



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 84, Issue 4

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

April 2020



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. Emma Norton Services 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 mail your checks to Blooming Grove UMC, P.O. Box 171, Medford, MN 55049-0171, and note “Emma Norton” in the memo line on your check.

Morning Worship through “Facebook Live”

Enjoy these photos of two of our many families who joined us on Sunday, March 22nd in morning worship through our very first “Facebook Live” - led by Pastor, Kathy King!

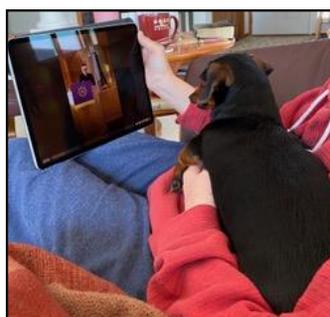
“Facebook Live” worship was implemented in response to our Minnesota Bishop’s request that we discontinue “in-person” worship through at least May 10th, in order to do our best to keep our congregations and our communities safe during this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you to Kathy King for being unphased by technology and willing to step into these new resources in order that we can continue sharing the news of God’s great care for all of creation.

The response to these “virtual” worship services has been amazing. The March 22nd service had 647 hits on Facebook, with at least 159 persons watching the service long enough to consider as having “attended” worship with us. (That can be counted as 53 people attending worship for each of the our three churches in the Prairie Lakes Parish.) The March 29th service had 224 persons watching long enough to consider as having joined us for worship that day. What an amazing outreach in these difficult days.

Join us in the weeks ahead in our live-streaming worship. Find us on our brand new Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/Prairie-Lakes-Parish-of-the-United-Methodist-Church-105151027807869/?](https://www.facebook.com/Prairie-Lakes-Parish-of-the-United-Methodist-Church-105151027807869/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

[modal=admin_todo_tour](#) ! See the mailer page of this edition of The Visitor for dates and times



that our live-streaming worship will take place. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us!

All things are new and different, but the love of God, flowing in - and through - and around us, remains.





Pastor's Message for Lent

Easter Comes No Matter What

As we follow our Bishop's and our Minnesota Governor's plea to shelter in place in our homes, we realize that means our Holy Week and Easter Sunday plans have changed. For some of us, that means we can stay in our pajamas until we darn well feel like getting dressed. For some, it hurts. We look forward to the celebration as Easter people—the gathering, the songs (*Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*), the bells pealing throughout the morning air. For me, it is such a busy time—normally. Our days are not normal. One day, we will look back and remember the year we could not gather. It will be the Easter Sunday we stayed at home.

As Easter people, we live in the realization that no virus can hold the stone in place—no virus can keep Jesus Christ entombed! Easter will happen and NOTHING can hold it back. Nothing can stop the celebration. The tomb will show the burial cloths lying empty. The heavens will ring out with loud Alleluias to the King—Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior.

Many congregations across our land are thinking of parking lot worship services. While I would LOVE to see all of you—even through car windows, we do not have the technology in place to make it possible. I had told you Jerry and I would be streaming services from our three sanctuaries. The first was from JUMC. While I am an essential worker, Jerry is not so I will be practicing the shelter-in-place orders and stream services throughout the ordered time from my home.

Holy Week, I will Facebook Live a Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.; a Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m., and an Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. All three services will be “viewable” at those times on our new Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook Page. The Easter Sunrise Service will be live-streamed from my patio.

While this is such a different way of being the church, the wonderment of Facebook Live has led to more people hearing the Word, as offered from your Pastor. Even in the midst of the shelter in place, NOTHING can hold back the Word. I leave you with this message from John 1: 1-4 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him, nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of humanity (men).”

We dear friends live in the Light and our Easter-Risen Savior is our grace in these days!
Be well dear ones and wash your hands!

Pastor Kathy

February 23rd: Celebration of Baptism

During morning worship on Sunday, February 23rd, we came together in community to celebrate the baptisms of

- Eva Marie Duehring (daughter of Toni & Nate Duehring) – friends of Pastor Kathy from north of the cities.
- Mac and Cameron Mickelson (sons of Laura Birr & Nick Micelson) - friends of Pastor Kathy from north of the cities.



Both families express their sincere thanks for the warm welcome and spirit of friendship and love extended by our congregation that day.

Treasurer's Report



February 12—March 29, 2020

General Budget Income **\$5,230.00**

Expenses	
Pastors Salaries	2,834.30
Housing allowance	760.00
Health Insurance	877.80
Pension	425.38
Cell Phone	45.34
Continuing Ed	209.00
Mileage	28.84
Workman's Comp	263.79
Disability Insurance	35.94
Non health flex pastor	31.66
Guest Pastor	100.00
Excel Emery	140.38
Confirmation	36.14
Pew Envelopes	38.60
Sunday School	354.17
Total Expenses	\$ 6,181.34

(Net Income: – \$ 951.34)

Other Income Received

Undesignated Giving	10,348.41
Restoration	3,247.00
Visitor	100.00
Cemerery	100.00
Easter Flowers	411.90
Fish Fry Donation	500.00

Building Project Update

Great news!

On Thursday, March 19th, our BGUMC Building Project team received the signed approval-document from the District Board of Church Location and

Building for our 3/5/2020 BGUMC Accessibility Project Proposal. Our District Superintendent, Fred Vanderwerf sends the following greeting: "The approval letter is good for 1 year, after which you have to resubmit. God be with you and your church!"

In the days since that time, Pastor Kathy and Judy Mahler have been in contact with Fred Vanderwerf – and through him, the Bishop and the MN UMC Conference Office – regarding the required next step of a final in-person congregational meeting and vote, to be led by Fred. Our current situation of social distancing and the coronavirus adds a wrinkle to this process.

The MN Conference of the United Methodist Church has now published guidelines regarding congregational meetings/votes during this time when "in-person" meetings are not possible. On Friday, April 3rd, members of our BGUMC Church Council will hold a video-conferencing meeting to review, and be in dialogue about, these guidelines.

We will keep the congregation informed as we learn more and as next steps are determined.

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.

Happy Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to Ken & Tena Harren on April 15th and Cris & Karrie VanZuilen on April 22nd.



Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Physical location:

43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN

Mailing Address:

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

www.bloominggroveumc.org

Email: bloominggroveumc@gmail.com



March 31, 2020 – Response to Coronavirus

Dear Blooming Grove UMC Family -

Based on a 3/24/2020 update from our United Methodist Bishop, Bruce Ough, we will now continue gathering “virtually” for worship and meetings through at least May 10th. We invite you to read his full announcement, as well as his words of hope and encouragement, in the two links below, both found on www.minnesotaumc.org:

- COVID-19 Response - <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/covid-19-preparedness>
- Easter Cannot Be Canceled - <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/.../easter-cannot-be-canceled-13...>

In the midst of the changes driven by the coronavirus pandemic, we continue to think of you and offer a number of ways to stay connected as a church family. Weekly updates will be provided through the following sources:

- Direct email communication with the congregation – or phone call for local persons without email
- BGUMC Website – “COVID-19” Navigation Tab - <http://www.bloominggroveumc.org>
- BGUMC Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/Blooming-Grove-United-Methodist-Church-102762953095215/>
- Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook page (new) – https://www.facebook.com/Prairie-Lakes-Parish-of-the-United-Methodist-Church-105151027807869/?modal=admin_todo_tour . This page was created in response to the coronavirus pandemic and our new world of social distancing. We hope that it will be a helpful way in which to remain connected with one another. It will house posts that involve all three churches of the parish, including such things as messages from Pastor Kathy, Wednesday Lenten reflections, live-streamed Sunday morning worship services, and live-streamed Holy Week services. Each of our three churches will continue to support their own individual Facebook pages as well - sharing news, events, and stories specific to their individual congregations. Our BGUMC page will also re-post messages from Pastor Kathy and live-streamed worship services (after they take place).

You may also feel free to contact Pastor King directly:

- Email: kking5@hickorytech.net
- Phone: 507-382-2483

Please see the information below about opportunities to “be together” in the weeks ahead. Feel free to share this with your family, friends, and neighbors. Blessings of good health and safety to you all.

--Pastor Kathy King and Judy Mahler (PPRC liaison for BGUMC)

We invite you to join together in community through the Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook page (see link above)

- Regular Sunday Morning Worship: Live Streamed at 10:00 A.M.
- Mid-Week Lenten Reflections: Posted each Wednesday
- Palm Sunday Worship: Live Streamed at 10:00 A.M.
- Maundy Thursday Service, April 9th: Live Streamed at 7:00 P.M.
- Good Friday Service, April 10th: Live Streamed at 7:00 P.M.
- Easter Sunrise Service, April 12th: Live Streamed at 7:00 A.M. from Pastor Kathy’s patio!



No, it wasn't "social distancing".... yet. But yes, it was a small, intimate gathering during both our February and our March 2nd Sunday – **Funday!**s. Since February's service and all events were snowed out, and yet we already had everything prepped and ready for the 2nd Sunday – **Funday!**, we went ahead with the plans on the following Sunday. Few in numbers but big on lip-smacking sweetness, we decorated yummy, colorful, one-of-a-kind valentine cookies for each other (alright, full disclosure: we ate some ourselves, too), our families, and we even had enough to share with the whole congregation for coffee-fellowship after church. Now, I call that a 'sweet' valentine! (A big thanks goes to our always willing and eager Linda D. for making the heart cutout cookies!) And continuing in the decorating mode, we decorated valentine hearts to someone(s) special, for them to hang up. Since these were card stock paper hearts, the *intent* was to use markers, glitter and stickers to decorate. Not too much frosting found its way onto the paper hearts.



Valentines are red; pink & white too. For eating or hanging both say "I love you."



Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. Now whenever you see a shamrock or a clover you'll think of the trinity.

March's 2nd Sunday – **Funday!** acknowledged St. Patrick. Coloring shamrocks the appropriate green color, we then marked each leaf of the shamrock with a symbol. One leaf each of: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Affixing a short poem in the shamrock's center and a refrigerator magnet on the back, we could recall the correlation of the trinity every time we look at a shamrock – or a three leaf clover. Next we set to work coloring a paper plate in a rainbow of colors. Some spiral cutting left us a "springy" rainbow. Carefully writing something we treasure, or that is valuable to us (like parents, pet, church family etc.) on 'gold coins', the coins were then glued onto a black pot. This pot-o-gold was then affixed to one end of the rainbow and an open paperclip for hanging it up onto the other end of the rainbow.

April's upcoming 2nd Sunday falls on Easter Sunday. Customarily Easter Sunday at BGUMC is truly a joyous FUNDAY of gathering, celebrating, eating (Mmmm I can almost taste the French toast!), singing, and rejoicing. Yet this year we'll all still be apart from each other on Easter. But we can, nevertheless, still celebrate, eat, rejoice and --- reflect. Reflect on how precious our church family is to us all. Reminisce on prior gatherings at Easter time. Rejoice in the knowledge that, even though we can't tactilely or visually touch or see our risen Savior (or the Trinity) we have faith that He/the trinity is/are beside and within us every day; so, too, is our church family with us through all of this – from family to family, farm to farm, community to community. I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together. Rejoice! Hallelujah! Christ is risen; He is risen indeed.



We all have "things" (or people) we treasure in our 'pot-o-gold'.

Lenten Friday Walleye Fish Fry (February)

On Friday, February 28th - 125+ people gathered for good food and great fellowship at our first ever Lenten Friday Walleye Fish Fry. It was an overwhelming success, with persons coming from our neighboring farming community as well as Janesville, Waterville, Morristown, Waseca, Owatonna, Faribault, and Stewartville. It was an incredible sight to see all of the vehicles streaming down the road



from all directions - all headed for BGUMC! The camaraderie, conversation, and laughter shared over the meal of fish bubbled up from the basement and out into the night – as people left exclaiming that it was THE BEST fish ever – hoping that we will

do this again next year. As part of the evening, we displayed final blueprints of the proposed BGUMC Handicap-Accessible Addition and shared a brochure thanking people for their attendance and telling the story of our BGUMC past, present, and future. The evening's generous free-will offering of \$2,000+ will all go toward the BGUMC Accessibility Building Project.



A big thank you to:

- Brad & Tracie Spinler and Curt Saufferer for coordinating this event.
- The 30 BGUMC volunteers who assisted by cleaning the church, making sweet treats, setting up for the event, hosting (on the road and at the door), serving, and cleaning-up afterwards.
- The Southworth family for lending their truck and ice-house for “Fish Fry Central”.
- The Boldt Funeral Home (Faribault), and owner Scott Boldt, for their financial support of the evening's meal. Their funding under-



wrote the cost of all of the fish. Fun Fact: In 1851 the Saufferer ancestors of Scott Boldt's wife, Kari, hosted the young German missionary who began preaching in homes in two settlements in Blooming Grove Township. Through the work of this missionary, and all of the immigrants who lived in these settlements, the Bethel and Immanuel Churches were established. Their two buildings were joined together in 1951 to create BGUMC.





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.

- Carolyn's friend who lost her mother recently.
- Marlis's friend whose daughter was just diagnosed with diabetes.
- Brian Kosel, whose hip surgery was cancelled due to the coronavirus.
- Thiel, neighbor of Marlis Mahler, as he continues recovery from health concerns.
- Pastor Kathy's mom is now recuperating at her apartment in Janesville.
- Baby Kinsley, grand-daughter of Ken and Tena Harren – as she shows her “tough as nails” beautiful fighting spirit and has come through multiple surgeries in an amazing way. She has additional surgery tentatively scheduled for April.
- 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.
- 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. He has now transitioned to an out-state rehabilitation center that provides the specific type of therapy that he needs.
- Jackie, as she continues an intense round of chemotherapy for a return of cancer.
- Prayers for Judy Mahler's friend, Candace's sister-in-law's daughter Sarah, from Montana. Sarah had a brain aneurysm burst and has undergone numerous procedures and surgeries since that time. She has 2 little children
- All those who have contracted the coronavirus, or who are caring for family members with the disease, and those who have lost family members

to the disease.

- All healthcare workers, including those with connections to BGUMC: Tracie Spinler, Alexandria Morgan, Jessica Buchholz, Callie Nagel, Emily & Brandon Church, Donna Morgan, Patti Ellingson.
- Persons at great risk for the contracting the coronavirus and who will not be able to have visits from their families, including incarcerated men and women, persons in nursing homes and care facilities.
- Marlis Mahler, and other school employees working to provide virtual learning for our students and also working to provide ongoing support and meals to students/families in need.
- Our first responders – firemen and women, police officers (including Judy's nephew, Jeremiah), and EMTs – who are also on the front-lines of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Persons working in service industries, like grocery stores and pharmacies, truckers, our mail delivery people.
- All persons working in the essential fields.
- Farmers, as they try to obtain supplies, parts, and help for spring planting.
- All families expecting a baby, including Lacey and Alex Spinler and Trista and Aaron King.
- Families facing the uncertainty of unemployment or unpaid furlough.
- Small business owners who have had to close their doors or greatly reduce their business hours – and lay off staff.
- Persons dealing with mental illness.
- Persons dealing with depression.
- Families experiencing the escalation of domestic violence in these times of isolation and social distancing.
- 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.

**Note from Ben Sutter
(in Sedona)
to Brad Spinler**



Thanks for the great pictures of the church after a recent snow. We are starting a new Lenten study and had some new members there so we all gave a brief intro. Pastor Fred asked me to tell about the cathedral in MN (he had seen the pictures).



Blooming Grove Church Council Meeting – March 12, 2020

Carolyn Kanne, Board Secretary

In attendance: Hjordi Churchill, Pastor Kathy King, Jerry King, Chery Southworth, Brad & Cindy Saufferer, Brad & Tracie Spinler, Brian & Carolyn Kanne, Char Frankenberry, Marlis Mahler, Judy Mahler
Pastor Kathy opened with prayer.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Distributed/reviewed the minutes from our 12/4/19 meeting.

Celebrating the Life of the Church

Sunday School Christmas Program (December)

“All are Welcome at the Manger” was the 2019 Christmas Program theme. Inspired by the faith stories of our BGUMC Preschoolers and Kindergartners, a multitude of ancient, fictional, and present-day creatures all told their stories of being welcomed at the manger. New glimpses were given of all the ways, times, and places the manger, and God’s love, welcomes us all, no matter who we are.

Noisy Can Offerings (Sep – Nov) + Advent/Christmas Mission Offering (Dec)

\$1,082.12 toward the work of the Kamisamba Farm and Training Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Fleece Blankets (December)

Our most recent bundle of warm fleece blankets created during 2nd Sunday Funday and by congregational members at home were delivered to Bethlehem Inn in Waseca – a transitional housing organization for women and children.

Adopt-A-Family (December)

Thank you to all who provided gifts and donations, coordinated the project, went shopping, and delivered all of the gifts to Medford High School.

Christmas Eve Service (December)

Attended by 72 friends, guests, and members.

Epiphany Celebration (January)

Second Sunday Funday made pinecone/peanut butter/birdseed bird feeders, trail mix packets, and star stickers for the congregation. Recognized gifts and talents volunteered by congregational members during worship.

New Members (January)

Welcomed Tyler and Alexandria Morgan to membership.

Baptisms (February)

Baptisms of:

- Penelope Joy Morgan (daughter of Tyler and Alexandria Morgan)

- Eva Marie Duehring (daughter of Toni and Nate Duerhring)
- Mac and Cameron Mickelson (sons of Laura Birr and Nick Mickelson)

Environmental Justice Organizer Isaiah Friesen (February)

Presentation from Isaiah Friesen, Environmental Justice Organizer for the MN Conference. He shared the story of “Hopeful Earth-Keeper.”

Lenten Walleye Fish Fry (February)

Served 125+ people on Friday, February 28th and raised \$2,000+ for the building project. Thanks to:

- Brad & Tracie Spinler and Curt Saufferer for coordinating the event.
- 30 BGUMC volunteers, who cleaned, baked, set up, hosted, fried fish, served, and cleaned up afterwards.
- The Southworth family for lending the truck and fish house that became “Fish Fry Central.”
- Boldt Funeral Home of Faribault for underwriting the cost of the fish.

Prairie Lakes Parish Lenten and Holy Week Services (February – March - April)

We have begun Wednesday night Lenten services rotating amongst each of the three churches, based on Adam Hamilton’s book, “The Walk.”

Finance

Thank you to Tracie Spinler for 26 years of faithful service as BG’s Treasurer. Tracie has indicated that she plans to step down at the end of the year, and is willing to help transition to a new person.

Treasurer’s report was approved as presented by Tracie Spinler, after a correction for flower expense.

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

The Audit was discussed. Don Frankenberry and Dick Fisher were the auditors. Their recommendation was to purchase church finance software for the new treasurer in order to have the correct tools for tracking and auditing.

Building Project Team/Trustees

- Brad Spinler reported that a water meter will be installed tomorrow (3/13/20) to measure our water usage. Hopefully, this will lead to a smaller septic requirement for our addition, at much less expense.
- Our cost estimate has been submitted to the District Board of Church Location & Building. District Superintendent Fred Vanderwerf has been busy with annual meetings with Licensed Local Pastors, but we are hopeful of a quick turnaround. We reviewed the information submitted.
- Seepage in the basement was discussed. Brad Saufferer and Brad Spinler have discussed fixes with someone with remedies and are looking into it.
- We discussed funding the building project
- Doyle Karsten inquired about getting married in the church on August 22.

General Conference Update (May 2020)

Cindy gave a very thorough update on “The Protocol” – a plan arrived at through mediation between nearly all concerned groups. Well-known mediator Kenneth Feinberg offered his services to facilitate this. Regionalization is something to be considered. More information to be found at Grace Through Separation.com (probably no spaces).

Meeting on Monday, March 23 at 6:30 pm at Hilltop UMC in Mankato for a pre-General Conference Info Session for Clergy and laity.

Miscellaneous

- Lenten/Easter Offering – Emma Norton Services
- Hammond Organ – it quit in the middle of the service. Repairman coming 3/23.
- Trustees will review the BGUMC Church Use Policy (it’s 10 years old) – see wedding mentioned above.
- Pizza Farm Worship – looking at a low-key option for the 3 churches to worship together. Judy will call Emily/ Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm to set a date.
- Idea from Brad Saufferer for possible outreach gatherings at Half Pint Brewery – being seen in the community, discussion of topics of interest.
- Run 4 the Loaves – September 12.

Team/Group Updates

- Education & Events: Marlis reported on the 2nd Sunday Funday activities. Recognition Sunday will be in May.
- PPRC: Judy and Cindy discussed the PPRC’s January review with Kathy, which went very well. Also the three churches’ support of each other.
- Worship: The Worship Team has planned through Easter, including the Lenten services.
- Communication: Provided support and posters for the fish fry, letters for the congregational lunch/meeting.
- UMW: Met in January at Char’s with a visitor from Waseca Faith UMC. We are meeting again on March 19th.

Updates from Pastor Kathy

- Coronavirus considerations for churches: re-thinking morning greeting time, communion, etc.
- Native American Course of Study: currently, Pastor Kathy will be gone 4/26. We will get pulpit supply. Cindy will speak the 4/19 about her Deaconess program.
- DeCom meeting with conference reps – Pastor Kathy was affirmed to continue as our pastor.

Other

- Wednesday Lenten Services and Holy Week Services to rotate between BG, JV, WV
- Easter Services (April 12th): 7 AM – WV; 8:30 AM – BG (breakfast to follow); 10 AM – JV

Pastor Kathy closed with prayer.

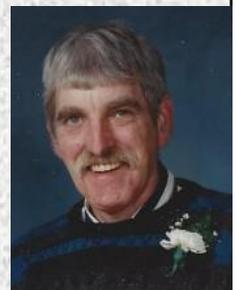
Next Meeting Wednesday, June 3rd – 7:00 P.M.

In Sympathy

Please hold the family and friends of the following people in your prayers.



Rachel Morris, 34, passed away March 2nd. Rachel graduated from Waterville-Elysian-Morristown. She married Bruce Morris in 2009. Rachel was a nurse with the Faribault Parochial Schools. She is survived by her husband, Bruce; 6 year old daughter, Ellianna; mother and father in-law, Dan and Nancy Morris; and grandparent Helen Morris and many other relatives.



Earl Hecht, 71, of Blackduck MN died on March 6th. Earl was the son of Maurice and Norma (Draheim) Hecht of rural Waseca. He served with the 4th US Army, 602nd Maintenance Company and the US Army Pacific Command in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars and other decorations. After discharge he joined the Minnesota Army National Guard and served an additional 17 years, retiring as Sgt. He married Linda Robertson and they lived in Waseca until 2012. Earl is survived by his wife; daughter Jennifer Stillday of Blackduck, son Brian of Waseca; three grandsons; brother, Chris (Kate) of Boise, Idaho. He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Arthur and many more family and friends.

Our sympathy to Vernice (Wendt) Hunnicutt. Her long-time companion, Elwood Kintner, passed away March 8th from a 6-year struggle with Lewy Body Dementia.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Gillian Needham | 14 Brad Saufferer |
| 4 LeAnn Kanne | 22 Emily Nagel |
| 6 Luke Ahlman | 23 Grant Needham |
| 7 Amy Saufferer | 26 Olivia Full |
| 7 Cindy Saufferer | 28 Lilly Schmitz |
| 9 Jewell Nagel | 29 Zoey Morgan |
| 9 Stephanie Fyvie | 30 Pam Carty |
| 10 Dale Danks | 30 Jan Redman |
| 13 Jackson Erickson | |



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

April 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
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Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

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This Lent and Easter, we invite all persons to join together in "virtual community" through our brand new Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Prairie-Lakes-Parish-of-the-United-Methodist-Church-105151027807869/?modal=admin_todo_tour ! Here you can enjoy our live-streamed morning worship each Sunday at 10:00 A.M., mid-week video messages from Pastor Kathy King, and other messages of welcome and care for the parish. All Holy Week and Easter Services will be live-streamed here as well. See times below.

UMC Churches of the Prairie Lakes Parish: Blooming Grove, Janesville, and Waterville Evangelical.



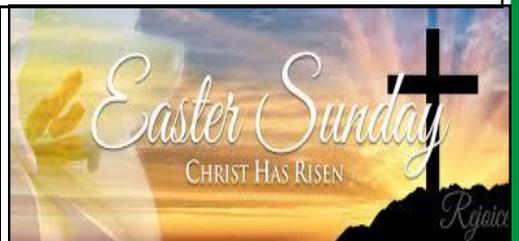
Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday, April 9
7:00 P.M.



GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday, April 10
7:00 P.M.



Easter Sunday
CHRIST HAS RISEN

Easter Sunday, April 12
7:00 A.M.