



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 90, Issue 9

THE TWO STEEPLED CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

September 2025

Exciting Opportunity! Matching Gift Funds



One of the loans for our accessibility project is coming due in October. How is this an opportunity? Well, an anonymous donor has offered to match all funds donated for the building fund, up to \$5,000, during September (possibly extended into October)! Just note on your check/envelope that it's for the building fund. It would be great to get the balance on this loan paid down!



Just a Reminder

By Brad Saufferer

*September 6th is the date
for the biggest day around.*

Registration for the run/walk is at 8:30 a.m., kids run at 9:15 a.m., walkers go out at 9:30 a.m., and runners at 10:00 a.m.. The smoked ribs will be ready for tasting and voting at noon.

Still looking for volunteers, runners/walkers, and rib smokers. Something new this year, I'm asking last year's rib contest winner to choose what style ribs he wants to smoke this year. All the rib smokers will cook those ribs, but it should result in more moaning and trash talking. What is a good church fund raiser without some moaning and trash talking.

If you have any questions, want to smoke ribs, want to volunteer, give me a call at 507-363-6579 or email me at b_saufferer@msn.com. Remember all proceeds go to area food shelves.

There is lunch and a tractor pull following; you can ask Brad Spinler about that (507-461-2354). He being the tractor pull guru.

Sunday School Welcomes You as Students and Teachers!



Coming soon! Our 2025-2026 Sunday School Season begins on Sunday, September 21st at 9:15 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. Sunday School will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, taking a break over the Christmas and New Year's Holidays, and on Easter.

We are excited to offer three classes:

- Preschool – K
- Early Elementary (Grades 1-4)
- Upper Elementary/Middle School/Jr. High (Grades 5-7)

We have wonderful new materials this year, infused with “active learning” opportunities, great Bible-story-telling, and amazing illustrations!

Please contact Judy Mahler @ 507-456-3937 if you would be interested in sharing your heart and time as a teacher or a substitute teacher. Thank you!

Note that from December through May, the time of Sunday School will shift to 9:45 A.M. – 10:30 A.M., when our morning worship start time changes to 10:45 A.M. for the winter/spring months.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our Sunday School Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 14th during our 10:45 A.M. Sunday morning Worship.

We will have an extra rehearsal that morning from 9:45 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.



September 2025

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

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

**Waterville Evangelical
Morning Worship...9:30 am**

[illegible]

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sunday)

6	Sat	8:30 am	Run for the Loaves
6	Sat	12:00 Noon	BBQ Cookoff
6	Sat	1:00 pm	Tractor Pull
7	Sun	7:00 pm	Confirmation Student/parent Meeting at BG
9	Tues	7:00 pm	Education Team Meeting at BG
11	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
10	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Channel Inn in Warsaw
13	Sat		Indigenous History Field Trip (Details to come)
14	Sun	11:30 am	Baked Potato lunch at Janesville UMC
16	Tues	6:00 pm	Bible Conversations at Half Pint
21	Sun	3:00 pm	Confirmation (Meet at Greenwald's Greenhouse)
25	Thurs	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave

Pastor Kathy is on vacation from September 20th thru October 4th.



1	Char Frankenberry	9	Stefanie Morgan
2	Don Frankenberry	11	Deecy Jesse
2	Allison Janke	15	Jessica Buchholz
2	Walt Nagel	16	Bradley Christesen
3	Hazel Saufferer	16	Patti Ellingson
3	Jim Southworth	16	Penelope Nicholson
6	Dick Fisher	23	Peter Mullenbach
6	Annabel Buchholz	25	Emily Engebretson
7	Jeremiah Mahler	26	Carolyn Kanne
		26	Jennifer Kanne
		27	Denise Combs
		28	Alex Spinler

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

4	David & Jenny Kanne
5	Joe & Kelli Prchal
14	Justin & Kristin Krell
15	Gil & Beth Christesen
15	Brad & Cindy Saufferer
17	Jim & Kristin Nagel
17	Tyler & Alex Morgan
22	Walt & Holly Nagel
22	Alex & Lacey Spinler
22	Jim & Mary Karsten
28	Jerry & Patti Ellingson
28	Brandon & Emily Church



Treasurer's Report

August 2025



General Budget Income \$ 1,697.00

Total Income 1,697.00

Expenses

Pastor's Salary	2,268.75
Excel Energy	64.31
Quality Lawn and Snow	630.00
Century Link	57.80

Total Paid Out \$ 3,020.86

(Net Income: — \$1,323.56)

Building Addition

Income

Restoration	\$ 594.00
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Total Income \$ 594.00

Expenses

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

(Net Income: — \$4,911.13)

Mission Giving

Texas Flood Relief	\$ 400.00
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Sunday, September 14th
Fall Baked Potato Lunch at
Janesville UMC
11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
 Your choice of toppings on a large potato with beverage and dessert

Saturday, October 4th
Chicken & Biscuit Dinner at
Waterville EUMC
4:30 – 6:30 P.M.
 Chicken, gravy, homemade biscuits, corn, coleslaw, and dessert

**“When you pray,
move your feet”**

West African Proverb that means prayer must be combined with action.



Work



*There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
There are different kinds of working,
but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*
Corinthians 12: 5-6 NIV

As I write this month's thoughts, the tree outside my office window is coming down. It makes me sad but it's a sick Ash tree and must go. As I watch the gentleman work the lift and basket that he raises higher than I'd ever care to go, I am thinking about the gifts and talents that God has given to us. Each one of us has unique ways of doing God's work in our world. I wonder...do we see the work we do as a gift given from the One who is the Creator of everything?

With the beginning of September, we move into the 2025/2026 church year with Sunday School, Confirmation, JUMC's Baked Potato Feed (September 14th), and WEUMC's October Biscuits and Gravy. September 6th is Blooming Grove's annual day of the Run 4 the Loaves, Bar-be-que Cookoff, pulled pork lunch, and the popular Tractor Pull. Think of the number of different kinds of work are needed to make each a success. God blesses our three congregations with workers who use their gifts and talents. In these days when it seems like people have forgotten how to work together, it is heart-warming to see so many work together for the good of their churches and their communities.

Our same God works through each one of us to promote unity each time we gather. Our summer joint worship services were a time to visibly and spiritually see God at work. Thank you to each of you who planned, participated, worked, and attended our joint worship opportunities. We have one more time to gather on World Communion Sunday on October 5th at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. We gather from 10 to 10:30 when worship begins. Kristin Ziemke will join us and provide her ministry of music as Judy Mahler leads our pop-up choir surrounded by God's beautiful creation. We are blessed by their leadership and talents that they generously share. The same God has created each of wondrously.

How can we each use our "different kinds of working" to glorify the God who created us for good works? In these days, Almighty God, help us to use your gifts and talents to be visible examples of Your grace in our living.

Remember, you are blessed so go be a blessing to someone else.

Your pastor and Jerry are grateful for each one of you! Happy Fall!

In His Love,

Pastor Kathy



Camp Chaos Celebrating God's Wild & Wonderful Creation!



A Day of Learning, Fun, and Wonder

BGUMC had THE BEST DAY EVER on August 2nd when we hosted Camp Chaos for children ranging from our “almost 3 years olds” to those who just completed 6th grade!



Our theme for the day spent entirely outdoors: “God is the Best!”

Throughout the day, we explored and celebrated the wonder and beauty of God's creation. Activities included making nametags and personalized water cups, creating our very own gigantic creation mural - depicting all of the days of creation, singing camp songs, reading stories about God's love for everything that God made, going on a Gratitude Nature Scavenger Hunt – complete with binoculars and magnifying glasses, creating photo-sensitive images of the amazing things we collected, playing games, blowing bubbles, eating a great lunch and snacks, water balloon relays, and making new friends. At the end of the day, it was a unanimous request among the campers – “Can we do this again next year?”



Many, many thanks go to all the volunteers who put their heart and soul into planning, hosting, and spending time together with our “Big” and “Little” kiddos in God's great outdoors, including the Day Camp Planning Team, all leaders for the day (including high schoolers and young adults), parents who accompanied their littlest children, and folks who provided our lunch and treats.



Congratulations to our BGUMC 4-Hers and their winnings at the Steele County Fair



Leah

Reserve Champion Jr. Safety Project
Reserve Champion Jr. STEM Project
Reserve Champion Brown Egg Layers
Reserve Champion Jr. Breeding Doe
Reserve Champion Jr. Market Wether
Reserve Champion All Other Breeds Market
Barrow
Three purple ribbons for pigs
Many blue ribbons

Kaylee

Champion Organic Soybeans
Second Place Organic Oats
Overall Champion Organic Crop
First Place Sweet Corn Ears



Second Place Soybean Sample
Second Place 2024 Ear Corn Sample
Third-longest 2025 Ear Corn

Emery

First Place with the largest pumpkin
(91 lbs.)



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.



- Chuck and Linda's grandson, Easton, who has begun his service in the Reserves, and their grandson, Zach, who has begun Basic Training at Great Lakes.
- Tracie Spinler's co-worker, Stacy and her family. Stacy's future brother-in-law was killed in a hit-and-run ATV accident. He was 23 years old.
- Kathy - a friend of Cindy, Hjordi, and Carolyn - who lost her husband due to cancer.
- Vee, who is experiencing health concerns.
- LeAnn, the mother of a friend of Beth Saufferer's, who has stage 4 cancer.
- For the victims of the school shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis during morning Mass. Especially hold in your hearts the families of the two children who lost their lives.
- Prayers of thanks for Baby Kasen, grandson of Luke and Bobbi, who is recovering wonderfully from his second heart surgery and will soon go home for the first time since he was born!
- Prayers of thanks for the birth of baby Colbie, born to Marlis Mahler's great-niece Annika.
- Eric, and family (Eric has done some work at church for us) as they mourn the death of his mother.
- Wally, as he recovers from recent surgery.
- Val Mullenbach's brother-in-law, recovering from a recent heart attack, and giving thanks for his immediate access to a cath lab and installation of stents.
- Tracie, as she recovers from hip replacement surgery.
- All in our midst whose care, safety net, and/or jobs are being compromised due to changes in federal funding.
- Persons throughout the USA impacted by severe flooding.
- For our world, and our world leaders, that ways may be found to bring peace.
- 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.

Prairie Lakes Parish Joint Worship Service

At Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

Sunday, October 5th

World-Wide Communion Sunday

- 9:45 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 A.M. – Worship participants arrive to pick up bulletins, order pizzas, and set up camping/folding chairs and tables on the lawn.
- 10:30: Worship Service with Communion
- 11:30 – 1:00: Pizza Lunch on the grounds

PLEASANT
GROVE
PIZZA FARM
WASECA, MN

5 Generation Picture



Pictured are Great Great Grandma Carol Karsten (91-3/4 years young), Great-Grandma Denise Combs, Grandma Jenny Waltz, proud Mother Tayiah Waltz and son Remy Torres.



Mission Team News and Invitations!

\$820 given in donations to care for those impacted by Guadalupe River Flood in the Hill Country of Texas

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Guadalupe Flood Relief Special Offering this summer! On August 19th, our treasurer sent off a check for \$820 to the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist church, representing gifts from folks at BGUMC. 100% of every dollar given will go to organizations and churches actively responding with food, shelter, rebuilding assistance, and hope. The Rio Texas Conference is also working to train, and send out, compassionate emergency response teams to assist with cleaning out flooded homes and tarping roofs. May God use our gifts to help restore what has been lost, to comfort those in despair, and to remind every person affected by this flood that they are not alone.

Winter Clothing Drive for Emma Norton Services of St. Paul September 14th – October 5th

Emma Norton Services is gathering donations for their annual coat/winter gear drive! ***They are seeking donations of the following, all of which need to be new or like-new:***

- Winter coats in both men and women's styles in all adult sizes
- Kids' snowpants
- Kids' and adult sizes of warm socks, winter hats, gloves/mittens, and snow boots.

If you wish to donate any of these items, please drop them off at the table at the back of the sanctuary (under the bulletin board) between the Sundays of September 14th – October 5th. Note: drop-off boxes will also be available at the greeter tables at the Sunday, October 5th worship service at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm!

Emma Norton Services is a United Methodist related trauma-informed organization that promotes healing and recovery by connecting people to transformational housing, growth, and possibility.

Feed My Starving Children Food Pack
Thursday, November 6th
5:30 – 7:30 P.M.
At Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna
For ages 3rd Grade to 100+ years old

Sign up from September 14th – October 5th

Come and be part of a BGUMC Team that works together in the high-energy setting of the annual Owatonna Area Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Food Pack on November 6th! If you wish to volunteer, please sign up at the table at the back of the sanctuary (under the bulletin board) between the Sundays of September 14th – October 5th. Because volunteer spots fill up super-fast, we want to be ready to enter our team as soon as registrations open in early October. More details will be provided as we learn more from the event organizers.

At this event, kids and adults of all ages work together to hand-pack **nutritious MannaPack[®] Rice meals** specifically designed to assist in reversing and preventing undernutrition, with each meal costing less than 30 cents. Note: There are also "seated volunteer" positions available – placing labels on rice bags waiting to be packed.

FMSC, a Christian nonprofit organization, partners with organizations around the world to reach undernourished children. They donate meals, free of cost, to an exceptional network of schools, orphanages, medical clinics, and feeding programs in 70 countries around the world – helping to deliver hope, and break the cycle of poverty. Eating just one of these meals a day can save a child's life.



The Stretch

Grief and Love

By Cindy Saufferer

Prairie Lakes Parish Love Through Justice Coordinator

Yesterday morning, I pulled myself out of bed looking for my first cup of coffee to sit, enjoy, wake-up and watch the news. I might have been grumbling to myself about watching the local news because it would be all about the State Fair. The second week in, I have lost interest in hearing about all the tasty tidbits being sold at the fair. As I sat, a breaking news report came in telling the known details of the school shooting at Annunciation Catholic School in south Minneapolis. Tiny pieces of my heart were streaming down my face. At that moment, what I would have given for a story about deep-fried anything.

So many of us are carrying a quiet grief right now. We feel it in the news, in conversations that break down, in the polarization of our politics, as another wildfire burns, another child is harmed.

This grief can be overwhelming if I let it in. I fear it could even break me. It is in these moments that I return to a quote from Joanna Macy, a Buddhist teacher who says this: *“Our pain for the world is simply one side of the coin, and the other side is our love for the world. They co-arise.”* Her words tell us that the grief we carry is not weakness but love in its fiercest, most honest form.

Our grief isn't because we are broken but because we care. Somewhere deep within us, we know that this is not how the world is meant to be. This ache is holy. It's not something to push away or numb or fix. It is the heart's natural response to a world out of balance and that we have not forgotten how to love.

This love is being lived out within our Blooming Grove community and parish. I experienced hope during Camp Chaos as we explored caring for creation and money collected for flood victims of Texas. We will welcome walkers and runners as they help support the local food shelves and collect winter coats and gear for the residents of Restoring Waters.

Let's not turn away from the hurt, let it lead us to what matters most. In the face of suffering, we can show up with open hands and steady hearts. May we live as if love is our deepest truth.

Upcoming Opportunities

September 13: Indigenous History Field Trip: Details to come.

September 16: Bible Conversations, 6 pm at Half Pint Brewery

October 11: Tentative Field Trip to Restoring Waters: Details to come.

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

September 2025

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

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Medford, MN 55049-0171

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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.



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in color) check us out at
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Saturday, September 6th - Join us for A Day of Fun and Good Causes at Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Spread the word to your friends, families and neighbors - all events are open to the public!

Feel free to bring your own lawn chairs to
relax and enjoy in comfort.

We look forward to seeing you there!

4 Mile Run/Walk & Kids 1/4 Mile Run

**In support of area food
shelves**

**Registration at 8:30 am
(Enjoy the walk or run
around the 4-mile section.)**



**We are also hosting the
“Holy Hog” BBQ rib
cook-off to support
area food shelves
Food is ready at noon!**

Afternoon Tractor Pull

Farm Stock tractors only with a ten-thousand pound weight limit!

The Tractor Pull will begin at 1:00 pm with the “blessing of the tractors”. Details and weight classes are available on Facebook and www.bloominggroveumc.org. The pulls are twenty dollars per pull. All monies collected go to the BGUMC accessibility project.