



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 89, Issue 8

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

August 2024

The Biggest Day Around **Saturday, September 7th – at BGUMC**

By Brad Saufferer

I stole the title from somebody, Valley Fair I think. It does apply to September 7th at the Blooming Grove Church. Four-mile run/walk and barbeque rib contest in the morning and tractor pull in the afternoon. Something you don't want to miss. Take that Valley Fair.

This year the Owatonna cross country team is bringing out both the boys and girls squads. I think this is the fourteenth year the boys have come out, first for the girls. A finer group of young athletes you'll not find. If anyone knows other local coaches, encourage them to bring their team or mention to their athletes that the opportunity is available. Come and join us, run/walk or just be there to cheer them on and sample the ribs.

Rib contest is the same as in past years. Ribs are available the night before or morning of the contest. Ribs are provided free of charge; contestants just must have them ready by noon and the winner is determined by who has the most money donated for their ribs. We are always looking for more teams to compete, give me a call and I will get you ribs. Team "Stang Good Ribs" is coming off first place wins at both Morristown and Blooming Prairie. We need someone to put them back in their place. The proceeds from both run and the rib contest go to area food shelves. Lunch (menu to be decided) will be available for a free-will offering.

Brad Spinler and Larry Balzer have organized a tractor pull too at noon that day starting with the blessing of the tractors. This year the Blooming Grove Church has its own pull sled. She's named **Delilah**. As you all know Delilah was an agent for the Philistines and robbed Samson of his power. Our Delilah is going to rob your tractor of it's power. It's Old Testament, very biblical.

The rules for the pull are tractors must be farm stock and have a ten-thousand-pound weight limit. The pulls are twenty dollars per pull and all the proceeds go to the accessibility project at the church. We are working on finding a scale for the event, if anyone has access to a scale, please give me a call. Medals and adulation will be bestowed on winners in each weight class.

Join us for the biggest day around. It will be fun, exciting, and it's for two great causes. Call or email me with any questions.

Brad Saufferer (507) 363-6579

b_saufferer@msn.com

Morning: Run 4 the Loaves
(proceeds to Area Food Shelves)



Noon: BBQ Cook Off
(proceeds to Area Food Shelves)



Afternoon: Tractor Pull
(proceeds to BG Building Fund for South Addition)



Prairie Lakes Parish **Joint Worship Services - Summer 2024** **"Walking the Road of Faith Together"**

This year, we continue our tradition of holding joint worship services among our three congregations on the last Sunday of each month. We met together in June at Blooming Grove UMC. In July, we worshipped together at Waterville EUMC. Here is our schedule for the months ahead. We hope that you can join us!

Sunday, August 25th at Janesville UMC

Theme: Open to God's Signs

9:15 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal

10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship

Light Lunch to Follow

Also save the date of Sunday, October 6th

World-Wide Communion Sunday

Parish Worship Service

At Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

10:30 A.M. - Morning Worship

11:30 A.M – Pizza Lunch on the Grounds

Additional Pop-Up Choir Rehearsals **for the August Joint Worship Service**

Sunday, Aug. 11th: 9:15–9:30 A.M. at BGUMC

Sunday, Aug. 18th: 9:15–9:30 A.M. at BGUMC

Wednesday, Aug. 21st: 6:45–7:45 P.M. at JVUMC

August 2024

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

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

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

Parament Color The Parament Color for August is Green				1 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave/ WV 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail	2 Pastor's Day Off	3
4 Peaches arrive at WV	5	6	7	8 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 9:15 am Pop-up Choir Rehearsal at BG	12	13 4-6 pm Free Diaper Give-away at WV	14	15 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave in Waterville 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail	16 Pastor's Day Off	17
Steele County Fair						
18 9:15 am Pop-up Choir Rehearsal at BG Steele County Fair	19	20	21 11:30 Prayer Brunch at What's the Scoop in Waterville 6:45 pm Pop-up Choir Rehearsal at JV	22 6 pm Bible Conversations at Half Pint 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 10-Noon Free Diaper Give-away at WV
25 9:15 am Pop-up Choir Practice at JV 10:15 am Parish Service at Janesville	26	27	28	29 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave in Waterville 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail	30 Pastor's Day Off	31

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.

1	Thur	9:30 pm	Bible Study at Cool Wave
11	Sun	9:15 am	Pop-up Choir Practice at BG
15	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
18	Sun	9:15 am	Pop-up Choir Practice at BG
21	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at "What's the Scoop" in WV
21	Wed	6:45 pm	Pop-up Choir Practice at JV
22	Thurs	6:00 pm	Bible Conversations at Pizza Farm
25	Sun	9:15 am	Pop-up choir rehearsal at JV
25	Sun	10:15 am	Joint Parish service in WV
29	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave



1	Bob Jesse	11	Brian Kanne
1	Emily Saufferer	11	Brian Liken
3	Randy Southworth	13	Cecilia Nicholson
3	Ben Sutter	20	Mikayla Janke
4	Mike Nicholson	25	Tyler Kosel
4	Cris VanZuilen	27	Summer Goldsmith
7	Chuck Danks		

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Luke & Bobbi Mathern
- 13 Brad & Tracie Spinler
- 22 Aaron & Jessica Buchholz
- 23 Chuck & Linda Danks
- 27 Matt & Amanda Rollins
- 28 Greg & Tanecka Poe



Four New MN UMC Districts

On July 1, the MN Conference of the UMC formally moved five to four districts, each of which has a new name:

- Headwaters (northwest): Superintended by Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink
- Aurora Sky (northeast): Superintended by Rev. Laurie Kantonen
- Prairie Winds (southwest): Superintended by Rev. Dr. Woojae Im
- River Bluffs (southeast): Superintended by Rev. Michelle Hargrave

Each district will include a mix of urban, suburban, and rural churches. The district lines have been redrawn, with the new lines moving through and across what is now the Twin Cities District.



Treasurer's Report

June 29—July 29, 2024



General Budget Income	\$ 5,757.00
Cemetery	150.00
Cookbooks	55.00
Total Income	5,962.00

Expenses	
Pastor's Salary	2,223.64
Telephone	54.21
Excel Energy	111.45
Cleaning	213.75
Lawn Mowing	955.59
Septic Pumping	300.00

Total Paid Out	\$ 3,858.64
(Net Income: + \$2,103.36)	

Building Addition

Income	
Restoration	\$ 600.00
Fish Fry	2,940.00

Total Income	\$ 3,540.00
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Expenses	
Loan Payment	\$ 5,965.20

Total Paid Out	\$ 5,965.20
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(Net Income: — \$2,425.20)	
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Restoration Fund Balance	\$68,200.40
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Building Addition Loan	\$229,878.82
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Congratulations to Faye Kanne!

Faye became a great-grandma on July 3, 2024. Tess Elizabeth Benson was born to granddaughter Kaitlyn (Kanne) Benson and her husband, Zach. Everyone is doing just fine!



Prayer Brunch

"What's the Scoop"

525 Paquin Street East, Waterville

August 21 - 11:30 am

All are Welcome



Walking Together



“Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.”

Luke 24:13-15 NIV

Have you noticed the roadway ponds and waterways? They are developing the green “stuff” that my Mom used to say indicated the “dog-days of summer.” In my mind, that green slime reminds me that summer is quickly passing by and as we move into August, we know that our fall schedules will soon begin. However it is that you journeyed through the months of June and July, I hope we can gently walk through the month of August and enjoy the warm days and nights.

As I write this short note to you all, my heart is still rejoicing after yesterday’s joint service hosted by our Waterville EUMC brothers and sisters. If you missed the service, the pop-up choir again brought the joy of hearing a choir that bolstered our congregational singing. It truly was a day of singing God’s praises as we were reminded of the hope we find as our parish families journey the road of faith—together. The text from Luke 24 came to mind as I thought about our parish families walking the road of faith together. Do we feel the presence of Jesus as we journey together? My hope is that as we move to our joint service at Janesville UMC on August 25th, that the Lord is solidly in our hearts, our companion as we walk our faith journeys—together.

We are moving close to our United States 2024 election of our next President in November. It’s promising to be another time of heated opinions. Whatever our political opinions, it is my prayer that we all remember who we claim to be as followers of Jesus Christ. Let us hold our opinions close when we are walking into unknown territories and remember that our God is a God who abundantly lavishes love on us and calls us to do no less with one another. We are created by God to be unique individuals with unique opinions and attitudes. Our Creator does not say we were created to agree with one another. Let us respect one another and offer God’s grace at all times.

Blessings dear ones. I am privileged to be called by God and blessed to be your pastor!

Pastor Kathy

Fish Fry Thank You

By Brad Saufferer



This year's Half Pint fish fry came off without a hitch. Boy, I wish that was true. Okay, it

went really well, except for the part where I forgot to buy enough oil for the big fish fryers. It slowed things down until daughter Beth ran to town and bought enough oil to fill the second fryer. That reminds me, I should pay her for the oil.



As near as we can figure, we served two hundred and sixty friends. We took in \$2,940.00 in free will offerings and served eight gallons of ice cream in root beer floats, the floats were very popular again this year. The crew cooked up over a hundred pounds of walleye, sixty pounds of French fries, and a whole lot of coleslaw. I have to say it, we are awesome.



When it comes to thanking people, I don't know where to start. So, I'll start by thanking Chris and Luke VanZuilen and Jim Southworth. They showed up on Saturday afternoon and filleted the skin off one hundred and thirty pounds of walleye. I was the only one to cut himself and they made fun of me, just saying.



serving line along with others and many more worked to keep serving bowls filled and anything else that needed to be done. Thanks to all who made and donated cookies, they are always a big hit.

A special thanks to my wife Cindy who took the time to help with the planning and the running around to obtain all the supplies that made the



event possible. She also scooped the ice cream for a couple hundred root beer floats. I would also like to thank the Brad Spinler family for the use of their fryers and helping with the logistics of setting up and tearing down of the equipment. A big thank you to Pastor Kathy and husband Jerry for welcoming our friends and showing them Blooming Grove is a thriving church. I also need to thank the staff and management of the Half Pint brewery for providing a venue for the event.

I know I've forgotten to thank many who helped and please forgive me. The event was a great success and wouldn't have happened without all of you.



Run For The Loaves Registration Form

Blooming Grove UMC Fall Food Shelf Fundraiser



Saturday, September 7th, 2024
4 Mile Run/Walk
Kids 1/4 Mile Run

Registration: 8:30 am
Kids 1/4 Mile Run: 9:15 am
4 Mile Walk: 9:30 am
4 Mile Run: 10:00 am

Registration Fee: \$25.00
Kids Run (12 & Under) \$3.00
Entry fee will be waived if participant submits a
donation of \$50 or more.

"Run 4 the Loaves" T-Shirts will be available on the day of the race for those who register by August 26th for the 4-mile run/walk. Be sure to indicate your T-shirt size. T-shirts for those who register after the deadline may be sent at a later date. If no size is indicated, the cost of the shirt will be donated.

Prizes: An awards ceremony will commence when the last participant finishes. Awards will be given to the top age-group finishers and the best over-all male/female. A special award will be presented to the participant who raises the most donations for the Food Shelves.



Age Groups:

Under 12 **13-19** 20-29 **30-39** 40-49 **50-59** 60-69 **70+**

Additional Info: Everyone will receive a number at registration which must be worn during the race. Restrooms will be available at the event site. Water stops will be available on the course with refreshments waiting at the finish line.

Course: Utilizing both paved and gravel roads, through the fields of ripening corn and soybeans, the race will begin and end at the Blooming Grove United Methodist Church, located on the Steele/Waseca County line.

Questions: Contact Brad Saufferer
Phone: 507-363-6579
E-mail: runfortheloaves@yahoo.com

Last Name _____ Sex _____

First Name _____ Birthdate _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Food Shelf: I wish to support _____

T-Shirt Size ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL

Waiver: I understand that running/walking a road race is a potentially dangerous activity. I should not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. **I understand that entry fees and donations are non-transferable. I also understand that if the race is cancelled due to inclement weather, my registration fee and/or donation will not be reimbursed but donated to the Food Shelf indicated above.** I assume all risks associated with participation in the event including but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants or spectators, the effect of the weather including heat or cold temperatures, traffic or conditions of the roads, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of our accepting my entry, I for myself and anyone entitled to act for my behalf, waive and release Blooming Grove United Methodist Church from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event even though that liability might arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. **I have read and agree to the above.**

Signature _____
(Parent or guardian if under 18)

Date: _____

Entry Fee _____
Food Shelf Donation (\$50+) _____

For directions to Blooming Grove UMC
"The Two-Steepled Church on the Prairie"
go to www.bloominggroveumc.org

Mail this form/entry fee to:
Blooming Grove UMC
PO Box 171
Medford, MN 55049-0171

Make checks payable to:
Blooming Grove UMC
Denote "Food Shelves" on
the memo line

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.

- Faye, and her medical team, and family, as they work together to provide best care in Faye's cancer journey.
- Sherry and Tom, and their medical teams, as they continue ongoing treatment for health concerns, and for Nicole, as she plays an integral role in their care.
- Dave and Sheryl Brisel's neighbor, Keith, as he undergoes treatment for an aggressive cancer.
- Jim, the father of Hjordi Churchill's sister-in-law, who will begin treatment for cancer in the days ahead.
- Brad as he recovers from shingles.
- All of the folks in the community of Waterville whose lives and properties have been ravaged by the devastating effects of extensive flooding on homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Pray for homeowners, business owners, churches, city and county staff, as they move forward in the daunting work of clean up, rebuilding, and considering how best to go forward..
- Prayers of thanks for all of the volunteers who have come from near and far to assist Waterville in with sandbagging and building protection in the midst of the flooding and have now been helping in the long-haul process of recovery and clean-up in the aftermath. A special shout-out to members of the Samaritan's Purse organization and to folks who volunteered through the Minnesota United Methodist Committee on Relief.
- All of our area farmers facing crop loss as the result of the heavy rains in July.
- Deb Miller's father, as he continues his recovery from a fall that resulted in surgery to repair a broken femur. Continue in prayer for patience in the long process of ongoing physical therapy and healing.
- Family, friends, and all who have been blessed by knowing Tamara Mahler over the almost 50 years of Tamara's life. Tamara, who is Marlis Mahler's niece, passed away on Sunday, July 28th in Fort Collins, Colorado.
- 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.



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

Congratulations to BGUMC Winners in the Blooming Prairie Youth Club Ribfest

Congratulations to folks from our BGUMC family who were winners in the July 27th Blooming Prairie Youth Club Ribfest! (Blooming Prairie is the town just south of Owatonna.) The day's events raised \$40,000 for the Blooming Prairie Youth Club!

Leah Krell, daughter of Justin and Kristin, took home the trophy in the Kids Hamburger Cookoff with her Ceasar Hamburger Recipe.



Leah is 2nd from the left

Justin Krell and Alex Spinler of "Stang Good BBQ" took home the trophy in the adult category for Best Mystery Meat.



Justin is on the left

CONGRATULATIONS!

WITH DEEPEST *Sympathy*

Don Bates, age 86, of Hopkins, MN, passed away on July 3rd after a long illness. Don is the brother-in-law of Linda Danks (married to Linda's sister Martha), of our BGUMC family.



Don was born to Jay Melvern Bates and LaNeda Rosella Bates (Berg) in Dodge Center Village, MN on May 20, 1938. Don graduated from Dodge Center High school in 1956 and then attended Mankato State University where he met his wife Martha. They were married on Christmas Eve of 1960. Don served in the US Army 1st Infantry Division from 1961-1963, which included 13 very tense days during the Cuban Missile Crisis. After his military service Don returned to the Twin Cities and completed his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education at MacPhail School of Music. Don began his teaching career in the Waldorf/Pemberton school district where he directed the bands from 1965-967. In fall of 1967 he started what would become a 32-year career as director of bands in Hopkins School District. Outside of Don's dedicated involvement as a teacher, music drove his life's work and he was part of, and/or founded/directed numerous music ensembles throughout his life, many of which were well-known across the Twin Cities area. Don is survived by his three sons, 6 grandchildren, one brother, and many nieces and nephews. Please hold Don's family in your hearts and prayers in the days and weeks ahead – especially his sister-in-law Linda.



Dale Joseph Wacek, age 69, of Claremont, MN, passed away Monday, July 8th after a short battle with cancer. Dale is the brother of Tom Wacek of our BGUMC family.

Dale was born on May 19, 1955, to Joseph

Frank and Regina Mae Wacek in Owatonna. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1973. Following graduation, he went on to begin a 27-year career as a machinist at OTC/Power Team in Owatonna. On January 2, 1976, Dale married Susan Marie Elmore. Together, they had 3 children.

Tragically, his spirit was crushed when his youngest son died at age 19, and then again 10 years ago when he lost his wife to cancer. As the son of a carpenter, Dale learned construction at a young age. Along with his own projects, he frequently helped friends and family with various building ventures. Dale was a gun enthusiast and enjoyed frequent prairie dog hunting trips to South Dakota. Dale also enjoyed training his hunting dogs, shooting pool, riding motorcycle, bowling, and golf. Dale is survived by his two children, eight grandchildren, eleven siblings, and many nieces and nephews. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. Please hold Dale's brother Tom, and Tom's family - Sherry, and Nicole, in your hearts and prayers in the days and weeks ahead



Mary E. Henry, age 58, of Hoyt Lakes, MN passed away on July 14th at Mayo Clinic – St. Mary's Campus, in Rochester. Mary is the mother of Amanda Rollins of our BGUMC family.

Mary was born February 8, 1966 to Donald and Marge Howes in Aurora, MN. She was a 1984 graduate of Aurora-Hoyt

Lakes High School. Mary was employed at Finger Hut prior to working for LTV Mining Company with data entry. Most recently she worked as a Claims Examiner for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. In her earlier years, she enjoyed playing golf, softball and bowling. More recently she enjoyed reading, gardening, watching the Vikings and golf, traveling and riding the Harley. Mary loved life and people – especially her grandson, Gunner and her “grand puppies”. Mary had received a double lung transplant 1 ½ years ago, which gave her the opportunity to be more involved once again with her family, especially Gunner. Mary is survived by her Life Partner, Donald Huntley, her daughter Amanda, her grandson Gunner, her mother Marge, four siblings, and members of Donald's family, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Please hold Mary's family in your hearts and prayers in the days and weeks ahead – especially Amanda (and Matt) and Gunner.





Blooming Grove United Methodist Church Board Council Meeting July 10, 2024

Carolyn Kanne, Board Secretary

In attendance: Pastor Kathy, Patti Ellingson, Chery Southworth, Judy Mahler, Brian & Carolyn Kanne, Brad Saufferer

Opening Prayer: Pastor Kathy

Review of April 2024 meeting: approved by consensus.

Financial Reports:

- Treasurer's Report: approved by consensus
- Financial Secretary Report: approved by consensus

Trustees Report:

- To clarify, we will try to get the loan balance under \$100,000 by the due date next fall (2025).
- Due to the heavy rain, the trustees have been taking a lot of water out of the basement.
- Judy asked if we could use glass block for the windows that will be closed off. Brad said that those windows are in the far north corners of the basement and don't let in any light, so nothing to worry about.
- Brian and Brad figured out how to adjust the door that sags and drags.
- Nagels put rock over the septic tank this week.

Old Business

- Down the Drain: everything is paid for. Extra funds will go into the Restoration fund.
- Workman's Comp: Brad called our insurer; they haven't called back.
- UWF Day Apart: Nearly 40 people attended, and it was a big success.
- Combined Service for June: 63 people at worship; 40 stayed for lunch. There was an even representation from all three congregations.

Team Reports

Education and Events

- VBS will start on Sunday at WV. Patti will be leading the music.

PPRC

- Pastor Kathy expressed gratitude to everyone who helped out after her surgery.
- She will not be pursuing the CONAM trip to Alaska.

Communication

- Judy is getting Instagram lessons.
- Judy met with Holly Sobrack in June. They moved some things around and did a review of the site.

Worship

- Summer combined services: Waterville is up next.
- The Service of Lament and Hope in Waterville after the flooding was attended by 26 people. They appreciated the opportunity to meet.

Mission

- Serve your neighbors – support Waterville.
- Conference disaster relief people are coming on July 20.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Kathy will be having a review and goals discussion with WuJae.

Upcoming Events

- 7/21: Fish Fry at Half Pint
- 7/28: Joint service at Waterville
- 8/25: Joint service at Janesville
- 9/7: Run for the Loaves, BBQ Cook-Off, Tractor Pull

Miscellaneous

- There are 3 boxes of anniversary plates left. We will offer them for free. Coffee cups will be \$5.

Next Meeting Date: October 9, 7 pm

Closing Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Congratulations to Nicole Wacek and the Moonlighters Exchange Club of Owatonna



The Moonlighters Exchange Club of Owatonna, of which Nicole Wacek of BGUMC is a member, is a service organization that supports causes that are focused on child abuse prevention, patriotism, and community service. In July, the Moonlighters were recipients of the National Outstanding Americanism Project Award at the National Exchange Club Convention in San Antonio, TX. (Nicole is pictured on the right.) This award was presented in honor of the time, energy, effort, fundraising, and raising community awareness that the Moonlighters invested over many years in order to make the creation of a Veterans Memorial in Owatonna a reality. Nicole played a huge role in this project. The Owatonna Veteran's Memorial was completed last fall and was dedicated in November. It is located near the Steele County Historical Center.

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

August 2024

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171

Medford, MN 55049-0171

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

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

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

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in color) check us out at
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LOOKING AHEAD – BGUMC COMMUNITY EVENT

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Community Worship Service & Pizza Lunch
All Outdoors at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

41142 160th Street, Waseca, MN 56093



Sponsored by the Churches of the
Prairie Lakes Parish
(Blooming Grove, Janesville, and Waterville
Evangelical United Methodist Churches)