



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 86, Issue 12

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

December 2022

Winter/Spring Sunday Morning Time Changes December through May

From December through May, our Prairie Lakes Parish switches to our 6-month winter/spring Sunday Morning Schedule in order to allow time for roads and our BG parking lot to be plowed out—and to provide better travel conditions for Pastor Kathy. Here is our schedule for BGUMC:

Sunday School: 9:45 AM

Morning Worship: 10:45 AM

BGUMC Advent and Christmas Choir

All who enjoy singing are invited to be part of our BGUMC Advent and Christmas Eve Choir to sing at each of our Sunday morning worship services during Advent, as well as our Christmas Eve service.

Our Advent Candle-lighting anthem is “Christ, Be Our Light!” by Bernadette Farrell. This is the piece that we sang at this summer’s BGUMC dedication service - actually written as an Advent Candle lighting song and service! The song is in an easy 4-part format that can be learned quickly. It has great solo opportunities, if anyone is interested, and includes a congregational sung response that will be printed in the bulletins. For this song, you can just rehearse with us on the Sundays that you will be in church to sing. It does not require an “All Advent Sunday” commitment!

Our Christmas Eve anthem, yet TBD, will need participants to rehearse with us 2 Sunday mornings during Advent as well as right before the Christmas Eve Service.

Rehearsal and Singing Schedule

Sundays in Advent: December 4, 11, 18

- 10:15 A.M. - All Singer Rehearsal of that Sunday’s verse (plus chorus) of “Christ Be Our Light”, as well as our Christmas Eve choir piece.
- 10:45 A.M. Worship - all choir members present will lead the congregation in “Christ Be Our Light”.



Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

- 4:00 P.M. - All Singer Rehearsal of the final verse (plus chorus) of “Christ Be Our Light”, as well as our Christmas Eve choir piece.
- 4:30 P.M. - Christmas Eve Service at BGUMC - all choir members present will lead the congregation in “Christ Be Our Light” and share our Christmas Eve choir piece.

Youth Christmas Program



Youth **Christmas program will be on Sunday Dec. 18th**, **DURING** church time. This will be followed by an **all-church potluck** after the program. Please make every effort to

have your child/children in attendance at Sunday School Dec. 4th, 11th, & 18th as we’ll be rehearsing during that time.



Reminder: Year-End MN UMC Conference Reports

Each church in the Minnesota United Methodist Conference is asked to complete the forms listed below – and present them to their respective church councils for vote by December 31st. The forms can be found on the Minnesota United Methodist Church website under the “People Portal” <https://mnumc-reg.brapp.com/!zkY4OrSfHr3QX-y09mvCzC9XFjsjfwO4eVKdgHIIHAYM>



- 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**)

December 2022

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

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

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

				1	2 Pastor's Day Off	3
4 10:15 am Choir Practice	5	6	7 6-7 pm WV Acts 29 	8 6 pm Bible and Brew at Half-Pint Brewery 	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 10:15 am Choir Practice	12	13	14 6-7 pm WV Acts 29 11:30 BG Prayer Brunch at The Boat House	15	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 10:00 to noon Cookie Walk at WV
18 10:15 am Choir Practice Sunday School Programs at each church BG Potluck lunch after	19 6 pm Book Study at BG	20	21 6-7 pm WV Acts 29 	22	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 4:00 pm Choir Practice Christmas Eve Services 4:30 pm BG 6:00 pm JV 7:30 pm WV
25 Christmas Day Services On-line No Sunday School at BG	26	27	28	29	30	31  Jan 1 No Sunday School 10:45 Morning Worship



Focusing on Faith



Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory.

Romans 5: 1-2 CEB

In this season of Advent 2022, I am grateful for all this year has been. It has been a year of new opportunities for our parish as we joined together in four joint worship services. In those gatherings, we had the blessing of singing in Pop-Up Choirs. I am grateful to Judy Mahler for her willingness to lead our choirs. Each church was represented by people who love to sing, and the music allowed singers to experience God-moments in the singing.

2022 was the year I finally completed Course of Study. It was a seven-year journey where I learned how to exegete, research, discern and pass all of the courses required for Licensed Local Pastors. Throughout the years, I had so many opportunities to grow. I'll miss the friendships I found in Native American Course of Study. Thank you for allowing me to share Native American theology with all of you through stories, scripture, and sharing my experiences.

As we greet a New Year, my hope is for us to focus on our individual faith journeys—supporting one another throughout the coming year. As Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome, we too are made righteous through Christ's faithfulness so that we live with God's peace. We all need a good portion of God's peace in these days. So let us collectively agree to an intentional year of growing our faith by reading scripture, sharing our faith stories, and coming together as the Body of Christ.

Thank you to each one of you for your friendship, your understanding, your patience, and your commitment to your faith family. You are each an important part of God's plan—so very loved by God and created to be a gift to the world. I am blessed to journey alongside of each one of you.

Jerry and I wish each of you a blessed Advent season. May this Christmas be holy moments shared with those you love. Celebrate the Hope born at Christmas.

Merry Christmas dear ones.

Pastor Kathy

DECEMBER CALENDAR

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

4	Sun	10:15 am	Choir Practice
8	Thurs	6:00 pm	Brew and Bible
11	Sun	10:15 am	Choir Practice
14	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Bruch
18	Sun	10:15 am	Choir Practice
18	Sun	10:45 am	Sunday School Program Potluck Lunch Following
19	Mon	6:00 pm	Book Study at BG
24	Sat	4:00 pm	Choir Practice
24	Sat	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service
25	Sun	Christmas Day	
		8:00 am	Online Service on Facebook
		No "In Person" worship or Sunday School	
Jan 1	Sun	New Year's Day	
		No Sunday School	
		10:45 am	"In-Person" Worship

Parament Colors

12/4, 12/11, 12/28	Blue
12/24, 12/25	White



1	Dawn Karsten	19	Jacob Gasner
4	Walter Karsten	21	Marlis Mahler
6	Carol Karsten	24	Elizabeth Bartosch
7	Becky Lustig	25	Levi Blake
8	Maisie Morgan	26	Jenine Koziolk
10	Joshua Kanne	26	Leah Krell
12	Fred Fyvie	28	Riley Poe
13	Weston Janke	28	Faye Kanne
17	Gabe Mullenbach	29	Sophie Morgan
17	Doug Wilkowske	30	Marge Wilkowske
17	Cindy Kennedy	31	Kaitlyn Kanne



Prayer Brunch for December

The Boat House Grill and Bar in Waseca will be our next outing. The Boat House is located at 406 9th Street NE. We'll meet there on Wednesday the 14th at 11:30. Hope to see you all there.

Treasurer's Report

October 24—November 29, 2022



General Budget Income	\$ 5,420.00
Other Income	
Sale of Hay	60.00
Poinsettias	178.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	25.00
Total Income	\$5,683.00
Expenses	
Pastor's Salary (salary, housing, Pension, disability)	2,093.48
Cell phone	24.76
Hotel	124.67
Meals	17.82
Mileage	50.75
Cleaning	123.75
Lawn Mowing	625.00
Telephone	59.49
Total Expense	\$ 3,119.72

(Net Income: + \$2,563.28)

Building Addition

Income	
Restoration Income	\$ 695.00
Total Income	\$ 695.00
Expenses	
Loan Payment	3,965.20
Total Paid Out	\$ 3,505.13
(Net Income: — \$3,27.20)	

Restoration Fund Balance	\$72,959.19
Building Addition Loan	\$288,720.35

**BGUMC Receives
\$4,000 Grant for our
South Building
Addition!**



Over the last several years, BGUMC has submitted applications for grant funding from a second United Methodist grant-awarding group - MN Builder's East. COVID impacted this group's ability to meet and make decisions regarding distributions of their grant funds. We just now received news that our 2021 grant application for \$4,000 dollars has been reviewed, considered, and awarded! The funding will arrive in the month of December. Thank you to this group for believing in the importance and ministry of our new south addition!

Please pray for the following persons and situations shared publicly within our community of BGUMC



Note from Pastor Kathy King:
Please call or text me if you would like me to visit or if there is a prayer concern that you prefer to keep private.

- Lacey Spinler's elderly grandmother, Joan, who is facing several significant health challenges.
- Trudi, who fractured her hip and is recuperating at home, "doing PT and not much else"!
- Cindy Saufferer's mom, Marge, in Kansas, as her health continues to decline. Also hold Cindy, her sister Patty, and Marge's hospice team in your prayers as they join together in their care for Marge.
- Oliver, little grandson of Patti Ellingson, and his mom and dad, Fred and Stefanie...as they work together with medical providers to address Oliver's health concerns.
- Joyce, mother of Jodi Olson, of Janesville UMC, who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. Pray for all traveling this journey with her.
- Jacque Mathern's grandfather, who will be undergoing open heart surgery, and for all in his family who will be helping with his care.
- A friend of Brad and Tracie Spinler who had to have part of his jaw removed.
- Everyone impacted by the flu and RSV – both spreading like wildfire.
- All who are victims of cruelty and violence – and all those who try to help.
- 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.

November Mission Opportunity Winter Wonderland Warm-Up Gifts for the Medford Public School

In November, BGUMC partnered with the Medford Public School to help replenish their supply of spare winter clothes for their students. The social workers at the school provided a list of items they usually need. Thank you to all who have so generously given the "Winter Wonderland Warm-Up Gifts" pictured here, to be shared with students who may not have access to the winter clothing needed in our frozen land of MN!



Congratulations to Lacey and Alex Spinler (and big brother, Bowen) on the birth of a girl, Andi Joan, on November 28th.



Andi is 19-1/2 inches tall and weighs 7 lbs. 15 oz. Proud grandparents are Brad and Tracie Spinler.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Mason Nagel and the SDSU Pride of the Dakotas Marching Band on their honor of playing in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! A number of us spotted Mason on T.V. - the 6'4" trombone player - as their band followed the Dino/Baby Dino balloon!



We have signed up for a family thru the Medford School again this year. Our family has three children. Sign-up sheets will

be at the back of the church so you can fill in the items you can purchase for them. All items need to be at church by Sunday, December 11th. Do not wrap the gifts – mark each item with the child it is for: Z1, Z2 or Z3. If you prefer to give cash, someone from church will do the shopping for you. Give your donation to Tracie or Chery.

Z1 11 year old male

Shirt Size: 12

Pant Size: 12

Shoe Size: 5

Needs: Clothes, Blanket

Wants: Clothes

Z2 15 year old female

Shirt Size: Small

Pant Size: Medium

Shoe Size: 4-4.5

Needs: Clothes, Blanket

Wants: Markers, Drawing Notebook
Clothes

Z3 17 year old male

Shirt Size: Small

Pant Size: Large

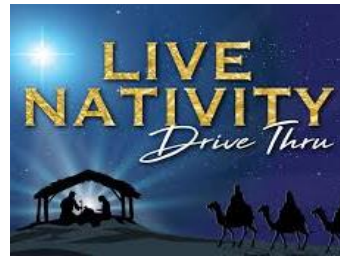
Shoe Size: 8-8.5

Needs: Clothes, Blanket

Wants: Shoes, Clothes

Saturday, December 17 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. The theme for this year will be a birthday party for Jesus.



Live Nativity Drive-Thru in Waseca

The 3rd Annual
“Live Nativity” Drive
Thru will be held in

Waseca on Friday, December 9th and Saturday, December 10th, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The event will begin at the corner of 4th Street N.E. and 4th Avenue N.E. and is hosted by three local Waseca churches.



Christmas Poinsettias



Greenwald's Nursery is again offering the opportunity to order poinsettias (red, white, pink) through them this year at a cost of \$18.00 (includes delivery to BGUMC). A double poinsettia will also be available for \$35.00. Please order your poinsettias by **December 4th** for delivery by December 11th. If you choose, you may designate your poinsettia to be “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone important in your lives. These designations will be listed in a Sunday morning bulletin and the bulletin for Christmas Eve. A sign-up sheet is located at the back of the church or you can return this form to Chery Southworth, 26651 Elmore Avenue, Morristown, MN 55052 (Phone: (507) 685-4174 or Email Cherysouth@gmail.com). Make checks payable to BGUMC with “poinsettia” in the note section. Check can also be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church at PO Box 171, Medford, MN 55049.

Given By: _____

Number _____ Size _____ Color: _____ Include Bow ☐

Number _____ Size _____ Color: _____ Include Bow ☐

☐ In Honor of _____

☐ In Memory of _____

Education & Events

A Simple Birth In A Humble Stable



Had it not been for the host of angels or the magnificent star, would the night of His arrival have gone unnoticed? Our little Sunday School Youth Christmas program will perhaps reflect

similar simplicity and humbleness. Nothin' elaborate, no big fanfare, but the timeless message – our Savior's entry into humanity's lives as an infant – as one human yet Holy – the message will be delivered and portrayed in our sanctuary by our kids. That makes it special to us here at Blooming Grove UMC. We understand births in barns perhaps more clearly than the big city churches. But to understand God's direct interfacing with humanity in a human form.... does anyone truly comprehend that? Every year we try some unique way of, once again, sharing that story.

"Simplicity" might be this year's catchphrase. Come and watch (and participate in?!) the portrayal of Jesus' birth on **Sunday, Dec. 18th during the 10:45 worship service.** Please arrive early enough to drop off your pan/bowl/crockpot/ casserole/platter (or whatever) of your food offering into the kitchen. Immediately following the church service, join your Blooming Grove Church family and visitors for **potluck dinner** downstairs. That, too, may be simple fare, but mmmm-mmm

good. There'll be "alittle something special" for each of the kids, as usual. Please join us for both worship and the shared meal.

Undesignated cash in the offering Dec. 18th will go toward Kamisamba Farm, If using a check, you may also make a designation on the memo line "Kamimamba Farm."



How About A 'Do-Over?'

Last year, we made a valiant effort to hold a parish-wide snow tubing event at Camp Omega. Unfortunately, although we had a large and enthusiastic sign-up, one (*very important*) item was missing: SNOW. Well gang, we're gonna try again. All 3 churches [Janesville, Waterville, and Blooming Grove] are on board to give it another go. Dare I say pray for snow? I mean, adequate snow on the ground for sledding on Sunday Feb. 5th. We will have an indoor meeting space (with bathrooms) to warm up, dry off, or have some cocoa and treats. There's a tow-rope to help ya climb the hill after zipping down. The inner tubes are provided by Camp Omega. We're asking a \$5/person (or max of \$10/family) commitment be paid in advance. The balance of the \$17.50/person fees charged by Camp Omega will be paid by our church E & E funds. (Those under age 5 are free of charge). If you invite a friend – please do! – their fee will also be supplemented by us. This is a FAMILY event; bring the whole gang; no upper age limit. All youth under age 16 MUST have a responsible adult in attendance. It's a good idea to bring an extra pair of dry mittens.

The specific details:

- ◇ **Sunday, February 5th, 1:30 until 5:00pm**
- ◇ **Camp Omega 22750 Lind Avenue, Waterville, MN**
- ◇ **\$5 per person** (or max of \$10/family no matter how many in the family participate)
- ◇ **Sign-up sheet at church entrance – available end of Dec. Pay at that time.**
- ◇ **Specific headcount needs to be in by Jan. 26th to Omega staff**
- ◇ **???'s – contact Patti E. 507-339-2477 or see me in church** (you my call me to register with each individual's name, & mail a check "*family snow tubing*" on memo line

Fingers crossed that we're able to actually go tubing this year. A prayer or two wouldn't hurt. Just wait to hear the tales from the hill! Who can tell the tallest tale d'ya think?

Squeals, laughter, pink noses and rosie cheeks, great memories of parish events shared.

I can't wait!



Proposed Blooming Grove Budget 2023

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Pastoral Support			
Salary & Health Insurance	\$18,293.45	\$18,293.45	\$ 17,952.00
Housing Allowance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,001.00
Health Insurance	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Workman's Comp			
Travel	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 1,167.00
Pension & Disability	\$ 4,988.25	\$ 4,988.25	\$ 1,559.00
Continuing Ed	\$ 582.40	\$ 582.40	\$ 599.00
Conference Reg.			
Cell Phone	\$ 339.12	\$ 339.12	\$ 341.00
Other Professional Exp	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 167.00
Pastoral Support Total	<u>\$33,603.22</u>	<u>\$29,803.22</u>	<u>\$25,786.00</u>
Apportionments & Special	\$ 6,081.00	\$ 6,081.00	\$ 6,024.00
Local Church Ministries			
Program			
Confirmation	\$ 150.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 150.00
Pulpit Supply	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00
Misc.	\$ 500.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Educational Materials	\$ 500.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00
Administration			
Printing/Postage/Office/Copier	\$ 150.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 100.00
Phone	\$ 750.00	\$ 612.00	\$ 750.00
Maintenance/Other			
Furnace Fuel	\$ 2,950.00	\$ 3,176.00	\$ 3,980.00
Electric	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,321.00	\$ 1,500.00
Cleaning	\$ 750.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 750.00
Insurance	\$ 3,659.14	\$ 4,758.00	\$ 5,000.00
Software/License	\$0.00	\$ 246.00	\$ 246.00
Repairs	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Mowing	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,290.00	\$ 6,500.00
Building Project			
Payments	<u>\$31,940.12</u>	<u>\$42,062.00</u>	<u>\$42,062.00</u>
Local Church Total	\$49,449.26	\$60,047.00	\$63,238.00
SUMMARY			
Pastoral Support	\$33,603.22	\$29,803.22	\$25,786.00
Apportionments	\$6,081.00	\$ 6,081.00	\$ 6,024.00
Local Church Ministries	<u>\$49,449.26</u>	<u>\$60,047.00</u>	<u>\$63,238.00</u>
TOTAL CHURCH BUDGET	\$89,133.48	\$95,931.22	\$95,048.00



10 things to help you get to know Bishop Lanette Plambeck

*By Christa Meland, director
of communications for the
MN Annual Conference of
the UMC.*

The Dakotas-Minnesota Area will welcome a new bishop on Jan. 1, 2023: Lanette Plambeck. Here are 10 things that will help you get to know our new bishop:

1. Ministry background: Bishop Plambeck currently serves as director of clergy leadership excellence and assistant to the bishop in the Iowa Annual Conference. Prior to that, she pastored four churches in four very different contexts in Iowa—including urban, county seat, town, and country—and served as the chaplain at Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa.

2. Formative years: Bishop Plambeck grew up in western Iowa and spent her first decade unchurched and living in poverty. When her dad married her mom and adopted her, she was introduced to faith and baptized. But it was when she spent two months in the hospital with a severe illness that God showed up and shared God's plan for her life; the very next day, at age 10, she declared that she was going to be a pastor. Eventually, she found her way to United Methodist-related Morningside College (now Morningside University), and started attending a nearby United Methodist Church. "My heart was warmed by that theology," she said, and soon after she became United Methodist.

3. Gifts and graces: Bishop Plambeck describes herself as "unapologetically Wesleyan," empathetic, compassionate, and loyal, and said she clings to her integrity. "I am compelled to see others who are often overlooked," she said. "I can speak the truth in love and see ways to move through log jams of personal preference toward missional priorities. I can build diverse teams that lead well together."

4. Nature and mission of the church: "Church is a community of people struggling with and embracing life finding hope and purpose through Jesus while learning to love God and love others," said Bishop Plambeck. "The church at its best is generative in its disciple-making, engaged in the means of grace, working toward justice, especially with the poor and marginalized. Jesus' on earth as it is in heaven goal is nothing less than behaving as if God is leading and loving us toward something bigger than ourselves."

5. Vision for the church: "My vision for the church is a body of Christ-followers engaged in serving others and finding wholeness for themselves along the way," Bishop Plambeck said. She holds a deep conviction that church as Jesus saw it—the community of people following his teaching—has the potential and the power to change the world. "Fulfilling that vision begins with local people who know God and learn to love one another – who are committed to serve their local community," she explained.

6. Ministry focus: Developing and deploying leaders has been Bishop Plambeck's passion over her 25 years in pastoral ministry, and she believes this is most successful when there is intentional partnership between laity and clergy. The local church is the most significant location where disciple-making occurs, she said, and "it is where we discover ministry is not the obligation of the licensed or ordained; it is the responsibility, privilege, and joy of all the baptized."

7. Human sexuality: "I desire and will work to remove the restrictive language around human sexuality in the Book of Discipline, relying on the discernment of local churches and clergy to act with grace and faithfulness in their witness and teaching," Bishop Plambeck said. "I believe the North Central Jurisdiction can be a place where clergy are entrusted and empowered to act with theological integrity and social sensitivity as they each determine who they will marry—a place where all people who are gifted and called to be pastors will be able to enter the licensing and ordination process. I trust every church to self-determine how to honor God and love their neighbors in the ways they bear witness and minister within and beyond their walls."

8. Fun facts: The bishop's resume includes two most interesting, non-ministry roles: She is a veteran of the U.S. Army and was deployed to Desert Storm/Desert Shield as a military intelligence analyst from 1989 to 1992. In the Army, she studied Russian language and culture and spent almost a full year at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. She also served as a licensed counselor in family systems and chemical and substance abuse from 1992 to 1997.

9. Personal practices and hobbies: Every day, Bishop Plambeck engages in a daily practice of what she calls "sacred listening" from 4:30 to 7:30 a.m. It is a set-apart time to center, read, meditate, journal, and pray, and the bishop says this is the most disciplined part of her life as well as the most important. In her free time, Bishop Plambeck enjoys finding her way to bookstores, antique shops, or museums. She loves board games, going to brunch with friends, traveling, and baking. And she tries to go on an annual mission

trip with a local community of faith. She has one adult daughter who is in her second year at Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C.

10. Leadership: To stay accountable in her leadership, Bishop Plambeck asks God three questions every day: How may I glorify you? How might I point others to Christ? And (at the end of the day) did I love? Those who enjoy personality assessments might be interested to learn that she is an INTJ on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, an Enneagram 3W4, a high D on the DISC Inventory, and her top five StrengthsFinder strengths are ideation, strategic, learner, self-assurance, and achiever. “I am a visionary who is passionate about Jesus, justice, and quality leadership,” she said. “I beg permission to assert one inviolate truth: Our deep longing for God and for the vital witness of The United Methodist Church will be fulfilled as by God’s grace we stand firm and cling to our deeply rooted spiritual and missional integrity.”



Advent & Christmas Mission Opportunity: Kamisamba Farm & Training Center

LET THERE BE LIGHT – AND WATER AND GOOD SOIL TOO

The Kamisamba Farm training officer gives a tour of the solar system at the farm. Solar panels were installed with a grant from Global Ministries' Environmental Sustainability office.

Our Sunday School Advent & Christmas Mission Offering will go toward support of the Kamisamba Farm & Training Center of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Please place your donations in the “Shaker Can” on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or write “Kamisamba Farm” on your check or offering envelope.

The Kamisamba Farm is led by Cindy Saufferer’s personal friend, Lorraine Charinda. Lorraine is a missionary from Zimbabwe assigned to Kamisamba Farm as an agriculturist and rural economic development specialist. She attended Africa University for her Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and natural resources and the University of Namibia for a Master of Science in agricultural economics. She

arrived at Kamisamba in 2018, thinking she was taking over a fully functioning farm. When she arrived, she discovered a couple of workers, dilapidated buildings, four pigs and half an acre of vegetables cultivated on the 500-acre farm. Under her leadership, by 2021, the farm had become fully functional. Today, the farm is doing well – with a herd of pigs, a herd of goats, flocks of chickens and ducks, and fish ponds. They farm more than 35 acres with vegetables, grains and fruit trees.

In the area in which the farm is located, 80% of the population lives below the poverty line. Farming is the main source of income, and 90% of the population uses traditional subsistence agriculture to survive. Most cannot produce enough to feed their families, afford basic education for their children or medical care. Many people survive on one meal a day.

One of the main facilities of Kamisamba Farm is a teaching center, which includes dormitories for up to 40 people. Participants come to scheduled training programs for a few days or a few months for “train the trainers” events with participants sent from each district to learn the basics of starting, caring for and harvesting more productive gardens – and learning better and more efficient ways to provide for their families. They then take the knowledge back to their districts to train others. They’ve held trainings in multiple districts, and provided seeds, animals, small fish or saplings to participants. Training onsite in communities helps Kamisamba workers discern which type of production has the best chance to thrive in a given area. After training, they visit again to accompany people through the first growing season. As farmers experience increased yields, training on marketing and conserving seed for the next season helps them gain perspective on farming as a business beyond subsistence.

2021 Update: Thanks to a solar energy project, the farm is now equipped with electricity, running water, bathrooms, and showers, and the training space can be rented, which brings in much-needed income.

2022 Updates: This spring, they started their first ever Seed Production Enterprise venture. Soon, people will start to see the Kamisamba logo and name on the seed markets for maize and soybeans. In April, they were blessed with a generous donation of farming implements to the widows' association at Kamisamba. In May their long-awaited tractor finally made its way to the farm! This summer, the Kamisamba Farm hosted a meeting with a women’s group on how the farm can collaborate and bring development and empowerment of women in the conference. This fall, the Kamisamba Farm has been selected to train youth entrepreneurs.

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

December 2022

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Physical Address:

43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN 55052
(NE corner of Waseca County)

Mail to: P.O. Box 171

Medford, MN 55049-0171

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



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

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Christmas Services

Sunday, December 18th
Sunday School Program
10:45 a.m.

Followed by
Potluck Lunch



Saturday,
December 24
Christmas Eve
Services



4:30 pm Blooming Grove UMC

6:00 pm Janesville UMC

7:30 pm Waterville EUMC

Sunday, December 25
Christmas service online only