



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 87, Issue 2

THE TWO STEEPLED CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

February 2023



(January 1949 Blizzard somewhere – photo courtesy of National Weather Service)

You are Invited!

Sunday, February 12th

10:45 A.M. Worship

“See the Light – Be the Light”

**An Epiphany Season Re-telling of Stories
from “The Winter of the Big Snow”**

**Vignettes presented by BGUMC children,
youth & young adults**



Come see and hear the awesome stories of the way folks in our local area, many years ago, came together to “be the light” for one another in order to survive a winter of 100+ inches of snow, with blocked roads and no way to get out for groceries or to bring farm produce to town. It includes stories of:

- A Thanksgiving Turkey delivered on a tractor
- A trek through deep snow with a team of horses to find wood to make a hand-hewn Christmas Manger
- Farmers working all through the night to break down drifts in plugged roads in order that snow plows could force their way through
- A horse-drawn sleigh-ride to the Easter Sunday Service

We will also weave in scripture, prayers, and songs that help us better see Christ’s light today, and that call us to be Christ’s light in the world for others!

Schedule for our Children, Youth, and Young Adults

We hope your family can be part of some or all listed below. Contact Judy Mahler (507-456-3937) or Marlis Mahler (507-461-1260) for details.

Sunday, January 29th: 9:45 A.M. Sunday School

- Grades Preschool – K: regular Sunday School Class
- Grades 1-12 and young adults: find/create props from our BGUMC attic treasures

Sundays, February 5th & February 12th: 9:45 A.M. Sunday School

- Grades Preschool – 12 and young adults: meet in classrooms for 10 minutes and then rehearse together for our mini-plays

Sunday, February 12th: 10:45 A.M. Worship

- Morning worship includes our BGUMC Children/Youth/Young Adult presentation of “See the Light – Be the Light”





Costumes: Each student’s own winter cap/hat, scarf,
gloves/mittens, jacket

February 2023

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

Janesville
Afternoon Worship.....4:00 pm

Waterville Evangelical
Morning Worship...9:30 am

	January 30 7:00 pm BG Council Meeting	January 31 7:00 pm Parish Worship Meet- ing via ZOOM	1  <i>National Freedom Day</i>	2 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail Groundhog Day	3 Pastor's Day Off	4  NATIONAL THANK A MAIL CARRIER DAY • FEBRUARY 4 •
5 1:30– 5 pm Snow Tubing at Camp Omega	6	7	8 6-7 pm WV Acts 29	9 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 10:45 am BG “See the Light—Be the Light” present- ed by BG chil- dren, youth and young adults	13	14 4-6 pm Free Diaper give- away at WV EUMC 6 pm Brew & Bible at Half Pint Brewery Valentine's Day	15 6-7 pm WV Acts 29	16 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 1:30 pm at WV Confirmation with Amber Scholljegerdes “Faith and Prayer”	20  PRESIDENTS DAY	21	22 6-7 pm WV Acts 29  ASH WEDNESDAY	23 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	24 Pastor's Day Off	25 10 am—noon Free Diaper give-away at WV EUMC
26 1-3 pm Camp Omega Plunge at Morristown Community Center	27	28 11:30 am Prayer Brunch at the Depot in Faribault				



And Another Lent begins



For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55: 8-9 NIV

This 2023 month of February brings us again to our season of Lent. This year, as we focus on our personal faith stories, we will journey through Lent with a series titled, *Questions to God* and consider questions like:

Who is God?

Is the Bible Reliable?

Why Should I Go to Church?

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

How and Why Do I Forgive?

Why is Jesus Special?

Are You Scared of the Future?

Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

Why Be a Christian?

In this Lenten Series from the *United Methodists of Greater New Jersey*, we'll consider things like:

Who is God? Why do bad things happen to good people? How can I face the future? Asking questions is a normal part of human life. Having doubts is part of the human experience. We do not have to be ashamed of our doubts or hide our questions before God. In fact, God fully welcomes them and welcomes us.

This Lent, we will practice bringing some of our biggest questions and doubts to God. We will practice embracing this deeply human part of ourselves as we move together toward the great and joyous mystery of Easter resurrection. Our parish Worship Team will be meeting soon to plan for this important season. We'll be sure to include Ash Wednesday and early Lenten services in our weekly bulletins.

As we welcome February, we recognize that it is the month we celebrate love and the important relationships in our lives. A dear friend recently remarked that she doesn't like Valentine's Day because she thinks we should do special things for the people we love all year long. I like that. In this month of February, let's consider how we can help others feel special and reach out with the love of God to those family and friends that we love.

As God's thoughts are lived out in our actions let us love one another.

Let it be so!

Pastor Kathy

FEBARY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Jan. 30 Mon 7:00 pm BG Council Meeting
 Jan. 31 Tues 7:00 pm Parish Worship Mtg/Zoom
 Feb. 5 Sun 1:30 pm Snow Tubing/Camp Omega
 Feb. 12 Sun 10:45 am "See the Light—Be the Light"
 Feb. 14 Tues 6:00 pm Brew & Bible at Half Pint
 Feb. 28 Tues 11:30 am Prayer Brunch

Parament Colors

February 5, 12 Green
 February 19 White
 February 26 Purple

Happy Birthday

1 Jake Full	16 Kendra Yule
6 Kristin Nagel	16 Katie Martin
9 Alicia Fyvie	22 Leighton Nicholson
11 Jaeda Koziolk	24 Deanna Kanne
11 Kristin Krell	24 Tracie Spinler
13 Amanda Riecke	25 Ben Full
16 Ivan Buchholz	



Treasurer's Report

December 27, 2022—January 25, 2023



General Budget Income	\$ 7,605.62
Other Income	
Kamisamba Farms	428.00
Snow Tubing	40.00
Total Income	\$8,073.62
Expenses	
Pulpit Supply	100.00
Excel Energy	148.55
Insurance	4,795.36
Telephone	52.49
Total Paid Out	\$ 5,096.40

(Net Income: + \$2,977.22)

Building Addition

Income	
Building Fund Income	\$ 12,122.82
Total Income	\$ 12,122.82
Expenses	
Loan Payment	\$ 3,505.13
Total Paid Out	\$ 3,505.13

(Net Income: + \$8,617.69)

Restoration Fund Balance	\$82,716.81
Building Addition Loan	\$282,479.76

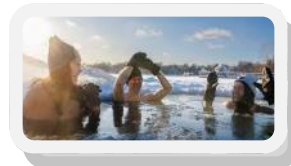


Confirmation class

The confirmation class will meet Sunday, February 19th at 1:30 pm at Waterville EUMC. Amber Scholljegerdes will speak about Faith and Prayer.

Camp Omega Plunge

(Invitation from Dave Wollin from WV EUMC)



Camp Omega is holding its 6th annual Camp Omega Plunge on Sunday February 26 from 1 pm - 3 pm at the Morristown Community Center. It is a fundraiser for Camp Omega Christian Camps, but you can also split the money you get pledged, if you wish. We are looking for Plungers and people to donate. Waterville UMC will be having a team of plungers. We are looking for more plungers and maybe another church team. Obviously, if you don't want to plunge, you can still donate. Teams can dress up in costumes. There will be prizes and food available at the Community Center.

Contact Dave Wollin at 507-384-8438 or killebrew1956@hotmail.com if you want pledge sheets or to sign up a team.



Eight people were present at the Prayer Brunch at the Boathouse in Waseca in January. Our next outing will be Tuesday, February 28th at 11:30 a.m. at the Depot in Faribault. Hope to see you there.



Faribault Lions Club Pancake & Sausage Feast

Sunday, February 5, 2023
7:30 am to 12:30 pm

Faribault American Legion, 112 5th St NW
Adults \$10.00, Children 12 and under \$5.00

This is their major fundraiser of the year to raise funds that go to many projects such as:

- Free eye screenings for children
- Eyeglasses and exams for those in need
- Dictionaries for every third grade student in Faribault, Nerstrand and Medford
- Faribault Community Action Center
- Plastic recycling
- Scholarships to South Central College
- Special projects at MSAB & MSAD
- And many more

Please bring your old eyeglasses & hearing aids to donate.

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.

- Marlis Mahler's co-worker, Eric, who is recovering from surgery to repair a 4-location break in his clavicle.
- Pastor Kathy's cousin, Linda, diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer.
- All who continue journeying through a time of grief.
- Jackie, who has injured her back.
- Trudi, as she continues in her healing and rehab process following surgery to repair a broken hip.
- Marlis Mahler's co-worker, Debbie, as she recovers from a significant surgery and is also working with doctors in Rochester to regulate her on-going blood disorder.
- Patti Ellingson's square dance friend, who continues to find comfort in a BGUMC prayer shawl given to him several years ago.
- Audene, who fell during our horrible bout with January ice, and incurred severe injuries.
- Lynn, a co-worker of Tracie Spinler's, and her family. Lynn's 4-year-old nephew, Oliver, was diagnosed with kidney cancer earlier this year and has now entered kidney failure. Hold Oliver, his family, and all of his medical staff in your hearts.
- One of our "littles" – Evie – who is recovering from a multiple-hour surgery to remove a blockage in her kidney system. One more future surgery is anticipated. Hold Evie, her mom and dad, her extended family, and all of her medical staff in your hearts.
- Another of our "littles" – Andi – who is hospitalized in the Rochester Pediatric Intensive Care Unit due to a sudden onset of RSV and pneumonia. Hold Andi, her mom and dad, her extended family, and all of her medical staff in your hearts.
- Jake Goldsmith's mom, Char, who will be undergoing knee replacement surgery in early February.
- 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.



Thank you to Tracie Spinler and Chery Southworth who coordinated our BGUMC December Adopt-A-Family program, sponsored by the National Honor Society of the Medford Public Schools. Thank you to all who so generously contributed gifts for our "adopted family" that included three children.

Effective January 2023 New MN Conference Director of Racial Justice and Equity



Sabrina Tapia Contreras joined the Minnesota Conference in January as its director of racial justice and equity. This position was approved by members of the 2022 Annual Conference.

Sabrina comes to us with seven years spent as a first-grade teacher, then worked as ethnic minority affairs coordinator for teacher's union Education Minnesota, and then as excellence in equity coordinator for Osseo Area Schools. She has a master's degree in educational leadership, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in systems and educational change. Her personal calling is to serve others and to serve a community. She says that she thinks a lot about what it means to create a beloved community in which each and every person can feel like they belong.

In her role, Sabrina will build on the work outlined in the MN UMC Cabinet Statement on Racial Justice. In her first six months, Sabrina will meet with stakeholders to build relationships, learn who we are, and assess where we are in our journey to become a more just annual conference in order to develop a more formal strategic plan of where we want to go and how we will get there. She will also participate in the "Building Beloved Community" anti-racism training sessions, implement a conference-wide racial equity audit (approved by the 2022 Annual Conference), and provide support for cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments.

Sabrina wants to help the conference bring an equity lens to everything we do. "I'm trying to work myself out of my job," she said. "My greatest success will be when I look around and go: I'm not needed anymore."

Meet and Worship With Bishop Lanette Plambeck



"I want to be where our people are, hear their hopes and dreams for our conference, and see the places they live, love, and worship," said Bishop Lanette Plambeck, who began her assignment as resident bishop for the Dakotas-

Minnesota Episcopal Area on Jan. 1. That's precisely what our new bishop hopes to do at a series of upcoming gatherings in each district. Minnesota United Methodists are invited to choose a location and come to meet Bishop Lanette, hear some of her story, worship together, enjoy warm hospitality and good conversation, and leave with a renewed sense of hope for the future.

Contact Judy Mahler to complete the advanced registration process to attend either the "live" events or the "live-streamed" events.

- Mankato - Hilltop UMC (108 S Manitou Dr, Mankato): Sunday, Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m. (also live streamed)
- Woodbury - The Grove UMC: Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (also live streamed)
- Rochester - Evangel UMC (2645 Broadway Ave N, Rochester): Saturday, Feb. 18, 2-4 p.m.
- Duluth - First UMC: Saturday, Feb. 25, 2-4 p.m. (also live streamed)
- Plymouth - Messiah UMC: Sunday, Feb. 26, 2-4 p.m. (also live streamed)

"There is a misperception that 'the conference' is a building and certain staff positions," said Bishop Lanette. "The truth is every single United Methodist lay person and clergy, including those in extension ministry, are the Minnesota Annual Conference. I'm getting out to meet the conference. In order to lead a people, you need to know the people...I'm excited to be in the places where the United Methodist Church is engaged across the state—sharing and showing the love of Jesus."

The upcoming gatherings will include a time for Bishop Lanette to share about herself and to answer questions from attendees. What does she most want Minnesota United Methodists to know?

"I want people to know that I love Jesus and the United Methodist Church," she said. "I want to

assure them I am committed to leading in a way where all are welcome and wanted. I want Minnesota United Methodists to see how my life and leadership are deeply rooted in the Wesleyan Way. I also want to listen deeply for their hurts, pains, and celebrations and also to hear how we are growing as disciples of Jesus and transforming the world."

Sabrina Tapia Contreras, who joined the conference in January as director of racial justice and equity, will attend as many gatherings as she is able so that she, too, has an opportunity to meet the clergy and laity she'll be working with.

The past few years have been challenging, to say the least: From the global pandemic that impacted mission and ministry to the deep divisions in our world, country, and church, there's been much to discourage us. More than ever, we need community—and the hope and encouragement that comes from being together and looking to the future. That's precisely what these gatherings will offer.

"When we gather together, we have the assurance that we are not alone in this and that best of all, God is with us," Bishop Lanette said. "So come. Worship. Connect. Pray. And be emboldened. I am very much looking forward to meeting the people I already love."

Changes in MN UMC

District Superintendents

- ◆ Effective January 2023: Rev. Cynthia Williams, who had been District Superintendent in the River Valley District (SE MN), transitioned to superintendent of the Twin Cities District.
- ◆ Effective January 1, 2023: Rev. Michelle Hargrave, of Centenary UMC in Mankato, has become the District Superintendent in the River Valley District
- ◆ Effective July 1, 2023: Fred Vanderwerf will complete his tenure as the Southern Prairie District Superintendent. He will be succeeded by Rev. Woojae Im, currently serving as pastor at Church of Peace UMC in Richfield. Both Karen Olson and Cindy Saufferer know Rev. Im through MN UMC Conference work in which they are involved, and speak highly of him. Karen mentioned that a key factor in selecting the new Southern Prairie District Superintendent was choosing someone who believes in, and will be supportive of, ministry in the rural community.

Pastor Kathy's 2023 Involvement in MN UMC Conference Shmita Program



In the Hebrew tradition, there's the concept of a sabbatical year called "Shmita," meaning "release." It's known as the jubilee year where land is left fallow, debts are released, and the perennial harvest is redistributed and accessible for all.

In the MN Conference of the UMC, at every seventh year of their ministry, clergy are required to participate in a year-long program of learning, reflection, and recharging ... all while continuing their work in their local church. The program is known as "Shmita".

Pastor Kathy became eligible for the Shmita program in 2022, but requested a one-year deferment in order to have more time to work together with our parish as we slowly moved back into the "in-person" realm of gathering following the restrictions of COVID. She has now begun the 2023 program.

Shmita provides clergy with the time and resources to take an in-depth look at their health and well-being, and to:

- Review their past ministry and call to ministry
- Discern where God is calling them during the next seven years
- Create a ministry plan for the next seven years

The Shmita year was designed to fulfill training requirements outlined by the Book of Discipline and to invest in clergy and help them prepare to lead effectively in their next chapter. It is an opportunity to think about how they can use their gifts in this next season of life and what God's calling them to do so they stay energized and passionate. It involves the following:

- A 24-hour introductory ZOOM retreat – that Pastor Kathy completed in January
- Involvement in a small group cohort - through which to complete additional activities
- Completion of a required reading list + follow-up book reports
- Prior to October, two weeks of paid time-off, in which the Pastor is to be on a journey of "reflective retreat" – one week of which can be at home, and one week of which is to be away from home, at a solitary place of reflection as chosen by the participant (i.e. a retreat center, a UMC camp setting, somewhere in nature, etc.)

Let us wholeheartedly support Pastor Kathy as she travels this Shmita journey in 2023!

MN Conference Clergy Well-Being Grant



Diane Owen, the MN UMC Conference Dakotas-Minnesota Area Director of Clergy Well-Being, has secured a new Clergy Well-Being Grant that will be used to support clergy who are serving in rural ministry. Pastor Kathy has been contacted for her input as this program is being developed.



2023 Leadership Rotation for Prairie Lakes Parish PPRC

Our Parish PPRC typically rotates leadership roles among our three churches each year, with 2023 leadership projected to be Chair (WV), Vice Chair (JV), and Secretary (BG). Given the significant transitions taking place throughout the MN UMC Conference in 2023, and resulting Conference requests for information and involvement from local churches, this year will bring unique circumstances with it. Due to Karen Olson's work on the District Committee on Superintendency, Arlene Wetzel's interest in becoming more well-versed in all that is taking place in the United Methodist Church right now, and the Conference transition responses that Judy Mahler has begun providing in her role as 2022 PPRC Chair, we have a unique plan in place for 2023:

- Co-Chairs: Karen Olson (WV), Arlene Wetzel (WV), Judy Mahler (BG)
- Vice Chair: (none – due to the co-chair configuration this year)
- Co-Secretaries: Jodi Olson (JV) and Lily Zell (JV)

Our Parish PPRC will be working diligently throughout the year to stay abreast of changes taking place in the MN UMC Conference as well as the United Methodist Church as a whole. We will keep you posted along the way. Your BGUMC representatives on the Parish PPRC:

- Linda Danks
- Judy Mahler
- Allison Janke
- Cindy Saufferer

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

February 2023

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

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Check us out on Facebook!

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To unsubscribe or to be added to our email distribution list, contact cherysouth@gmail.com



WE'RE GOING SNOWTUBING!

On Sunday, February 5th, from 1:30p.m. until 5:00p.m.

Camp Omega, 22750 Lind Avenue, Waterville MN

Family fun – all join in – young & old & in between. **\$5/person** or **\$10/family** gets you in, includes a tube & use of the hill with tow-rope back uphill. Your whole family is invited—bring a friend(s) if you wish. (Anyone **under age 16** must have a **responsible adult** along. Everyone accompanied by an adult other than their parent/guardian must also have medical insurance information along with them, & their guardian's phone number – *that's all "just in case;" we're not planning on any injuries.*)

- ◇ Warming house (& bathrooms!!) on-site for us to use. Hot beverages & snacks will be available
- ◇ There's a tow-rope to help you get up the hill
- ◇ Extra pair of dry, durable mittens/gloves is a good idea. Also, dress for the weather!
- ◇ Call Patti Ellingson 507-339-2477 to confirm name & number of people
- ◇ If paying by check, write on memo line "*family snow tubing*"
- ◇ You may also sign up to bring treats, hot chocolate powder, or other items you're offering to **SHARE** with the group, if you're willing to.
- ◇ You-tube videos of their tubing can be seen by logging onto Camp Omega's website: <https://campomega.org/about/recreation/winter-recreation/>

If further questions, call Patti @ 507-339-2477