



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 84, Issue 3

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

March 2020



Lenten Friday
Walleye Fish Fry

Friday, February 28th
5:30–700 pm

At Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Serving: Walleye, Scalloped Potatoes,
Green Beans, Corn, Dinner Roll,
Dessert and beverage.

Come enjoy good food, great fellowship, and a break from winter's cold and snow! Bring your extended family and friends.

Free-will offering with all proceeds going to the BGUMC Handicap-Accessible Building Project.

Lent and Easter Mission Offering
Emma Norton Services



“The Journey Home Begins Here”

We invite you to join in supporting this year's Lent and Easter Mission Offering – going toward Emma Norton Services (ENS), a nonprofit organization that actively combats poverty in our communities by partnering with women, children, and families who are homeless and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities. ENS, affiliated with the United Methodist Church in Minnesota, positively impacts more than 250 people annually. ENS has housed families from 28 countries and every state in the country.

ENS provides affordable housing, basic needs, and support services in an environment that fosters stability and encourages personal growth. Their two locations are listed below. Housing is permanent, the women and families served may reside there as long as they desire.

- Emma Norton Residence in the heart of downtown St. Paul is home to 50 individual women.
- Emma's Place in Maplewood is home to 13 single parent families with three or more kids.

Without having to worry about the basic need of a safe, secure place to live, women and children can utilize and focus on supportive programs, life skills, services and opportunities available to accomplish their goals.

Cindy Saufferer serves on the ENS Board of Directors as the UMW National Board Representative. Feel free to contact her to learn more about the important work of ENS!

To make a donation, please note “Emma Norton” in the memo line on your check or offering envelope.



**Southern Prairie
District of the MN UMC
Preparing For
General Conference 2020**

District Superintendent Fred Vanderwerf will be facilitating two Southern Prairie district gatherings for clergy and laity in preparation for the May General Conference. The gathering closest to us is listed below. Topics will include General Conference plans and decision points, strategies for handling the media, resources to facilitate dialogue/circle conversations and our commitment to stay strong, stay together and stay focused on our mission.

WHEN: Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM

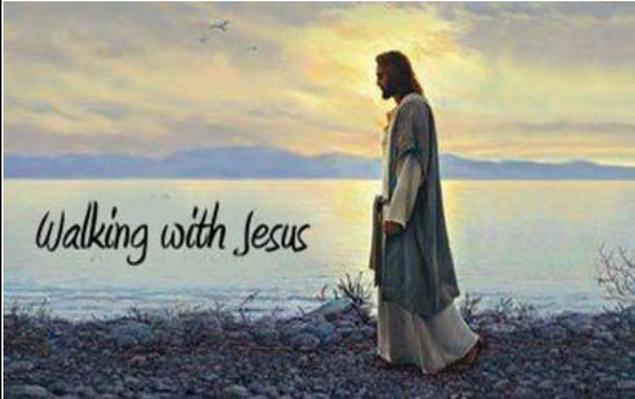
WHERE: Hilltop UMC

108 S Manitou Dr., Mankato MN

Lent 2020

A Lenten Message

from your Pastor



As we move into our 2020 Lenten season, we will consider Adam Hamilton's *The Walk*. Each congregation will have an Ash Wednesday service and then our Lenten series will rotate between our churches. I am hopeful that you're able to join us for our Wednesday services. You'll find the list of services in this newsletter detailing which church will host the service. Each week we'll focus on our walk with God. We will consider:

- Worship and Prayer
- Study: Listening and Paying Attention
- Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me
- Give: Where Your Treasure Is
- Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light
- These five practices from the Cross

Each Wednesday evening we'll watch a segment of Adam Hamilton's series giving us things to think about. Sunday mornings we'll recap the points to consider.

It has long been the practice of our Catholic family and friends to give up something for the season. A couple years ago, I read a devotion that offered—instead of giving something up, what if we took on something new? Maybe it would be an intentional time of Bible Study. Perhaps a new way of reaching out to a family member or friend who needs our help? Or a personal challenge to smile more, laugh more, or find some quiet moments to be in conversation with God which could lead to both.

However you engage this Lenten season, let this be a season of reflection—a season to “be still and know that our God is God.”

I thank you all for your kind hearts. The past few weeks have been challenging for our family and you extend love each time I see you. Jerry and I are awed by your care and friendships. Know that you are our family. God has richly blessed this pastor and her chauffeur!

In his grace,

Pastor Kathy

March 2020

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

Janesville
 Worship 8:15 am

Waterville Evangelical
 Worship 9:30 am

1 11:30 am BG All Church "Town Hall" Style Meeting & Lunch RE Building Project	2 6:30 pm Pre General conf. meeting at Hilltop UMC Mankato	3	4 7:00 pm Lenten Service at Janesville 6:30-7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry	5 6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	6	7  Daylight Saving Time Begins 11:30 am WV at SCDC
8 9:45 am BG 2nd Sunday FunDay JUMC Confirmation	9 Pastor's Day Off	10	11 7:00 pm Len- ten Service at Waterville 5-6:30 pm WV Spaghetti Supper 6:30-7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry	12 7:00 pm BG Ad Council 6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	13 14 Ignite Youth Conference in Des Moines, IA For confirmation students	
15	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 JUMC Board Meeting NOTE CHANGE IN DATE 	18 7:00 pm Len- ten Service at Blooming Grove 6:30-7:30 pm WV Acts 29 Ministry	19 7:00 BG UMW at Tracie's 6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	20 	21 11:30 am WV at SCDC
22	23 Pastor's Day Off	24	25 7:00 pm Len- ten Service at WV (Confirmation Required Attendance) 6:30-7:30 pm WV Acts 29	26 6:30 pm WV at RC Jail	27	28 11:30 am WV at SCDC
29	30 Pastor's Day Off	31	April 1 7:00 pm Len- ten Service at Blooming Grove		Coding Information SCDC—Steele County Detention Center RC—Rice County	

MARCH CALENDAR

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

1	Sun	11:30 am	“Town Hall Style” Meeting & Lunch RE Building Project
4	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Serv. At Janesville
11	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Serv. At Waterville
12	Thurs	7:00 pm	Ad Council
17	Thurs	7:00 pm	UMW at Tracie’s
18	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Serv. At BG
25	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Serv. At Waterville

Cleaning

March 8, 22 Nancy & Susan

Paraments

The Parament color for March is Purple.

happy birthday !!

4	Jerry Ellingson	22	Brian Kosel
5	Ken Harren	24	Abigail Buchholz
6	Connie Goslar	24	Dan Carty
6	Trudi Remund Fisher	24	Brianna Yule
11	Elizabeth Knutson	26	Ray Blake
19	Sebastian Fyvie	27	Judy Mahler
20	Lauri Remund	27	Karrie VanZuilen
21	Mary Wilkowske	28	Luke VanZuilen
22	Hjordi Churchill	31	Heather Loken
22	Cody Kosel	31	Andrea Stockdale

Happy Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to Keith & Lauri Remund
on March 18th.

Readers, Greeters & Treats

March 1	Reader: Cindy Saufferer Greeter & Treats: Judy Mahler
March 8	Reader Needed Greeter & Treats: Linda & Chuck Danks
March 15	Reader and Treats: Patti Ellingson Greeter Needed
March 22	Reader, Greeter & Treats Needed
March 29	Reader Needed Greeter & Treats: Carol Karsten

Treasurer’s Report



January 25—February 11, 2020

General Budget Income	\$2,025.00
Expenses	
Pastors Salaries	1,417.15
Housing allowance	380.00
Health Insurance	438.90
Pension	212.69
Disability Insurance	17.97
Non health flex pastor	15.83
Cleaning	144.00
Conference Claim	1,378.22
Check Stop Payment	<u>30.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 4,034.76

(Net Income: – \$ 2,009.76)

Other Income Received

Restoration	1,500.00
Visitor	10.00

Thank you to all who have contributed financial gifts in support of our monthly newsletter, “The Visitor”. Thank you, as well, to all who support this ministry by contributing stories, and through prayer and words of support. The Visitor was first published in 1936 and has been going strong ever since!



After serving as BG’s treasurer for 26 years, Tracie has decided this will be her last year in that position. If anyone would consider taking on this important job, she is willing to help transition you into the position. If you are interested, please contact anyone on the nominations committee (Pastor Kathy King, Allison Janke, Theresa Riecke or Hjordi Churchill).

Thank you:

To all members of Blooming Grove UMC—

Thank you so much for the kind words, prayers and bars on the occasion of the passing of Minnie Milbrath.

Barb King



Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Physical location:

43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 171 Medford, MN 55049-0171

**Invitation to Blooming Grove UMC “Town Hall Style” Meeting
RE: Handicap-Accessible Addition
Sunday, March 1st – 11:30 A.M.
Following Morning Worship
Lunch will be provided! Come and join us!**

February 12, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

At our June 2, 2019 congregational meeting, members of BGUMC voted to proceed with a building project to make our church handicap-accessible and more welcoming to all – in order to better live out our calling to share God’s love with the world through our Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors. Prior to the June 2019 vote, we had obtained preliminary approval for the project by the BGUMC Church Council, as well as the MN UMC District Board of Church and Building Location.

The June 2nd vote of approval was made with the understanding that the MN Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church requires that we complete the following additional steps prior to beginning construction:

- Development of detailed plans, final estimate of cost, and source of funding.
- Final approval of the items above by the MN UMC District Board of Church Location and Building.
- Final approval of the items above by the BGUMC Church Council and/or the congregation – by formal vote, in a meeting led by the District Superintendent, Fred Vanderwerf.

Since June, our Building Project Team has worked with our architect to develop detailed plans and has also chosen local contractors, secured bids, and is in the last phase of calculating a final estimate of cost. We are excited to share this information with the congregation.

A congregational town-hall style meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 1st to review and discuss Building Project Team updates (see next page) and gather congregational input and feedback. We feel that this is a critical step before we present detailed plans, cost estimate, and source of funding to the MN UMC District Board of Church Location and Building.

All BGUMC ***members, constituents, and friends of the congregation*** are invited to attend. If unable to attend, you may provide written (and signed) comments and/or questions to the Building Project Team prior to the meeting. They will be shared with the congregation during the meeting.

Building Project Team updates will include the following:

- **Final Project Scope, to include:**
 - ◇ New Entryway and Gathering Area: with Handicapped Accessible Restrooms and a Lift Providing Access to Sanctuary/Basement
 - ◇ Building Maintenance: Re-Shingle North Steeple
 - ◇ Note: the Building Maintenance Project of installing a new dropped ceiling tile system in the sanctuary and chancel is no longer necessary. We propose that funds originally allocated for this project be transferred to construction of the new entryway and gathering area. (It was determined that the ceiling tile does not contain asbestos. Adequate repairs have been made.)
- **Final Architectural and Construction Design, to include the following modifications made since 6/2/2019:**
 - ◇ Increase in size of addition from 957 to 999 square feet to accomplish the following:
 - ◇ Make it symmetrical in width with the north portion of the church
 - ◇ Provide adequate/functional space and natural light in the following areas: entryway (with inside staircase and coat hallway), handicap-accessible restrooms, handicap-accessible lift, and small gathering/coffee/meeting area.
 - ◇ Change in interior/exterior design elements in order to match the current building’s architecture as closely as possible. This includes changing the look/functionality of the four new (clear) windows from rectangular single hung to gothic windows with tilt-out “awning” bottoms.
 - ◇ Addition of a transom window on the upper east wall of each restroom.
 - ◇ Installation of double pane (tempered + laminated) insulated glass units (IGUs) in front of each of the four historical stained glass windows that will be moved to ground level of the new addition (two double hung with gothic transoms, one circle window, one transom window). The IGUs will provide the required insulation rating for new construction, as well as protection from rock chips from the parking lot.
 - ◇ Installation of a septic system sized for church occupancy of 125 persons (rather than sized for weekly use). This size is mandated by state code.
 - ◇ Refurbishment of the interior south bell tower to match the interior walls of the addition.
 - ◇ Installation of new sidewalk on south and east sides of addition.
- **Cost Estimate**
 - ◇ Based on modifications in architectural and construction design, increasing construction costs, and detailed bids from contractors, we anticipate an increase in overall project cost from our 6/2/2019 proposal.
- **Funding Options**
 - ◇ It has been determined that few, if any, grants are available. We propose that funding will be handled through gifts/pledges from members and friends of the congregation, congregation-coordinated fundraisers, and a loan from the First State Bank of Redwing, located in Medford, MN.

We are creating an updated project/cost/funding proposal and will provide a copy for you on March 1st, along with current drawings of the new addition. In the meantime, feel free to contact any member of our Building Project Team with questions in advance of the meeting. We look forward to seeing you on March 1st!

Sincerely – The BGUMC Building Project Team

Name	Area Represented	Phone #
Dave Brisel	Trustees	507-521-4742
Hjordi Churchill	Church Council Chair	507-456-1825
Brian Kanne	Finance	507-456-8968
Carolyn Kanne	United Methodist Women	507-475-0100
Pastor Kathy King	Pastor of BGUMC	507-382-2483
Judy Mahler	Communications Team	507-456-3937
Marlis Mahler	Education & Events Team	507-461-1260
Brad Saufferer	Trustees	507-363-6579
Brad Spinler	Trustees	507-461-2354



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.

- Thiel, neighbor of Marlis Mahler, as he continues recovery from health concerns.
- Lois, whose daughter is a member of WV EUMC, and is experiencing health concerns.
- Baby Kinsley, born on January 25th, her family (parents Andrew and Amanda – and grandparents Ken and Tena Harren), and her doctors, nurses, and care providers, as they address her medical issues and perform multiple surgeries.
- Tracie Spinler’s co-worker Dawn’s son Mitch who is in his early 20’s and is facing major surgery.
- Waterville EUMC confirmation student Ava, who had major surgery for scoliosis. Ava came through the surgery well, but will be in considerable pain as the healing/fusing occurs. Also pray for her parents as they care for her.
- Pastor Kathy’s mom whose continuing health concerns have resulted in numerous hospital stays.
- Prayer request from Ben Sutter in Sedona, AZ – who asks for prayers for his sister Jan’s brother-in-law Van, in Boise, for whom a large mass has been discovered on his liver. Please hold Van and the doctors in prayer as they perform tests and determine next steps.
- Pastor Kathy’s brother-in-law Jim (Jerry’s oldest brother) – and his wife Barbie – and their family and friends - as Jim is now in the care of the hospice team. Also – prayers of thanks that Jim was able to meet his new grandbaby, born in February.
- Prayers of support for Waseca police officer and DARE officer, Arik Matson, as he continues his long road to recovery after being shot in the line of duty.

- Jackie, as she undergoes a new, and intense, round of chemotherapy for a return of cancer.
- Hjordi Churchill’s oldest brother Keith, undergoing medical testing as he recovers from a stroke.
- Prayers of thanks for Trudi’s healing after her total knee replacement.
- Prayers of congratulations to Patti Ellingson’s son Ben, who was recently married!
- Rebecca, a co-worker of Theresa Riecke, who has undergone surgery for cancer and has a long road-to-recovery ahead.
- Carol Karsten’s daughter-in-law, Mary (married to Jim), who has been hospitalized while battling through complications from recent surgery. She has now returned home.
- Linda Kosel, as she wades through the healing of her broken arm in this cold, snowy winter.
- 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

Minnie Milbrath, 91, of Elysian died on February 5th. Minnie is survived by three children, Michael (Mary) of Mankato, Barbara (James) King of Waseca, and Peggy (Dan) Weber of LeCenter. She was preceded in death by her husband; her daughter, Debbie; seven sisters and five brothers. Funeral services were held February 10th at the Waterville Chapel of Dennis Funeral & Cremation Services, led by Pastor Kathy King. Barb King is the sister-in-law of Pastor Kathy’s husband, Jerry.





Prayer Shawl Thank You

Thank you from Patti Ellingson’s friend Brian, who received a BGUMC prayer shawl as he was undergoing open-heart surgery. Brian said that he was overwhelmed by the love and support from the prayer shawl and kept it with him the whole time. He is home now, is much better, and keeps the prayer shawl within sight every day.

BLOOMING GROVE BUDGET

	<u>2019</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2019</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>Budget</u>
Pastoral Support			
Salary	\$19,962.00	\$18,341.00	\$17,195.76
Housing Allowance/Utilities	2,880.00	3,366.00	4,560.00
Health Insurance	6,600.00	5,808.00	5,266.80
Workman's Comp	125.00	123.00	125.00
Travel	2,000.00	773.00	1,330.00
Pension	2,669.00	2,714.00	2,767.97
Continuing Education	817.00	430.00	632.31
Conference Registration	250.00	257.00	250.00
Cell Phone	252.00	252.00	251.00
Other Professional Expenses	<u>250.00</u>	<u>288.00</u>	<u>190.00</u>
Pastoral Support Total	35,805.00	32,352.00	32,568.84
Apportionments (Total)	7,826.00	7,826.00	8,269.00
Local Church Ministries			
Program			
Confirmation	0.00	35.00	200.00
Pulpit Supply	500.00	500.00	500.00
Misc.	600.00	855.00	400.00
Educational Materials	1,750.00	1,012.00	1,500.00
Administration			
Printing/Postage/Office/Copier	750.00	598.00	750.00
Phone	725.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance/Other			
Furnace Fuel	2,500.00	1,679.00	2,000.00
Electric	850.00	746.00	750.00
Cleaning	1,500.00	1,512.00	1,500.00
Insurance	3,600.00	2,798.00	3,000.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs	2,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Waterville—Parsonage	1,200.00	600.00	0.00
Special Projects/Misc.	1,000.00	740.00	1,000.00
Mowing	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>3,050.00</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>
Local Church Total	20,975.00	14,125.00	16,600.00
Summary			
Pastoral Support	35,805.00	32,352.00	32,568.84
Apportionments	7,826.00	7,826.00	8,269.00
Local Church Ministries	<u>20,975.00</u>	<u>14,125.00</u>	<u>16,600.00</u>
TOTAL CHURCH BUDGET	64,606.00	54,303.00	57,437.84



Sunday, February 2nd Isaiah Friesen in Worship

Isaiah Friesen, Environmental Justice Organizer for the MN Conference of the United Methodist Church, joined our morning worship on Sunday, February 2nd. He shared the story of "Hopeful Earth-keepers" and the work that the MN Confer-

ence is doing to support and affirm regional environmental efforts led by lay persons in each area of the state. In his role, he works to help develop leadership revolving around issues of environmental justice. He came to share in community with us and learn about our ag-related visions, questions, hopes, and dreams for our land.

Update from Kamisamba Farm & Training Center

Exciting news! Lorraine Charinda, Agricultural Economic Development Specialist working with the Kamisamba Farm & Training center in the Democratic Republic of Congo, will be doing an itineration in the United States in the summer of 2020. She hopes to be able to visit the Minnesota Conference during her time in the U.S. We hope to be able to make arrangements for our congregation to meet her as well!

Cindy Saufferer visited the Kamisamba Farm and met Lorraine on one of her General Board of Global Ministries trips to the Congo. We have since partnered with the farm through special mission offerings to support their work. The farm is comprised of a training school that gives trainings to farmers from different communities on crop production, animal husbandry, marketing and monitoring and evaluation. There is also approximately 200 Hectares (494 acres) of land. Part of this is used for production and also as a model for the different trainings that occur at the school centre.

Baptism of Penelope Morgan

During morning worship on Sunday, February 2nd, we came together in community to share in the baptism of Penelope Joy Morgan, daughter of Tyler and Alexandria Morgan!



We welcome Penelope and celebrate the joy-filled approach to life that she shares with us!



Preparing Our Easter Garden



It is time to start looking ahead, and plan to create a beautiful indoor garden on Easter Sunday. This year you can order: African Violet for \$6.95; Tulip Planter for \$16, Pansy bowl for \$13; Easter Lily for \$14.00, Double Easter Lily for \$33.00; Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Rieger Begonia and Spring Mum for \$16 each; Azalea or Hydrangea for \$26 each. Greenwald's will select the color based on the best plants they have available. Please make your check out to the church with "Easter flower" on the corner notation. A sign-up sheet will be available at church for those who are able to attend worship. You can also contact **Chery** at **507-339-3534 (call or text) or email cherysouth@gmail.com. You can then follow-up by filling out the form below and mailing it to the church at Box 171, Medford, MN, 55049 with your payment.** We will place our first order by March 29th for a better selection and add more later as needed.

From: _____

In Memory/Honor Of: _____

Flower _____

_____ @ 6.95 _____ @ \$13 _____ @ \$14 _____ @ \$16 _____ @ \$26 _____ @ \$33

TOTAL _____

Make check payable to Blooming Grove United Methodist Church with "Easter flower" in the notation line. Mail order form and check to PO Box 171, Medford, MN 55049

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

March 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

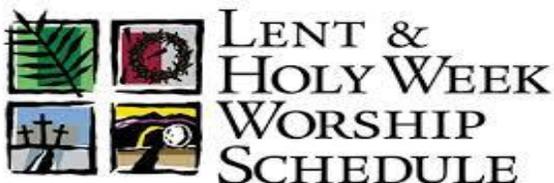
Judy Mahler, Editor

Carolyn Kanne, Writer

Patti Ellingson, Writer

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**LENT &
HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

This Lent and Easter, we invite all persons from the Prairie Lakes Parish of BGUMC, Janesville UMC, and Waterville EUMC to join together in any and/or all of these services!

Ash Wednesday Services

- 5:00 pm – Janesville UMC
- 6:15 pm – Waterville EUMC
- 7:30 pm – Blooming Grove UMC

Wednesday Evening Services

- March 4 7:00 pm Janesville
- March 11 7:00 pm Waterville
- March 18 7:00 pm Blooming Grove
- March 25 7:00 pm Waterville
- April 1 7:00 pm Blooming Grove

Holy Week

- **Maundy Thursday, April 9**
5:30 pm Waterville
7:00 pm Janesville
- **Good Friday, April 10**
7:00 pm Blooming Grove
- **Easter Sunday, April 12**
7:00 am Waterville
8:30 am Blooming Grove
10:00 am Janesville