



Spread the News! BGUMC

**Hotdish Potluck Supper
Turkey Bingo
& Silent Auction to
Benefit Local Food
Shelves**



Friday evening, November 17th

Mark your calendars and join in the fun - invite your family, friends, and neighbors!
See details in poster in this newsletter.

Your help is needed to make our bingo night a success.

- Clean-Up and Set-Up basement fellowship hall and kitchen in preparation for the evening meal, auction, and Bingo.
- Set up tables for silent auction area and prepare bid sheets.
- Donate prizes for Turkey Bingo. Ideas: frozen turkeys (3 total), meat pack, grocery store gift cards. You may also give a donation to Tracie Spinler and she will do your shopping for you!
- Create/Donate Silent Auction Items, baskets, etc.

Contact Brad Spinler at 507-461-2354 to let him know how you can help - and/or sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.

Update on Winter Clothes for Students Project



As we did last year, we are partnering again with Medford Public School to help replenish their supply of spare winter clothes. The social workers at the school have provided a list of items they usually need – although any winter outerwear or monetary donations are welcome. Here’s the list:

- ◆ Sizes needed: Size 5+, smaller sizes for elementary students
- ◆ Items: sweatpants, leggings, thicker socks, sweat-shirts/zip-ups, long and short sleeved T-shirts, water resistant winter gloves.
- ◆ This is a great use for Kohl’s Cash or credit card reward dollars!

We will have a box in the back of the church starting in November. If you have something you want to get in prior to that, contact Carolyn Kanne.



**Help fill the
Sanctuary with
the Sights of
Christmas!**

Sunday, November 26th – 9:15 A.M.

Join us after church on Sunday, November 26th to help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! That morning, we will be greeted by our beloved backdrop of the hills of Bethlehem, the star shining over the stable, and the light-bathed buildings of the city of Jesus’ birth. We will join together to decorate the windows, pews, and altar rails – lovingly place all of the characters in the manger scene, and put up and decorate our tree. Let’s fill the sanctuary with sources of light and love that remind us of the birth of the Holy One - who came to earth to bring light and love to all.



**Join us for our
Thanksgiving Service**

**Wednesday, November 22nd
7:00 pm at Janesville UMC**

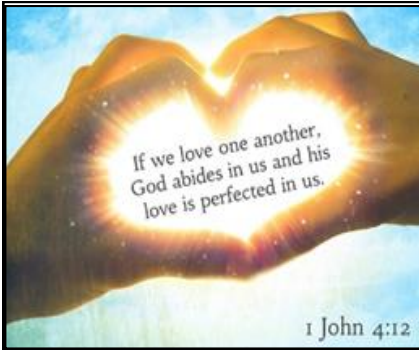
November 2023

Blooming Grove
 Morning Worship...8:15 am
 Sunday School.....9:00 am

Janesville
 Morning Worship.....10:45 am

Waterville Evangelical
 Morning Worship...9:30 am

			1 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29	2 6:30 pm WV Jail Ministry	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 	6	7 	8 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29	9 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV 6:30 pm WV Jail Ministry	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 
12 9:30 am Celebration Breakfast during worship at Waterville EUMC	13 7 pm MN Annual Conference Special Session by Zoom	14 6 pm Bible Conversations at Half Pint	15 11:30 Prayer Brunch at Redemption 5-6:30 pm Spaghetti Supper at WV 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29	16 6:30 pm WV Jail Ministry	17 5:30 pm Turkey Bingo at BG UMC Pastor's Day Off	18
19	20	21 6 pm Bible Conversations at Half Pint	22 7:00 pm joint Thanksgiving service at Janesville UMC	23 6:30 pm WV Jail Ministry 	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 BG—NO SS 9:15 am BG Decorate for Christmas 2:30 pm PLP Charge Con- ference at BG 2:30 pm Con- firmation at BG	27	28	29 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29	30 6:30 pm WV Jail Ministry	<p>Parment Colors</p> <p>11/5 White (All Saints Day) 11/12 Green 11/19 Green 11/26 White (Christ the King Sunday)</p>	



Seeing God



“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit..” 1 John 4: 12-13 NIV

As I watch the leaves drift down from the baring branches, I know that October will soon fade into November. November—the month we move our clocks back an hour (on November 5th), the month daylight wanes, and the month we in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving! November is the month we focus on being thankful. Many of us know the importance of sending and receiving thank-you cards when someone has been kind to us or when someone has cared for us.

In this month that we consider all that we are thankful for, I think about Paul’s letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews is thought to have been authored by Paul, but recent scholars think it may have been Luke). Many of us would love to see God, to be the first to proclaim, “I have seen God!” but few of us realize that we do have the opportunity to see God when we look at those gathered around us. 1 John 4, chapter reminds us that God lives within us and that God’s love is made complete in us through the gift of His Spirit—the Holy Spirit who walks with us, who helps us see one another, and who helps us see one other through eyes of Christian love.

We have opportunities to be parish people who support one another through the Blooming Grove UMC November 17th Turkey Bingo event that will raise money for our Waseca and Steele County Food Shelves. I am grateful for the Spinler family and their hearts for service, the new Blooming Grove Mission Team, and all those who quickly gathered around the volunteer sign-up sheets! See the information included in this month’s newsletter for more information. We will gather as a parish at a Thanksgiving worship service. See the information for that service in this newsletter.

Thank you to those who remembered me with cards, gifts, and greetings for Pastor Appreciation Month. Your thoughtfulness was so appreciated. Jerry and I are thankful for each one of you. We are grateful that you allow us the privilege of walking alongside you on our faith journeys.

Happy Thanksgiving, dear ones.

Pastor Kathy

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

9	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
15	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Redemption
17	Fri	5:30 pm	Turkey Bingo
21	Tues	6:00 pm	Bible Conversations at Brewery
22	Wed	7:00 pm	Thanksgiving Service at Janesville UMC
26	Sun		BG NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
26	Sun	9:15 am	BG decorating for Christmas after worship
26	Sun	2:30 pm	PLP Charge Conference at BG Confirmation Class

Happy Birthday!

2	Cathi Gasner		
6	Ron Engebretson		
11	Nolan Engebretson		
11	Lisa Full	23	Luke Mathern
15	Kaylee Krell	24	Sheryl Brisel
15	Paige Hohertz	26	Alexandria Morgan
19	Brady Nelson	27	Theresa Riecke
19	Norman Giebner	28	Andi Spinler
22	Jason Kosel	29	Roger Wilkowske



Happy Anniversary

12	Jim & Chery Southworth
22	George & Margie Sharp
26	Don & Char Frankenberry

Service Time Change



Starting the first Sunday in December, worship times will change to the later service. Blooming Grove service will be at 10:45 am thru May 2024.



Prayer Shawl Thank-you

Thank you from Sarah, coworker of Marlis Mahler, for the BGUMC prayer shawl. She is so grateful for everyone's prayers.

Treasurer's Report

September 26—October 30, 2023



General Budget Income	\$ 6,570.25
Other Income	
Visitor	10.00
Food Shelf	15.00
Mission Income	1,075.00
Total Income	\$7,670.25
Expenses	
Pastor's Salary	1,959.32
Mileage	88.01
Cell Phone	70.74
Kristin Zemke	35.00
Telephone	52.52
Cleaning	160.06
Excel Energy	142.87
Cokesbury	285.63
Total Paid Out	\$ 2,794.15
(Net Income: + \$4,876.10)	

Building Addition

Income	
Restoration	\$ 1,788.56
Total Income	\$ 1,788.56
Expenses	
Loan Payment	\$ 3,965.20
Total Paid Out	\$ 3,965.20
(Net Income: — \$2,176.64)	
Restoration Fund Balance	\$70,593.92
Building Addition Loan	\$260,123.05

SPAGHETTI SUPPER RETURNS



Waterville Evangelical UMC members are looking forward to seeing you at our Spaghetti Supper on November 15th from 5—6:30 p.m. It's been awhile since we have met inside for this meal!

We will offer both take-out and indoor dining for a free-will offering.

Please join us!

Missions Corner

Our new BGUMC Mission Team held our inaugural meeting Tuesday, October 24th, setting the stage for brainstorming and working together in the months ahead. At our meeting, we:

- Shared stories of who we are, and the communities/groups beyond BGUMC in which each one of us currently serves and/or has interest.
- Shared our dreams for serving others through the ministry of BGUMC.
- Brainstormed about who we will be as a team, how we will work together, and how we will walk along beside long-term BGUMC mission leaders.
- Brainstormed about our “neighborhood” scope - locally, in MN, in the US, and globally.
- Began to identify new mission opportunities to explore for the remainder of 2023 and for 2024.

We also jumped on board with the November Turkey Bingo Event, and are helping to coordinate the mission focus for that evening – support of the Steele and Waseca County Food Shelves. It will be an exciting way to help our neighbors in need.

Feel free to contact members of the Mission Team: with any questions/ideas you may have for BGUMC mission opportunities.

- ◆ Dick & Trudi Remund-Fisher
- ◆ Carolyn Kanne
- ◆ Bobbi Mathern
- ◆ Judy Mahler
- ◆ Marlis Mahler
- ◆ Cindy Saufferer
- ◆ Nicole Wacek

Annual Prairie Lakes Parish Charge Conference Sunday, November 26th at 2:30 p.m. at Blooming Grove UMC



We invite persons from all three congregations of the Prairie Lakes Parish to come together on Sunday, November 26th at 2:30 P.M. at the Blooming Grove UMC to care for the annual business of our three churches, and to celebrate and give thanks for the ministry of each church within their local communities. Rev. Dean Wolf (pastor at Elysian UMC), will be leading us in his official capacity as Elder.

Each church is asked to complete, and bring along for distribution, five local church reports that we will vote to ratify that afternoon. The forms can be found on the Minnesota United Methodist Church website under the “People Portal”. (<https://mnumc-reg.brtaapp.com!/D2bJtrZPyjYcj+Vk3WX1ey-DtML3AJa0C5D0qYI0WYW>)

- Election of Local Church Leadership
- Approval or Renewal of Certified Lay Speaker, Lay Servant, or Lay Minister if any (**Form 2**).
- Recommendation or Renewal of Candidates for Ministry if any (**Form 3**).
- Removal of Inactive/Unresponsive Members (**Form 4**).
- Approval of Pastor’s 2023 Compensation Package (**Forms 5, 7, and 8 as needed**).

The following forms will also need to be completed by each church and presented to their respective church councils by December 31st:

- Report of the Trustees – **Form 10**
- Checklist for Protection of Church Finances – **Form 11**
- Fund Balance and Certification of Annual Audit – **Form 12**
- Annual Budget
- Missions Report – **Form 13**
- Appointed or Assigned Clergy Report – **Form 14**

Thank you to Bill, Emily, and the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm for hosting this morning's Prairie Lakes Parish Community Worship Service in their beautiful setting. This was our 5th year of outdoor worship at their location on World Communion Sunday - the first Sunday of each October! We greatly appreciate their hospitality - and the chance to savor communion bread in the form of wood-fired pizza crust - an experience that stirs up visions of the wheat of the earth served by Jesus to his disciples.

82 folks gathered to worship together here in the midst of God's wondrous creation. The stage served as our altar area and a space in which our pop-up choir could share their music. Brilliant blue skies, glorious colors in the trees, and flocks of birds riding the mid-morning air currents above the tree-line reminded us that God's Holy Spirit flows all around us, in us, and through us. It was a day of blessings.





Friday, November 17th

At Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

An Evening of Thanksgiving Fun in Support of Local Food Shelves

- ◆ **Delicious Hotdish Potluck Supper**
- ◆ **Turkey Bingo featuring Great Prizes**
- ◆ **Silent Auction with amazing Items & Baskets**

All proceeds from this event will go to support our local food shelves in Steele and Waseca Counties.

- ◆ **5:30 P.M. - Hotdish Potluck Supper – A Minnesota staple**
 - ◇ Bring your favorite hotdish to pass and/or a potluck side item (i.e. veggies, fruit, salad, buns).
 - ◇ Dessert and beverage will be provided.
 - ◇ If you would like to share your hotdish recipe, bring copies along!
- **6:30 P.M. – Turkey Bingo and Games**
 - ◇ Bingo play for older youth & adults, with Justin Krell as our lead Bingo Caller. Bingo Cards will be sold @ \$1 each. Bingo prizes include turkeys, grocery store gift cards, and meat bundles!
 - ◇ Games & Bingo for the younger group.
- **Throughout the evening – Silent Auction**
 - ◇ Share in friendly bidding and take home some wonderful treasures!

Questions: Contact Brad Spinler at 507-461-2354.

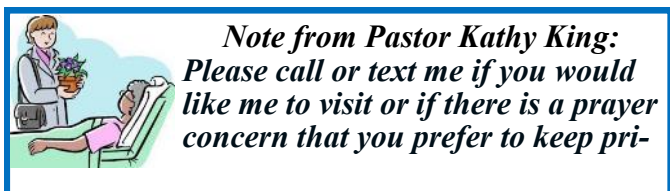
In the past 12 months, the level of food insecurity within our local communities has risen at significant rates. We invite you to join in support of the critical work of our food shelves in bringing help and hope to people in need.



Physical Address:
43089 180th St, Morristown, MN
(NE corner of Waseca County)
Website: www.bloominggroveumc.org

Pastoral Care

Advent, Christmas, New Year's Eve 2023



- The family of Sheryl Brisel's Uncle Larry, of Newton, IA, who passed away in October.
- Duane, the nephew of Chuck and Linda Danks – and his family. Duane's wife, Jeannette, passed away in October after battling numerous medical conditions. She was only 59 years old.
- A young friend (in their mid-20's) of Hjordi Churchill and Judy Mahler, who was just diagnosed with leukemia and has embarked upon the complicated medical journey that accompanies a diagnosis like this.
- All areas of the world enveloped in the devastation of war, natural disasters, and famine.
- Tracie Spinler's co-worker, who hit a deer on the way to work, with the results of the accident requiring that she begin bed rest to decrease the chance of premature labor in her pregnancy.
- The family of Cindy Voss, a paraprofessional in the Owatonna Public Schools, who passed away unexpectedly in October.
- Carolyn Kanne's friend since 1st Grade – Linda, whose younger brother died while in Toykyo
- Sarah, coworker of Marlis Mahler, who is struggling with health concerns and undergoing medical tests.
- 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.
- Farmers in the field, working long hours on the fall harvest and tillage, that they may be safe.



With five Sundays in December this year, the 2023 Advent, Christmas, and New Year's Eve schedule is a little unusual. Please note this for your calendars:

- ◇ Sundays in Advent: December 1, 10, 17, 24.
- ◇ Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24. (Because each church in our parish will host an evening Christmas Eve service, there will be no in-person worship that morning.)
- ◇ Christmas Day: Monday, December 25.
- ◇ New Year's Eve: Sunday, December 31. (Morning worship at the regular times in each of the three churches in our Prairie Lakes Parish.)



Hands Around the World - Update Global Mission Offering Results

Thank you for the ongoing support for this project that spilled over into October, and for all who joined together over 3 months-time to raise over \$1,000 in support of two global mission partners of the United Methodist Church:

- The work of JP and TP in SE Asia.
- The work of Lorraine Charinda (Kamisamba Farm & Training Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

All proceeds will be split 50/50 between the two programs. For each \$10 contributed, we added a "Helping Hand" to the world map located in the back of the sanctuary – and completely filled the map with our hands and hearts of love!



**Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.**

By John Wesley

October 25, 2023 – A Thanksgiving Letter

From Bishop Lanette Plambeck
Resident Bishop,
Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area The United Methodist Church



Dear Friends in Christ,
Grace and peace to you in the name of the One called Bread of Life. I call you into the gospel of John:

When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."
-John 6: 5-12 (NRSV)

Friends, more than 34 million people in the U.S. face hunger or lack access to healthy food. Closer to home, nearly one in every 10 adults in the Dakotas and Minnesota have reported there is sometimes or often not enough to eat for their household. There are people in every one of our communities who face the very real struggle to make ends meet and provide for their families. Some of our beloved United Methodist siblings are likely among them.

Let us come together to make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. I hope you'll join me in participating in our Dakotas-Minnesota Area 2023 *Thanksgiving Offering: Five and Two*— as in the story of Jesus taking five loaves of bread and two fish and feeding 5,000.

What might it look like for every United Methodist in the Dakotas and Minnesota to give at least \$5 to two food ministries this Thanksgiving season? Now, for those who are able: You can provide more— perhaps \$52 to a food ministry of your choice. However you choose to work out the math and whatever amount you're able to give, imagine the impact we will make in our schools, our communities, and our neighborhoods.

I encourage each faith community across our area to choose a local organization that reaches individuals and families facing food insecurity—and to explore how to partner to meet local needs. Could you assemble meals for schools to send home with food-insecure children on weekends to feed their families? Might you create and stock a makeshift food pantry that sits in front of your church? Perhaps you could find out which types of food items are most needed at your local food pantry and challenge the congregation to see how many they can bring on a given Sunday.

Your Thanksgiving Offering is one key way we can show and share the love of God. Thank you in advance for your extravagant generosity. Thank you for blessing the Lord as you bless others and let us live out the gospel of John.

Let us pray:

Lord, sharing the loaves and fishes, You gave us an image of solidarity with the hungry. O Lord give us the hunger to be a part of the feeding and the healing of this world. Amen.

First Baptist still making a difference, even after its sale (by Kay Fate)

The following article was published on 03.17.23 in the Steele County Times. Nicole Wacek and her parents, Tom and Sherry Wacek, are now members of our BGUMC congregation. In this season of Thanksgiving, we take time to remember and give thanks for people and places like the congregation of First Baptist, who find it in their hearts to give to others, even in the most difficult of circumstances. (Article reprinted with permission from the Steele County Times.)



Three local non-profits have received a boost to their funding, thanks to the generosity of the congregation of the former First Baptist Church in Owatonna. The members voted to close the church due to declining membership; the proceeds of the sale of the building were distributed recently. From left are Dom Korbel, executive director of Community Pathways; Amanda Starks, executive director of Rachel's Light; Nicole Wacek, former treasurer of the church and a member of the Closing Committee; Karen Hale and Lori Arnold, members of the Moonlighters Exchange Club and the Owatonna Veterans Memorial. The donation put the memorial over the top of its original goal. Staff photo by Kay Fate

Almost exactly a year after members of the First Baptist Church in Owatonna voted to sell their building and its contents, the decision has come full circle.

Proceeds from the sale of the church have been split evenly among four non-profits, which have all received the donation.

"It was very, very, very hard on all of us, to have to close the church," said Nicole Wacek, the former treasurer and a member of the Closing Committee of First Baptist.

The 1893 building was sold to Redemption Church of Owatonna.

When it was announced, Christian Kohs, who leads the Redemption Church congregation, said he was grateful the historic building wasn't going to a business or corporation – instead, keeping it "committed to spreading the word of the Lord."

Redemption is thriving in its new location, Wacek said, "so that beautiful building is still being used for God's work."

Still, the final details are bittersweet.

"At the time that we had to make the unfortunate decision to close, the church Council at the time came up with several non-profits," she said. "Each of us brought forth what our passions were, and we settled on the four."

Those benefactors are the Veterans Memorial; Community Pathways and Rachel's Light, all in Owatonna, and Dayton Oaks, a children's camp in Dayton, Iowa.

Each organization received \$47,500.

"Words cannot express the gratitude we have for this generous donation," said Amanda Starks, executive director of Rachel's Light.

"When I met with Nicole, she handed me the envelope and encouraged me to open it," she said. "My heart and mind were not ready for what I was about to see. There are not enough tears and thank-yous to truly show our appreciation."

The mission of Rachel's Light is to "instill faith and empower women experiencing homelessness to become self-sufficient by utilizing a strength-based approach."

"There is no greater compliment than knowing that First Baptist stands beside us and supports our mission," Starks said. "We are honored and feel so blessed – this only motivates us to work harder and serve more women and children."

The donation put the Owatonna Veterans Memorial over the top of that committee's \$300,000 goal, said Lori Arnold, treasurer of the Moonlighters Exchange Club and the memorial committee.

"This is getting so exciting," she said, calling it "an honor to be presented a check for \$47,500 on behalf of the Owatonna Veterans Memorial from Nicole, representing the First Baptist Church."

They will not stop raising funds, though. "With rising costs of materials and unexpected expenses, we know we'll need more," Arnold said.

The donation will actually prompt more funding for Community Pathways, which provides multiple resources for people in need in Steele County.

"We know we can change lives here at Community Pathways, but we cannot do it alone," said Dom Korbel, executive director. "It takes partners. It is beyond humbling to have been one of the organizations First Baptist Church chose to support as a partner with this gift opportunity."

Not only was it important, it was timely.

"This donation is of course amazing on its own," Korbel said, "but it also comes during March Food-Share – and will grow, based on the proportional match we receive for all donations this month."

The organization is thankful for the church leaders "who believe so strongly in us and what we do," he said. The gratitude also provides comfort to the former congregation, Wacek said.

"I told the non-profits, for First Baptist, it's our way of paying it forward, and I just hope that they do good work with it – and I know all of the organizations will," she said.

"I hope they always remember the church down there on the corner by the courthouse," Wacek said. "I'm so thankful that Redemption is there, because now they can have that title."

"The church by the courthouse will always be a home for anybody downtown that needs it."

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

November 2023

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171

Medford, MN 55049-0171

Physical Location:

43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN 55052

(NE corner of Waseca County)

Website: www.bloominggroveumc.org

Email: bloominggroveumc@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook!

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and General Pastoral Questions:**

Pastor Kathy King

kking5@hickorytech.net

507-382-2483

Join Us

If you are interested in
becoming a member of
Blooming Grove UMC,
see Pastor Kathy.



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Coming up in December

Sunday Evening
December 24th
"Christmas Eve
Services"



4:30 pm Waterville EUMC

6:00 pm Blooming Grove UMC

7:30 pm Janesville UMC

Sunday Morning
December 24th
Worship Service Online Only

Saturday, December 16
10:00 am to Noon
Cookie Walk at
Waterville EUMC

It's time again to think about those
mouth-watering cookies and fudge.
Cookies will sell for \$8.00 per pound.
Come walk through the tables filled
with holiday goodies!
Hope to see you all there!

