



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 84, Issue 1

THE TWO STEELED CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

January 2020

Readers, Greeters & Treats

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Jan 5 | Reader: Don Frankenberry
G&T: Chuck & Linda Danks |
| Jan 12 | Reader: Hjordi Churchill
G&T: Hjordi Churchill & Judy Mahler |
| Jan 19 | Reader: Marlis Mahler
G&T: Dave & Sheryl Brisel |
| Jan 26 | Reader: Carolyn Kanne
Greeter & Treats needed |



**Sunday January 12th
A Morning of Celebration!
2nd Sunday Funday
9:45 – 10:30 A.M.**

Celebrating Nature and One Another

January's inter-generational 2nd Funday will hold adventures in two parts! We invite all members, and all ages, of the congregation to join in the fun in the Fireside Room! There's always some good fellowship during these monthly events. ALL are welcome (recognize that phrase from the Christmas program?) and the grandparent-age participants can be seen assisting the youngest with the activities..... and the youngest help infect the more 'serious' oldsters with smiles and laughter as craft-work is completed.

Part 1: We will once again be thinking of our fine-feathered friends and celebrating the beauty and joy they bring into our lives in the cold and bleak winter months. We will create easy-to-make pinecone peanut butter bird feeders to take home and hang in your yard. D'ya think a turkey-gobbler giggle might be heard on this 2nd Sunday Funday?

Part 2: We will create ornaments symbolizing all of the gifts and talents shared by (and with) the congregation of BGUMC throughout the year (mowing the lawn, tracking finances, paying the bills, plowing snow, knitting prayer shawls, baking treats for Sunday mornings, reinforcing swingsets, cleaning up after ourselves, etc.) – to be hung in the sanctuary as part of morning worship.



**Sunday January 12th
10:45 A.M. - Morning
Worship
An Epiphany Celebration
of All who Share God's
Love and Light**

During our time together in worship, we will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord, celebrate God's naming of each of us as God's children, and celebrate and express thanks for the gifts of time, talent, and treasures that we each share in the ministry of BGUMC. We will bring down our little pencil tree from the attic and hang the ornaments created during the morning's 2nd Sunday Funday gathering (see previous article). For each gift of service/self/light that is named and hung on the tree, we will add a battery-tealight candle to a tall-tiered bright and shiny Epiphany Green assembly on the altar table, showing that each individual light is important and makes a difference, and that when we share those lights together, we can do more than we could ever imagine. Added together, they represent God's love and light that we can share with one another and the world.

Education & Events

Oooops! Sorry! Due to a boo-boo on my part, you received mis-information about Sunday School when BGUMC is the 3rd service of our 3-church charge.

Sunday School will run from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. during our winter months (through May). You get to sleep in a bit!or shovel the driveway... or warm up the car, or manage your young one's cowlick.... or -? Apologies to parents and kids alike, that you were told 9:15 was the start time. I was goofed up on church start time. Now we all know. (Patti Ellingson)



2020: New Beginnings

2 Corinthians 5:17



Our new calendar tells us it's time for a new year to begin! I see the commercials that always are prevalent at this time of year... "be a new you!" usually associated with losing weight or shedding some old habit.

It's become a custom with my granddaughters in our emails, phone calls (yes, we still actually talk to each other on the phone occasionally!), and texts to end our conversations with "I love you" to which the reply is "I love you more!"

We are blessed to know the Nativity story—we are blessed to be God's beloved—and we are called to carry the story so that all will know the promise of the Savior born to us. That is more!

As we begin a new year in Christ, let us find quiet moments to hear the words whispered from our God... "I love you more!"

Jerry and I are blessed beyond words by each one of you—by your kindness, your friendships, and your invitation to journey alongside you in these faith journeys we are on! We continue to move into what it means to be a new faith community—each still very much a stand-alone congregation but willing to support our sister churches whenever we can. The old has gone. We are accepting the change the new is bringing. May we have the courage to continue to change where change is needed, the compassion to help where and when we can, and ears to listen to the Holy Spirit leading us into our new! It is my prayer that 2020 helps us see the new creation we've become through our Savior—Jesus Christ!

Happy New Year dear ones!

Pastor Kathy

January 2020

Blooming Grove

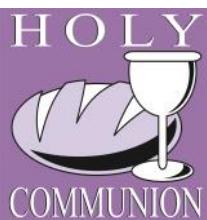
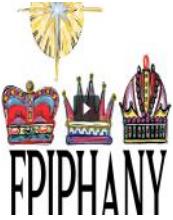
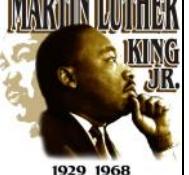
Worship 10:45 am
Sunday School..... 9:45 am

Janesville

Worship 8:15 am

Waterville Evangelical

Worship 9:30 am

			1 	2	3	4
5 Holy Communion 	6  Pastor's Day Off	7 pm BG Building Project Team Meeting	8 5—6:30 pm WV Spaghetti Supper 6:30—7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry & Confirmation	9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day  6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	10	11 11:30 am WV at SCDC
12 Epiphany Celebration of Love and Light	13 5-7 pm WV Ad Council Pastor's Day Off	14	15 6:30—7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry 7 pm JV Board Council	16 6:00 BG UMW  6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	17	18 11:30 am WV at SCDC
19	20  Pastor's Day	21 6:45 pm SPRC Meeting with DS at WV	22 6:30—7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry	23 11:30 am BG Prayer Brunch at Olivia's in Owatonna 6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	24	25 11:30 am WV at SCDC
26	27	28	29 6:30—7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry	30 6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	Coding Information SCDC—Steele County Detention Center RC—Rice County	

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:45 am

- 7 Tues 7:00 pm Building Project Team Mt
12 Sun 10:45 am Epiphany Celebration of Love and Light
16 Thurs 6:00 pm UMW Gathering Invitation
7:00 pm UMW Meeting
21 Tues 6:45 pm SPRC meeting with DS
23 Thurs 11:30 am Prayer Brunch at Oliva's

Cleaning

January 12, 26 Nancy & Susan

Paraments

January 5, 12 White
January 19, 26 Green

Happy January Birthday

- 4 Charlie Brecht
10 Burch Buchholz
10 Jerry Mahler
13 Jennifer (Danks) Beck
17 Derek Bartosch
19 Chris Fyvie
22 Linda Kosal
23 Haley Nagel
25 Callie Nagel
25 Jim Nagel
28 Brad Spinler
30 Annette Sharp
30 JJ Morgan
31 Erin Nelson



It's a girl!



Welcome New Baby!

Congratulations to Fred and Stephanie Fyvie, of Blaine, MN, on the November 25th birth of their son Oliver. Oliver joins his big sister Bailey in creating a delightful household! Oliver's grandparents are Jerry and Patti Ellingson.



From the Mailbox:

I enjoyed a contact from Marlis Mahler and want you all to know how much our family cherishes our memories of Morristown and Blooming Grove! Your activities amaze me! This is my first week in Eagan!

Love to all! Norm Witt

Please write or stop by:

Stonehaven Senior Living, 1000 Station Trail #202
Eagan, MN 55123



Treasurer's Report

November 21—December 27, 2019

General Budget Income	\$8,239.00
Expenses	
Pastors Salaries	1,393.33
Housing allowance	380.00
Health Insurance	418.00
Pension	212.22
Disability Insurance	17.73
Conference Claim	1,355.84
Bible School	81.17
Adopted Family	100.00
Cleaning	126.00
Excel Energy	41.59
Gifts Given	25.00
Total Expenses	\$ 4,150.88

(Net Income: + \$ 4,088.12)

Other Income Received

Adopted Family	20.00
Cemetery Mowing	500.00
Kamisamba Farm	847.12
Poinsettias	367.00
Restoration	565.00
UMW Scholarship	15.00

Do You Have An IRA? (Individual Retirement Account)

If so, and if you are over 70 years old, your required minimum distribution can be given to the church directly and not count as taxable income. (If you take money from your IRA and then write a check to the church, those dollars are taxable!) Check with your tax advisor, you can help yourself and our congregation!



BGUMC Fleece Blanket Project

On December 22nd, our most recent bundle of warm fleece blankets created during 2nd Sunday Fundays, and by members of the congregation at home, were delivered to Bethlehem Inn in Waseca. Bethlehem Inn is a transitional housing organization for women and children and was one of the recipients of funds donated during this summer's BGUMC Worship service at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. Prior to delivery, the blankets were passed through the congregation for prayers to add to their comforting warmth. What wonderful gifts during Minnesota's snowy winter – just in time for Christmas.



*Bree, on staff @
Bethlehem Inn,
Waseca women's shelter,
gratefully accepted a
half dozen fleece blan-
kets donated by us.
Several of the kids were
eager to be in the
picture!
(with parental consent).*



Advent/Christmas Mission Offering **JOIN HANDS** **God With Us, God In Us, God Through Us**

This year's Advent/Christmas Mission Offering celebrated the wonderful gift of God, who came to down to earth to walk hand-in-hand with us in community, and who lives in us and through us. In response, we reached out to join hands in continued partnership with the Kamisamba Farm and Training Center in the Democratic Republic of Congo – in their exciting work through the UMC General Board of Global Ministries. For each \$20 given, we added one paper-doll cut-out to our multi-hued paper doll chain, that reaches out to encircle our sanctuary!

As of December 29th – \$1,082.12 will be given to the Kamisamba Farm through the generosity of many loving hearts and hands:

- September through November: \$215.00 donated through Noisy Can Offerings on 2nd Sunday Fundays
- 12/15/19: \$231.71 Sunday School Christmas Program
- 12/22/19: \$60.00
- 12/24/19: \$485.41 Christmas Eve Service
- 12/29/19: \$90.00

Our donations toward the work at Kamisamba Farm will be submitted as "North Katanga Kamisamba Farm – Advance # 04533A". 100% of every dollar given will go to the farm.

Advent and Christmas Thank-Yous

Thank you to the many, many persons who made our Advent and Christmas season at BGUMC a time of wonderful welcome, filled with the love of God who came to earth to live among us. Thank you to:

- All who decorated our sanctuary for this holy season.
- All who led our Advent Call to Worships and Candle-Lighting readings.
- Parents and grandparents of Sunday School children, along with others from the congregation, who shared fabulous costumes and props for our Christmas Program, including a dinosaur, dragon, bumblebee, monkey, lion, tigers, pig, sheep, cows, a turkey, unicorn, donkey, dove, and a real live "turkey gobbler".
- All who baked delicious Advent and Christmas treats to share with the congregation during Sunday morning coffee times.
- All who helped prepare our sanctuary, and entire facility, for the Christmas Eve Service
- All who helped lead our Christmas Eve service, both through liturgy, as well as extending a hand of hospitality to greet 72 friends, guests, and members of our extended families.
- All who donated to the Christmas Mission Offering for the Kamisamba Farm. (See related story.)
- All who provided gifts and donations for our Adopt-a-Family, adopted through the Medford High School National Honor Society. Your generosity is incredible. A special thank-you to those who coordinated this time of sharing, who went shopping for our family with monetary gifts given by the congregation, and who delivered all of the gifts to the Medford High School.
- Those who kept the church parking lot plowed in order to provide access to all.

children's program



ALL Are Welcome

At The Manger

ALL are welcome at the manger was the message; and has always been the message from our Lord. As stated early-on in the Sunday School Christmas program, it matters not who you are, what you look like, how old you are, what era you lived.... ALL are welcome.

Through some unique narrative and adorable action, we were shown that no-one should be turned away, whether a fierce-looking dinosaur (too ancient and old to have even lived at Jesus' birth), a fictional creature like a unicorn, a "dirty" pig, or a silly giggling gobbling turkey (wasn't that a fun auditory surprise to hear that gobbling giggler!!!).

To aid in conveying each character joining at the manger, traditional verses, along with some brand-new-specially-penned verses, of "The Friendly Beasts" were sung by the congregation.



Our preschoolers as a baby monkey, unicorn, and a "combo" bumblebee/tiger welcome everyone to the manger.

embrace everyone for their special gifts and unique abilities or experiences. May we love each other for who we are, and as we are.

Our morning offering included a Noisy Can collection, with the loose change making quite a racket. All Noisy Can proceeds will be sent to the Kamisamba Farm. (See related article.)

Following the story of welcome at the manger, our older youth assisted with serving Communion, where again, ALL were welcomed. The unique Communion responsive reading (*borrowed*

As our pre-schoolers so creatively demonstrated, under the heart-warming tender and attentive guidance and assistance from our older youth and adults, no-one should be turned away from the manger, including the times when we are all a bit wiggly or 'wander-y'! The delightful spontaneity and imagination of our "Littles" provided new glimpses of all the ways, times, and places the manger, and God's love, welcomes us all. Their unique perspective portrayed this message on a deeper level than we creators-of-the-program had even intended in it's writing. God's hand was definitely steering us all the way along!

May we live out this message - ALL are welcome – at the manger, in our congregation, in our midst, every day. May we reach out and

Leah, Bradley and Eleanora as a dragon, dinosaur, and bumblebee...accompanied by a donkey...on their way to the manger ... guided by Raelyn.

God welcomes us as we are...a moving monkey, a dragon/lion, a bumblebee/unicorn, a tiger, and a green dragon!





The noisy turkey who flew to the manger to give his gift of a goofy gobble to the Baby Jesus.



Holy Communion - Breaking the Bread - Weston, Raelyn, and Pastor Kathy

Please go to
www.bloominggroveumc.org
and open our Facebook page to see
the album of all photos from Christmas
Program 2019!

All Are Welcome At The Manger

from Roddy Hamilton, Church of Scotland) was especially meaningful and intentionally geared toward younger listeners.

To close our program, our “Littles” assembled our very special crèche (gifted to BGUMC by Eleanor Saufferer)... again, with guidance from our older youth, cuing and helping them to handle each figure with care. As each delicate piece was so carefully carried and then gently placed on the table by tiny hands, the manger scene was created. ALL were welcome at that manger, as well, with the playful little kitten gazing up at baby Jesus in the manger and the Bread Man and Star Gazer part of the scene (this is the *only* crèche I’ve ever seen with a Bread Man or a Star Gazer – ALL are welcome; Yes!!)

Our program was topped off with coffee, juice, and yummy cookies made by Linda Danks. A wonderful fellowship of visiting with each other and acknowledging our great kids followed another – successful – and unique – S.S. Christmas program.

Thanks are extended to the numerous volunteers who helped make this special service happen. We are so blessed to have people who openly volunteer and who respond with an eager “yes” when asked to help out!



Assembling our Christmas Creche that was gifted to BGUMC by Eleanor Saufferer many years ago.



Holy Communion - Sharing the Cup - Pastor Kathy and Amanda



Blooming Grove UMC

2019 Officers, Teams and Committees

Church Council (· Denotes Voting Member)

• Chair	Hjordi Churchill	(507) 456-1825	hjordi.hc@gmail.com
• Lay Leader	Allison Janke	(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
• Recording Secretary	Carolyn Kanne	(507) 475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
• Board of Trustees	Brad Spinler	(507) 461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
• Church Treasurer	Tracie Spinler	(507) 461-2194	tspinler@outlook.com
• Financial Sec.	Brian Kanne	(507) 456-8968	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
• PPRC Rep	Judy Mahler	(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
• UMW President	Char Frankenberry	(507) 676-3544	frankenberryc@gmail.com
• Youth Rep.	Mikayla Janke		mikaylajanke@gmail.com
• Education & Events	TBD		
• Memorials	Chery Southworth	(507) 339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
• Lay Delegate to AC	Cindy Saufferer	(507) 363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com

Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Allison Janke	Lay Leader	(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
Cindy Saufferer	(2020)	(507) 363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com
Judy Mahler (BG Chair)	(2021)	(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net

Finance Committee

Ad Council Chair	Hjordi Churchill (Chair)	(507) 456-1825	hjordi.hc@gmail.com
Lay Leader	Allison Janke	(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
Trustee Rep	Brad Spinler	(507) 461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
Treasurer	Tracie Spinler	(507) 461-2194	tspinler@outlook.com
Financial Secretary	Brian Kanne	(507) 456-8968	bckanne@fmwildblue.com

Worship Planning

Pastor Kathy King		(507) 382-2483	kking5@hickorytech.net
Faye Kanne		(507) 475-0101	hfkanne@gmail.com
Carolyn Kanne		(507) 475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
Judy Mahler		(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
Patti Ellingson		(507) 339-2477	peppermint_e@hotmail.com

Trustees

Class of 2020			
Brad Spinler (Chair)		(507) 461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
Dave Brisel		(507) 521-4742	dsbrisel@gmail.com

Class of 2021

Michael Janke		(507) 456-4806	jankema@hotmail.com
Brad Saufferer		(507) 363-6579	b_saufferer@msn.com

Class of 2022

Alex Spinler		(507) 461-4380	laceyঃspinler@gmail.com
Kris Nagel		(507) 475-0522	jknagel@hotmail.com

Nominations

Kathy King	Pastor	(507) 382-2483	kking5@hickorytech.net
Allison Janke	Lay Leader	(507) 456-7840	jakema@hotmail.com
Theresa Riecke (2020)		(507) 676-3488	theresariecke@gmail.com
Hjordi Churchill	Council Chair	(507) 456-1825	hjordi@gmail.com

Education & Events Team

Patti Ellingson	(507) 339-2477	peppermint_e@hotmail.com
Sheryl Brisel	(507) 521-4742	dsbrisel@gmail.com
Marlis Mahler	(507) 461-1260	mmahler@owatonna.k12.mn.us (work)
Tanecka Poe	(507) 838-5561	taneckapoe@yahoo.com
Allison Janke	(507) 456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
Lacey Spinler	(507) 475-3500	lacey.spinler@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

Carolyn Kanne	(507) 475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
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Communications

Chery Southworth	(507) 339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
Judy Mahler	(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
Carolyn Kanne	(507) 475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
Faye Kanne	(507) 475-0101	hfkanne@gmail.com

Memorials

Chery Southworth	(507) 339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
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Church Historian

TBD

Communion Steward

Hjordi Churchill	(507) 456-1825	hjordi.hc@gmail.com
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Auditors

TBD

Building Project Team**Church Council & Building**

Project Team Chair	Hjordi Churchill	(507) 456-1825	hjordi.hc@gmail.com
Finance	Brian Kanne	(507) 456-8968	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
UMW	Carolyn Kanne	(507) 475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
Communications	Judy Mahler	(507) 456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
Education/Events	Marlis Mahler	(507) 461-1260	mmahler@owatonna.k12.mn.us
Trustees	Brad Saufferer	(507) 363-6579	b_saufferer@msn.com
Trustees	Brad Spinler	(507) 461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
Trustees	Dave Brisel	(507) 521-4742	dbrisel@gmail.com
Pastor	Kathy King	(507) 382-2483	kking5@hickorytech.net



Blooming Grove Church Council Meeting – September 4, 2019

Reflections and Updates from Pastor Kathy King

Hjordi Churchill welcomed Pastor Kathy King to her first BG Council Meeting. Pastor Kathy shared her joy to be appointed here and her reflections from her first two months (July and August) in our newly formed 3-point charge. She also shared updates regarding plans for the fall, including her time at Course of Study in October.

Celebrating the Life of the Church

Lenten/Easter Offering – “Sharing Hearts of Love” (Spring)

- \$435.00 toward the Great Plains UMC Conference Disaster Response Fund #975 as they help with recovery efforts in this spring’s devastating flooding in Nebraska.
- \$265.00 toward the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the UMC as they help with recovery efforts following the Lee County Tornadoes in Alabama this spring.

Conference Love Offering (June)

\$925 to be divided at Annual Conference among recipients of this year’s offering: Lao Samphan Methodist church in Laos (60%). The Volunteer Lawyers Network, which provides free civil legal services to low-income Minnesotans (20%). Volunteers in Mission scholarships (20%).

Friendship Wagon Train (June 24)

BGUMC received an unforgettable visit from the 2019 Friendship Wagon Train during their 116-mile trip from Northfield to Kiester – a dedicated group of volunteers who set out each year on a week-long wagon train to raise funds for children and adults with developmental disabilities. That day, the Wagon Train circled camp on the south lawn of BGUMC for a scheduled noon rest break. 18 covered wagons, their teams of mules and horses, 13 horseback riders, and a total of 70 Wagon Train participants took a break as we provided a sloppy joe lunch and time for rest and fellowship before they continued on in their journey. 20 total BGUMC volunteers came together to provide the meal and serve as gracious hosts.

Pizza Farm Worship Service (July 21st)

BGUMC partnered with our country neighbor, the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, and the MN United Methodist music group, “World Beat Connection”, to lead 10:30 A.M. “Worship at the Farm”. The gathering was open to all persons in our congregation as well as the congregations of Janesville UMC, Waterville EUMC, our country neighborhood, and the surrounding communities. Our theme: Holding God’s Holy Word in Our Hands. All told, 86 people joined to worship together, plus the band. Through the generosity of participants and the Pizza Farm, we will send \$560.73 to the Iowa Annual Conference of the UMC to be used to aid the small farming community of Hamburg following the ongoing and devastating flooding there, and \$408.00 to Bethlehem Inn of Waseca to support their transitional housing program for women and children. Thank you to the 31 BGUMC volunteers who worked together to create and lead the event and provide extravagant hospitality for all guests.

Confirmation Retreat (August 16-17)

Pastor Kathy – along with co-leaders Karen Olson and Deb Brecht, led the confirmation kick-off retreat at the Brecht home on Horseshoe Lake for the three churches in our parish. Ten youth from the parish were in attendance. There was time for fun, laughter, study, and making new friends.

Vacation Bible School (August 23-25)

BGUMC created and led an innovative Vacation Bible School – “Little Theater on the Prairie”, centered on three Bible Stories: Baby Moses in the Basket (God Protects), The Good Samaritan Who Stopped to Help (God Loves), and The Prodigal Son Who Was Loved and Forgiven (God Forgives). Children participated in sessions filled with activity, fun, and opportunities to learn in fellowship with one another: Pastor Kathy introducing each story, a “Little Theater” reenactment of each story, music, refreshments, outdoor games, and arts & crafts. Thank you to the 25 BGUMC volunteers who were a part of creating, leading, and supporting this experience for our 8 great youth in attendance.

Meet and Greets for Pastor Kathy and Jerry (June, August, and September)

In addition to a welcome program and potluck on June 23rd, three Intergenerational Meet & Greet Events are being offered for our BGUMC congregation to spend time in fellowship with Pastor Kathy King and her husband, Jerry. Thank you to the 5 families who are working together to sponsor these events and to all who

are joining in the fun: August 31st - Muffin Mixer at the Janke Farm, September 7th - Ice Cream Bar at the Faye Kanne Farm, and September 22nd - Lunch Bunch at the Saufferer Farm.

Finance

Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by Tracie Spinler.

- To-date, we have paid \$14,769 to the architect for his portion of the building project. The estimated total, calculated at 7% of a preliminary estimate of total project cost of \$300,000 – will be \$21,000.
- Judy Mahler will follow-up with the new parish treasurer – Theresa Hill - regarding several parish book-keeping items in our new three-point charge.

Financial Secretary Report was approved as presented by Brian Kanne

Annual Conference Update

Cindy Saufferer was elected as one of 12 delegates to represent MN Annual Conference at the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

- She will attend the 2020 General Conference (May 5 – 15 in Minneapolis) as an alternate delegate, observing at the entire conference and stepping in on the delegate floor when the primary delegates take breaks or attend committee meetings. A primary topic will be to revisit The Way Forward.
- She will also attend the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference (July 15-18 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana) as a primary delegate. A primary topic will be the election of the next class of bishops.

Lydia Scarves

- United Methodists in the Dakotas and Minnesota crocheted 13,000 purple scarves after Lydia from Acts 16, which will be a tangible sign of radical hospitality to welcome all who come from all over the world to the next UMC General Conference in Minneapolis in 2020.
- Our own BGUMC artists (Faye Kanne, Sheryl Brisel, Carolyn Kanne, and Linda Danks) handcrafted 46 of these beautiful scarves that were blessed at the MN Annual Conference

Adoption of an Inclusive Vision for the Minnesota Conference of the UMC

- Annual Conference members voted 491-86 to adopt a vision for MN that names a commitment to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in the life of the church.
- Separate from the above vision, members also voted 446-108 to adopt a resolution that rejects the Traditional Plan that the 2019 Special Session of General Conference approved in February. That resolution “formally recognizes” that the Traditional Plan “does great harm to the witness of The United Methodist Church” and vows that “the MN Annual Conference will not perpetuate this harm in any form.”
- Dave Nuckols, a 2019 General Conference delegate and the MN Conference lay leader, described several strategies emerging across the country in response to General Conference 2019. Among them: amicably dividing and forming one or more new expressions of Methodism, trying one more time to re-structure the denomination to create more regional autonomy, and staying and continuing to work to define the ethos of The United Methodist Church. He stated that while we don’t yet know the way forward for The United Methodist Church, leaders and ministry teams within the MN Conference are monitoring the situation, doing research, and preparing for whatever may be next.
- Rev. Cindy Gregorson, MN Conference director of ministries, and Rev. Carol Zaagsma, who submitted the vision of commitment to inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people, will create a video and study guide for congregations to use as they engage in discussion around the vision and what it means for the MN Conference as well as for individual churches. All churches will be encouraged to use the study guide and video to help lead in conversations in the months ahead.

Trustees

- The ceiling tile in the sanctuary tested negative for asbestos and has now been repaired. As a result, we will not need to install a new ceiling.
- The paint on the pressed tin ceiling tile in the attic tested negative for lead.
- The structure of the outdoor swing set has been reinforced – after much great use!

Building Project Team

Provided a copy of the full-page article included in the September Newsletter that included a summary of the group's design work with the architect in June and July, a picture and description of the finalized architectural plan, and next steps for the months ahead.

Team/Group Updates

- Education & Events: Provided update for Rally Sunday on September 15th and beginning of Sunday School on September 22nd. Sunday School time is 9:15 A.M.. There will be classes for Pre-K and grades 4-5-6. No grades 1-3 this year
- PPRC: The BG sub-team has been acting as a support network for Pastor Kathy in her first months of ministry with BG, in the setting of our newly formed three-point charge. They expressed thanks to Pastor Kathy for all that she has already brought in her journey together with us.
- Communication Team: Will continue with newsletter publications and website/Facebook updates.
- Worship Team: Will work with Pastor Kathy as a parish worship team (BG, JV, WV) to coordinate Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas events and services.
- United Methodist Women: As a fund raiser for the UMW Scholarship fund for graduating Medford seniors, the UMW will be taking orders for homemade pies for Thanksgiving.

Other

- Charge Conference 2019: Pastor Kathy is exploring the option of requesting a local UMC Elder to lead a local charge conference in November for our Prairie Lakes Parish three-point charge in order that the three churches can have an opportunity to become better acquainted with one another.
- Emergency Call Information: has been posted on the back bulletin board, including input from our neighborhood Waseca Co. Deputy for best identifying the BGUMC location for emergency responders.
- Christmas Mission Offering: The Council decided to dedicate this to the Kamisamba Farm & Training Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There will also be “Noisy Can” Offerings in all three churches (BG, JV, WV) the 2nd Sunday of each month during morning worship - where all monies placed in the can will go to support this project as well.

Blooming Grove Church Council Meeting – December 4, 2019

Celebrating the Life of the Church

Meet and Greets for Pastor Kathy and Jerry (August & September)

Three Intergenerational Meet & Greet Events were offered for our congregation to spend time in fellowship with Pastor Kathy King and her husband, Jerry. Thank you to the 5 families who worked together to sponsor these events and to all who joined in the fun: August 31st – Muffin Mixer (16 persons in attendance), September 7th – Ice Cream Bar (17 people in attendance), and September 22nd – Lunch Bunch (25 people in attendance).

Annual Run 4 the Loaves 4 Mile Run/Walk (September)

47 runners and walkers helped make this event another success. Over \$1,800 was raised for area food shelves. Thank you to all in the congregation who volunteered to help 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. The youth of the group designed the t-shirt every contestant received – with a message of love and giving.

Emily Nagel & Brandon Church Wedding (September)

The congregation hosted and supported the Nagel and Church families during their evening rehearsal and wedding day.

Outreach of the BGUMC United Methodist Women (Fall)

- Making 14 apple and 6 pumpkin homemade Thanksgiving pies to raise funds in support of the UMW Scholarship Fund for Medford High School seniors
- Connecting with the Waterville and Janesville UMCs to help their UMWs rejuvenate, reorganize, and work together on Social Justice Action Projects.

Fleece Blankets (October and November)

Intergenerational Second Sunday Fun-Days in October and November were dedicated to handcrafting hand-tied fleece blankets of warmth and love to be given to people in need of support and prayer. It was also a time



of great community in which all ages joined together in laughter and stories while working toward a common goal of helping others.

- October: 12 volunteers completed 8 blankets – all of which were donated to District One Emergency Department staff in Faribault to give to patients.
- November: 12 volunteers (nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ in preschool and school-age) completed 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ blankets – awaiting donation as a few more blankets are completed.

Feed My Starving Children Food Pack – Owatonna (November)

17 volunteers joined in the two BGUMC teams who participated in the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Pack in Owatonna. During our two shifts of volunteering (4 hours total), the BG packing teams, along with approximately 225 other meal-packers, packed 67,529 meals. That translates to feeding 185 children or adults one meal per day for a full year!

Finance

Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Tracie Spinler.

Financial Secretary's report was approved as presented by Brian Kanne.

The Audit was discussed. Don Frankenberry and Dick Fisher are the auditors. They will do it before Dick goes south. Pastor Kathy will contact them to set up a time. Tracie and Brian will provide documentation.

Charge Conference Update

- Our proposed 2020 budget was approved via e-mail. Conference Form 11 was discussed for 2019. We reviewed responses, and will save revisions for next year.
- We reviewed the 2020 officer list.

Trustees

Dave Brisel represented the Trustees. Nothing new to report.

Building Project Team

The Building Project Team will be meeting on Monday, December 9 to review bids and address questions from various contractors.

Team/Group Updates

- Education & Events: Sheryl Brisel reported on Christmas program plans. The theme will be "All Are Welcome at the Manger." Our cast will be mostly younger kids this year. We held discussion about changing Sunday School time to better coordinate with our winter service time. There is too much time lag between Sunday School and church service, and the younger kids get restless. The team will discuss adjusting the time beginning in January.
- PPRC: Judy provided an update with highlights of the BG portion of our first annual Clergy Feedback summary with Pastor Kathy. Pastor Kathy brings positive and supportive energy. She supports strong lay leadership. She makes an effort to be truly present as much as possible. She is accessible and available. We appreciate how she sees and celebrates the tiniest of things as wonderful!
- Worship: The Worship Team met immediately before the Council meeting and planned through Epiphany.
- Communication: Will continue with newsletter publication and website/Facebook updates as in the past.
- UMW: Cindy discussed finding opportunities to bring the 3 churches together with women's events. There is a possibility of hosting an event centered around Emma Norton.

Other

- Christmas Offering: We will include the noisy can offerings in the Kamisamba Farm mission offering. Janesville and Waterville will be making donations as well.
- Lenten Offering: Lent begins February 26. The Lenten Offering will go to Emma Norton to support their building project.
- Also in Lent, Brad Spinler and Curt Saufferer are planning a fish fry as a fundraiser for our building project.
- General Conference will be happening in May. Cindy will be attending. They are looking for helpers in various capacities.

11/20/2019

Excerpts from letter by Bishop Bruce R. Ough,
resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of
The United Methodist Church.

As you might be aware, the Judicial Council—The United Methodist Church’s top court – recently shared several rulings that once again highlight the divisions and uncertainty that exist within our denomination. As we continue to journey in this liminal time between what was and what will be, I realize those in our conference who feel called to a fully inclusive church remain hurt, disappointed, and frustrated by the impasse over human sexuality and the structures within our church that have contributed to it. I realize that those whose understanding of scripture leads them to a different understanding and position on human sexuality are also feeling deep pain as we navigate our life together. I know that I am called to serve as the bishop of the entire Minnesota Annual Conference.

As I have said before, I believe the best way forward for the Minnesota Annual Conference is to stay together and stay strong in this in-between time. This is not about institutional preservation, but rather, embracing our Methodist rule of life—do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God—so that we have a firm foundation no matter what the future holds or decision we might need to make. We have a common heritage, shared mission, love of the church, and valued relationships that bind us together and give us strength.

In June, at the Minnesota Annual Conference Session we adopted an aspirational vision that articulated a Methodism “rooted in Jesus, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all persons, and engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation.”

I believe that Jesus’ three key missional imperatives we have been lifting up as our vision for every local congregation—grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world—are most fully expressed as an inclusive church. I urge you to live into the vision we adopted as we continue to embrace our mission of making disciples of Jesus who are equipped and sent to make the kingdom visible and available to all God’s people. Above all else, Jesus’ ministry was to extend abundant life to all of God’s beloved children. Jesus’ ministry was for all and to all. God, in Christ, is constantly drawing the circle wider, constantly expanding the table of grace.

There is still much uncertainty about what will happen next May when General Conference meets. We don’t yet know whether The United Methodist Church might provide space for the different ways we do ministry in our various contexts, or whether we will be part of a new expression of Methodism to be birthed. But we as the Minnesota Annual Conference have clarified our values, and I, as your bishop, am committed to those values and vow to lead us down whatever path blesses and enables us to be the church God is calling us to be.



At the same time, I am committed to welcoming on that path faithful followers of Jesus who have differing understandings of biblical interpretation and how we live out our ethic of love. My earnest hope and prayer is that, together, we will continue the good work we are doing to be a church that boldly and compassionately reaches all people with the love of Jesus Christ. Indeed, I believe Christ’s prayer for unity calls us to live into our inclusive vision with grace and openness to different viewpoints. This is not a compromise of the values of inclusivity and diversity; it is an expression of those values. And this is the only way we can maintain an environment for effective evangelism and mission.

In the months leading to General Conference 2020, I and other leaders within our annual conference will continue to be in dialogue with those involved in movements underway in our conference and denomination. We will continue to engage in scenario planning so that whatever happens next May, we are prepared to communicate next steps to move forward and live into our vision for the Minnesota Conference.

Although there is much we still don’t know about what the future holds, it seems apparent that the denomination will change significantly in the months and years following General Conference 2020. It is critical for your congregation to have clarified its values and engaged in open dialogue in order to be prepared for those changes. If your congregation has not yet read or held a conversation about the aspirational vision passed at Annual Conference, a study guide created by Rev. Carol Zaagsma and Minnesota Methodists is a helpful tool to become familiar with the vision and explore how it resonates in your particular context. You may also take a next step by using our conference congregational exercise to explore how you can more fully embody that vision in your ministry context. I urge everyone to prayerfully listen and look for how the Holy Spirit is leading your congregation.

In closing, I want to urge you—in the words of author Donna Haraway—to “stay with the trouble.” The premise of her book “Staying with the Trouble” is that, as leaders, we need to engage in the hard work before us, rather than ignoring, hiding, covering up, or pretending the trouble will go away. Leading *in* difficult times—or leading *through* difficult times—requires staying with the trouble. And the only way we can do this is to return to our center as Methodist people. For me, that center can be summarized in three words: Jesus, mission, connection:

The only way to discern what God is doing within us and through us at this time is to stay engaged. Jesus was tempted, just as we are, to disengage from his mission, to avoid the trouble, yet prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done” (Luke 22:42 NIV). Then and only then did the angel appear to Jesus and give him strength.

Friends, let us as members of the Minnesota Conference not succumb to fear. Let us stay with the trouble and the mystery, and both trust and pray that God’s will be done in and through us.



The sanctuary looks beautiful thanks to the many people who donated poinsettias in memory or in honor of special people in their lives. Thank you to all who helped make this happen. Below are the donors and those they honored.

Dave and Sheryl Brisel

Charlie & Berniece Brisel

John & Margaret Schmidt

Betty Koppin

Chuck & Linda Danks

Family Members

Beth & Gil Christesen

All Grandparents

Hjordi Churchill

Beverly and Claire Churchill

Jerry & Patti Ellingson

Our families living & deceased

Dick Fisher

Phyllis Fisher

Trudi Remund Fisher

Wilbert & Marcella Remund

Gerry Remund

Janette Remund Drache

Don & Char Frankenberg

Parents

Brian & Carolyn Kanne

Grandparents

Faye Kanne

Harold Kanne

Carol Karsten

Donald Karsten

Cindy Karsten

Kenny Karsten

Justin, Kristin, Leah & Kaylee

Krell

Robert & Joyce Krell

Bonnie Lima

Mario Lima

Jess & Nora Saufferer

Marlis Mahler

Glenn & Alice Mahler

David Mahler

Keith & Shelley McColley

Clayton & Marlene McColley

Glenn & June McColley

Brad & Cindy Saufferer

Dan Cartmill

Jim & Chery Southworth

Roger & Glorene Southworth

LaVern & Vida Wendt

Brad Spinler Family

Harold & Eleanor Saufferer

Marissa Spinler

Harold & Leona Minske

Cris, Karrie VanZuilen & Family

Phil & Theresa VanZuilen

Don & Jeanne Michel

Roger & Marge Wilkowske

Doug & Mary Wilkowske

Lois Hamilton

Herb & Doris Wilkowske



Meeting Minutes

The UMW met at Cindy Saufferer's Thursday November 21st. Prior to the 7:00 business meeting was a dessert and fellowship time with women from BG and Waterville in attendance. The business meeting began with the Secretaries report. The amount added to the Legacy Fund in honor of Eleanor Saufferer was \$45.00 instead of \$48.00.

The Treasurer reported there would be approximately \$563.00 in the Scholarship fund after the pie sale. There is \$575.72 in the budget. We voted to increase our giving to Missions by \$10.00 making the total \$210.00. We also voted to increase Emma Norton giving by \$10.00 for a total of \$135.00. Cindy will take over the roll of Sunshine person, the roll that Eleanor Saufferer had for many years.

Discussion was held about inviting Tonya from Emma Norton to speak at a combined meeting with Waterville, Morristown and others. At our January meeting we will look at dates and Cindy will contact Tonya to see when she would be available.

In January the UMW will send out Caring cards to the young adult women in our church.

A UMW schedule from January to May was made and is as follows:

	Hostess	Lesson
Jan 16	Char	Theresa
March 19	Tracie	Carolyn
May 21	Theresa	Tracie

We will be changing our meeting night to Thursday to accommodate more people. The next meeting will be January 16 with an Open House for dessert and fellowship at 6:00 pm and business meeting at 7:00 pm.

Join Us At Our Next Meeting

On January 16, 2020 the women of our 3 point charge are welcome to meet at Char Frankenberg's home (517 3rd Ave SE Waseca) for a time of fellowship starting at 6:00 pm All are welcome to stay for the meeting starting at 7 pm.

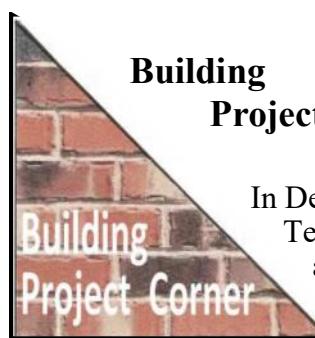


Prayer Brunch

The Prayer Brunch group met for lunch in December at the Tasty House in Waseca. Six of us enjoyed the Chinese cuisine. Our next outing will be January 23 at Olivia's Restaurant in Owatonna at 11:30. All are welcome.

All Hands Needed to Transition the Sanctuary from Christmas to Epiphany

Sometime between noon on Sunday, January 5th and prior to Sunday, January 12th, we are requesting help from a group of volunteers to take down our Christmas decorations and transition the sanctuary to the season of Epiphany. Please let Judy Mahler know if you can help and what days/times work best for you. We'll pick a date/time that works the best for the most folks. Thank you.



Building Project

In December, the Building Project Team reviewed contractor bids and selected contractors for the following work: Demolition, Excavation, Concrete & Fill, Heating and Air, Plumbing, and Electrical. In addition, we also made decisions regarding siding and windows and provided our thoughts to Kirchner's of Owatonna.

Our January work includes the following:

- Obtain bids for Septic System and select a contractor.
- Meet with Kirchner's of Owatonna to talk through window and siding considerations/options in order that they can create a bid for that work.
- Finalize plans for flooring and obtain bids as needed.

Next steps:

- Brainstorm our way through a multitude of excellent questions from the contractors.
- Modify building plans per contractor questions and suggestions gathered along the way.
- Obtain approval of final plans and costs from our council (and/or congregation if needed)
- Obtain approval from the MN Conference of the UMC District Board of Church and Building.
- Explore grants and outside funding.
- Contact all members and friends of BGUMC to invite support of the project and to gather estimates of giving toward the project.



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.

- Jim Golombeski, friend & neighbor of many in the congregation, and his wife Cheryl, as they both continue to struggle with significant health issues.
- Thiel Reinecke, neighbor of Marlis Mahler, who is experiencing medical concerns.
- Megan, a friend of Tena Harren's, whose husband Justin suffered a massive heart attack while driving his semi. Luckily, his brother who co-drives with him got the semi stopped and called 911. The emergency responders brought him back and he underwent open-heart surgery at a hospital in Illinois (they live in Kentucky). He has been in declining health since that time.
- Paul, oldest brother of Patti Ellingson, as he works with doctors to determine the source of health concerns.
- The family, friends, and co-workers of Jay and Beth Logan, who were killed in a November 20th traffic accident on Highway 14 near Claremont. Beth was a Federated employee at their Owatonna office and in the past year had transferred to Federated's Mankato office where she was a supervisor.
- Hjordi Churchill's niece, Xan, of Spooner, Wisconsin, as she continues her recovery from a recent health concern.
- Pastor Kathy's brother-in-law Jim (Jerry's oldest brother) – and his wife Barbie – and all who love them both so dearly - as Jim continues his difficult journey with aggressive cancer.
- The family of Lowell Claybaugh, Jr., of Janesville as they mourn Lowell's death. He had been diagnosed with cancer in June.
- Gretchen, a friend of Dave and Sheryl Brisel's daughter, Erin, as she continues in her recovery

from recent health issues.

- Debbie and Brian, square dancing friends of Patti and Jerry Ellingson. Brian survived cardiac arrest and recently underwent additional heart surgery.
- Prayers of gratitude for Carol Karsten's son Christ, who was in an auto accident, and walked away unharmed.
- Sonja, one of our guest pastors, and friend of BGUMC, as she works with doctors in her journey with health concerns.
- Cindy Saufferer, as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Theresa Riecke's co-worker, Liz, whose father passed away on December 9th and whose nephew was killed in December in an automobile accident.
- John and Nancy Peterson, members of Janesville UMC as both face health concerns.
- The Boesl family in Millerville Township, Minnesota, who mourn the loss of three members of their family who were overcome by toxic silo fumes – 11 year old Alex Boesl, his father, Curt, and his uncle, Steven.
- Trudi Remund-Fisher as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Prayers for families as they work through difficult relationships.
- 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.

In Sympathy

Delora Kanne, 97, passed away on November 21st. Delora (Beese) Kanne was born on September 7, 1922 in Deerfield Township to Herbert and Ella Beese. She taught herself to play piano and played for weddings and funerals and was a church organist for over 60 years.



She graduated from Medford High School in 1940. Delora met Kennard Kanne through youth fellowship at Blooming Grove Immanuel Church, married in 1943 and raised four children in Waseca. Delora is survived by daughters Korinne Kanne and Kendra Kahnke, sister-in-law Eunice Gasner. Her husband Kennard Kanne, son Kevin Kanne, and daughter Karen Kolas preceded her in death.

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

January 2020

The Blooming Grove Visitor
Since 1936

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Lord, let this year be filled
with the things that are truly
good - with the comfort of
warmth in our relationships,
with the strength to help
those who need our help and
the humility and openness to
accept help from others...

greet2k.com

Happy New Year!