



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 86, Issue 6

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

June 2022

Blessings Upon Blessings to Cindy Saufferer



On Wednesday, May 25th, during the second day of the MN UMC Annual Conference in St. Cloud, Cindy Saufferer (of BGUMC), Carolyn Winslow, and Nicole Weydt were commissioned as Deaconesses, and Louis Porter II was commissioned as a Home Missioner. The office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, a division of United Methodist Women, “enables laity to respond to a vocational call to be Christ in the world through consecration for lifetime servant ministries of love, justice, and service.”

Photos: Cindy receiving her commissioning from Bishop David Bard, and Cindy, in her role as newly recognized Deaconess, sharing the morning's scripture reading with all in attendance at Annual Conference.



June 25th & 26th BGUMC Volunteers Needed



Many hands make light work.

The weekend of June 25th and 26th will be an important time in the life of our BGUMC

Congregation:

- June 25th: Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Lynn Otterness
- June 26th: Dedication Sunday for our New Addition – anticipating 100 persons in attendance

Next week, we will finalize plans for each gathering, and then will reach out for volunteer help from the congregation to make each a time of warm welcome and hospitality. Please, in advance, reserve a place in your schedules, and your hearts, to help us serve our guests as the hands and feet of Christ.

By Sunday, June 5th, we will have a volunteer sign-up sheet by the piano at the front of the church, listing all volunteer needs for each gathering. We will also send an email with a list of volunteer needs.

Questions? Contact either Chery Southworth (507-339-3534) or Judy Mahler (507-456-3937). Thanks.



BGUMC Choir Rehearsals for Dedication Service

All who enjoy singing are invited to be part of our BGUMC Dedication Service Choir - to sing at the 11:00 A.M. Dedication Service on Sunday, June 26th. We will sing “Christ, Be Our Light!” by Bernadette Farrell. It is a gorgeous piece, with text that matches our dreams for BGUMC as we walk forward in ministry with our community and our world. The song is written in an easy 4-part format that can be learned quickly – with a soprano line that can be handled by 2nd sopranos or 1st altos. It has great solo opportunities, if anyone is interested, and includes an awesome congregational sung response that will be printed in the bulletin. Come join us!

Rehearsal Schedule:

- Sundays, June 5th, 12th, 19th – Immediately after Morning Worship: 15-minute rehearsals
- Sunday, June 26th – 9:00 – 9:30 (ish): Final rehearsal – also open to guests arriving from out of town

Ordinary Time

- Liturgical Color
 - Green
 - Growth, hope, and life
- Occurs twice in the year
 - Between Christmas and Lent
 - Between summer and the fall
 - Pentecost-Feast of Christ the King
- Purpose
 - To recall the life of Jesus
 - Reminded that God is always there to help us live as Christians



Pastor's Corner

Embracing Ordinary

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.
Acts 4:13 NIV

As usual, the Visitor staff is waiting for me to get my article to them. I arrived home from our Minnesota Annual Conference last evening—too tired and too late to do justice to this June offering. June! June 5th (our first Sunday in June 2022) is Pentecost Sunday and Holy Communion. It is the day we celebrate our graduates in our Waterville and Janesville churches. It is also the first Sunday of our worship time change between our Blooming Grove and Janesville congregations. Boredom will not be an issue on our first Sunday in June. So, we look forward to the following Sundays understanding that after Pentecost, we move into Ordinary Time in our church liturgical year.

Friends, these are days of everything that is outside of my perception of ordinary. As we started the business of the church on our Annual Conference's first day, Bishop Bard stopped the proceeding to tell those gathered that there had been another school shooting. As we were led in prayer, my heavy heart kept beating when so many innocent hearts were no longer sustaining life. There is nothing ordinary about children and their teacher being murdered in a place where they should be safe. On the final day of conference, we moved into plenary to continue voting on items brought before the church body. I felt so profoundly sad to vote yes on churches choosing to disaffiliate from our United Methodist family citing irreconcilable differences. There is nothing ordinary about seeing the division in our denomination.

I confess. I am looking for ordinary these days. In the text from Acts 4:13, we hear of those who saw "ordinary men"—Peter and John—and were astonished by their courage, so much so that they took note that the men had been with Jesus. In these days of everything but ordinary, it is my prayer that you and I embrace the kind of ordinary of Peter and John. Let us embrace Jesus as we look for the courage needed in these times. Please God, in your mercy, let it be so!

Pastor Kathy

Save the Date

Saturday, August 13th from 6-8 PM

Mitchell Hall and the Tennessee Trio - a Johnny Cash Tribute - at BGUMC. Free Will Donation with proceeds going to the new South Addition. BBQ Picnic prior to the show.




June 2022

Blooming Grove
Morning Worship.....8:15 am

Janesville
Morning Worship 10:45 am

Waterville Evangelical
Morning Worship...9:30 am

Service Time Change Starting June 5th, Blooming Grove service time will switch to 8:15 am except June 26th when it will be at 11:00 am. 			1	2	3	4 9 am worship team decorate for Pentecost
					Morristown Dam Days	
					Pastor's Day Off	
5 Pentecost 9:30 am WV Honoring Graduates WV Arnold Peterson Birthday Party	6	7	8 7 pm BG Ad Council	9	10	11
Morristown Dam Days					Bullhead Days in WV WVEUMC hosts Hamburger Stand	
					Pastor's Day Off	
12	13	14 	15	16	17	18
Bullhead Days in WV WVEUMC hosts Hamburger Stand				Medford Straight River Days		
					Pastor's Day Off	
19 BG—Baptism of Evelyn Lee Church 	20	21 	22	23	24	25 Celebration of life for Lynn Otterness at BGUMC 10:30 am Visitation 11 am Service
					Pastor's Day Off	
26 9 am—1 pm BGUMC Dedication Sunday with joint parish worship at BG at 11 am	27	28	29	30	Looking Ahead Vacation Bible School in Waterville July 17-21	

JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.

4	Sat	9:00 am	Decorate for Pentecost
8	Wed	7:00 pm	Ad Council
19	Sun	8:15 am	Baptism of Evelyn Church
25	Sat	11:00 am	Celebration of life for Lynn Otterness at BGUMC with Visitation 30 minutes prior
26	Sun		BGUMC Dedication Sunday

Service Time Change

Starting the first Sunday in June, Blooming Grove service time will switch to 8:15 am **except June 26th** when it will be at 11:00 am.



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

Happy Anniversary

2	Brian & Carolyn Kanne
10	Alex & Page Hohertz
11	Ron & Carolyn Engebretson
14	Robert & Sharon Nelson
17	Dave & Sheryl Brisel
23	Jerry & Kathy King

2022 BGUMC Mug

Designed by Faye Kanne, with a sketch of BGUMC and our new addition!

Available for purchase at \$10.00 each.



Treasurer's Report

April 26—May 25, 2022



General Budget Income

\$ 7,941.11

Other Income Received

Food Shelf	8.11
Love Offering	50.00
Cemetery	500.00
Total Income	\$ 8,499.22

Expenses

Pastor (Salary, housing, pension, disability)	2,093.48
Cell Phone (4 months)	104.72
Mileage (4 months)	71.05
Education (Pastor's course of study)	138.25
Excel Energy	99.27
Pirkel Gas	778.38
Telephone	49.83
United Women of Faith Assembly	78.75
Zoom License	52.46

Total Paid Out \$ 3,466.19

(Net Income: + \$5,033.03)

Building Addition

Income

Restoration Income	\$ 5,236.00
Ameriprise CD cashed in	33,828.53

Total Income **\$ 39,064.53**

Expenses

Loan Payment	\$37,333.66
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Total Paid Out **\$ 37,333.66**

(Net Income: + \$1,730.87)

Restoration Fund Balance \$83,282.02

Building Addition Loan \$303,878.47

Parament Colors

June 5	Red
June 12	White
June 19	Green
June 26	Green

Congratulations to the 2022 BGUMW Scholarship Recipients!



Our 2022 scholarship recipients are Medford seniors Megan Klein and Anna Sobrack. We wish them well in their future endeavors

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Save the Date!



**Sunday
June 26, 2022**

Dedication of New Addition Blooming Grove UMC invites you to join us on Sunday, June 26, 2022

We invite you to spend time with us in thanksgiving and celebration as we dedicate the new South addition on the front of our church.

Our late-1800's building was limited in access by steep steps going upstairs to the sanctuary, and downstairs to the fellowship hall and restrooms. The new addition, now fully completed, helps us better serve our congregation and surrounding community by providing accessibility and welcome for all. It includes a 3-level lift, a ground-level gathering space and restrooms, and is filled with southern light that pours through historic stained-glass windows moved from the original building.

We give thanks for the generous gifts of time, talent, creativity, energy, financial support, curiosity & interest, and prayer that make this all possible.

As we walk into the future, we follow the call to continue sharing God's love with our community and our world.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

- ♦ **9:00 – 9:30(ish) A.M. – BGUMC**
Choir Rehearsal – all attendees of the day are invited to sing with this group!
- ♦ **10:00 – 10:30 A.M. - Original Building Site of Immanuel Church (front steeple portion of BGUMC)**
Remembrance & Blessing of this place, its people, and the neighborhood they served.

Directions from BGUMC: 2 miles West on 430th Avenue (County 62). At the curve, continue 1 mile West on 430th Avenue (County 7). Then South .5 miles on 150th Street. Watch for the Immanuel Cemetery Sign on the West side of the road.
- ♦ **11:00 A.M. – BGUMC**
Worship Service of Dedication for our New South Addition and the ongoing ministry of BGUMC.
- ♦ **Noon – BGUMC**
Light Lunch and Fellowship



June 26th BGUMC Dedication Sunday Highlights

(See Dedication Invitation in this newsletter)

Guests

In thanks, and celebration, we are inviting all who have dreamed with us, supported us, and helped make our vision a reality:

- Members & friends of BGUMC
- Members of Janesville UMC & Waterville EUMC
- Rural neighbors of BGUMC
- Former pastors of BGUMC
- Members of MN United Methodist Builder's Group who awarded BGUMC a construction grant & loan.
- Members of MN United Methodist Conference Staff
- Local Building Contractors involved in the building project

9:00 – 9:30 (ish) A.M. - Choir Rehearsal

All who enjoy singing are invited to be part of our rehearsal as we prepare for the 11:00 A.M. Service of Dedication. We will sing “Christ, Be Our Light!” by Bernadette Farrell. It is an easily accessible, and short, 4-part piece. We’d love to have you join us!

10:00 - 10:30 A.M. – Remembrance & Blessing of the Original Building Site of Immanuel Church

We will gather to walk through this holy place and remember its people and the neighborhood in which its congregation served. A brief service of blessing will take place at 10:15.

11:00 A.M. – Worship Service of Dedication

Our theme: Isaiah 43:19 – “Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it spouts up; don’t you recognize it?” Our service will include:

- A litany of dedication for the new south addition, and for our congregation, as we journey into the future in ministry with our community and our world.
- Scriptures that encourage us to remain rooted in our faith/history and to move forward in the confidence of God’s great love.
- Congregational singing of favorite hymns.
- Greetings and blessings from persons who have been supportive of our ongoing ministry, including Pastor Jan Redman, Pastor Chuck Grose, and District Superintendent Fred Vanderwerf.
- Dedication Choir singing “Christ, Be Our Light!”.

Noon – Lunch

Come together for a time of food and fellowship in our basement dining hall (accessible via our new 3-stage lift).

- Menu: Sloppy Joes, salad, chips, beverage, dessert.

Memorabilia

We will have the following items available for purchase:

- \$10.00: 2022 BGUMC Church Mugs, designed by Faye Kanne
- \$5.00: 2001 BGUMC Anniversary Keepsake Plates
- \$5.00: “Gifts of the Harvest” Cookbook, printed a number of years ago, with recipes from members of BGUMC and Waterville EUMC congregations



We had a lot to celebrate on Sunday May 15th. Three young people in our church family are receiving graduation diplomas, and that's truly an accomplishment worth recognizing.

Brady Nelson, grandson of Dave & Sheryl Brisel, graduates from Waconia High School on May 29th. With his sights on a Mechanical Engineering major, he'll be starting at the University of North Dakota this fall.

Alex Martin, granddaughter of Mick Nicholson, is graduating from Metropolitan State University, Denver, with her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology, and a minor in Criminalistics. With degrees in hand, her job search is starting in Florida where she hopes to find employment.

Michael Kanne, son of Brian & Carolyn Kanne, is soon to have the University of MN in his rear-view, with majors in Agriculture Communications and Agriculture Marketing. Michael recently participated in a "study abroad" experience, visiting Denmark and Sweden, where he was learning about Scandinavian cooking. His future plans include staying in the southern MN area, hopefully, as he pursues employment in his field.



Left: Brady Nelson. Middle: Alex & Mike Nicholson. Right: Michael Kanne



Two of our youth, Penelope (Poppy) Nicholson and Ila Prchal, were recognized for receiving their own Bibles from the church. Both had actually already been given - and been using - their Bibles. This should have been done last spring but, well, Covid.

Numerous others within our church were recognized for the various public - and more quietly private - roles which they, and we **ALL** play in the life of our church. It was truly a day of celebration. (Patti Ellingson)

SECOND SUNDAY – FUNDAY!

Postponed for a week due to attendance issues, our final **2nd Sunday – Funday!** event had youth and adults coloring, gluing, decorating, digging, planting and watering as we created mini-flower pots to give to someone special. Giving always makes the giver feel as good as the recipient, right? Each mini terra cotta pot was as uniquely different from the others as was possible.... considering that everyone had similar "decorations" to utilize in their creations. Of course, the hour was capped off with cookies and juice. And with our customary closing: May the Lord keep watch over you and me, while we are away from each other. (Patti Ellingson)





Warren Lorenz, age 101 Born April 3rd, 1920 in Fari-bault and grew up in Waseca, MN, passed away Friday, March 4th, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Marian J. in 2007. He is survived by their 4 children; 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren with the 11th due in June. He was a Sergeant in the Army Infantry during WWII for almost



4 years. He lived most of his life in Golden Valley, MN, then moved to Sun City, AZ after retirement before moving back to Stillwater, MN in 2012. Interment will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. A private service will be held for the family. Memorials may be sent to Salvation Army, Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., PO Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099 or memorial of your choice. (Information from his daughter, Kathy French. She writes: "He was very fond of his upbringing in Waseca and looked forward to the monthly arrival of The Visitor. It was a wonderful way for him to stay connected. My grandparents are buried in Blooming Grove cemetery. I remember visiting as a young girl with lovely memories of the church and cemetery in its peaceful setting on the prairie. I suspect that I will again make a trip down to visit the church and cemetery at some point as I process the loss of this amazing man. He was truly a quiet witness of God's love and grace. Thank You, Kathy French")

Michael Loren Hecht, age 67 of Waseca, died on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at Hillcrest Rehabilitation Center in Mankato. Born on April 3, 1955 in Waseca, Minnesota, he was the son of Loren and Sigri (Gunderson) Hecht. Michael graduated from Waseca High School in 1973 and later graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College. He was employed with Birds Eye and the E.F. Johnson Co. in Waseca before moving to Houston, TX in 1988. While in Houston, he was employed with SOREP Technology until his return to Waseca in 2009.

He is survived by two brothers, Miles Hecht of Minneapolis and Mark (Peggy) Hecht of Elysian; one sister, Marilyn Hecht of Nashville, TN; nieces and nephews, Brad (Taia) Hermel Sr. of Janesville, Pat (Amanda) Hermel of Janesville; Steven (Bonnie) Hermel of Eagle Lake, and Liz (Fred) Pratt of Waterville; and many great nieces, nephews and other extended relation. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Private burial was held at Immanuel United Methodist Cemetery in Blooming Grove Township, Waseca County.



Mary M. Nordmeier, age 74 of Morristown, died on Saturday May 7, 2022, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis.

Mary served as parish nurse for the Methodist churches in Morristown and Blooming Grove. She is survived by her two sons, Carl and David and four grandchildren,

Christena Jane Gasner, 87, of Ellendale, died Sunday, May 15, 2022 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. Christena was Carol Karsten's sister-in-law. She was born January 14, 1935 on a farm in Summit Township in Steele County the daughter of Louis and Mary Emma (Smith) Olson. She graduated from Ellendale High School in 1953. She then began working as a secretary at Jostens in Owatonna. Christena met Robert at the Owatonna



Roller Rink as they both were avid skaters. She was united in marriage to the love of her life, Robert Gasner on June 27, 1954 at the Community Lutheran Church in Geneva; sharing 64 years together. They operated a dairy farm near Ellendale for over fifty years. She enjoyed taking loving care of all the various animals along with planting all of the crops. Christena enjoyed singing in the Sweet Adeline group in Owatonna, tending to her huge garden, and baking many sweet treats. Her most enjoyable moments were the times she spent with her grandchildren. They were her pride and joy and formed a special bond that will live on eternally in their hearts. She is survived by her children, David Gasner of St. Paul and Sharon (Donald) Ramaker of Ellendale; 6 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Robert Gasner; sister Deloris Olson; and brother Edward Olson.

Thiel Reineke, lifelong farm neighbor of Marlis Mahler, age 75, of Lake City and formerly rural Waseca, died on Saturday, November 27, 2021 at Mayo Clinic Health System – Lake City. Thiel's graveside service was held on May 7th at Hillside Cemetery, rural Morristown, for family, friends, and neighbors.

Thiel K., the son of Roger and Neta (Kanne) Reinecke, was born November 23, 1946, in Minneapolis. He graduated from Waseca Central High School in 1963 and Mankato State University. Thiel served in the U.S. Marine Corp. He farmed in the rural Waseca area until his retirement and enjoyed family genealogy.

He is survived by his siblings, Freya (and Michael) Tripp, Gayle (and Terry) Hazen and Royce (and Nancy) Reinecke; nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews; best friends, Ken (and Jackie) Boese; other relatives and friends.

Please pray for the following persons and situations shared publicly within our community of 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.

- Cindy Saufferer's mom who is now receiving long-term hospice care.
- Dave Brisel's sister, Lois, who has been diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing five radiation treatments.
- Jim, a former work partner of Kathy King's son, who died recently at the age of 59.
- The family of Scott Sievert who died recently following a battle with cancer. Scott's family owned Sieverts Jewelry Store in Waseca.
- A friend of Tracie Spinler who is expecting twins but it is a very high risk pregnancy.
- All the victims of the recent shootings and their families.
- Jerry King's brother, Roger, who is recovering from kidney transplant surgery.
- Little Kinsley (grand-daughter of Ken and Tena Harren), who underwent a successful surgery in May to remove her tracheostomy! Prayers of blessing in her healing.
- Marlis Mahler's friend Jodi, who mourns the death of her mother on Mother's Day. Jodi's father had passed away in recent months, and since then, Jodi's mom has experienced a number of significant health concerns. They were hopeful that her mom's health was improving, and deeply saddened by the sudden turn-around for the worse.
- Del, of the Janesville UMC congregation, and his family. Del continues extensive treatments in Rochester for a complex infection.
- Patti, as she works through the difficulties of vertigo.
- The people and leaders of Ukraine, as they fight for their country and suffer unimaginable personal and collective losses. Also pray for all those working to help them - individuals, organizations, nations, world leaders.
- All persons dealing with the new variants of COVID – both those who have contracted the virus and those who are caring for them.
- All in our faith community who privately hold

heavy concerns in their hearts and lives. 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, trust, and support.

With Sympathy



Dennis Harren,
brother of Ken Harren, age 83, of Bloomington Minnesota, passed away April 26, 2022 surrounded by his family following a six-month battle with cancer. Born in Little Falls Minnesota, his formative years were lived in the

Western town of Morris, Minnesota. His parents Arthur and Rosemond welcomed him to the family on October 26, 1938. Dennis was the second of five sons. The Harren family attended Church at the Assumption, where Dennis attended school and served as an altar boy with brothers. During his high school years, Dennis was active in sports, including football, basketball and on the track and field teams. Upon earning his high school diploma, Dennis attended college at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks where he completed a degree in accounting. On September 18, 1965, he was united in marriage to Mary Ann Rusche and daughters Christine and Jennifer completed their family. Dennis was an accomplished athlete, a sub-3-hour marathon runner, an avid cross-country skier, and bicycle rider. His drive to stay fit and to keep moving remained steady throughout his life. As an executive at Sperry Univac, he survived numerous corporate changes and remained an employee of the company for over 30 years. He was competitive, set high standards, was reliable, consistent and was supportive of his coworkers. In retirement, Dennis and Mary Ann enjoyed traveling, canoeing, camping, and spending time with their children and grandchildren. Dennis was focused, hardworking, honest, and supported a wide variety of causes and nonprofit organizations. He had an aversion to receiving compliments, liked to keep a low profile, worked hard and he took great care of his family. Through his life, and despite his declining health, he remained positive and frequently reminded us all that "Life is Good".

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

June 2022

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

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Check us out on Facebook!

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Celebrate!
WITH US

Sunday, June 26th at 11:00 A.M.

Dedication Service for our
BGUMC new South Addition,
with fellowship and
lunch to follow.

See inside pages for more
Information.