



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 84, Issue 6

THE TWO STEELED CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

June 2020

Celebrating Graduation Milestones:

We have 2 of our young folks who have much to celebrate – especially in light of how their last months of education needed to happen due to Covid-19.

Graduating from **Owatonna H.S.** is [CC \(Cecelia\) Nicholson](#). CC plans to attend Winona State this fall. A psychology major is what she is aiming towards. We will surely miss her, but we look forward to seeing her when she comes home on college breaks.



And graduating from college this spring, a salute goes to [Ryan Saufferer](#). Ryan has completed his studies at **Hamline University** with a Bachelor Fine Arts; he achieved Minors in both English and History. Ryan's immediate goals? "Find a place to live, find a job, and pursue writing – not necessarily in that order." Having already proven himself as very capable in his service to our country, is there any doubt that Ryan will do well no matter which sequence those immediate goals are reached? His writing? Ryan has a sci-fi/fantasy (a serial piece) that he's 'penning' (guess nowadays you say computering) that can be read on-line in July. Scope it out at [wattpad.com](#) when July's publish date rolls around.

So as we celebrate with them and for them let's also hold them in our prayers. Their futures hold much promise as they share their gifts with the wider world. *[And if you are a graduate this year, or are the parent of a grad and we missed your announcement, PLEASE LET US KNOW. If we made an oversight, we apologize. You are worth celebrating too and we'll put your information in next month's Visitor.]*



BGUMC Receives Dare to Reach Grant

A message from Connectional Ministries of the MN Annual Conference of the UMC:

Connectional Ministries is pleased to be able to award Blooming Grove UMC a Dare to Reach Grant of \$1000 to assist your congregation in pivoting to virtual church (in these days of COVID-19). You are doing a wonderful job developing the virtual capabilities of your three-point charge. Blooming Grove is making strides to stay connected and proving that church is so much more than a building. This grant will be used, in combination with the grants to the other two congregations, to create baseline technology at each location and purchase the equipment to support outdoor worship as well. Blessings on your ministry.

Letter of Thanks to BGUMC

A message to BGUMC from Bishop Bruce Ough, District Superintendent Fred Vanderwerf, and other conference staff...

We are writing to express our deep appreciation and thanks to you for your incredible leadership during this unprecedented and challenging time. We know the enormous work it has taken for you to find new ways to be the church during this time of sheltering-in-place, to continue growing in your own faith and to keep reaching new people. We rejoice in your generosity to those in your communities as you stepped up to make face masks, stock food shelves and care for the most vulnerable in your midst. We also rejoice in your financial generosity to your local churches and through your faithful apportionments payments. Your generosity is transforming your communities, keeping your congregations stable and allowing the annual conference to continue providing exceptional care and resources to all of our United Methodist ministries in the Minnesota Annual Conference.

A June Happy Anniversary!

(Written May 27)



Philippians 1: 2-7a “*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord*

Pastor's Message



Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart.”

June 30, 2020 is our anniversary! It is the first Sunday Jerry and I were with our Blooming Grove and Waterville Evangelical congregations. How blessed am I that I have two special anniversaries to remember my ministry—October 1, 2014—the Sunday I received my Pastor’s license and was appointed to JUMC by our (then) DS Phil Strom; and June 30, 2019—the first time I led worship with so many of you!

I’m beginning to feel like a broken record these days saying, “so much has changed!” but it is our reality. We live in days of so much change. None of us could have imagined living in the time of a pandemic last June. None of us would have thought we’d spend our Easter Sunday 2020 worshiping in our homes, watching the message from our TV, computer, or phone screens. None of us would have speculated that there would be a horrible virus that could grind our country and economy to a halt nor would we have imagined the lives lost would number over 100,000! And we certainly never would have imagined our church buildings with locked doors on Sunday mornings.

Over the past couple of weeks, it seems each day brings a new message from a federal, state, or local official. Often those messages overlap and conflict with one another. Many of us are so anxious to be back together to worship again. There are many things that need to happen before I can step back into the pulpits. We must have a Covid-19 Response Plan specific to our Prairie Lakes Parish. The plan will be the same for all three buildings. The plan has to include:

- how we will implement social distancing in our gathering space
- cleaning and disinfecting our buildings anytime there is a gathering of any kind
- the reminder that masks are required
- reminders not to physically touch one another including handshaking and hugs
- a reminder that there can be no use of bulletins or hymnals
- how the offering will be collected—there can be no passing of the collection plate
- a reminder that singing cannot be permitted
- a maximum capacity reminder—even when we allow members back into the church, it must be at 25% of the building’s capacity (between 30-35)
- our policy for health checks prior to entry (temperature taking(?), questioning recent travel and contact with more than 10 people, and so on

The list is lengthy and I know I’ve missed important considerations. I am grateful for those on the leadership team who will be creating, publishing, and posting our plan.

There is much to do to prepare for any type of gathering—indoor or outdoor. A new parish tech team will be meeting soon to discern the best use for the Dare to Reach grant money each congregation received from our Conference. For the foreseeable future, our Prairie Lakes Parish will continue to stream worship services. I am in agreement with our Bishop and so very thankful for his leadership. We have a great many members who are at-risk including your Pastor and her chauffeur. We must do all we can to protect each member. It is our Wesleyan heritage. “Do no harm!” I thank those who have emailed, texted, or reached out in another way with your support. For those who feel we are being too cautious, I don’t believe there is too much caution when lives are at stake.

In spite of the anxiety over the work to be done and over decisions that are made and to be made, I am excited for the new ways we are reaching people with the message of Jesus Christ. I shared Philippians 1 to remind each one of you that I am so thankful for you, your friendship, and your faith journeys. You are in my prayers, always.

Be well dear ones and keep washing those hands!

Pastor Kathy

June Happenings

2 Tues	7 pm	Virtual Mtg Parish Tech Team
3 Wed	7 pm	Virtual Mtg BG COVID 19 Protocal team
TBA		Virtual Mtg BG Ad Council

Happy Birthday

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



June Brides (and Grooms)! Happy Anniversary

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



First of all, thank you and all the other ladies for putting out the BGUM Church Visitor all these years. Also thank you for answering my questions regarding people

written about. It has been a long long time since I went to Sunday School there, confirmed there, and married there. There were a lot of couples married there that went to Youth Fellowship there. So many Easter breakfasts the youth helped with, choir practice, Easter Cantata. The older you get it seems that memories mean so much.

Many thanks again!

Lowell Parrish

Congratulations to Paige (VanZuilen) and Alex Hohertz, of Frankfort, SD on the birth of their son, Colt Jon. He joins his big brother Suede in bringing joy to their family, including grandparents Cris and Karrie VanZuilen.



Treasurer's Report

May 2—May 31, 2020



General Budget Income \$4,535.00

Expenses	
Salary Expense	1,417.15
Pastor's Housing	380.00
Pirkle Gas	2,098.05
Excel Energy	41.87
Total Expenses	\$ 3,937.07

(Net Income: + \$ 597.93)

Restoration Expenses Paid

Eagle Ridge Construction	9,000.00
Waseca County Treasurer	397.65
(Building Permit)	

Other Income Received

Cemetery	100.00
Restoration	1,175.00
Visitor	30.00
Emma Norton	75.00
MN UMC Technology Grant	1,000.00

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.



UMW Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the 2020 BGUMW Scholarship Recipients! Our 2020 scholarship recipients are Medford seniors Morgan Langeslag and Mackenzie Paulson. Though the awards ceremony was not able to happen due to the pandemic, a presentation video was created.

Prayer Requests

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.

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

- Thiel, neighbor of Marlis, as he continues his recovery journey from critical medical concerns.
- Jackie, as she faces an uncompromising form of cancer.
- Cindy Saufferer's brother, Danny, as he faces ongoing medical concerns arising from his 15 year walk with pancreatic cancer.
- Ron and Kathy, friends of Carolyn and Brian Kanne. Kathy lost her mother suddenly back in January. Ron's mom passed away in May after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.
- Andrea Stockdale, and her husband Lonny, as Lonny undergoes medical testing at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.
- Katie, a friend of Theresa Riecke, and Katie's grandmother, who is 94. Katie's grandmother has had colon cancer in the past, and her future is uncertain if the cancer returns.
- Waseca police officer Arik Matson, as he continues his long road to recovery. This month, Theresa Riecke delivered a prayer quilt to his family. Please, telepathically, send your thoughts and prayers to load the quilt from afar.
- Bob, a neighbor and friend of members of BGUMC, as he begins the recovery process after receiving the miracle of a liver transplant in May.
- Brian Kosel, recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- Karrie VanZuilen's father, who suffered a heart attack, and is home recovering after undergoing surgery for placement of two stents. Also keep Karrie's mom in your prayers, as caregiver.
- Melvin, friend of members of BGUMC, and father of our church neighbors. On May 31st, he suffered a brain aneurism and was air lifted to Rochester where he underwent surgery.
- Pray for those who are mourning the death of George Floyd and the ongoing systemic injustices for persons of color. Also pray for our first

responders and National Guard, as they work to ensure safety for peaceful protestors, and to prevent activities of harm in these difficult days.

- All in our circle of family, friends, communities, and world, who are impacted by the coronavirus, including persons who have contracted the disease - as well as those who have lost family members to the disease. Also pray for all persons in isolation, who cannot have in-person visits, support, and care from their families.
- All who are expecting a baby, including Lacey and Alex.
- All healthcare workers and our first responders who are on the front-lines of the coronavirus pandemic. All persons working in essential fields, as well as service industries.
- Rural communities who are experiencing the impact of the coronavirus first-hand. Farmers, as they battle a myriad of COVID-19 related obstacles, including a breakdown of markets for their livestock, and plummeting crop prices.
- Families coping with COVID-19 related unemployment or unpaid furlough. Small businesses who have had to close their doors or greatly reduce business hours – and lay off staff.
- Persons dealing with mental illness or depression.
- Families experiencing escalation of domestic violence in these times of isolation and social distancing.
- 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.

Jayne Sutter, age 96, passed away at Shorewood Senior Campus in Rochester on May 27th.

She was born in Waseca and attended school there. In 1945, she completed nurses training at St. Mary's School of Nursing in Rochester where she studied under the Sisters of St. Francis. Jayne and Robert (Bob) Sutter were united in marriage on Jan. 19, 1946, at the Blooming Grove Immanuel Methodist Church. After Bob's discharge from the Navy, they settled in Rochester and eventually retired to rural Pine Island. Jayne was sister of Glenn and Burch Mahler. The two wooden candelabra at the front of our BGUMC sanctuary were made from wood from the Mahler farm for Bob and Jayne's wedding in 1946.



May the Lord Keep Watch.....

Sunday School & 2nd Sunday – Funday!

I drove past the church a few weeks ago. It was considerably **out** of my way – I've barely driven my car 150 miles in 2 ½ months!! I just needed to see it – the building looked so “empty” (silly me, I was looking from the road; I knew it was empty – and it is **just** the structure). The classrooms have been empty since mid March; the “special” monthly activities have been inactive; the fleece material awaiting young fingers to tie it into blanket gifts still waits; recognition of the teachers on the last day of S.S. was not recognized.



Leah – Home Sunday Schooling

Who could have imagined how different our worship time, for young and old and all ages in between, would be? Not only because it's a state decree, but especially because we all mean so much to each other, love each other, and have no wish of endangering anyone's health and physical well-being we have remained away from the church building and church gatherings since our last classes on March 15th. But.... did you know that several of our S.S. kids' parents were requested to assist (and accepted!) teaching S.S. from home? Not only were parents now aiding as home “SCHOOL-teachers” (along with on-line school teacher check-in assist), but they were voluntarily taking on the role of home “SUNDAY-school teachers.” Lessons and craft materials (and sometimes some “just for the fun of it” stuff) were mailed out to the kids every couple weeks. Word came back that

they were doing the lessons at home and enjoying them. These young years are such an important time to provide this guidance, Bible story learning, and above all example to them that now of all times is when we look to our God for strength and understanding. Years from now, parents, your children will remember this home-Sunday-school; in a more mature mind-frame, they'll realize that faith – that God's presence at our sides – doesn't go by the wayside when we're confronted with situations that keep us physically apart. You may not be aware now, but you will have taught them that valuable lesson in becoming their substitute teacher. The tangible connectivity with their classmates and teachers was missing, but it's not lost. That will be eagerly welcomed when we're again able to join together for regular Sunday School classes and end each session with joined hands for our countdown of students and closing together, “1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5..... **May the Lord keep watch between you and me while we are away from each other. WoooHoo. Have a great week!**”

Recognizing all the teachers and substitutes this S.S. year with a big “thank-you”:

Mike Nicholson – 4th through 6th grade teacher
Marlis Mahler & Patti Ellingson – ages 3+ through Kindergarten co-teaching
Pastor Kathy – Confirmation group
Theresa Riecke – substitute
Brad Saufferer – substitute
Karrie Van Zuilen – substitute



Little Sis, too!

Thank You

Ms. Patti, thank you for sending us Sunday School packets! We really enjoy reading the stories and doing the craft projects!

Thank you, Leah and Kaylee Krell.





Building Project Progress Report

(By Brad Saufferer, Trustee/Building Team—June 1)

Things are happening at the church.

- the north steeple is re-shingled
- an approximate start date for construction on the addition has been set
- meeting set with the county to approve a temporary sewage system
- the trustees are working hard to keep costs in line and save a little money

That was last week, this week could get busy.

The roofing crew from Let R Rip Construction in Rushford showed up on Tuesday the twenty-third to set up, got rained out the twenty-fourth, hit it hard the twenty-fifth, and finished the twenty-sixth. These Amish Gentlemen are a joy to work with and extremely knowledgeable. The crew included a Samuel, Levi, David, and Daniel. I commented that it was like having the Old Testament show up to work on the church.



A winter start date has been chosen for the framing up of the addition. The trustees met with Aamon Gingerich from Eagle Ridge Construction and by agreeing to the winter date he discounted the bid price by \$5,500.00. Keeping his crews busy during the winter is important and he indicated the lower price is well worth it. The trustees have touched base with other contractors and they also have indicated they too may be willing to negotiate.

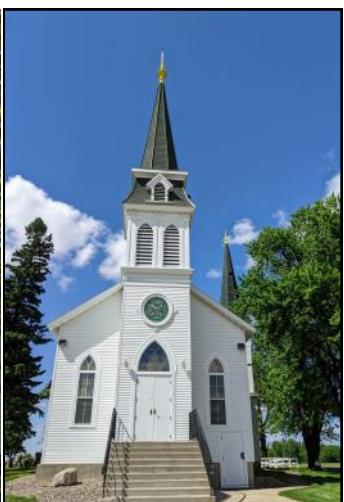
The Trustees would also like to thank members of the congregation who were very helpful this last week.

- A big thank you to the family of Mike and Allison Janke who along with Kibble Equipment donated the paint for the church spires. They are John Deere Yellow and look great. Being a red tractor guy, that was hard to say.
- The Nagel Sod Company for the use of their dump trailer to haul construction debris, saved us the cost of a dumpster.

Both families dropped what they were doing to help when asked.

- I would also like to thank Brian and Michael Kanne and Chuck Danks who came and mowed the church lawn and cemetery when the lawn service was rained out. They saw a problem and remedied it without being asked. These are the kind of people that make up the Blooming Grove Congregation.

We'll keep you posted on upcoming fund raising events for the building project and please keep us in your prayers for a safe and successful construction project.





Staying the course

5/23/2020 Bishop Bruce R. Ough disseminated the following message to all Minnesota United Methodist congregations on May 23 after Gov. Walz loosened some restrictions for faith communities' in-person gatherings.

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord.

In a press conference this afternoon, people of faith received two messages from Gov. Tim Walz.

He encouraged Minnesotans to stay home as much as possible, to limit in-person interactions, to avoid large gatherings, and to wear masks. He pointed out that today marks the highest daily total for confirmed COVID-19 cases and that each time we gather, we risk contracting this virus. He encouraged faith communities to continue to worship virtually as much as possible.

He also [relaxed restrictions for faith communities' in-person gatherings](#) and issued an [executive order](#) that will soon permit churches to gather indoors or outdoors at 25 percent of their building capacity (with a maximum of 250 people) provided that they create a detailed preparedness plan.

In Minnesota right now, coronavirus infections and deaths continue to increase. We have not yet hit our peak. National calls for all churches to be able to open their doors do not account for the fact that what is safe differs from state to state. These calls for re-opening also seem to forget that churches have remained open throughout the pandemic. Our buildings might be closed, but churches have never been buildings—churches are followers of Jesus who embody his teachings and share God's love throughout the world. And that's exactly what we are doing as we worship, gather over screens, serve our communities, and further Christ's mission in ways that keep people healthy and safe.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be leaders in caring for those who are most vulnerable. We are called to love our neighbors and to act for the good of the whole. We are called to heal a broken world. Right now, I believe that means mitigating the spread of coronavirus by staying the course, worshiping online, and significantly limiting in-person gatherings. For this reason, I continue to lift up the guidance we provided in the [Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches](#) that we released yesterday—and I ask you to limit to 10 the number of people gathering in your church building.

At the same time, infectious disease experts, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Minnesota Department of Health have all indicated that outdoor worship is much safer, and poses considerably less risk, than indoor gatherings—so I strongly recommend gathering this way over the summer. It is my understanding and belief that it is safe to gather outdoors a reasonably larger group than 10 people—but only if strict social distancing (six feet on every side of each person) is maintained and attendees wear masks. Gov. Walz is permitting no more than 25 percent of a church's building capacity to meet outside, and I want to urge you to keep your numbers smaller than that out of an over-abundance of caution.

One thing that has become clear in recent weeks is that this is a fast-moving pandemic that requires a rapidly changing response. As new recommendations and best practices come to light, we will update you and modify our [Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches](#) based on the best information we have (today we made slight modifications to the Orange Phase and Yellow Phase to reflect changes to outdoor worship). And we urge you to similarly respond quickly in adapting your preparedness plan as things change.

As Gov. Walz said in today's press conference, "The desire to get people back cannot override the ability to keep the community safe and those most vulnerable safe."

Thank you for your partnership, your innovation, and your commitment to care for the spiritual, physical, and mental health of all of God's people.

Let us remember as we continue to navigate this uncharted territory that God is with us.

To activate the links, go to <https://www.minnesotamc.org/newsdetail/letter-staying-the-course-14001637>.
If you would like print-outs of the linked information please contact Judy Mahler.

Accessibility Project Receives Final Approval!

Prologue

Blooming Grove United Methodist, *The Two-Steepled Church on the Prairie*, is living into the dream of open hearts, open minds, and open doors. As part of that dream, we have pondered how we might better serve our congregation and surrounding community as we move forward into the future. We have established a commitment to continue to maintain our current structure - and to also make our building more accessible and welcoming to all – in order to better facilitate our mission of *Discovering God – Serving our World.*

Our Journey

In November 2018, we officially embarked on a journey to build a ground-level addition that would provide accessibility to our sanctuary and our basement, and that would provide fully accessible restrooms. Our path, set in accordance with United Methodist Guidelines for major building projects such as these, has taken us on the following adventures:

- Established a BGUMC Building Project Team.
- Held a preliminary Special Charge Conference BGUMC Council meeting requesting approval to explore the project. Approval granted.
- Created a preliminary project proposal, including first draft of building design and estimated costs.
- Presented preliminary plans and cost estimates to the MN UMC District Board of Church and Building Location, requesting approval to explore the project. Approval granted.
- Presented preliminary plans and cost estimates to BGUMC members at a Special Church Conference meeting requesting approval to explore the project (in-person meeting - June 2, 2019). Approval granted.
- Partnered with an architect and primary framing builder to design an addition that is creatively practical, functional, and honors the history and architectural design of our current building.
- Interviewed, brainstormed with, and selected local contractors to work on the building project and to provide detailed bids.
- Finalized our design, plans, and cost estimates.
- Presented final proposal, plan designs, and detailed cost estimates to the MN UMC District Board of Church and Building Location. Approval granted!
- Presented final proposal, plan designs, and detailed cost estimates to BGUMC members at a Special Church Conference meeting (virtual meeting - April 26, 2020).
- Formally presented our final proposal, plan designs, and detailed cost estimates by mail to all BGUMC members for vote by mail-in ballot.

Project Costs and Final Vote of Approval

With a mail-by due date of May 1st, and a vote-counting date of May 9th (to allow time for ballots to arrive), BGUMC members cast their ballots. We had 50 members vote, and the results were an overwhelming 49 to 1 in favor of moving forward with two projects:

- Building Project: 10,000+ square foot Ground-Level Handicap-Accessible Addition on the south end of our building @ estimated cost of \$474,115
- Maintenance Project: Re-Shingle North Steeple @ estimated cost of \$25,004
- Total estimated cost: \$499,119. This includes a 10% cushion of \$45,374 to allow for unforeseen expenses that may arise during construction.

Addition Features

The ground-level addition will include the following features:

- Sized at 48' 6" by 20' (plus a 21' 4" by 5' 4" vestibule/entrance) with adequate/functional space for inside traffic flow of large crowds, i.e. funerals/weddings.

(continued)

- Symmetry, in width, with the north portion of the building (the original Bethel church).
- An architectural style matching the original buildings, both inside and out. The new entryway will incorporate the four historical stained-glass windows currently located on the south side of the building.
- A vertical platform-lift to transfer people upstairs to the sanctuary, as well as downstairs to the basement fellowship hall.
- Handicap-accessible restrooms.
- Gathering area for small group meetings and fellowship, including a coffee bar, sink, and refrigerator.
- Refurbishment of interior south bell tower, which will now open directly into the addition.
- Installation of a mound septic system (required, and sized, per code).
- Installation of sidewalks along south and east sides of addition.

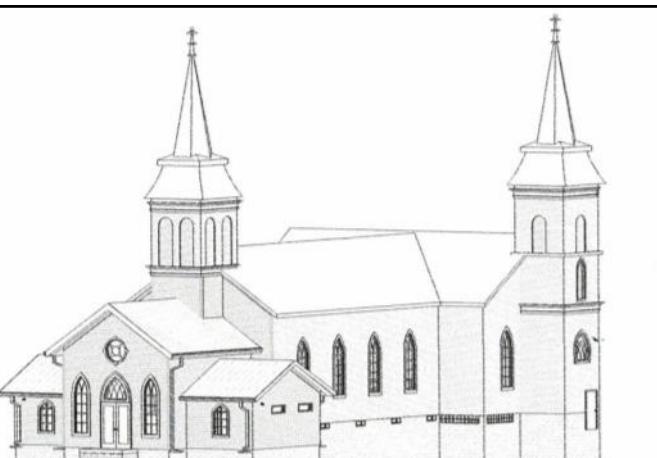
Next Steps

Our Building Project Team has been hard at work to implement our next steps in order that construction can begin.

- Our BGUMC Trustee group will now run with all construction considerations for the new addition as well as re-shingling of the steeple. See their June 1st update and photos in this edition of the Visitor.
- Our Financial Secretary has been in conversations with the First State Bank of Redwing, Medford MN Branch. We are able to establish a line of credit, rather than a loan, in order to only borrow what we need at any given point in the construction process. Required monthly minimum repayment is to cover accrued interest.
- A Building Project team member will now dive deep into grant exploration, including possible funds available through the Minnesota Builders Grant program of the MN Conference of the UMC.
- Other Building Team Project members will focus on regular and ongoing updates and communication with our BGUMC members and friends.
- We invite input and assistance from members and friends of the congregation to help create and carry out creative fund-raising activities and opportunities in the weeks and months ahead.

An Invitation to Contribute

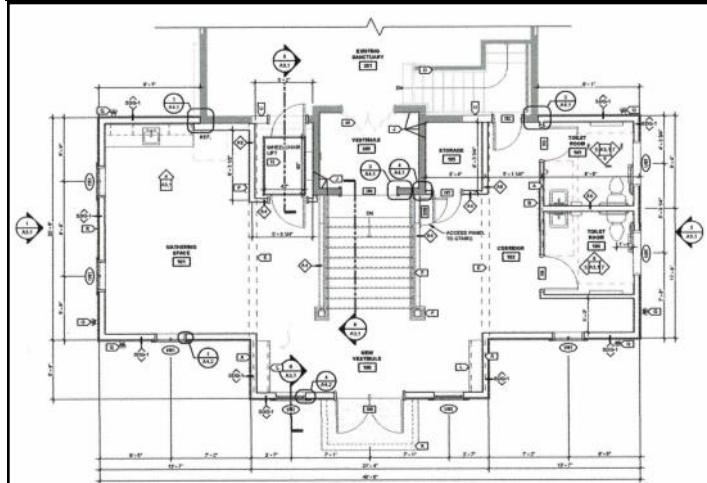
We invite all members and friends of BGUMC to be part of this exciting chapter in our history by contributing financially to this project. Please mail your donations to Blooming Grove United Methodist Church, PO Box 171, Medford, MN 55049-0171. We request that checks be made payable to Blooming Grove United Methodist, with a notation of "Building Fund" in the memo line. We express our deepest appreciation for your partnership in helping to make this beloved community-of-faith gathering place accessible to all.



Exterior View Above

Interior View at Left

BGUMC Accessibility Project Final Architectural Drawings



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

June 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)

Mail to: P.O. Box 171

Medford, MN 55049-0171

Website: Www.bloominggroveumc.org

Email: bloominggroveumc@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook!

Pastoral Care and Emergency and General Pastoral Questions:

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



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:
kking5@hickorytech.net

Visitor Staff:

Chery Southworth, Visitor Coordinator

26651 Elmore Avenue
Morristown, MN 55052
(507) 339-3534

CherySouth@gmail.com
Judy Mahler, Editor
Carolyn Kanne, Writer
Patti Ellingson, Writer

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

Giving breath and voice to cries for justice

Excerpts from May 31, 2020 statement from Bishop Bruce R. Ough.

See entire statement at <https://www.mnnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/cries-for-justice-14011115>.

It is Pentecost Sunday, and the Twin Cities and America burn. It is the birthday of the Church, and the Twin Cities and America smolder with horror, anger, and righteous outrage at the killing of George Floyd at the knee of a Minneapolis police officer. Tomorrow we enter the Season after Pentecost, and African-Americans in the Twin Cities and across America are still gasping for breath. ...As persons of faith...God called us into being and created our shared humanity by breathing the breath of life into us. ... As Pentecost people, the Holy Spirit compels us (and will guide us, if we listen) to protect the breath of every child of God.

Dr. Martin Luther King astutely observed that “a riot is the language of the unheard.” Throughout our country’s history, subjugated, displaced, and unrepresented people have resorted to protests and riots to be heard and to compel national governments, state authorities, and community leaders to act. I do not want to be misunderstood. I am not advocating or justifying burning, looting, or anarchy. I am not advocating or justifying destroying the very businesses that provide the livelihood of and serve predominantly black and brown communities. I condemn the outside agitators and anarchists who are exploiting the situation and do not care for or honor the message intended by the protesters. I join the many faith leaders who are urging peaceful protests and honoring curfews designed to curtail senseless violence and destruction.

But I do want us, particularly those of us who are the beneficiaries of white privilege, to understand that our African-American sisters and brothers are gasping for breath. For 400 years, through slavery, lynching, apartheid (Jim Crow), the civil rights movement, institutionalized racism, and long-delayed police reform, the African-American community has been crying out, “I can’t breathe.” And yet, the knee of oppression, white supremacy, and inaction remains. If we see only riots and protests, we are not looking close enough. People of color and many others who have been left out and left behind are gasping for the oxygen of freedom...economic opportunity...and equal justice.

In this season of Pentecost, I pray that we will be a people filled with new life, loving as God loves and doing what God would have us do to make the kingdom in heaven come on earth. Let us join others of faith in giving breath and voice to the cries for justice. Let us join hands in cleaning our streets and making them safe and secure. Let us work, tirelessly and without delay, to change our culture of institutionalized racism to a culture of the Beloved Community. Let us ...insist on reforming the culture of policing from one of waging war to one of being guardians of every person’s rights and dignity.... Let us refute the purveyors of division and discrimination and embrace the peacemakers.