



## *Looking Ahead to Lent/Holy Week Events*

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



This year's Lenten Focus revolves around the book "Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus". Per the book's cover: "Central to the Christian faith is a man who denies all our preconceived notions about what God should look like. Jesus

didn't come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution. You and I are invited to be a part. Pastor and author Mike Slaughter presents Jesus and his challenging message to inspire us during Lent, Easter, and through the year."

**Each week, we invite you to be part of our 2024 Lenten Journey**, as we follow the chapter themes of the "Renegade Gospel, The Rebel Jesus". If you so desire, feel free to read the book, but it is not necessary. We look forward to seeing you at our Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening gatherings as your schedule allows. (See listings below.)

- Sunday worship will take place as usual at each of the three churches of our Prairie Lakes Parish.
- Special evening worship services and mid-week study/reflection groups will rotate locations among our three churches – persons from all three congregations are invited to attend each! Cindy Saufferer (member of BGUMC, and UMC deaconess who serves our parish as Love Through Justice Coordinator), will lead our mid-week times of study and reflection. Pastor Kathy will help when Cindy is out of town.

### **Churches of the Prairie Lakes Parish**

- Blooming Grove UMC @ 43089 180<sup>th</sup> St., Morristown (BG UMC)
- Janesville UMC @ 401 N West Street, Janesville (JV UMC)
- Waterville Evangelical UMC @ 319 E Main Street, Waterville (WV EUMC)

### **Parish Ash Wednesday Service, February 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:15 p.m.**

- At JV UMC

### **Parish Wednesday Evening Study/Reflection Gatherings – 7:15 p.m.**

- February 21st at WV EUMC
- February 28th at JV UMC
- March 6th at BG UMC
- March 13th at JV UMC
- March 20th at WV EUMC

### **Parish Holy Week Services – 7:15 p.m.**

- Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at WV EUMC
- Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at BG UMC

### **Parish Easter Sunday Services - March 31st**

- 7:30 a.m. at BG UMC
- 9:00 a.m. at WV EUMC
- 10:30 a.m. at JV UMC

### **Super Skinny Sunday Lunch at BGUMC Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – 11:45 A.M.**

#### **Featuring:**

#### **Cajun Food, Fun Facts, Mardi Gras Beads, & a Little Taste of New Orleans Music**

- This fun-filled lunch will tip its hat to Super Bowl Sunday (kick-off at 5:30 P.M. CST), and will also celebrate Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, which takes place on February 13<sup>th</sup>, the day before Ash Wednesday.
- Contact Brad Saufferer at 507-363-6579 for more information and to let him know how you can help.

#### **A little "Fat Tuesday" background for your reading pleasure!**



- Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday". It is traditionally celebrated on Shrove Tuesday – or Pancake Tuesday, which falls on the day before Ash Wednesday.
- Historically, on this day, Christians would use up rich, fatty foods, such as meat, eggs and cheese, before the period of Lenten fasting. Many Christian congregations observe the day through the eating of pancakes, as well as the ringing of church bells, to remind people to repent of their sins before the start of Lent.

# February 2024

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

**Janesville**  
**Morning Worship.....4:00 pm**

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parament Colors</b></p> <p>2/4 Green                  2/11 White                  2/14 Purple - Ash Wednesday                  2/18 Purple                  2/25 Purple</p>				1 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV <i>National Freedom Day</i>	2  Pastor's Day Off	3
4	5	6	7 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29	8	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 Super Skinny Lunch at BG after church 	12	13 4-6 pm Free Diaper Give- away at WV	14 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29 7:15 pm Lent service in Janesville 	15 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV	16 Pastor's Day Off	17
18	19 	20 6 pm Bible Conversations at the Brewery	21 5-6:30 pm Spaghetti Supper/ WV 7:15 Parish Study Gath- ering at Waterville	22	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 10-Noon Free Diaper Give-away at WV 1-4 pm Camp Omega Plunge
25 2 pm Confirmation	26	27	28 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29  7:15 Parish Study Gather- ing at Janesville	29 9:30 am Par- ish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Save the Date:</b>  <b>March 8th</b>                  Tentative date for the                  Lenten Fish Fry to be held                  at Blooming Grove UMC.</p>	



## *Living More Christ-like*



*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”  
Colossians 3:12 NIV*

We move into February—the month when we see Valentines everywhere and are reminded that this is the month we celebrate love. As I began this reflection, I almost turned to 1 Corinthians 13; one of the most well-know writings about love where Paul reminds the people of Corinth about the attributes of love. But Paul also wrote to the people of Colossae (and to you and I today) to remind Christians (that’s us) that we are God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved by God. Paul writes Colossians to remind those who profess to be Christian that we should live in such a way that others see the difference God’s love makes in our living. We should “clothe” ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Our Christian wardrobe is a statement that brings action to our professions of faith.

As 2024 moves into February, we have opportunities to make a difference in our communities through outreach and works that show the communities we live in that God leads us to servanthood that makes a difference. Making a difference isn’t easy—it takes time and our willingness to show compassion, kindness, and patience often when we least feel like it. Compassion means we take time to see the people around us; to listen to another’s story and really hear them—to honestly care. When we treat others with gentleness and kindness, we show them they matter. But we are called to be humble, gentle, and patient with God’s creation too. In this month of considering love, let our focus be on the ways our living leads us to be more Christ-like to the people and to be more just in the way we treat the world around us.

Remember that Lent begins in February. Ash Wednesday is Valentine’s Day. Our Ash Wednesday evening service is in Janesville this year. We begin at 7:15 p.m. Our weekly Lenten discussions will be based on Mike Slaughter’s book, “Renegade Gospel; the Rebel Jesus.” Our Parish Deaconess, Cindy Saufferer, will lead many of the Wednesday evening discussions. I will help when Cindy is out of town. I hope you’ll consider joining us Wednesday evening at 7:15. The gatherings will rotate between our three parish churches. See the article in this newsletter about our Lenten Services.

Thank you for the blessing of being your Pastor!

*Pastor Kathy*

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

1	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
11	Sun	11:45 am	Super Skinny Lunch at BG
14	Wed	7:15 pm	Lenten service at Janesville
15	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
20	Tues	6:00 pm	Bible Conversations at Half Pint
21	Wed	5-6:30 pm	Spaghetti Supper at Waterville
21	Wed	7:15 pm	Study Gathering at Waterville
25	Sun	2:00 pm	Confirmation
28	Wed	7:15 pm	Study Gathering at Janesville
29	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave



Tentative date for the Lenten Fish Fry is March 8th to be held at Blooming Grove UMC. More information will come when the date is finalized.



16	Kendra Yule	16	Katie Martin
19	<b>Bonnie Lima (90!!)</b>	19	<b>(sorry, listed last month in error)</b>
1	Jake Full	21	Maryl Christenson
6	Kristin Nagel	22	Leighton Nicholson
11	Kristin Krell	24	Deanna Kanne
13	Amanda Riecke	24	Tracie Spinler
16	Ivan Buchholz	25	Ben Full

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the generous donation of warm sweat-shirts, leggings, pants, socks, shirts, gloves and other clothing items. Our school families are grateful to use such nice items. Take care, **Medford School Social Workers**

### *Prayer Brunch*

Our Prayer Brunch gathering will take a break for the month of February. We will meet next on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 A.M. at BGUMC. This will be a shared Potluck meal – bring your favorite dish to pass! These gatherings are open to women and men of all ages and stages in life. Gather for fellowship, great conversation, and good food - along with the opportunity to share prayer requests with one another.

## Treasurer's Report

January 3—January 28, 2024



<b>General Budget Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,340.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,340.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pastor's Salary	264.32
Mileage	55.04
Cell Phone	47.06
Global Ministries	1,465.00
Church Mutual Insurance	5,936.13
Telephone	54.37
Excel Energy	109.36
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 7,931.38</b>
<b>(Net Income:)</b>	<b>— \$3,591.38)</b>

### Building Addition

<b>Income</b>	
Restoration	\$ 11,400.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,400.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Loan Payment	\$ 3,045.06
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 3,045.06</b>
<b>(Net Income:)</b>	<b>+ \$8,354.94)</b>

Restoration Fund Balance	\$78,365.42
Building Addition Loan	\$252,155.69

### Camp Omega Plunge

Camp Omega is hosting its annual Plunge as a fundraiser for its ministries on February 25th at the Omega Lodge. This is the first time it will be held on campus. The whole event will last from 1-4 pm, culminating with the various teams plunging into ice cold water at about 3:30 pm. The Waterville UMC will have a team representing the Acts 29 Youth group. Every dollar the WV youth raise will be split 50/50 between Camp Omega and the Acts 29 group. Anyone who would like to take part in this event is welcome and Waterville would love to have you plunge with their team! You could also volunteer to help with the event or come to watch and cheer them on. It would be awesome if you could donate money to the team. If you want to donate, please send a check (made payable to "EUMC" with notation of "Omega Plunge" to Dave Wollin at 426 West Main Street, Waterville, 56096. Contact Dave at 507-384-8438 if you are interested in being involved in any way. You can also donate with a credit card by going on the Camp Omega website and putting "Acts 29 Team" in the memo.



## **Contact Information Updates and New Picture Directory for Blooming Grove UMC**

In February/March, we request your assistance in providing updated contact information for all who are part of our BGUMC faith community. This will help ensure that everyone receives timely news about church events, as well as timely communication for things such as scheduling changes due to bad weather. ***In conjunction with this work, we also plan to create a new, updated Picture Directory. Participation in the directory is optional.***

**By March 10th** – and thanks, in advance, for your help! Directory would be available by Easter.

- Please complete this form (front & back), and bring it, along with a recent photo(s), to church. OR mail or email the info to Chery Southworth, 26651 Elmore Ave., Morristown, MN 55052 ([cherysouth@gmail.com](mailto:cherysouth@gmail.com)).
- Feel free to contact Chery Southworth (507-339-3534) or Judy Mahler (507-456-3937) with any questions.

### **Help Us Reach Folks**

- Please share this flyer with others in your family who may not otherwise receive it.

### **Information Regarding BGUMC Picture Directory**

- **Distribution:** We plan to continue to publish the directory in paper format - rather than releasing the directory online - in part, to help ensure your privacy.
- **Contact Section:** We look to you for assistance in helping us know how you would like you and/or your family's contact information to appear in the directory, i.e. in a family grouping, as individual entries, etc. The form below provides a place to start. Feel free to add clarification.
- **Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays:** These fields are optional.
- **Photo Section:** Photos are optional, and they do not need to be an exact match of the manner in which contact information is listed. For example, they can be family photos, individual pictures of family members, etc. If you like, Michael Kanne can snap a photo of you and/or your family at church on Sunday mornings.

### **BGUMC Members and Friends: Contact Information and Directory Instructions**

***All information provided on this form will be entered in our BGUMC Contact Records. Please X the appropriate boxes below to indicate which persons you wish to also include in the BGUMC Directory.***

### **Primary Household Information**

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Adults (age 18 and over) at Primary Household Address**

**Name 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB (MM/DD)** \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Send church e-mails

Yes, include in the directory, and do so as  Individual Listing  Part of my/our Family Listing

**Name 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB (MM/DD)** \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Send church e-mails

Yes, include in the directory, and do so as  Individual Listing  Part of my/our Family Listing

**Name 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB (MM/DD)** \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Send church e-mails

Yes, include in the directory, and do so as  Individual Listing  Part of my/our Family Listing

**Name 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB (MM/DD)** \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Send church e-mails

Yes, include in the directory, and do so as  Individual Listing  Part of my/our Family Listing

**Wedding Anniversary Information for Adults at Primary Household Address**

(MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_ Names: \_\_\_\_\_

**Minor Children in Your Family**

**Name 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (MMDD): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Name 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (MMDD): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Name 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (MMDD): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Name 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (MMDD): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, include the above children in the directory as part of my/our Family Listing

**Adult Children – at Address Other Than Primary Household**

*This section is for adult children, living at an address other than your primary household, for whom they/you would like BGUMC to have contact information. (If your adult child has a family of their own, please complete a separate form for them and their family.)*

**Name 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Send church e-mails

Yes, include in the directory, and do so as an Individual Listing

**Name 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Send church e-mails

Yes, include in the directory, and do so as an Individual Listing

**Name 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Send church e-mails

Yes, include in the directory, and do so as an Individual Listing

**Name 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Send church e-mails

Yes, include in the directory, and do so as an Individual Listing

## 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.*

- ◆ The family of Pastor Kathy's cousin's husband, Jerry McGrath, who passed away.
- ◆ Wally, the son of Carol Karsten, as he continues his journey with cancer, and received good news that he is holding his own.
- ◆ For Hjordi Churchill's friend Cathy and Cathy's family. Cathy's mom (Joanne) passed away in October. Her mom had not been well, but her death was unexpected. Cathy's Dad (Gary) was able to attend Joanne's funeral, but had health concerns as well, and declined significantly after the death of his wife. Gary passed away in January. Hold them all in your hearts as they walk through the days and weeks ahead.
- ◆ Shannon, a non-Federated HR acquaintance of Hjordi Churchill. Shannon's husband, Lynn, was an over-the-road trucker and passed away in January as the result of severe injuries sustained in an accident while he was on the road in Colorado.
- ◆ The family of Brian Sommers. In January, Brian was killed in an accident while working on equipment for Waseca County. He leaves behind his wife and 4 young children. Brian also farmed with his dad, Mark, and brother, Matt, southwest of Waseca. They were long-time customers and friends of Brad Spinler.
- ◆ The Jacobsen family – close friends of Ken and Tena Harren. The Jacobsen's 38-year old son passed away unexpectedly in January.
- ◆ The family and friends of Brent Possin, a friend and customer of Brad and Tracie Spinler. While on vacation with his family in Cancun, Brent suffered a severe medical event, was hospitalized, and passed away. Brent's parents, Richard and Sharon, have also been friends and customers of the Spinlers for a long time.
- ◆ JP, a young friend of Judy Mahler and Hjordi Churchill, who was diagnosed with leukemia last fall and has been undergoing chemo treatments. In the latter part of January, he has been hospitalized for a severe infection that has impacted him significantly. Pray for guidance for the team of



doctors who are working together to surround this, and pray for JP's fiancée Sally, as she travels this journey with him.

- ◆ Mrs. Anderson, a teacher in Medford, as she faces some health concerns.
- ◆ Tena, as she recovers from a recent medical procedure.
- ◆ The Engebretson family, as they have had to say goodbye to their beloved dog and companion, Jack, who meant the world to Nolan and Emily.
- ◆ 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.

## "Down the Drain" Fund-Fundraiser



After 72 years of faithful service in clean-up from countless gatherings over food and fellowship, the drains for our BGUMC basement kitchen sinks have become compromised by a combination of tree roots, corrosion, and the make-up of drain supplies that were available back in 1951 (due to raw-material shortages impacted by war-time). We have now found a solution to make our BGUMC basement kitchen sink drains more functional. It will involve two individual pumps (one for each sink location) that will grind any small food particles that go into the dishwasher and that will then push the water through interior piping that will carry it to join the water flow to the new septic system. It is hoped that the new kitchen sink drain system will be up and running by early March. The estimate for the entire job is about \$3,500. \$1,345 in free-will donations have already been given through the January Men's Breakfast. We need your help in raising the additional \$2,155 ASAP. If you would like to contribute toward this special project, 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. In addition, all loose change added to the "Shaker Can" at the back of the sanctuary will go to this project. Help us wash this situation right down the drain!

**Lent & Easter Mission  
Giving Opportunity  
February 14<sup>th</sup> through  
March 31st  
Proceeds To Bethlehem Inn, Waseca**



Our BGUMC Mission Team has become intrigued by the important work being done by the Bethlehem Inn, a faith-based organization in Waseca that provides short-term transitional housing for homeless women and children, as well as social service connections to empower these families to improve their lives and be able to journey toward a more stable future. We've been working to learn more about them through their website and mailings, contact with their staff, and also through Dick and Trudi's personal connections with the organization. The impact that they have on the lives of women and children is amazing.

- ◆ They are located at 400 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW, Waseca – right across from Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The building once served as the residence hall for the nuns of Sacred Heart.
- ◆ Since opening in January of 2019, they have served 357 homeless women and children (190 women and 167 children). In 2023 they served 43 women and 32 children.
- ◆ Their goal: To assist women and children without permanent housing to find the resources necessary for housing and support services. All guests agree to an assessment prior to housing placement. Each guest also follows a standard of placement guidelines while at Bethlehem Inn.
- ◆ The overall operation of Bethlehem Inn is overseen by the Board of Directors working with a program director. The guests share in the responsibilities for the care of the house in cooperation with the director and staff of volunteers. Management by full-time and part time paid staff.

We invite you to help support the Bethlehem Inn of Waseca as our 2024 BGUMC Lent & Easter Mission Giving Opportunity. If you would like to contribute, please note "Bethlehem Inn" 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. Financial gifts toward Bethlehem Inn may be made from February 14<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. In the weeks ahead, we will also provide an opportunity for a tangible hands-on way in which we can support their work.

**Annual Men's Breakfast  
By Brad Spinler**

Thanks to all the men and young men who helped with the breakfast including set-up, serving and cleaning. The biscuits and gravy were made from scratch. The biscuits were baked by Ryan Saufferer and gravy was cooked by Alex Spinler. Linda Danks was the maker of the wonderful muffins. (Chuck did his part by helping carry them in?) A shout goes out to Chris VanZuilen and Will Mullenbach for flipping pancakes. It was a wonderful event full of fellowship and food.



(Thanks to the Spinler family for organizing this fun event.)



**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**  
**Board Council Meeting**  
**January 17, 2024**



**Carolyn Kanne, Board Secretary**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Kathy

**Review of December 2023 meeting:** approved by consensus

**Financial Reports:**

- ◆ Treasurer's Report: Brad Saufferer will check on the payout of the mission income. Brian moved to accept the report, seconded by Chery – motion carried.
- ◆ Financial Secretary Report: Cindy moved to accept, seconded by Judy – motion carried.
- ◆ Annual Summary 2023 – covered in Financial Secretary Report

**Trustees Report:**

- ◆ Funding/Balance Updates
- ◆ Basement Kitchen Sink Drains: Brad Spinler reported that we have a possible solution to make our BGUMC basement kitchen sink drains more functional. The estimate for the entire job is about \$3500. Brian moved to pursue this option; Judy seconded. Brad will contact the plumber to get started.
- ◆ Other Trustee Updates – Brad Saufferer is waiting on Kirchner to come out and look at the crack in the round storm window; the lift is fixed; and our pest control folks recommend blocking a couple of the basement windows and plugging some holes in the foundation to keep the critters out.

**Team Reports**

**Education and Events** – no one present from this team  
**PPRC**

- ◆ Busy time of year. They are dealing with turnover in the conference office. They will be getting set up with who will chair this team when they have their first quarter meeting.

**Communication**

- ◆ Chery is thinking it may be time for a new directory. We don't have contact information for some of the new families, and couldn't call them last Sunday when we didn't have a service. Judy will work with her.

**Worship**

- ◆ The team met via Zoom on Monday to plan the Lenten season worship dates, times, and places. Meeting in a couple of weeks in person to plan music.
- ◆ Lenten worship and study will be based on Rene-

gade Gospel by Michael Slaughter.

- ◆ Ash Wednesday is on February 14<sup>th</sup>

**UWOF**

- ◆ Cindy reported that the District group asked about BG hosting this year's Day Apart on June 11. There will probably be between 25 and 50 people in attendance. We would need to provide food and some workers. Approved by consensus.

**Mission**

- ◆ Need to meet to figure out the destination for the Lenten offering.

**Pastor's Report**

- ◆ Associate Member Status – Pastor Kathy will meet with the Board of Ordained Ministry on February 5-6.
- ◆ Confirmation update – Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm at George's Auto.com with Clint King. Clint will talk to the class about finding work fitting your talents. Possible upcoming classes on grief and faith and cooking and faith. Confirmation will be on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Poppy Nicholson will be our confirmand.

**Upcoming Events**

- ◆ Men's Breakfast, January 28<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:30 until church. Proceeds will go "Down the Drain" for the drain repair project.
- ◆ Super Skinny Sunday Lunch, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 am. Mardi Gras lunch of red beans and rice (several octanes) here at the church. Sweets also provided.
- ◆ Fish Fry – tentatively March 8<sup>th</sup>. Brad Spinler needs to contact Curt about getting the fish.

**Miscellaneous**

- ◆ Prayer Brunch Potluck at BG – end of March timeframe – all are welcome!
- ◆ Historian Request – Michael has been going through items in the filing cabinet in the back room. It is bursting at the seams, and the lock was drilled out a few years ago. This leads to questions about how fireproof it actually is. A new fireproof cabinet of the same size will run about \$1800. We would continue to use the old cabinet for items that are of less historical significance (general meeting minutes, for example). There was also discussion about getting a shelving unit for that room to store the items currently on the table. This would free up the table for use and create more floor space. Pastor Kathy asked if there were memorial funds that could be used for these items. Chery reported \$2,900 currently in the memorial fund. The board asked Michael to gather further information on the costs and send an email for approval.

**Next Meeting Date: April 3, 7:00 pm**

**Closing Prayer** – Pastor Kathy

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

February 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](http://www.bloominggroveumc.org)

Email: [bloominggroveumc@gmail.com](mailto:bloominggroveumc@gmail.com)

Check us out on Facebook!

**Pastoral Care and Emergency  
and General Pastoral Questions:**

**Pastor Kathy King**

**[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto: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](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)

**Visitor Staff:**

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**UNBOUNDED  
LOVE**

**God's love  
doesn't stay  
in the lines**



Charles Wesley's famous hymn, *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling*, talks about Jesus as 'unbounded love' – a kind of love that cannot be contained, that works in our lives and in our world to free us and heal us. This Lenten season, may this unbounded love hold together our commitments to be a people who experience and proclaim the goodness of God's uncontainable love.

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.

Courtesy of <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/unbounded-love/>