



THE VISITOR



Easter Breakfast
Happy Spring, Everyone!

The Easter Breakfast is back, in a slightly altered form. We will be serving crockpot egg bake, baked goods, juice, coffee, etc. buffet-style, following our sunrise service. A freewill offering will be taken, with the proceeds going to the Emma Norton Capital Campaign - the same as the church Easter offering. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church if you would be willing to provide an egg bake, baked goods, or something else you would like to see.

We will be setting up the fellowship hall at 9 am Saturday morning (April 8th) and would welcome anyone who can lend a hand!

face intergenerational poverty and homelessness, experience the effects of systemic racism, deal with numerous barriers to stability and independence, and often, all of the above. The housing and services provided in Emma Norton’s current facility has transformed countless lives, but their needs for a physical space have changed as Emma Norton grows. Over the last half-century, there have been countless advancements in the neuroscience and architecture behind creating healing spaces. After five years of dreaming, planning, and countless hours of work, Emma Norton began implementing the fruit of these advancements to better serve their mission and our community.

On January 17th, 2023, Emma Norton broke ground for a new residence in Highland Bridge, - “Restoring Waters”. Designed to be open and welcoming, Restoring Waters will create spaces for community building, volunteer support, relaxation, exercise, healthcare, and more. Trauma-informed, the facility’s architecture incorporates natural light, artwork, curved hallways, access to nature, and various flexible and calming areas that place a foundation for the healing community that is Emma Norton. The current Emma Norton Residence consists of many rooms that house two people, with residents sharing each floor’s community bathroom and dining in the building’s cafeteria. There will be a profound difference at Restoring Waters. Each of the 56 alcove apartments for single occupants and four one-bedroom apartments for small families, will be complete with its own bathroom and kitchen. These simple but impactful improvements will increase the resident’s quality of life by providing privacy for each resident while creating a space that promotes safety, empowerment, growth, and, above all, healing.




**2023 BGUMC
Lent and
Easter Special Mission
Giving Opportunity**

Our 2023 Lent and Easter Offering will go to the Emma Norton Residence – Campaign for Restoring Waters – for construction of new residence & organizational headquarters in the Highland Bridge neighborhood of St. Paul. Please make your check out to BGUMC with “Emma Norton” in the memo line or written on your offering envelope. Your offering will enable Emma Norton to act boldly for justice and equity in our greater community. On behalf of the lives your offering will change, thank you. Here is a brief recap of the story of “Restoring Waters”.

For the past 63 years, the Emma Norton Residence in downtown St. Paul has housed hundreds of residents that are either affected by mental illness, struggle with chemical health issues, or have dual diagnoses or disabilities. These women commonly

Join Us

If you are interested in becoming a member of Blooming Grove UMC, see Pastor Kathy.



Become Part of Our Church Family

April 2023

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
					Pastor's Day Off	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p style="text-align: center;">Palm Sunday</p> 			<p>6-7 pm WV Acts 29</p> 	<p>6:30 pm Pop-up choir Practice at JV 7:15 Maundy Thursday service at JV</p>	<p>6:30 pm Pop-up choir Practice at BG 7:15 pm Good Friday Service at BG</p>	<p>9 am Set up for Easter Breakfast at BG</p>
					Pastor's Day Off	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p style="text-align: center;">EASTER SERVICES</p> <p>7:30 am at BG followed by breakfast 9:00 am WV 10:30 am JV</p>	<p>5:00 pm Ad Council at WV</p> <p>7:00 pm Ad Board at BG</p>	<p>4-6 pm Diaper Giveaway at WV</p> <p>6 pm Brew & Bible at Half Pint</p>	<p>6-7 pm WV Acts 29</p> <p>6 pm BG PPRC</p>	<p>7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">National Volunteer Week Begins</p>
					Pastor's Day Off	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>3:30—4:30 pm Confirmation at JV</p>	<p>7pm Parish worship team meeting in WV</p>		<p>6 pm Acts 29 to volunteer at Jesus Food in Faribault</p>	<p>7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail</p>		<p>10 am—noon Diaper Giveaway at WV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HAPPY EARTH DAY</p>
					Pastor's Day Off	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			<p>7:15—8 pm Lenten Study Group at JV</p>	<p>7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail</p>		
30					Pastor's Day Off	



Gratitude 2023



Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Colossians 3:16

Hello April; month of Resurrection hope; the month we look forward to Spring's warmth that brings a warming to the earth—preparing it for growth. Jerry and I are looking forward to family celebrations that include our Easter family gathering and birthday celebrations.

We are God's people who thrive when we come together. We are created for community and the support, friendship, and love we find in gathering with others. Easter and the season following the Resurrection celebration tell the story of the birth of the Church. Generations have followed God's call to come together in worship. Many of us find Sunday worship to be a time when we are fed for the week's days. Much of the sustenance we find is from the fellowship we enjoy as a worship family.

Your Worship Team will be gathering soon to discuss our Prairie Lakes Parish joint services for this year. If you have thoughts, your worship team members would like to hear them! Our verse for this month's Pastor's reflection reminds us that we each are called to richly teach one another with psalms, hymns, and Spirit songs in such a way that God hears our heart's songs filled with gratitude for his grace. I am filled with gratitude for each one of you. You often offer me your grace when I've over-booked my calendar, when I've fallen short of expectations, or when I haven't been feeling well. I experience Christ within each one of you.

In these final days of our Lenten journeys—as we continue to ask God the difficult questions, may each one of us remember that our God is a God of love. Jesus reminds us that the two most important things we have to do as children of God is to first love God and then love one another. If we take the time to consider each other's stories, we gain a better perspective of one another's joys, journey's, and struggles and we can better live into love.

In our Easter celebrations, may we worship with joy and hearts singing of the goodness of our God! And then, may we go into our communities filled with the gratitude it takes to proclaim the joy we find wrapped in God's incredible gifts.

Let it be so!

In His Love,

Pastor Kathy

APRIL CALENDAR

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

6	Thurs	6:30 pm	Pop-up choir at JV
6	Thurs	7:15 pm	Maundy Thursday service at JV
7	Fri	6:30 pm	Pop-up choir at BG
7	Fri	7:15 pm	Good Friday service at BG
8	Sat	9:00 am	Set up for Easter Breakfast
9	Sun	7:30 am	Sunrise Service at BG Followed by breakfast
10	Mon	7:00 pm	Ad Board meeting
11	Tues	6:00 pm	Brew & Bible at Half Pint
12	Wed	6:00 pm	BG PPRC meeting
16	Sun	3:30 pm	Confirmation at JV
17	Mon	7:00 pm	Parish Worship Team Meeting At WV EUMC

Happy Birthday

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

Happy Anniversary

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



Treasurer's Report

February 26—March 27, 2023



General Budget Income	\$ 2,865.00
Other Income	
Easter Flowers	248.00
Emma Norton	100.00
Total Income	\$3,213.00
Expenses	
Pastor's Salary	1,959.32
Telephone	52.82
Excel Energy	110.52
Cokesbury	121.43
Total Paid Out	\$ 2,244.09
(Net Income: + \$968.91)	

Building Addition

Income	
Lenten Fish Fry	\$ 3,130.00
Restoration	100.00
Total Income	\$ 3,230.00
Expenses	
Loan Payment	\$ 3,505.13
Total Paid Out	\$ 3,505.13
(Net Income: — \$275.13)	
Restoration Fund Balance	\$77,691.55
Building Addition Loan	\$277,621.27

Parament Colors

April 2	Purple
April 7 (Good Friday)	Altar stripped
April 9, 16, 23, 30	White/Gold

Lenten Fish Fry Thank You



Men's Breakfast Thank You

“Methodists do it right”, “Best Fish Fry Around”, “Great to see such a fun annual event” were just a few comments about the fish fry.

Raising \$3130 from the fish fry for the church addition in one night is only part of the story. It's amazing to see everyone church wide come together and throw in a hand to help out.

Thanks to all who helped! (Brad Spinler)

Thanks to all who enjoyed the food and fellowship of the Men's Breakfast. An outstanding amount of \$800 was raised for the food shelves of Waseca and Steele Counties.

A special thanks to the Wacek Family for the donation of eggs and to Linda Danks for baking the delicious muffins. Of course, a great event doesn't come together without the volunteers who cooked, served, set up and cleaned up. Great Job!! (Brad Spinler)

Lenten Walleye Fish Fry—March 3rd



1. Serving delicious walleye, phenomenal green beans, scalloped potatoes...
2. Old friends, neighbors, and new friends gather from far and wide
3. Plus tasty buns and a wide variety of desserts
4. Part of our fish production crew - the "fish runners"
5. Part of our "frying crew"
6. Part of our "take-out production crew"
7. One of our beverage-table hosts
8. Our beverage re-fill crew
9. Many thanks to all who coordinated this event, as well as all who worked together to make this evening possible...chefs, bakers, fish fryers, fish runners, serving crew, take-out crew, hosts, set up and clean-up crew, and everyone who jumped in to fill any role at any moment!

Men's Breakfast for Food Shelves—March 26th



Thanks to our BG men who served up a tasty meal of breakfast egg sandwiches, coffee, OJ, milk, & muffins!



“Farmer or farm wife? Why not both?”

(Story of one of our BGUMC families - courtesy of Steele County Times/Kay Fate – as published in the 2023 Spring Farm Living paper.)



Kristin Krell is clearly a teacher – she just doesn't have her own classroom.

The Medford High School graduate went to South Dakota State University to be an ag teacher. She and her husband Justin farm north of Bloomington on “just enough acres to keep us busy.”

But as life would have it “there weren't many teaching jobs in the area when I got out of col-

lege,” so Krell worked at Mower County Extension Service with 4-Hers, instead.

“I wanted to teach, but people move, farms don't,” she said, and farming has always been a part of her life. “I still like to teach and work with youth in the ag industry.”

That includes their own three daughters: Leah, 7; Kaylee, 4; and Emery, 1.

Because their family is so young, Krell said, “my role on the farm is keeping everything going at home. I help where needed – getting parts, providing rides, food – but we work together as a couple to make decisions for the farm.”

The couple both have full-time jobs off the farm, as well. Kristin now works as the senior marketing manager for Environmental Tillage Systems, which manufactures strip-till equipment.

Justin Krell is an area agronomist manager for LG Seeds.

“For Justin and I, the ultimate goal is no off-farm jobs,” Kristin said. “Where we're at, it's just not something we can make happen right now, but it'll always be a goal of ours.”

Every progressive farmer, she said, “has plans to grow. It may not just be purchasing land, but adding other enterprises, like a trucking business, to help other farmers.”

Still, Krell admitted, “no matter what generation – there is reluctance in progressing and making the farm bigger, and that could be the uncertainty. With anything in farming, there's a risk.

(Continued on next page)

“Farmer or farm wife? Why not both?” (Continued)

“They say a farmer only gets 40 times to plant and harvest a crop in their lifetime” she said. “That’s not a lot of chances, so making changes in the operation – big or little – is always a big decision.”

While Krell has faith the family farm will continue, “what the need will look like, and how we’ll produce it might change a little bit. I do think each member of family farms may start specializing in things more than we’ve ever seen, from livestock to crops to equipment – but use the people and what they have on hand to continue that multi-generation farm.” That includes their own family, she said.

“It would be great for Justin and I to be able to pass down the farm to our girls,” Krell said. “It’s a hope we’ve talked about; as we continue farming and growing our operation, it’s always in the back of my mind about how to set it up if a daughter – or two or three – want to come home and farm with us.”

Of course, she said, “we want them to do what they want, but we always joke that it would be fun to have an accountant and a veterinarian...still help out on the farm in that aspect.”

Krell had the opportunity to attend a recent class with Annie’s Project, a non-profit that’s designed to empower and educate women in agriculture.

“A lot of the things were refreshers” she said, “but it was also connecting with other farm wives in the area. We’re a minority, as far as jobs, so to make those connections and have those resources was great.”

The class, Krell said, “really digs into the details of the operation – things like grain marketing, balance sheets – that maybe some farm wives don’t have as much influence or understanding of.”

So does she consider herself a farmer? Or a farm wife?

“Both,” Krell said. “I see a need within our operation to have both: the supporting role at home as well as the help on the farm itself. I know all the ladies I work with would be able to run some type of equipment, or understand the day-to-day work, even if they’re not doing it themselves.

She’s seen it firsthand, growing up on a row-farm, immersed in a life of agriculture, much like her own little girls. Even now, she said, farming is something they enjoy.

“They know not everyone gets to ride in combines or tractors” Krell said. “I know that not all their friends know where an egg comes from, so they get to teach friends that. They may not realize it, but they do take pride in the things they’re learning and that they have that knowledge already at that young age.”

Seems about right, for the daughters of a teacher – and farmer.



**Church
Committees**

Your BGUMC PPRC Members at Work: Updating our Church Profile

In the month of April, our BGUMC Pastor Parish Relations Committee members (Chuck & Linda Danks, Allison Janke, Judy Mahler, Cindy Saufferer) will be working together to update our BGUMC church profile. This work will be done at the request from the leadership team of our MN UMC Conference - for all United Methodist Churches in Minnesota.

These profiles are filed in our MN Conference Office as well as the offices of each of the MN District Superintendents. They serve as a helpful resource to our District Superintendents as they work with congregations to understand their ministry context, signature ministries, and unique strengths and values. The MN Conference also uses church profiles in the appointment of clergy to help ensure that the conference is doing their best to make a missional match in clergy appointments.

Because the Minnesota UM Conference is on-boarding two new District Superintendents this spring (one in our Southern-Prairie District), as well as one MN District Superintendent changing districts, it will be most helpful to have these updated church profiles as the District Superintendents begin to learn the churches and communities under their care. Please note that this does NOT mean that our parish is having a change of clergy appointment in July!

The goal of the MN UMC Conference is to have a better system for all churches to update their individual profiles so that they are meaningful with easily accessible information for District Superintendents on any occasion that they are working with individual congregations.



Pastoral Care Visits

A Note from your Prairie Lakes Parish Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

If you would like a pastoral care visit with you in your home or care facility, please feel free to reach out directly to Pastor Kathy through a phone call, text, or email. (Phone: 507-382-2483, [email: kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)). Be sure to have a few dates and times in mind.

Please note that Pastor Kathy's Pastoral Care Visit Protocol includes the following, as supported by our SPRC: Out of respect for all parties involved, Pastor Kathy does not make pastoral care visits unannounced or without prior invitation from the person involved (or from their friends or family members, on their behalf.)

PRAYER REQUESTS

*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.*

Prayer Requests

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

- ◆ Doug Wilkowske and his family. His wife, Mary, passed away on February 20th in Willmar.
- ◆ Pastor Kathy's family. Her grandson's aunt passed away unexpectedly from a seizure at the age of 30.
- ◆ The family of Ron Minske, 72, who died March 16th. He was interred in the Blooming Grove cemetery.
- ◆ Soren, the nephew of Mikayla Janke's boyfriend Zac. Soren, who turned 1 on February 7th, was born with heart issues and had open heart surgery when he was six months old. He is now again having heart related issues and is connected to a heart machine. Soren is scheduled for open-heart surgery this last week in March. Please pray for Soren's family and all of the medical staff supporting this big event.
- ◆ Tracie's co-worker whose husband, Jesse, was found in the Straight River in Faribault. Jesse was taken to the hospital but did not survive. Jesse was 52.
- ◆ Alexia, Kathy King's grand-daughter, who will graduate with a degree in Sports Medicine in May
- and for the clients with whom she is working during her internship – as they struggle with their own health concerns as well as those of their extended family members.
- ◆ Jessie, the daughter of Tracie Spinler's friend LaVonne.
- ◆ Marlis Mahler's co-worker Karen, as she journeys through a difficult recovery from an emergency appendectomy while also caring for her 15-year-old daughter who is experiencing significant health concerns as well.
- ◆ Young Kinsley and her parents. Kinsley has been fighting a weeks-long cold, and they face the uncertainty of whether she may require another surgery to address possible development of additional scar tissues in her sinuses and nose.
- ◆ Pastor Sharon Nelson's mom who has experienced health challenges and is now living with Pastor Sharon and Robert. Hold them all in your hearts as they travel this care-giving journey.
- ◆ Jenny, Faye Kanne's daughter-in-law, as she works with doctors to surround medical concerns.
- ◆ Bentley, infant great-grandson of Chuck and Linda Danks, who was born at 34 ½ weeks and spent the first part of his life in the NICU in Rochester. Bentley is now home! Pray for continued thriving and growth for this beloved little guy!
- ◆ Marlis Mahler's niece, Tamara, who has been diagnosed with early stage Alzheimers, and who was highly impacted by the isolation created by the COVID-related hiatus of her important networking groups. Prayers of thanks for the re-emergence of programs designed to bring back social connections and learning opportunities, and for the positive impact they are already having for Tamara!
- ◆ A classmate of Chuck Danks who has been diagnosed with leukemia.
- ◆ Debbie, sister-in-law of Jerry King, as she prepares for a difficult surgery and recovery.
- ◆ All families affected by the recent school shootings.
- ◆ Families in the South who lost loved ones and property in the recent tornadoes.
- ◆ 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.

Walking in the Spirit

By Cindy Saufferer



Walking is good for my soul. I love to walk--except when the temperature is too cool or too hot or if there is any type of moisture in the air. And forget it if there is even the hint of ice. You could call me a fair-weather walker, but you would be more accurate if you called me a perfect weather walker!

So why in the world would I hit the icy streets of Minneapolis this past Valentine's Day in the pouring rain? Simple, something more important than my comfort, MMIWR 2023: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIWR) March.

MMIW is a movement that advocates for the end of violence against Native women. It also seeks to draw attention to the high rates of disappearances and the murders of Native people. You may notice the term MMIWR in the event title. The "R" has been added to acknowledge the LGBTQIA, Two Spirit, non-binary relatives, as well as Native men and boys, who are also targeted.

In 2019, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Task Force was created. As a result of their work, Minnesota formed the nation's first state office on missing, murdered Indigenous people and whose purpose is to reduce and end violence against indigenous women, girls, and two spirit people in Minnesota.

Although American Indian women and girls make up just 1% of the state's population, 8% of all murdered women and girls in Minnesota were American Indian. During any given month from 2012 to 2020, there were 27-54 American Indian women and girls missing in Minnesota. I would ask the question, "When was the last time you saw a story in the news about one of these girls"?

On a rainy Valentine's Day, I walked alongside families carrying posters of loved ones who are missing or have been murdered. I noticed out of the hundreds who are marching, very few are white. I am once again face to face with my privilege. The weather has lost its significance as empathy overwhelms the moment and I consider my own three daughters. Knowledge of statistics and facts seem a bit useless if I don't act.

So, I walk, it is good for my soul.



Almost Fat Tuesday

By Brad Saufferer



I had a really bright idea a while back. We should do a Fat Tuesday dinner at the church like we had done in the past. Now, as with all my bright ideas, I ran this one past my wife. I have found that many of my bright ideas are about forty watts, not all that bright. We discussed this idea on the way to the Waseca Walmart and I found out that it was a good idea, possibly a one hundred watt idea. This does not happen often.

While at Walmart we ran into Warren McQuery, one of the nicest gentlemen you will ever meet. Warren's son Mike is part owner and the brewer at the Half Pint brewery. While talking with Warren I mentioned the Fat Tuesday idea and he said we had to do it at the Half Pint. Nice place, more windows than the church basement, and we didn't have to clean or set up tables. No brainer.

Cindy volunteered to make red beans and rice with andouille sausage and sister Tracie made wild rice soup with bacon for those that desired something a little less spicy. Everything was ready, the food prepared, and then it started to snow. Calls were made and Fat Tuesday was transformed into Skinny Sunday. We rescheduled for that Sunday after Church. The Skinny Sunday name was my idea, probably about a forty watt idea looking back at it.

Sunday came, the food was reheated, and maybe twenty five-thirty people came and enjoyed a tasty meal and great fellowship. I was given the job to deep fry the beignets, which I believe I excelled at. Jackie Mathern and Charlie (real name Charlette and a foreign exchange student from Germany) immediately took over for me. I went on to do something else I excel at, talking much and saying nothing.

The idea behind Fat Tuesday was to rid the home of all rich food and prepare for the fasting and the penitence of Lent. Our thinking in having the Fat Tuesday meal was learning about Fat Tuesday and Lent, while also coming together in fellowship. Cindy led us with facts and trivia about Fat Tuesday. Mardi Gras translated from French to English is Fat Tuesday. The food was eaten, people talked, laughed, and learned. All in all, I think it was mission accomplished.

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

April 2023

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 Calendar



Palm Sunday Worship

April 2nd at each church in the Parish

“Why is Jesus Special?”



Prairie Lakes Parish

Maundy Thursday

April 6th at 7:15 P.M. at

Janesville UMC

“Are You Scared

of the Future?”

Pop-up choir rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.



Prairie Lakes Parish

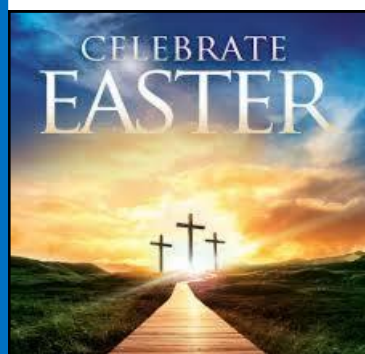
Good Friday

April 7th at 7:15 p.m. at

Blooming Grove

“Why Did Jesus Have to Die?”

Pop-up choir rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.



April 9th—Easter Sunday Services

“Why Be a Christian?”

BG UMC: 7:30 a.m. with breakfast to follow

WV EUMC: 9:00 a.m.

JV UMC: 10:30 a.m.

