



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 89, Issue 6

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

June 2024

Pastor Kathy's Schedule

Tuesday, June 4th through Mid-June

Pastor Kathy will be away from work for surgery to repair her right shoulder, and to begin the healing process – and related physical therapy. Pastor Kathy, and our Parish Pastor Relations Committee, have been working together to create a plan for caring for the components of Pastor Kathy's ministry during this time. Thank you to all who will be involved in serving our congregations - as described below.

Note: BG = Blooming Grove UMC, WV = Waterville Evangelical UMC, JV = Janesville UMC.

Please keep Pastor Kathy, and Jerry, in your prayers.

Triage Ministry and On-Call Pastor

- Cindy Saufferer, of BG, as Prairie Lakes Parish Deaconess, will serve in the role of "Triage Ministry" – as a first contact that people in the parish can call with pastoral needs or concerns. As needed, Cindy will contact Pastor Elden Eklund (or, if needed, Pastor Kathy) to determine how we can provide the best care. Cindy's phone #: 507-363-9380.
- Elden Eklund, pastor at Morristown Peace UMC, will serve as our "on call pastor" for the parish.

On-Line Services – on the Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook Page

- Posted by Lily Zell of JV

June 9th: Sunday Morning Worship

- BG (8:15) - Cindy Saufferer, of BG, leads worship
- WV (9:30) & JV (10:45) - Dave Wollin, of WV, leads worship

June 16th: Sunday Morning Worship

- BG (8:15) - Deb Miller, of BG, leads worship
- WV (9:30) & JV (10:45) – Cindy Saufferer, of BG, leads worship

Blooming Grove UMC Administrative Items

- Judy Mahler (507-456-3937) and Chery Southworth (507-339-3534) will assist our BG worship leaders in creating worship services and bulletins.
- Chery Southworth (507-339-3534) may be contacted to distribute prayer request emails to our congregation.

Prairie Lakes Parish Joint Worship Services - Summer 2024 "Walking the Road of Faith Together"

This year, we continue our much-anticipated tradition of holding joint worship services among our three congregations on the last Sunday of each month. We hope that you can join us!

Note: There will be an additional pop-up choir rehearsal each month at a date/time/place TBA.

Sunday, June 30th at Blooming Grove UMC

Theme: All Are Welcome

9:15 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal

10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship

Light Lunch to Follow

Sunday, July 28th at Waterville Evangelical UMC

Theme: Fueled by Hope

9:15 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal

10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship

Light Lunch to Follow

Sunday, August 25th at Janesville UMC

Theme: Open to God's Signs

9:15 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal

10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship

Light Lunch to Follow

Also save the date of Sunday, October 6th

World-Wide Communion Sunday

Parish Worship Service

At Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

10:30 A.M. - Morning Worship

11:30 A.M. – Pizza Lunch on the Grounds

June 2024

Blooming Grove
Morning Worship...8:15 am

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

Waterville Evangelical
Morning Worship...9:30 am

Parament Colors The parament color for June is green.						1
					Pastor's Day Off	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave in Waterville		
					Bullhead Days in Waterville	
					Pastor's Day Off	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:15 am Cindy Saufferer leads at BG Dave Wollin leads at JV and WV		UWOF District Day Apart at BG TENTATIVE 4-6 pm Free Diaper Give-away at WV		6:30 pm Parish Worship Team at WV		
Bullhead Days in Waterville					Pastor's Day Off	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:15 am Deb Miller leads at BG Cindy Saufferer leads service at WV and JV <u>Father's Day</u>				9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave in Waterville 		10-Noon Free Diaper Give-away at WV
					Pastor's Day Off	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30			11:30 am Prayer Brunch at Mis tres Flores in Waseca	6 pm Bible Conversations at the Pizza Farm		
9:15 am Pop-up choir Practice at BG 10:15 am Parish Worship at BG						

JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.

6	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
7-9			Bullhead Days in Waterville
11	Tues		UWOF District Day Apart
			TENTATIVE
13	Thurs	6:30 pm	Parish Worship Team in WV
20	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
26	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Mis tres
			Flores in Waseca
27	Thurs	7:00 pm	Bible Conversations at Pizza
			Farm
30	Sun	9:15am	Pop-up Choir Practice



	14	Mike Nicholson, Jr.	
	15	Brian Martin	
	17	Brandon Church	
	20	Kathy King	
	21	Gil Christesen	
3	Michael Kanne	22	Raelyn Janke
4	Shane Yule	23	Dylan Carty
6	Beth Christesen	28	Bobbi Mathern
7	Christ Karsten	29	Bailey Fyvie
7	Penelope Morgan	29	Tyler Morgan
14	Dave Brisel	30	Kelli Prchal

Happy Anniversary

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



Love Offering Thanks!

Thank you to all from BGUMC who donated to the Love Offering in May, raising a total of \$410! Our gifts were brought to our MN United Methodist Annual Conference gathering and pooled with Love Offering donations from United Methodist Churches around the state, for a grand total of more than \$103,000. Amazing! This year's Love Offering will be divided in 4 ways: 30% will go to a new trauma care center in Ukraine, 30% will go to immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network, 30% will go to special programming aimed at reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services' new Restoring Waters facility, and 10% will go to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

Treasurer's Report

May 1—June 1, 2024



General Budget Income	\$ 4,372.00
Cookbooks	10.00
Down the Drain	650.00
Love Offering	170.00

Total Income 5,202.00

Expenses

Pastor's Salary	2,223.64
Telephone	54.21
Excel Energy	98.82
Volkman Electric	1,198.89
Lawn Mowing	338.24
Love Offering	410.00
Youth Bibles	123.91

Total Paid Out \$ 4,447.71

(Net Income: + \$754.29)

Building Addition

Income	
Restoration	\$ 1,518.75

Total Income \$ 1,518.75

Expenses

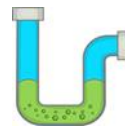
Loan Payment	\$ 5,505.13
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Total Paid Out \$ 5,505.13

(Net Income: — \$3,986.38)

Restoration Fund Balance	\$75,110.66
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Building Addition Loan	\$239,334.34
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Down the Drain Fundraiser

Total Project Cost: \$4,198.89.

\$3,608.93 Raised to-date.

Thank you to all who have contributed to our Down the Drain Fundraiser to update the functionality of the drain system for our BGUMC basement kitchen sinks. ***Our final bills are in, and total project cost landed at \$4,198.89. We are getting close to meeting this goal, but we need your continued help in raising the remainder needed to fund this work.*** If you would like to contribute, please note "Down the Drain" on your check or offering envelope, and place your donation in the white "offering coffeepot" at the back of the sanctuary. Checks should be made out to Blooming Grove UMC. Thank you, again, for your help!



Unity



“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:20-23 NIV

June is my favorite month for many reasons. It marks the middle of the calendar year, the weather is typically warm, and the flowers are abundantly blooming. Nature, it seems, is united in providing a pictorial rendering of the wonder of Creation.

John 17: 20-23 reminds us that Jesus holds each one of us in the wonder of his love when he prays for his disciples and those “who will believe in me through their message.” As disciples, we each are called to share our witness and our faith stories in our communities but—more importantly, we are encouraged to live in unity with our brothers and sisters and support one another in the abundant love of God. Our lives should be our witness when we are people who shy away from public speaking. In our living in unity as disciples, we will show the world that God loves us as God loves God’s Son.

This June, I will be taking a couple of weeks to recover from surgery (June 4th) to repair a torn rotator cuff on my right shoulder. I am predominantly right-handed so that means I will be unable to create our online worship services. I need both hands to set up the equipment and to use the PC and programs to create the video. Our SPRC chairperson, Lily Zell, will be rerunning videos from past worship services while I recover. Many thanks to Lily! I am blessed to have a parish with many talented and willing people who will step in while I recover. Dave Wollin will lead worship at Waterville and Janesville on June 9th, while our Deaconess, Cindy Saufferer, will lead worship at Blooming Grove that day. On June 16th, Deb Miller will lead worship at Blooming Grove and and Cindy will lead worship at Waterville and Janesville. Many thanks to Cindy, Dave, and Deb! Also, many thanks to Karen Olson, Chery Southworth, and Judy Mahler who will work with everyone to ensure worship happens smoothly and who will help me when I return after a couple of weeks. Thank you for your patience as I recuperate.

Congratulations to our high school and college graduates! You reached a big goal, and your churches are proud of you! It is my prayer that each of you takes time to enjoy this June!

Thank you for being the blessings you are to your pastor and her chauffeur!

Pastor Kathy



Updates, Updates & Hoorays!

Fortunately, prior to church service on Celebration Sunday May 19th, we received information about additional church folks worthy of recognition. Unfortunately, May's **THE VISITOR** went to press prior to learning those important people. So the following info is an amendment to May's article of our celebrants.

Gunnar Rollins, up-coming 4th grader, was also gifted his own new Bible. Gunnar's parents are Matt and Amanda Rollins.

Sam Kanne, grandson of Faye (and nephew of Brian and Carolyn) also graduated from Bemidji State University. He's earned his Bachelor's in Project Management. He's got a summer job lined up; Sam's ultimate goal will be a construction-related job utilizing his Project Management degree.

Val Mullenbach, wife of Matt, mom to Gabe, Will, & Peter, has been multitasking between college nursing studies including labs and clinicals, family responsibilities, teaching Sunday School, work, and who knows what else! She's now earned her Bachelor's in Nursing from Riverland Community College and has only her State Board's ahead of her to achieve her Registered Nurse licensure. Val's plans include welcoming the wee little ones into the world as she works in the maternity department of Northfield Hospital. We hold these three young folks, as we do the up-coming 4th graders, and the grads whom we listed in last issue's **VISITOR**, in our hopeful hearts as they embark on the next steps of their futures.

**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
AT WV EUMC
JULY 14-18 2024 6:00-8:00 pm
Ages 3yrs to 6th Grade**



Hey kids – and moms and dads, too. Check your summer schedule! Look at your calendar! Make plans! “What plans?” you ask. Camp Firelight, our combined Prairie Lakes Parish churches' summer Vacation Bible School event, is being held **Sunday July 14th through Thursday July 18th from 6:00pm until 8:00pm** at the Waterville Evangelical United Methodist Church. Invite your friends to attend with you – invite your neighbors – invite your cousins – invite your moms or dads to take a carpool day of bringing your BFF's and then maybe they might wish to observe (or even volunteer to help on their carpool eve). All kids **ages 3 through 12** – we have a

class for you. Do you like games? Do you like crafts? Do you like science experiments? Do you like music and/or choreographed actions set to music? Do you like fun snacks (duh!)? Do you like hearing our fun Pastor Kathy tell Bible stories? Well, you'll find it all here. Naw, you won't find a sleepover, so you won't need your tent or a sleeping bag, but I can guarantee there'll be a tent on-site just to set the mood. “The cost?” you now query... Nuthin', although free will offering is always appreciated. For 2 or more kids? Double nothin'!

Interested? Questions? Wanna get your registration in? Reach out to any of the following: Kathy King (507) 382-2483, Patti Ellingson (507) 339-2477, Karen Olson (507) 661-4818, Julie Balfe (507) 330-0280



BGUMC Celebrations

Congratulations and blessings to Penelope Nicholson upon her May 5th confirmation, and joining BGUMC as a new member! Penelope's beautiful confirmation stole was hand-made by Linda Kosel of BGUMC.



On Sunday, May 19th, our third grade students were presented with their own Bibles: Peter Mullenbach, Thomas Prchal, and Gunnar Rollin. Pictured here are Peter and Thomas.

BULLHEAD DAYS



Bullhead Days will be taking place in Waterville on June 7-9. WEUMC will be serving up some tasty food at the Hamburger Stand once again! Be sure to stop down during the weekend to enjoy a hamburger, hot dog, giant pickle, chips, or pop at the stand. It all helps the church! We are planning to include an EUMC Float in the parade on Sunday afternoon again this year too! If you come to Waterville for the parade, be sure to watch for us to come through with some candy and a few flyers!

Congratulations & Blessings To Pastor Kathy

Our congratulations and blessings ring out
to Pastor Kathy King!



At Tuesday's Clergy Session of this year's MN United Methodist Annual Conference gathering (May 28th – May 30th in Bloomington), Pastor Kathy was officially approved by all voting clergy to become an Associate Member of the MN Conference of the UMC. At Wednesday evening's Celebration of Life as Clergy Worship Service, held at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church (Minneapolis), Bishop Lanette Plambeck publicly recognized and blessed Pastor as an Associate Member. (See photo above.)

Pastor Kathy is one of only two local licensed pastors who have completed the work to become Associate Members in the Minnesota Conference! As an Associate Member, Pastor Kathy is now responsible to the Bishop, rather than the Board of Ordained Ministry. In addition, Pastor Kathy now retains her ministry credentials for her lifetime, rather than losing them at retirement, and no longer needs to undergo an annual licensing process.

Becoming an Associate Member is a long and diligent journey. It is open to persons who begin their ministry as a local licensed pastor, have served in that capacity for a number of years, and who demonstrate a track record of highly effective service, accomplishments, and ministerial attributes in their role as clergy. The journey to Associate Membership includes the steps listed below.

- Completion of a multi-year Course of Study Program with, or approved by, a United Methodist Seminary. (Pastor Kathy chose the Native American Course of Study.)
- Application to, and approval by, the MN UMC Board of Ordained Ministry to become a candidate for Associate Member.
- Completion of all requirements, interviews, and reviews of the MN UMC Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Approval by the MN UMC Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Vote of approval by the Clergy session of the MN UMC Annual Conference.

We share with you here a note of blessing to Pastor Kathy from Rev. Dr. Fred Vanderwerf, our former UMC District Superintendent, and Pastor Kathy's sponsor on her journey to Associate Membership. (Note: In 2019, Fred brought Pastor Kathy, and her ministry, into our midst.)

Kathy - You are nailin' it! Knockin' this ministry journey out of the park. I'm so blessed to be in the service of Christ together with you. I so appreciate your positive hope-filled spirit – rain or shine! You speak goodness into people, but not just any goodness – God's tremendous goodness. Congratulations on Associate Membership and kudos to you for effective leadership as a pastor, preacher, and planter.

God Bless – Fred (Vanderwerf)

*In photo below,
Fred presents Pastor Kathy with a beautiful
cross pendant from the MN Conference.*



And we also share these words of Facebook congratulations from Bishop Lanette Plambeck to Pastor Kathy: "What a joy to celebrate you! You are a gift to this conference."

Celebrating Pastor Kathy at BG

On Sunday, June 2nd, we celebrated and blessed Pastor Kathy during morning worship upon her recognition as Associate Member of the MN Conference of the UMC. We presented a

gift of a Prayer Plant, that opens its leaves/hands to receive blessings during the day and lifts its leaves/hands in prayer in the evening hours.



Pastoral Care



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.

- Sherry, and her medical team, and Faye and her medical team, as they each continue treatment for health concerns. Please take a moment to reach out through a note, phone call, or text to each of them, as the treatment wears them out, and makes for long and isolating days.
- Elizabeth, daughter of Linda and Chuck Danks, as she recovers from surgery and works with her medical providers to determine next steps.
- Tom, who is having major issues with his back, and who is beginning treatments that will hopefully bring relief, but that take awhile to have an impact – and in the meantime, are affecting his eyesight.
- Bruce, diagnosed with an autoimmune disease.
- All of the people in the Midwest, and around the country, who are suffering the devastation of the intense spring storms that have no signs of stopping. In particular, hold the farm neighbors of Cindy Saufferer's sister in your hearts, as a tornado took out their entire farm.
- Tom and Sherry, who had to say goodbye to their beloved 13-year-old dog Mya.
- Carol Karsten's son, Wally, as he continues ongoing care with his medical providers, and received hopeful news in May of "nothing new".
- Nicole, as she provides care for her parents, both of whom are experiencing medical concerns.
- Pastor Kathy, as she recovers from shoulder surgery.
- Marlis Mahler's niece, Tamara, of Colorado, and Tamara's family, care team, and day activity staff as they work together to help Tamara regain her strength, mobility, and social networks after an illness in April.
- Deb Miller's father, who is recovering from a fall that resulted in surgery to repair a broken femur. Pray that his strong determination will continue to carry him through the long days of ongoing physical therapy and healing.
- Tracie Spinler's friend Darla, and her family. Darla's baby grandson, Austin has been hospitalized due to an infection, and will be needing heart surgery.
- Linda Kosel's niece, Vickie, and her family.



Vickie's husband is recovering from surgery to repair injuries sustained in a fall while getting off a tractor.

- Our Insty Prints family and friends as they mourn the death of Jackie Ostlund, Pete's wife, and Rebecca and Julie's mother. Jackie was involved in a tragic automobile accident and did not survive her injuries. The Ostlund family, and their business, have been heartfelt supporters of our BGUMC congregation for many years.
- A pilot friend of Brad Saufferer's, whose baby was born 8 weeks early, and has significant medical concerns.
- A co-worker of Marlis Mahler's, who could use extra prayers.
- 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.

New Baby

Celebrations are in order for Chuck and Linda Danks as they give thanks for the birth of their great-granddaughter, Piper Elizabeth!



In Sympathy

Hold Matt and Val Mullenbach - and their boys Gabe, Will, and Peter – in your hearts as they walk with their extended family through days of heartache and grief at the unexpected death of Matt's aunt, Deb Johnston - of Deerfield Township. Deb passed away while on a business trip in Sioux Falls, SD on Wednesday, May 16th. In his early growing up years, Matt's Aunt Deb lived with Matt's family, and became an "extra mom" to Matt - and has been a very important "extra grandma" to Gabe, Will, and Peter. Her passing leaves a huge hole in the hearts of all she loved so dearly.

Prayer Shawl Thank-you

Thank you from Deb Miller's dad for the prayer shawl that Deb brought to him at the hospital as he was recovering from surgery to repair a broken femur resulting from a fall.



Blooming Grove United Methodist Church
Board Council Meeting
April 10, 2024



Carolyn Kanne, Board Secretary

In attendance: Brad Spinler, Brad & Cindy Saufferer, Brian & Carolyn Kanne, Pastor Kathy King, Judy Mahler, Chery Southworth, Patti Ellingson

Opening Prayer: Pastor Kathy

Review of January 2024 meeting: approved by consensus

Financial Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: Brad Saufferer will wait a couple more weeks to send our donation to the Bethlehem Inn – until the blessing of the blankets. We have the bill for the plumbing repairs in the kitchen, but not the electrician yet. Brian moved to accept the report, seconded by Patti – motion carried.
- Financial Secretary Report: The men's breakfast raised \$1345 for the drain project. The income from the fish fry went to the building fund. Brad Saufferer moved to accept, seconded by Judy – motion carried.

Trustees Report:

- Basement Drain Solution – The kitchen drains are fixed; still waiting for electrician's bill.
- Other Trustee Updates – Brad put in a call to Owatonna Glass about the round storm window (it's cracked), but no one has called him back. Kirchner's will replace it if we get a window to install. We may have someone who can fabricate a cart for the tables and chairs. They are looking into blocking a couple of windows to keep mice out. New flags are flying on the flagpole. Brad Spinler has lined up someone out of Waseca to mow the lawn. They were looking for a church to mow to build their resume.

Old Business

- The new filing cabinet and shelves for the back room are here. Hasn't been time to deal with them yet.
- The building loan is due 10/15/2025. The finance committee met and plan to pay some extra in every month in order to be down under \$100,000 by the due date.

Team Reports

Education and Events

- Patti wondered if we should suspend this committee. They haven't met for ages. She is willing to act as Youth Coordinator.

PPRC

- Met last night. They discussed the continuing ed for CONAM meeting in Anchorage, AK October 13-18. Patti moved to allow Pastor Kathy to tap travel and continuing ed funds to make the trip. Brian seconded – motion carried.
- Pastor Kathy will be gone May 6-12 for Alexia's graduation. Deb Miller will lead worship on May 12th.
- May 5th is Poppy Nicholson's confirmation.

Communication

- The new directory is done. Chery has a spreadsheet with everyone's information.

Worship

- Lent/Easter services and activities.
- People loved the Good Friday service here.

UWOF

- Cindy reported that the District Day Apart will be here on June 11th. She is awaiting instructions. We will be responsible for providing lunch; they do the program. Judy will be the musician. There will probably be about 25 or 30 attendees. The theme is Bloom and Grow at Blooming Grove. Cindy will set up a committee after General Conference.

Mission

- The Lenten offering is going to Bethlehem Inn in Waseca. We are wrapping that up.
- The Love Offering this year goes to Restoring Waters, legal aid for immigrants, Ukraine (trauma treatment), and the usual 10% to Volunteers in Mission for scholarships. We will collect for this through May. Cindy is not sure about the hands-on component this year.

Pastor's Report

- Associate Member Status – Clergy approval of associate memberships will be at Annual Conference on May 28th. Annual Conference is from May 28-30 in Bloomington.
- Confirmation: need a makeup date for the March meeting. Will contact Beth to set it up. The next scheduled confirmation meeting is April 28. It was asked about a gift from the church. Patti will contact Linda Kosel to see if she's willing to make a stole.
- Workers' Comp – The conference has held this coverage in the past. They won't be anymore – we will need to provide it. Brad will call Church Mutual to check on it.

Upcoming Events

- Recognition Sunday will be May 19th. Third graders are Peter and Thomas. Several graduates.
- July 21st will be the Fish Fry at Half Pint.
- September 9th will be a big day: Run for the Loaves, BBQ cook-off, and the return of the tractor pull.

Miscellaneous

- Facebook: Brad presented some statistics that Kristin had put together about our internet presence. Facebook has reached about 809 people, with 78 engagements. Should we be present on Instagram as well to reach a younger audience?
- Also regarding internet issues: questions have been raised about streaming the service. Would an internet connection here be feasible? We will check with Luke.
- 51% of people who access the church website leave without doing anything. How do we engage them?
- Discussed using a hand truck for a chair dolly.

Next Meeting Date: July 10, 7:00 pm

Closing Prayer – Pastor Kathy

**Highlights from the 2024 Annual
Conference of the MN
United Methodist Church
May 28th – 30th in Bloomington, MN**



By Christa Meland, Director of Communications, MN Conference of the UMC

Theme: Drawing from Isaiah 43:1, the theme of this year's Annual Conference is "Jesus. Redeemer." We gathered to be reminded what it means to be named and claimed by Jesus for the sake of our mission. We explored how to live together, anchored in our identity as Christ followers who are inspired to live with hope, possibility, and purpose.

Bishop's Episcopal Address: On a trip to Scotland in 2019, while Bishop Lanette was stepping onto a bus, the driver instructed her to "mind the gap" between the platform and the vehicle. "I believe God has uniquely positioned the United Methodist Church in Minnesota to be trailblazers as we mind the gaps of society," she said. We can mind the gap of justice and reconciliation work. We can mind the gap of the least of these so that people will have their basic human needs met. It is up to us to mind the gap that separates the kingdom of heaven from what we are experiencing here on earth.

Milestones in ministry: At a beautiful worship service at Hennepin Avenue UMC in Minneapolis, Minnesota United Methodists honored and thanked 14 clergy entering retirement, and they celebrated one pastor ordained as a deacon, three commissioned as provisional members, one recognized as a provisional member from another denomination, one recognized as an associate member, and six authorized to serve as local pastors in the congregations and ministry areas in which they are appointed.

Staying power: In a powerful sermon based on Isaiah 43:1-2, Rev. Cindy Gregorson pointed out that God tells us not to be afraid not if—but *when*—we encounter deep waters or raging rivers, or walk through fire. God knows how scary it can be when our world starts shifting, and the tug between the comfortable and the unknown

happens to all of us all the time. If we are going to be able to go the distance, we need to stay in love with God because that is where our staying power comes from, she said. She told those gathered: "You are called. You are beloved. You are precious in God's sight. You can do this hard thing, whatever your hard thing is, because you are not doing it alone. God is with you, God is for you, God has got you."

Living into our baptismal vows: As this year's Conference Preacher, Rev. Luke Nelson delivered a sermon urging us to live into our baptismal vows. He reminded attendees that they created in the image and likeness of God, and that God claims us and is with us, always. We are set aside for one sacred purpose: to share God's love with the world. But we don't do it alone; we are in this together. He reminded those gathered that when we are baptized, our congregations also vow to be a community of love and forgiveness for us. "United Methodism is a feast entrusted to us not only to set the table for the world, but for you to taste and see that the Lord is good," he said.

Legislation: Hundreds of voting members in attendance at Annual Conference approved the majority of legislation under consideration, including:

- moving from five to four districts as of July 1, 2024,
- a resolution that denounces the increase in hate crimes in the U.S., calls on the Minnesota Conference to partner with others on this concern, and calls on Minnesota congregations to commit to actions to increase learning and speak out.
- a resolution that opposes Israeli apartheid, calls on the U.S. government to make U.S. funding conditional upon Israel dismantling its apartheid system, and urges United Methodists to listen to Palestinian voices.
- the establishment of a conference Board of Lay Ministry to equip and enable lay persons to be in mission and ministry in all aspects of life.

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

June 2024

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!

**Pastoral Care and Emergency
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.



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

kking5@hickorytech.net

Visitor Staff:

Chery Southworth, Visitor Coordinator

26651 Elmore Avenue

Morristown, MN 55052

(507) 339-3534

CherySouth@gmail.com

Judy Mahler, Editor

Carolyn Kanne, Writer

Brad Saufferer, Writer

Patti Ellingson, Writer

Cindy Saufferer, Writer

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contact cherysouth@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD – BGUMC COMMUNITY EVENTS

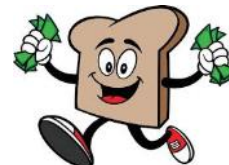
Mark your calendars and spread the news!



Sunday, July 21st – at Half Pint Brewing

BGUMC Summer Outdoor Walleye Fish Fry
(proceeds to BG Building Fund for South Addition)

Saturday, September 7th – at BGUMC



Morning: Run 4 the Loaves (proceeds to Area Food
Shelves)



Noon: BBQ Cook Off (proceeds to Area Food
Shelves)

Afternoon: Tractor Pull (proceeds to BG
Building Fund for South Addition)

