



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 86, Issue 4

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

April 2022

Thanks! Thanks!
Thanks!



A big personal thank you to everyone who helped at the fish fry. It was truly an "All Church Event." We had over 30 volunteers helping in the following ways:

Basement cleaners/construction aftermath cleaners, food and drink servers, to-go runners, kitchen cooks, fish fryers, fried fish delivery guys, greeters and church tour guide, cookie/desert bakers.

We shared our Blooming Grove warmth and hospitality by serving over 230 friends and neighbors! We appreciate everyone that helped to make this a great event.

Brad & Tracie Spinler

Invitation From Dave Wollin to Join Waterville EUMC Packing Food

The Waterville Evangelical UMC's Wednesday night group—Acts 29—invites the whole parish to take part in packing food for the Jesus Food Organization. (Jesus Food is an organization similar to Feed My Starving Children and is located in Faribault.) The packing will take place at the Faribault Mall on April 6th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Donations of money are needed in order to make this work. Our group can only pack as many meals as we can pay for. Please try to raise some money for the project even if you can't participate. Cash is great, but checks will work just fine. Make them out to Jesus Food. Dress comfortably in older clothes. Let me know how many you might have who want to participate. (Please respond to Dave Wollin at Killebrew1956@hotmail.com) or 507-384-8438.



United Women
in Faith

Easter Breakfast is Back!

Who has the time and energy to prepare breakfast before a 7:00 am Easter Morning Service?

Answer: United Women in Faith! Join us following the

Blooming Grove Easter Morning service in the basement for food, fellowship, *and of course*, coffee!

A free will offering will be taken to support the work of Blooming Grove United Women in Faith. We focus on women, children, and youth as we act for justice and transform communities. *We believe that Love in Action can change the world*, especially before sunrise!



Men's Breakfast a Success

The men's breakfast in February raised \$535.00 for the food shelf. This amount will be multiplied with funding from MN FoodShare. Thanks to all that helped with set up and clean up. Thanks to Alex Spinler, Justin Krell, Chris VanZuilen and Luke VanZuilen for cooking and serving. A special shout out to Linda Danks for the donation of the delicious muffins! It was a fun morning of fellowship and food.

****ALERT**ALERT**ALERT***
*

Parents – There will be **NO** Sunday
School on Easter

Sunday. We invite you to attend Easter service @ 7:00, stay for breakfast afterward, then spend the rest of the day with family.



Our Easter Journey

*¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning,
the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.
² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,
³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
''' Luke 24: 1-3 NIV*

Soon, we celebrate our identity as Easter People! It is one of the two most-loved holidays in our Christian tradition. It is time to prepare, dear ones! If we aren't careful, we may find ourselves on the other side of Easter Sunday wondering how it passed so quickly—without us. If you are (like me) hosting dinner for your family, it is a time to think about the celebration meal.

Our brief reading for this reflection begins, “on the first day of the week, **very early in the morning.**” Those who loved Jesus gathered to finish the rituals associated with the death of a loved one. They set aside personal comfort to be present and care for their beloved friend, Jesus. You and I are called to the space where we set aside our personal comfort to be present for the same friend, our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

I am also reminded that our Easter services begin early on Easter Sunday morning. For some, it's too early. It would seem there is no perfect time in our personal calendars for worship. We hesitate to take time out of our lives to spend in corporate worship. I would like to invite each of you to the service in one of our three churches whose time fits best into your Easter Sunday morning plans. Celebrating our Resurrected Savior is best began with our church families—rejoicing and celebrating in the beauty of our sanctuaries.

Easter Service Times are:
Blooming Grove UMC: 7:00 a.m.
Waterville Evangelical UMC: 8:45 a.m.
Janesville UMC: 10:15 a.m.

As we look forward to warm weather, I pray you found meaning in our Lenten devotions this year. I am always glad to hear your input as well as your suggestions for our worship experiences. Each one of you has a very special place in your church family and in your pastor's heart.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Kathy

April 2022

Blooming Grove
Morning Worship..... 10:45 am
Sunday School10:00 am

Janesville
Morning Worship .. 8:15 am

Waterville Evangelical
Morning Worship...9:30 am

					1	2
					Pastor's Day Off	
3	4	5	6 6-8 pm Pack Food for Jesus Foods in Faribault	7	8	9 10 am—2 pm Del Brouwers Benefit at Purple Goose in Janesville
					Pastor's Day Off	
10  BG 2nd Sunday Funday	11	12	13 6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV	14  Services 6:45 at JV 7:45 at WV	15  Services 7 pm at BG Pastor's Day Off	16 
17  Services 7:00 BG 8:45 WV 10:15 JV	18	19	20 6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV	21 6 pm—Brew and Bible at Half-Pint Brewery	22  Pastor's Day Off	23
24 3:30 pm Confirmation at El Molino's in Waterville	25	26	27 6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV	28	29	30

APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

9 Sat 10am-2pm Del Brouwers Benefit
 14 Thurs 6:45 pm Maundy Thursday Service/JV
 14 Thurs 7:45 pm Maundy Thursday Service/WV
 15 Fri 7:00 pm Good Friday Service/BG
 17 Sun 7:00 am Easter Service/BG
 17 Sun 8:45 am Easter Service/WV
 17 Sun 10:15 am Easter Service/JV
 21 Thurs 6:00 pm Brew & Bible at Half Pint
 24 Sun 3:30 pm Confirmation at El Molino's



1 Gillian Needham	9 Jewell Nagel
4 LeAnn Kanne	9 Stephanie Fyvie
7 Amy Saufferer	10 Dale Danks
7 Cindy Saufferer	13 Jackson Erickson
	14 Brad Saufferer
	22 Emily Church
	23 Grant Needham
	26 Olivia Full
	28 Lily Schmitz
	29 Zoey Morgan
	30 Pam Carty
	30 Jan Redman

Happy Anniversary

Ken & Tena Harren on April 15th
 Cris & Karrie VanZuilen on April 22nd

Parament Colors

April 3, 10	Purple
April 15 (Good Friday)	Altar stripped
April 17, 24	White/Gold

Coming Event

Mitchell Hall and the Tennessee Trio
 Johnny Cash Tribute

August 13
 6-8 pm

Free Will Donation for the
 New South Addition

BBQ Picnic prior to the show

Mitchell Hall &
 The Tennessee Trio



Treasurer's Report

February 27—March 28, 2022



General Budget Income \$ 2,620.00

Other Income Received

Food Shelf	170.00
Easter Flowers	373.95
UMCOR (Ukraine Relief)	615.00
UMW Scholarship Fund	150.00
Visitor	10.00

Total Income \$ 3,938.95

Expenses

Pastor (Salary, housing, pension, disability)	2,093.48
Excel Energy	104.50
Telephone	50.67

Total Paid Out \$ 2,248.65

(Net Income: + \$1,690.30)

Building Addition

Income

Restoration Income	\$ 14,873.00
Fish Fry	5,015.00

Total Income \$ 19,888.00

Expenses

Loan Payment	\$17,958.13
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Total Paid Out \$ 17,958.13

(Net Income: + \$1,929.87)

Restoration Fund Balance	\$78,270.28
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Building Addition Loan	\$341,692.66
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From the Mailbox:



Sending money for flowers in honor of our forth-coming 70th wedding anniversary.

I still remember seeing them pull our church down the road to match up to the existing one. Also a picture somewhere of dad and our tractor at the church doing some work. And now—all the renovations you have done. Will be great for years to come!

We stopped in last fall with our daughters to show them our burial site. Hope we can get back to see the finished product. I'm sure it is nice.

Sincerely, Charles Duane Parrish

March

2nd Sunday – Funday

It surely was a joyful noise that was made at the March **2nd Sunday – Funday**. The early morning hour (due to Daylight Savings Time) may have left a few voices and instrumentalists home in bed, perhaps, but somehow the music burst forth in three-part harmony and joyous vibes could be sensed. No way could we make it through the list of all the congregational favorites, but a hearty attempt was made to sing (and play) many of them. Young Sebastian found his favorite instrument to be the rain-stick; cluster bells were also played, as were **BOTH** the piano AND the organ.... at times alternately; at times both played together. How joyful was that! Vocalists stayed “spaced” in the pews, as a much-awaited cross-country travel vacation for one of the group’s members warranted taking care not to share germs – and you know we Blooming Grovers have lusty lungs for singing out! It seemed a treat to those arriving just prior to the start of worship; as they entered the church, our Funday “choir” was still making beautiful music, right up until church began. And we all said that it was good (and God probably did, too). Many, many thanks to Judy and to Chery for their great keyboard skills.



April

2nd Sunday Funday



On Palm Sunday, April 10th, as we anticipate all the emotional feelings that come with Holy Week, we’ll be

recalling that simple birth of the holy child - juxtaposed with His death and resurrection. **Christmas in April / Sunday Morning at the Movies** will be the theme for the **2nd Sunday – Funday**. We’ll be viewing a video, stepping back in time, of Christmas in years past. The Education & Events team believes it’ll be very memorable and enjoyable for all in attendance. Join us in the Fireside Room where you can sit back, relax, munch on some popcorn and watch the movie unfold. There’ll be nothing to make, nothing to learn how to do – just watch and appreciate. Instead of the opening credits flashing across the screen during the theme song(s), you’ll get to actually watch the band perform as it plays the movie’s theme. There’ll likely be some smiles and outright laughter during parts of the movie; perhaps some finger-pointing (the *GOOD* kind), too. The movie stars many well-known and well-loved people, including some brief glimpses – cameo appearances – of a few greats who are no longer with us. Many of the behind-the-scene (or in **FRONT** of the scene) crew are also quite well-known. Of course, in our abbreviated time we’ll be unable to view this movie in its entirety, so the fast-forward button will be used some. Curious? Come check it out! (See flyers for info) (Patti Ellingson)



Loaves and Fishes AKA Sharing Food, Fellowship & Faith March Lenten Fishfry

Mmmm-mmmm-mmm! What a yummy smell making my tummy growl hungrily!! As one entered the church the delicious aroma of the dinner was so enticing that instantly your appetite perked up. All hands were on deck for the

Friday evening fish fry on March 18th. A fantastically choreographed crew consisting of fryers, transporters, servers, runners, to-go packagers, re-fillers, set-uppers, and clean-uppers happily rushed about completing their appointed tasks (and anything else that might pop up which needed to be done). Of course, that's because the choreography had been rehearsed through several previous fish fries; and when you're having fun "working" alongside your fellow parishioners it hardly feels like work, and things go smoothly.

From 5pm until 7pm the basement and parking lot were filled – and RE-filled again – with hungry friends and neighbors from the area and from afar. A carload of college Frat brothers of Michael's drove down from the cities just in support of our fish fry. Pastor Jan Redman made an appearance from Mankato. Several had seen the flyers posted at the Half Pint Brewery; others on Facebook. The majority were satisfied return "customers" from previous BGUMC fish fries. Happy banter, visiting, hugs, laughter and teasing was evident – and that just from the church crew!! Our hungry supporters were equally sharing in the visiting, reunion, and enjoyment of breaking bread together. Over 230 meals were served. At least 175 came through the basement doors for inside seating. The "assembly crew" for take-outs was working non-stop fulfilling orders. NO ONE was too old or too young to offer a hand. Yes, young Kaylee, aged 3 ½ years, took her job seriously as she helped with take out orders, our Junior H.S. and Senior H.S. youth were in the mix of helpers, and our adults well..... I won't mention ages here, but everybody gladly lent 2 hands.... and lickety-split feet when needed. The walleye was superb (this writer joked when someone inquired where we got all the fish from [Red Lake Indian Reservation] that it was an all-congregation fishing excursion; the inquisitor halfway believed it 'til I told her where we actually got it), and the side dishes and desserts rounded out a very satisfying and filling meal. And just like in Matthew's account of feeding the multitude, there were left-overs. The free-will offering garnered a profit of \$5,015.00 which will be used towards our warm, welcoming and beautiful new addition.

Kudo's to Brad (Spin) and Tracie Spinler for all the planning, organizing and coordinating of this event. And kudos to everyone who helped to make it such success. (Patti Ellingson)



Top—People eating
and mingling

1. Dessert Set-up
2. Some of the
Kitchen Crew
3. Help from All
Ages
4. Serving Pastor
Jan Redman
5. Servers Ready





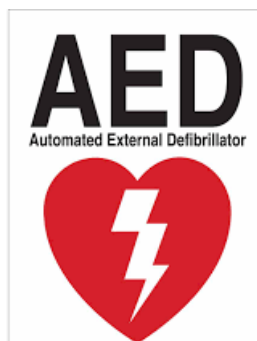
United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith!

The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth. The organization announced the new operating name in March.

The new programs are fruits of research conducted over the past five years with more than 24,000 United Methodists and women of other Christian traditions participating in the surveys, focus groups and interviews. This input informed the prayerful discernment of staff and elected leaders. The changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women and expand options for membership and engagement. The new name also aims to welcome current members whose local churches may choose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join.

“This is an exciting time for our organization!” said Harriett Jane Olson, CEO of United Women in Faith. “Looking back, we see the through lines for our organization—faith in God, love for each other and commitment to putting our faith into action supporting women, children, and youth. These commitments have been expressed in different ways at different times using different names, always calling women to world changing action. This combination of a new look, more accessible resources for members and new ways to participate, positions us for impact in our own journeys and in how we engage the world that God so loves.”

The organization remains incorporated in New York as United Methodist Women and is doing business as United Women in Faith.



AED at Blooming Grove UMC

Our sincere thanks go to Brad & Tracie Spinler for donating an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to BGUMC, available now in the area of

the new addition and the back of the sanctuary. Per the Mayo Clinic Website:

AEDs can be used at home and in schools and are also found in a number of public places. These light-weight, portable devices are used to revive someone from sudden cardiac arrest. This usually occurs when a disruption in the heart's electrical activity causes a dangerously fast heartbeat (ventricular tachycardia) or a fast and irregular heartbeat (ventricular fibrillation). If someone is having one of these irregular heart rhythms, their heart doesn't pump effectively and may even stop. When this happens, the brain and other vital organs don't get the blood and oxygen they need, and a person can even die if they don't get treatment within minutes. The sooner the heart's normal rhythm is restored, the greater the chance that there won't be permanent damage to the brain and other organs. If a person is having ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia and an AED is nearby, a bystander in a public place or a family member can use it to jolt their heart back to a normal rhythm and possibly save their life.

Lent & Easter Mission Offering

Waseca County Foodshelf

March - April 17th (Easter Sunday)

If possible, please make your donations prior to March 31st in order that they are eligible for matching funds from MN March FoodShare Campaign. For every \$20 we raise, we will add a Food Flash Card to a “Help Line” on the side walls of our BGUMC sanctuary.

- Drop off loose change donations in our “Noisy Can” receptacle in the back of the sanctuary.
- Drop off larger donations in the regular offering receptacle. Note “Foodshelf” on the memo line or on your offering envelope.

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.

- Cindy Saufferer's mom, Marge, who continues a difficult journey filled with numerous health concerns. Also pray for Cindy, and Cindy's sister Patty, as they care for Marge.
- Tom and Dot, who are dealing with multiple health concerns, and who were involved in an injury-filled car accident on their way home from a surgical procedure for Dot in Rochester.
- Del, of the Janesville UMC congregation, and his family. Del is undergoing extensive treatments in Rochester for a complex infection.
- Marlis Mahler's friend Jodi, as she grieves the death of her father and helps her mom walk through that valley of grief. During this time, Jodi's mom has now been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, is undergoing chemotherapy, and is also now hospitalized in the ICU with heart issues.
- Jennifer, daughter of Chuck and Linda Danks, battling the long-term after-effects of COVID.
- The people and leaders of Ukraine, as they fight for their country and suffer unimaginable personal and collective losses. Also pray for all those working to help them - individuals, organizations, nations, world leaders.
- For all continuing to be impacted by COVID in so many ways.
- 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.

Congratulations



We rejoice and celebrate with Chuck and Linda Danks for the birth of their newest grandbaby, Madeline - born to Chuck and Linda's daughter Elana and her husband, Michael.



March 2022 Update from the MN Conference of the United Methodist Church

General Conference further postponed to 2024

As the pandemic continues and the wait time for visas stretches to over two years in some countries, the Commission on the General Conference announced today that the 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/constraints. The gathering will be postponed until 2024, and the Commission has already secured a venue for what would have been the regularly scheduled quadrennial event.

What the postponement means for us

In light of the postponement, we as the Minnesota Annual Conference will continue to engage in creating a post-pandemic church, living into our vision, and embodying our values. This means we are committed to creating a place at the table for everyone, including LGBTQIA+ persons, and to listening more deeply to voices that have often been marginalized. The Extended Cabinet has created a statement of our commitments that speaks specifically to how we hold the value of LGBTQIA+ inclusion in this waiting season. Regardless of the outcome of the next General Conference, we will be unwavering in our commitment to full inclusion and laser focused on furthering Jesus's ministry of extending abundant life to all of God's children. This extended liminal time does not change who we are as the Minnesota Annual Conference or who we are in Christ.

March 27th: Baptism & Birthday Celebrations

Sunday, March 27th was a day of wonderful celebrations for the 71 persons gathered for morning worship!

We had the opportunity to extend our hands in welcome of Toni and Nathan Duehring, and their extended family and friends, as they gathered with us for the baptism of their daughter, Zoey Leanne. What a privilege to welcome her as a child of God in our Christian family! Zoey joins big sister Eva Marie, who was baptized at BGUMC in February 2020. Pastor Kathy had the blessing of officiating at Toni and Nathan's wedding, and they now hail from parts north of the Twin Cities. We were grateful for the beautiful day of driving weather for them all.



We also had the joy of sharing our worship time with the sights and sounds of many children ... here to celebrate Zoey's baptism ... and to celebrate birthdays of five people in our midst. And what great fun to have visiting grandchildren here from South Dakota, celebrating a special birthday of Karrie VanZuilen!

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

April 2022

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

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Check us out on Facebook!

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HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



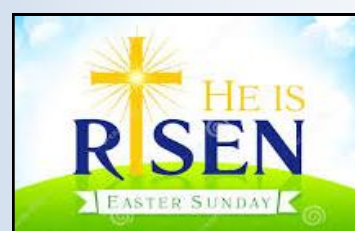
April 10
8:15 am
Janesville UMC
9:30 am
Waterville EUMC
10:45 am
Blooming Grove UMC



April 14
6:45 pm
Janesville UMC
7:45 pm
Waterville EUMC



April 15
7:00 pm
Blooming Grove UMC



April 17
7:00 am
Blooming Grove UMC
8:45 am
Waterville EUMC
10:15 am
Janesville UMC