date Carolyn provided was 1/1/2021.
- Hjordi - Insurance Review - Builder's Risk – Hjordi needs some further info from the Trustees before proceeding further.
- Council Conversation - Building Project financing and fundraising – Brad Spinler has already been mulling over a drive-thru Fish Fry across the road from the church at their bin site. There is also the possibility of sponsorship of steps, windows, restrooms, etc.
 - ◊ Brad Saufferer asked about access to our Website to post construction updates. This is difficult on the Website, but much easier on our Facebook page.

Additional Ministry Updates

- Update from BGUMC teams/groups, i.e. Education, Communications, UMW – No updates.
- Bishop Bruce Ough retires at the end of 2020 and Bishop David Bard (Michigan) appointed to be our interim bishop for 2021 - in addition to his duties in Michigan
- Updates from Pastor Kathy, including
 - ◊ August wedding – Outdoors near Kilkenny, then to BG to take pictures on the steps.
 - ◊ Course of Study – Continues online
- Mission focus for Advent/Christmas? – Continue the Love Offering, which includes Emma Norton and the Committee on Native American Ministry's Diaper-Drop.
- Looking ahead:
 - ◊ Nominations Team (Kathy King, Allison Janke, Theresa Riecke, Hjordi Churchill) - officer/team/committees for **2021**
 - ◊ Year-End reports
 - ◊ Charge Conference Meeting – Probably online
- Other items
 - ◊ Run 4 the Loaves Virtual event in September – T-shirts are available to order. The Owatonna Cross Country team will come out and actually run. Others may participate virtually.
 - ◊ Parish Outdoor Worship Service set for Sunday,

October 4th at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm – 10 am start for ordering pizzas, 10:30 am worship service – sit within your family groups, music provided by Kristin Ziemke, part-time musician for Janesville and Waterville UMCs (3 churches will pay her)

Next Meeting Date Wednesday, December 2nd
Closing - Pastor Kathy closed with prayer.

COVID-19: Mask Mission Stories



We bring you stories of BGUMC members who are bringing God's light and hope to the world by making COVID-19 face-masks and sharing them with our communities. (If anyone has additional updates along the way, please let Carolyn Kanne know so that we can share them as well!)

This summer:

- Theresa Riecke made between 30 and 40 face masks. The majority were donated to Viracon in Owatonna. Some also were given to Amanda's friends and their families.
- Carolyn Kanne made 18 masks - all donated to Faribault's District One Hospital.
- Faye Kanne made a total of 178 masks, donating 57 to Faribault's District One Hospital, 81 to Public Health in Owatonna, 10 to family, and 30 to miscellaneous recipients.

In early September we saw our mask-makers Faye Kanne and Carolyn Kanne create and send 106 masks to the Medford Public Schools for use by teachers and students. Thank you to LeAnn Kanne for donating the fabric and to Chery Southworth for donating Ziploc bags for packaging.

Here at the end of September:

- Linda Danks is completing the creation of her 300th face mask...and has more to go! In her months of sewing, she has given them away to anyone in need of one, including friends, immediate family, extended family, the Medford Firefighters, and others in the community. Linda said that she still has a good supply of material on hand that she will gladly share with other mask-makers! Just give her a call.
- Faye Kanne created and sent 50 masks with Marlis Mahler for use with Marlis' students and co-workers at Lincoln Elementary School in Owatonna. Faye has now created a total of approximately 300 masks as well and is making more!

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

October 2020

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Physical Address:

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

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Medford, MN 55049-0171

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Check us out on Facebook!

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If you would rather read your copy of the Visitor online, (and in color) check us out at www.bloominggroveumc.org

To unsubscribe or to be added to our email distribution list, contact cherysouth@gmail.com

Prairie Lakes Parish

October Drive-Up Worship Schedule

(Prairie Lakes Parish Members are welcome to attend any of these services)



Oct 4 Sunday 10:30 AM Blooming Grove, Janesville, Waterville Evangelical

Outdoor Worship at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm plus invitation to order Pizza for outdoor picnic lunch. See pages 5 & 6 for details.

Oct 10 Saturday 5:00 PM Blooming Grove UMC

Oct 11 Sunday 9:00 AM Janesville UMC

Oct 17 Saturday 5:00 PM Waterville Evangelical UMC

Oct 18 Sunday 9:00 AM Blooming Grove UMC

Oct 24 Saturday 5:00 PM Janesville UMC

Oct 25 Sunday 8:30 AM Blooming Grove UMC

Oct 25 Sunday 10:30 AM Waterville Evangelical UMC

(Last Weekend of Drive-up Worship)

During our time together, please follow our best practices of social distancing:

- ◇ Gather by family and maintain 6 feet of distance from members of other family groups. By doing so masks do not need to be worn.
- ◇ Even in outdoor settings, social distancing remains a best practice. If you find yourself interacting with someone outside of your family at less than 6 feet, please wear a mask.